



CMHLRP Round 3 – Questions and Answers Follow-up 1

- 1. The announcement states that employees already in a loan repayment program are not eligible. We have several employees who are working towards the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program. Would they be eligible for this program as well?**

ANSWER – No, Employees may not be actively enrolled or receiving funding from another loan repayment program, and must maintain eligibility (i.e. still have an outstanding qualifying loan balance) for the duration of the contract period to participate in CMHLRP.

- 2. In the overview, it says that employers are required to apply on behalf of their employees. What happens if any employer does not submit applications for eligible employees?**

ANSWER – OMH is contracting directly with eligible agencies to provide this funding, who then in turn contract with their eligible employees; so a representative of the agency/employer needs to sign the applications. If an authorized representative of the agency/employer does not sign off on the application and required attestations, then an application will not be considered complete.

- 3. As far at the time requirement goes – it is assumed that we would pay up front for each year the full \$10,000. If an employee leaves before the year is over, are they required to return the money to us and then we, in turn, return it to the State? Or do we give the employee the \$10,000 after they complete a full year?**

ANSWER – See answer to FAQ #10

- 4. Can a qualified Clinician (LMSW, LCSW, etc.) receive this award AND other loan repayment program awards at the same time for the same timeframes (such as NHSC loan repayment program)?**

ANSWER – Please refer to FAQ #3 & 4

- 5. A question regarding Hamilton County’s mental health program – though not licensed as Article 31, we are the sole provider of MH services in the county and are OMH funded. Are the clinicians eligible for this program?**

ANSWER – Please refer to Updated FAQ #35 in the Reissued RFA.

- 6. Regarding the OMH Community Mental Health Loan repayment program, RFA. I see that candidates on ACT teams qualify. I want to make sure that both Adult ACT and Youth ACT teams will be considered?**

ANSWER – Please refer to FAQ # 1

- 7. Our agency is for profit. Does this exclude us from the program, or are our staff still eligible?**

ANSWER – Please refer to FAQ # 1. Eligibility is not based on not-for-profit or for-profit status.

- 8. From a county with an Article 31 outpatient clinic – The RFP states that if we’re applying on behalf of several employees, we will “be required to provide application priority when applying in batches.” Can you tell me how we would obtain that priority?**

ANSWER – Please see the answer to FAQ #22. Applications are considered in the order they are received, so if several applications are submitted at once the employer needs to tell us in what order they want applications considered.

- 9. Are recipients of HRSA National Health Service Corps loan repayment ineligible for the Community Mental Health Long Repayment Program?**

ANSWER – Please see answers to FAQ #3 & 4

- 10. Just to verify, LMHCs that work for an outpatient treatment agency under OASAS would not qualify for this RFP?**

ANSWER – Please see answer to FAQ #7

- 11. Does staff have to commit to the agency for three years to receive this money? It appears that the second payment will only be issued if the staff is still in the agency, but what about the first one? Could a staff receive the \$10,000 for the first installment and then resign the next day?**

ANSWER – Please see answer to FAQ #10 & 26

- 12. Based on how written, assume social workers need to be fully licensed and limited permits do not qualify?**

ANSWER – On the Application Instructions, a Social Worker is defined as: An individual who is either currently licensed or possesses a permit to practice as a licensed master social worker (LMSW) or as a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) issued by the New York State Education Department pursuant to Article 154 of the Education Law.

- 13. Related to: “Not fulfilling any other current state or federal loan repayment obligation where the obligation period of that repayment program would overlap or coincide with OMH CMHLRP obligation period” – specifically, if someone is in Public Service Loan forgiveness program, they would not qualify?**

ANSWER - Individual Employees with Eligible Job Titles cannot participate in both the OMH CMHLRP and any other loan repayment programs simultaneously, i.e., Doctors Across New York (DANY) or Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF).

- 14. Our Day Treatment therapists work from 7:45-3:45, five days per week, with a half hour unpaid lunch. Can we attest that they work full-time? If not, what are the requirements for a prorated award?**

ANSWER – Full-Time Clinical Capacity is defined on the Application Instructions as: “Providing at least 40 hours of service (with a minimum of 32 clinical hours) per week for at least 45 weeks per year. Unless otherwise approved in writing by OMH, the 40 hours per week may be compressed into no less than four days per week, with no more than 12 hours of work performed in any 24-hour period. Time spent in on-call status should not be applied toward the 40-hour week. Hours worked in excess of 40 hours per week shall not be applied to any other workweek.”

Please see the answer to FAQ #8.

- 15. Does this opportunity apply to nurses as well?**

ANSWER – Please see the answer to FAQ # 6

- 16. On pages 4-5 of the application, it identifies limited permit employees under the definitions. However, in all other sections of the application, it identifies only licensed employees. Can you clarify if limited permittees are eligible applicants?**

ANSWER – The job titles for this program are defined as the definitions listed on the Application Instructions.

- 17. Does the loan program for Licensed social workers apply to anyone who is going to school for an MSW degree?**

ANSWER – On the Application Instructions, a Social Worker is defined as: “An individual who is either currently licensed or possesses a permit to practice as a licensed master social worker

(LMSW) or as a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) issued by the New York State Education Department pursuant to Article 154 of the Education Law.”

Eligible professionals must be licensed to practice in New York State by the time the service obligation begins.

18. If staff are involved in the Public Loan Forgiveness Program for a Federal Loan where they make payments for 10 years and as long as they have worked in a not for profit agency, their loans after 10 years would be forgiven? And is it any Loan Forgiveness program?

ANSWER – Individual Employees with Eligible Job Titles cannot participate in both the OMH CMHLRP and any other loan repayment programs simultaneously, i.e., Doctors Across New York (DANY) or Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF).

19. Please clarify if individuals in the process to complete their MSW but do not yet hold a LMSW and are employed at mental health behavioral clinics, or hospitals, are eligible for this program of loan repayment?

ANSWER – Eligible professionals must be licensed to practice in New York State by the time the service obligation begins.

20. Why is this not inclusive of LPC's? LPC's, LMFTs, LMSWs and LCPs often train with each other. Why are they (LPCs) not included when others are?

ANSWER – The OMH Community Mental Health Loan Repayment Program was created to support licensed community mental health programs in the recruitment and retainment of licensed mental health providers that staff these agencies. These include licensed psychologists, licensed social workers, and licensed mental health practitioners who are trained to work with people who have been diagnosed with mental health conditions including those with severe and persistent mental health conditions.

21. I am an OMH employee, LMSW and worked in the NYC Field Office. Would I be eligible?

ANSWER – Please see the answer to FAQ #2

22. Would this program be eligible for funding – Beck Institute/Beck Institute CBT Certified Clinician (BICBT-CC) – Beck Institute? Or is it only for a traditional college? If so, what programs would an LCSW typically do?

ANSWER – Please see FAQ #1

23. I am a LCSW who was hired by a school district as their school social worker. Does that qualify or is it only LMSW/LCSW who are hired through school based clinics (outside agencies partnering with schools)?

ANSWER – Please see FAQ #1 & #34

24. Does the definition of “clinical hours” only include time spent on direct care with clients? Or does it include time spent to document the encounters?

ANSWER – The full-time definition of clinical hours includes time required for documentation and follow-up.

25. Are licensed staff that work within an Apartment Treatment program eligible to apply?

ANSWER – Please see FAQ #1

26. Would employees not be eligible to apply if they are currently tracking for hours in the Federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness? Do you have a template of what an agreement should look like between the agency and the employee if we submit for them?

ANSWER – Individual Employees with Eligible Job Titles cannot participate in both the OMH CMHLRP and any other loan repayment programs simultaneously, i.e., Doctors Across New York (DANY) or Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF).

Please see “Round Three Employer-Employee Agreement” on the RFA page for a sample employer-employee agreement.

27. I am a NYS LCAT and have worked fulltime at Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center (under OMH) in CPEP and Inpatient units from 2006-2011. I am wondering if these past dates fit into the loan application requirements. If so, can you provide information on how I could access the application.

ANSWER – The purpose of these awards is recruitment and retention. Eligible employees must be currently working or planning to work full time clinical capacity as a LMSW/LCSW/LMHC/LMFT/LCAT/licensed psychoanalyst/licensed psychologist within eligible OMH licensed community mental health programs in New York State.

28. Does applying for this program disqualify one from being eligible for PSLF?

ANSWER – No, applying does not make you ineligible. If you receive a CMHLRP award and your entire student loan balance is paid off, you would no longer be eligible to receive loan forgiveness from PSLF.

29. Can I apply if I no longer work full time at an OMH MH facility? I am an LCAT and worked full time on a ACT team in Nassau Co. 2015/2017. It is unclear in the information provided.

ANSWER – The purpose of these awards is recruitment and retention. Eligible employees must be currently working or planning to work full time clinical capacity as a LMSW/LCSW/LMHC/LMFT/LCAT/licensed psychoanalyst/licensed psychologist within eligible OMH licensed community mental health programs in New York State.

30. Are LMSWs from Adelphi University’s Student Counseling Center eligible to apply?

ANSWER – Please see FAQ #1

31. I worked at an inpatient facility in Lake Katrine, NY for individuals with traumatic brain injury called Northeast Center Special Care from 2009-2016 and then a Benedictine Hospital in an outpatient day program for teenagers 2006-2008. I currently work with teenagers in my own private practice. Am I eligible based on past employment?

ANSWER – The purpose of these awards is recruitment and retention. Eligible employees must be currently working or planning to work full time clinical capacity as a LMSW/LCSW/LMHC/LMFT/LCAT/licensed psychoanalyst/licensed psychologist within eligible OMH licensed community mental health programs in New York State.

32. I am currently a LMSW working in a school-based health clinic. I began in September 2023 and work 30-hours, Monday-Friday. Am I eligible for this loan repayment program only being part-time, this is how my current position is structured. There is not an option for full-time hours.

ANSWER – Please see FAQ #8

33. Is this available to non-OMH licenses, such as VFCAs designated for CFTSS with a 29-I license?

ANSWER – Please see FAQ #1

34. On the overview page, it states Article 31 clinics are eligible and lists out several programs that may be under the clinic. Do I have to be working on one of those programs in order to be eligible, or is it sufficient that I work in an Article 31 clinic?

ANSWER – Please see FAQ #1

35. “Not fulfilling any current DANY or other state or federal loan repayment obligation where the obligation period of the repayment program would overlap or coincide with the OMH CMHLRP obligation period.” We are confused around what this eligibility criteria is asking. Please clarify.

ANSWER – Individual Employees with Eligible Job Titles cannot participate in both the OMH CMHLRP and any other loan repayment programs simultaneously, i.e., Doctors Across New York (DANY) or Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF).

36. My understanding is that is a recruitment/retention vehicle for health care programs that helps pay student loans. How does this differ from the National Health Service Corp Repayment Program sponsored by HRSA?

ANSWER – The CMHLRP is settings is similar to other loan repayment programs that help to address health care shortages. OMH’s program is specifically targeted to Article 31 licensed mental health settings to address workforce challenges to keep operating these community based programs.

37. Is this a program that health care professionals can apply to or is it for the nonprofit to make the application on behalf of current staff and/or staff they may recruit? Does the money flow through the nonprofit?

ANSWER – Please see FAQ #17

38. Is this only for people who work in Article 31 clinics?

ANSWER – Please see FAQ#1

39. I see that our organization is an option on the dropdown menu of the application, does this mean we can just jump right in and apply or do you need any additional information to confirm our programs qualify, or any other information for that matter?

ANSWER – You do not need to provide any information before you apply. To apply, please provide a completed application and any additional information requested on the application.

40. Are there any recommendations for recruiting eligible employees for us to submit applications for? Do agencies usually send out a blanket email to all LMSWs, LCSWs, LMHCs, etc. and ask if they have any unpaid loans?

ANSWER – Eligible providers have used the CMHLRP program in the recruitment process to help fill critical vacancies to keep programs operational. Providers may want to use this program pursue recent or future graduates to help fill vacancies.

41. Are Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) able to apply for loan repayment for eligible employees?

ANSWER – Yes, they are eligible.

42. I am already a state employee and have outstanding loans that I have been paying since August 2016. I am already a LMSW in the state system at Manhattan Psychiatric Center and currently have an exam for LCSW in December 2023. Do I qualify for this loan repayment program?

ANSWER – Eligible professionals are defined as: “licensed master social workers (LMSWs), licensed clinical social workers (LCSWs), licensed mental health counselors (LMHCs), licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFTs), licensed creative arts therapists (LCATs), licensed psychoanalysts, and licensed psychologists for the full award amount that meet each of the following criteria:

- A U.S. citizen or permanent resident alien holding an I-155 or I-551 card (green card);
- Licensed to practice in New York State by the time the service obligation begins;
- Still has student loan expenses that can be repaid;
- Not fulfilling any other current state or federal loan repayment obligation where the obligation period of that repayment program would overlap or coincide with the OMH CMHLRP obligation period;
- In good standing with the New York State Education Department;
- Not in breach of a health professional service obligation to federal, state, or local government, or have any judgment liens arising from federal or state debt; and must not be delinquent in child support payments; and
- Working or planning to work full time clinical capacity as a LMSW/LCSW/LMHC/LMFT/LCAT/licensed psychoanalyst/licensed psychologist within eligible OMH licensed community mental health programs in New York State”

If you meet these criteria and work for an eligible program (see FAQ #1 for eligible programs), your employer may apply on your behalf.

43. Do eligible employees for this Loan Repayment program need to work in a direct care position, or can they be in a leadership role on site at an eligible clinic?

ANSWER – Employees must be working in a Full-Time Clinical Capacity, which is defined as “Providing at least 40 hours of service (with a minimum of 32 clinical hours) per week for at least 45 weeks per year. Unless otherwise approved in writing by OMH, the 40 hours per week may be compressed into no less than four days per week, with no more than 12 hours of work performed in any 24-hour period. Time spent in on-call status should not be applied toward the 40-hour week. Hours worked in excess of 40 hours per week shall not be applied to any other workweek.”

If someone in a leadership role is working part time in a clinical capacity, they would be eligible for the time they are working in that clinical capacity for a pro-rated award.

44. When I look at the application drop down boxes, I do not see any state run clinics. Are OMH employed LMSWs eligible to apply for this grant?

ANSWER – Please see the answer to FAQ #2

- 45. Our clinic now has four vacant staff positions. Since this is intended for both recruitment and retention, it would be really helpful if we could offer this as a possibility to prospective candidates during interview process. Can we submit one or more applications before we've identified candidates? Or can we submit applications only for identified candidates whose names and information would go in the first page of the application and related pages?**

ANSWER – Applications need to be submitted for specific people. Please see FAQ # 9 & 13

- 46. On page 3 of the application, one of the metrics for eligibility is "Providing at least 40 hours of services (with a minimum of 32 clinical hours) per week for at least 45 weeks per year." For this grant, does the time our staff with one of these licenses "LMSW, LCSW, LMHC, LMFT, LCAT/licensed psychoanalyst/licensed psychologist" spends supervising clinical staff count towards the above mentioned 32 clinical hours?**

ANSWER – "Clinical Hours" are defined as time spent on direct-care with clients, as well as time spent on documentation and follow-up of these encounters.

- 47. We have a staff member that is a native ASL speaker. She has not taken a test for it since she has been using ASL since childhood. Could she qualify under the Diversity Equity and Inclusion for the language eligibility? If she is required to take a test, how do you go about getting that?**

ANSWER – In order for an employee to be eligible for the language set-aside, they need to have received a passing score on a language placement exam or have graduated with a language-specific degree program. We need to be able to provide documentation or proof of their skill level to include them in this set-aside group. From a quick Google search, it appears that a commonly-accepted verification in some NYS agencies for employment as an ASL interpreter is a certification exam administered by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID). This would be acceptable for this purposes, and is available through their website (rid.org).