

Office of Health Equity
VDH VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH

NEW

VIRGINIA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

The 2021 General Assembly established a \$1.6 million **Virginia Behavioral Health Student Loan Repayment Program (BH-LRP)** to help recruit and retain behavioral health (BH) professionals to practice in underserved areas of the Commonwealth and/or provide counseling and treatment to underserved populations.

This program will repay a portion of an eligible BH professional's student loan debt. In return, recipients commit to practicing in Virginia for a minimum of two years at an eligible site.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

BH-SLRP awardees must possess a valid and unrestricted license to practice in Virginia in one of the following disciplines:

- Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists,
- Psychiatrists,
- Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners (*Psych NPs*),
- Licensed Clinical Psychologists,
- Licensed Professional Counselors (*LPCs*),
- Licensed Clinical Social Workers (*LCSWs*).

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- Eligible BH-SLRP practice sites include behavioral health authorities or community services boards, federally qualified health centers, free clinics/hybrid clinics, rural health clinics, state mental health or correctional facilities, and nonprofit organizations serving uninsured or medically underserved populations and/or communities
- Priority will be given to eligible BH professionals of color, those who speak more than one language fluently, and/or those who practice in one of Virginia's many mental health professional shortage areas
- Total award amount will not exceed 25% of student loan debt (annual limits include \$30,000 for Psychiatrists and Psych NPs and \$20,000 for Psychologists, LPCs, and LCSWs)
- No employer or community match is required

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Applications for the first year of this program will be reviewed and acted on in two cycles:

- October 15, 2021 - December 15, 2021
- February 1, 2022 - April 15, 2022

APPLY online NOW
Click here

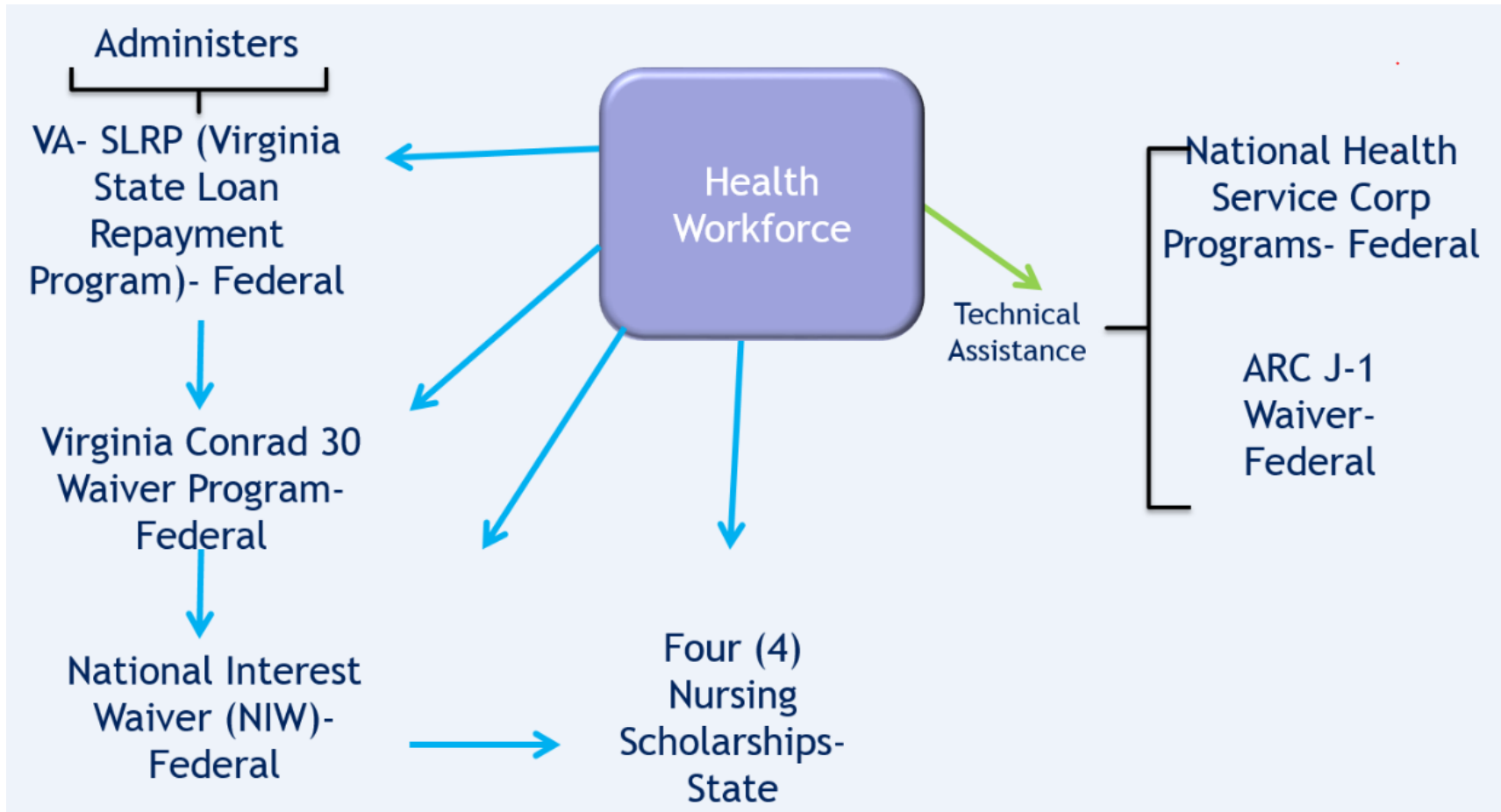
Visit <https://bit.ly/2XKtKv5> for full Eligibility Guidelines, Application Instructions, and FAQs.

Please send questions to: olivette.burroughs@vdh.virginia.gov or call 804-864-7435.

Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program (BH-LRP)

Heather Anderson, MPH
Director, Division of Primary Care
& Rural Health

Health Workforce Overview



Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program (BH-LRP)

Purpose: To improve and increase access to quality health care providers in Virginia's ***Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas*** (MHPSAs)



- Filling Behavioral Health Occupations

Incentive: Offers loan repayment in exchange for service in Virginia in underserved areas.

- Mental Health Professional Shortage Area
- Medically Underserved Area
- Other Underserved Area with data approved or provided by VDH

BH-LRP



Funding Source: \$1,600,000 (GA)

- No match required
- Advisory Committee to provide oversight & fair distribution

Application Cycles:

- October 15, 2021 – December 15, 2021
- February 1, 2022 – April 15, 2022

Website: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/health-equity/virginia-behavioral-health-student-loan-repayment-program>

- 100% online
- Tax- free

BH-LRP Application Process

Priority is given to professionals of color, multi-lingual providers and those serving in Underserved Areas in Virginia

Application Process:

- **Phase I:** Applicant submits completed application with required attachments at any time during the application cycle.
- **Phase II:** Eligible and complete applications will be reviewed by and acted on by VDH.
- **Phase III:** Approved applicants receive awards contingent upon full execution of a BH-SLRP Contract and submission of any additional required

BH-LRP Eligibility

Applicant Eligibility:

- Be an eligible behavioral health professional;
- Possess a valid and unrestricted license to practice in Virginia;
- Be employed at, or have accepted employment at an approved BH-SLRP Practice Site;
- 2-year full-time (*40 hours per week*) or a 4-year half-time (*20 hours per week*)
- No more than four(4) hours per week for administrative duties
- Possess a social security
- Have no any other existing service obligations with other entities, including the military;
- Have no felony or misdemeanor record in Virginia or any other state;
- Be free from judgments arising from federal, state, or commercial debt(s);
- Be current on any child support payments;
- Upload required documents

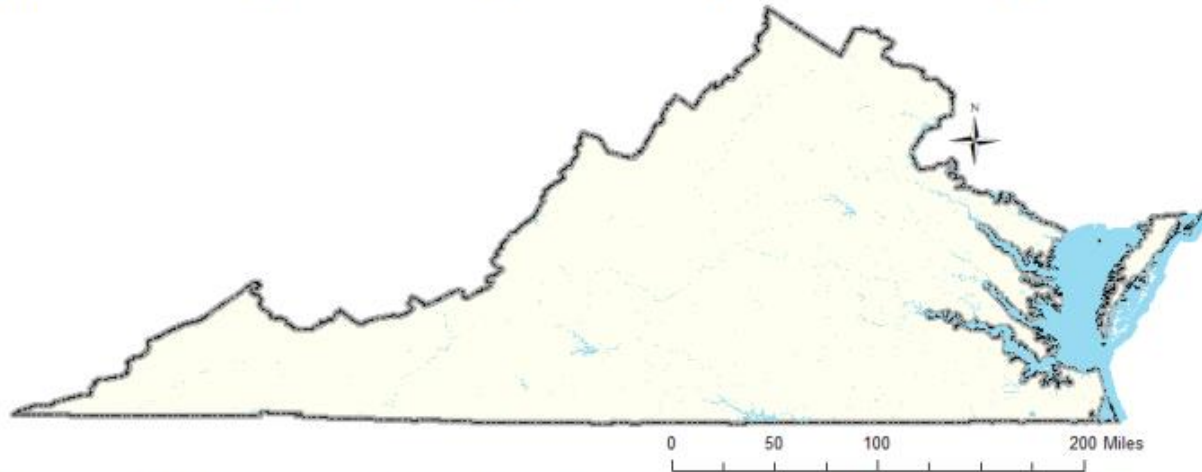
BH-LRP Eligible Practice Sites

Eligible Practice Sites

- Behavioral Health Authorities or Community Services Boards;
- Federally Qualified Health Centers;
- Free/Hybrid clinics;
- Rural Health Clinic;
- State Mental Health or Correctional Facilities;
- Nonprofit organizations serving uninsured or medically underserved populations and/or communities.

BH-LRP Auto Qualifying Practice Sites

Virginia Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program Auto Qualifying Sites Approved by the Virginia Department of Health



VDH has identified a list of practice site types that automatically qualify for the BHLRP regardless of MHPSA or MUA status. In addition to being in a VDH Auto qualifying site, the practitioner must provide direct patient care.

The following are VDH Auto qualifying sites:

1. Community Services Boards
2. State Mental Health Hospitals
3. State Prisons
4. Local & Regional Jails
5. Correctional Facilities
6. Juvenile Detention Centers

BH-LRP Eligibility Continued

What we need from employers?

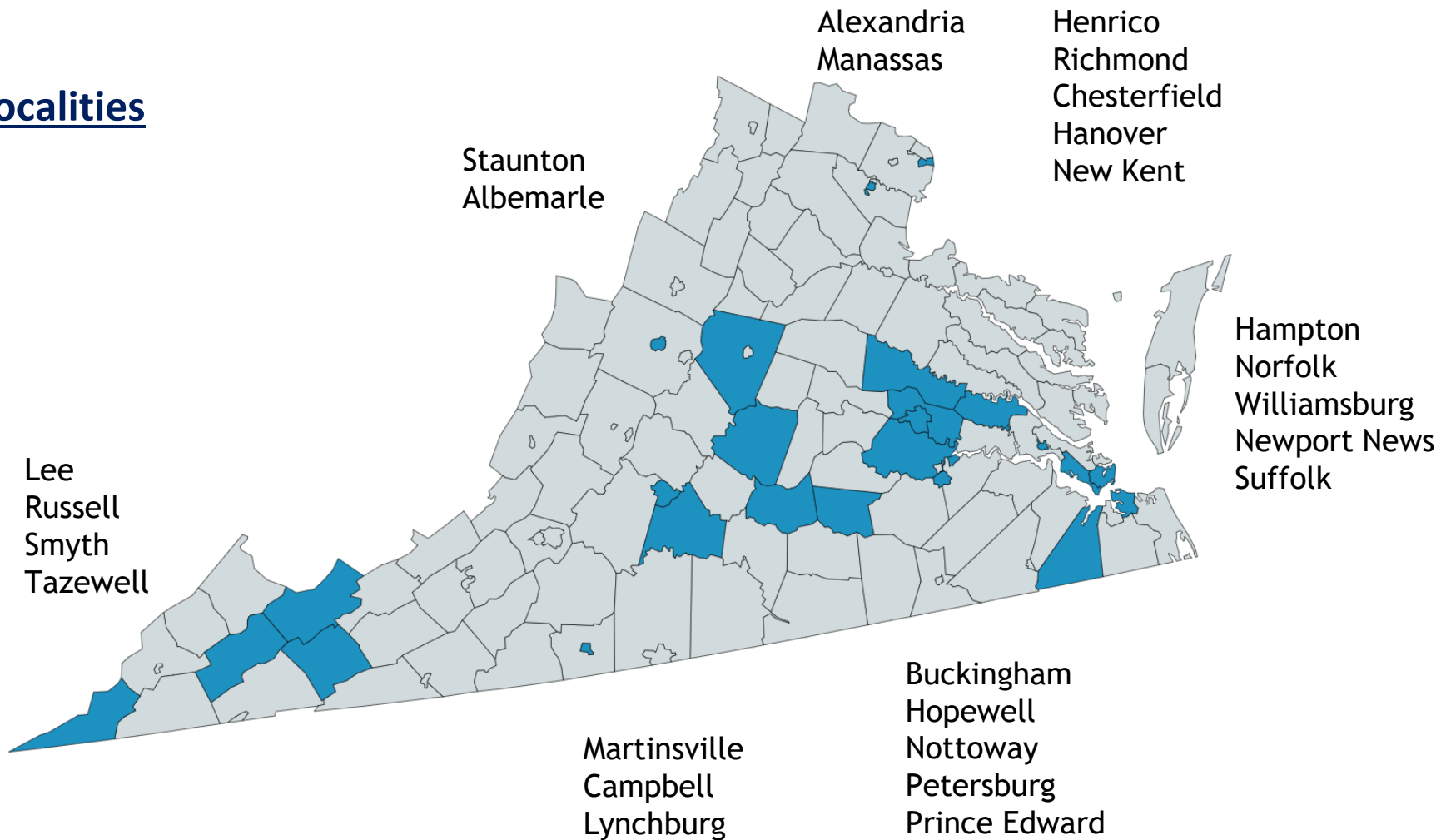
- Verifies the dates of employment, salary, and position (*for current employees*);
- Verifies employment offer has been made (*for prospective employees*);
- Confirms that the applicant is in good standing;
- Commits to employing the BH-LRP recipient for the required service period
 - *Two years for full-time employees (40 hours per week)*
 - *Four years for part-time employees (20 hours per week)*
- Includes an authorized signature (*Executive Director or a Human Resources Director*).
- **No match Required**
- **No Employer application Required**

BH-LRP- Provider Type & Amount

Provider Type	Maximum Repayment Amount Per Year
Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists Psychiatrists Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners	Up to 25% of total student loan debt, not to exceed \$30,000 per year.
Licensed Clinical Psychologists Licensed Clinical Social Workers Licensed Professional Counselors	Up to 25% of total student loan debt, not to exceed \$20,000 per year.

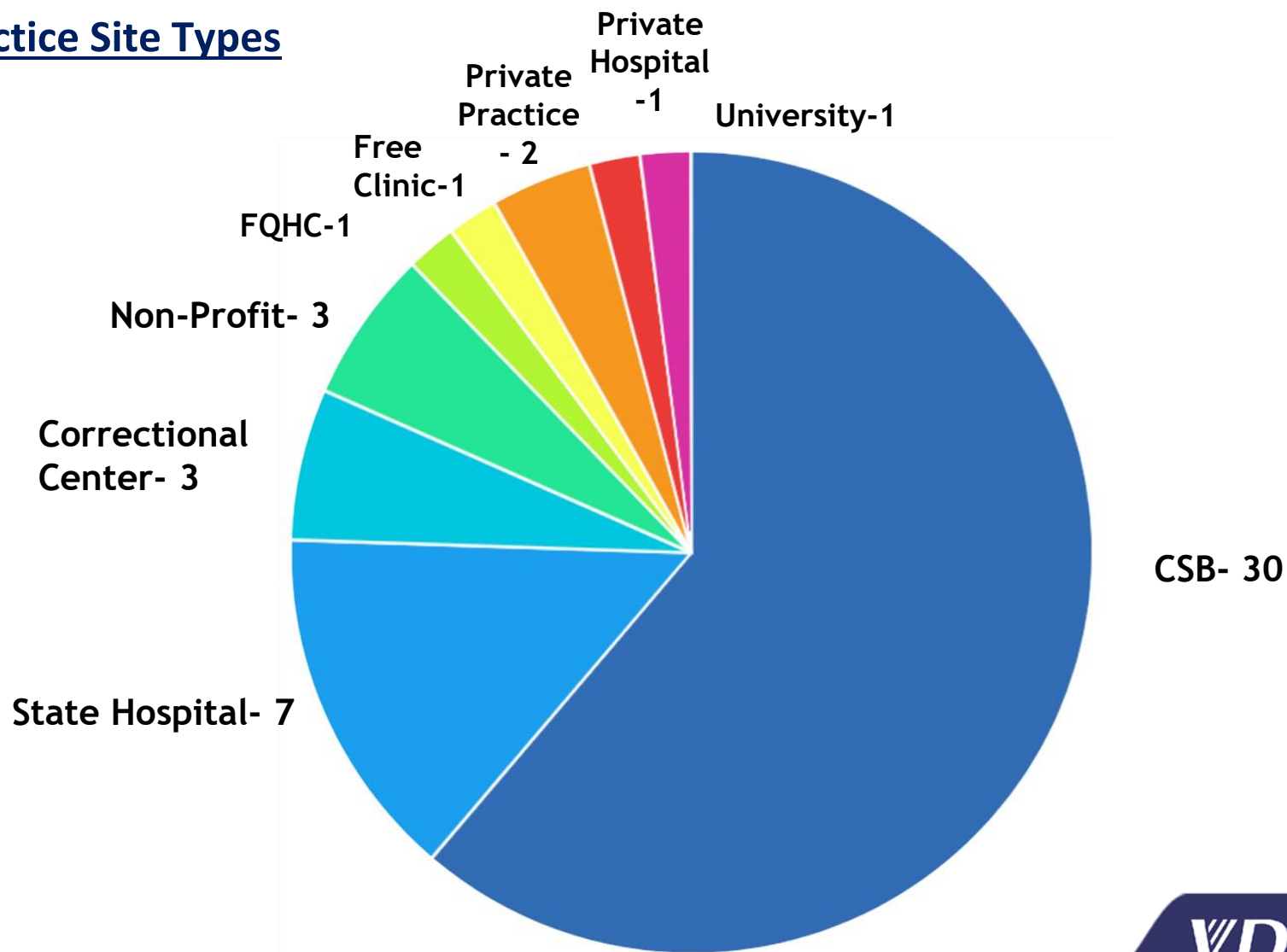
BH-LRP Recipients

Localities



BH-LRP Recipients

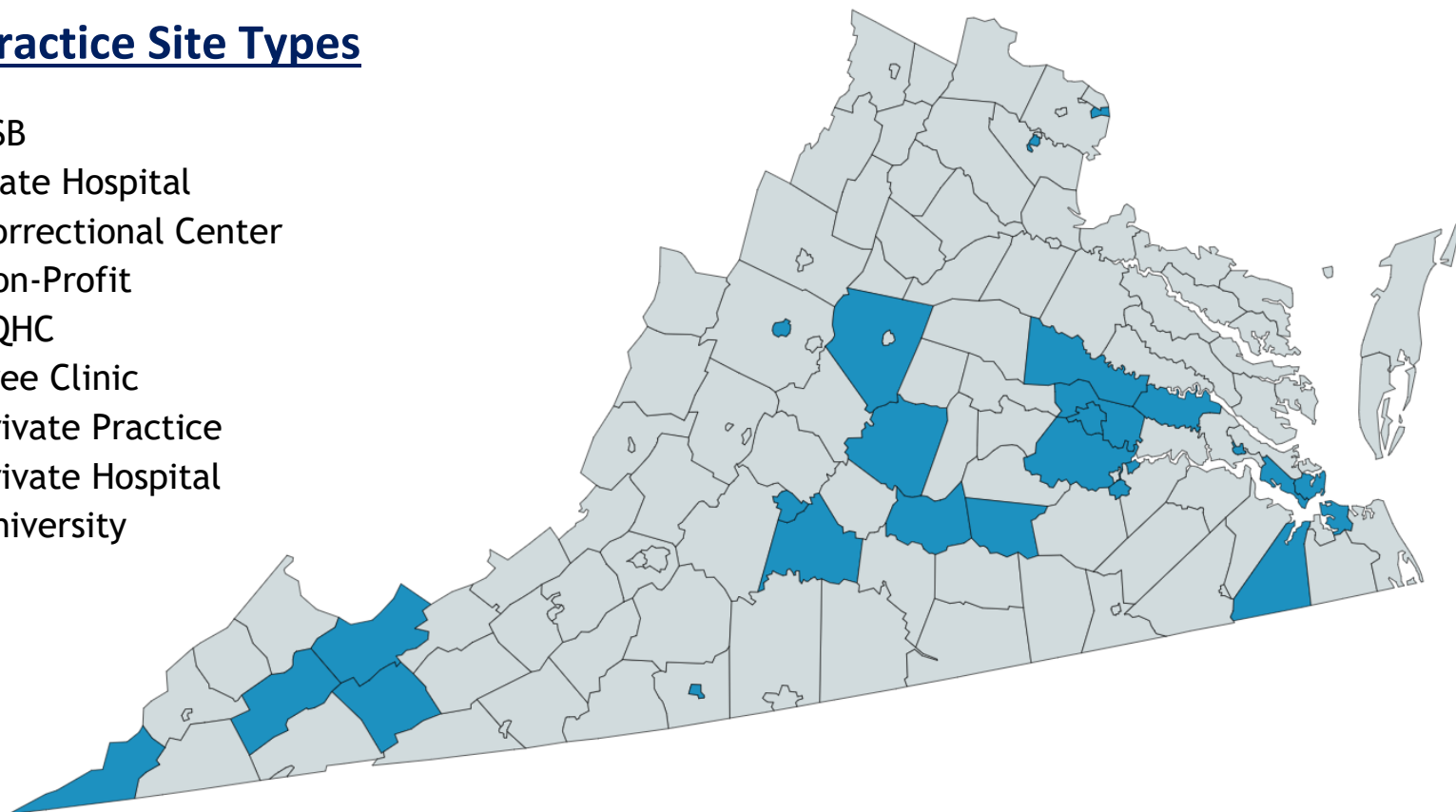
Practice Site Types



BH-LRP Recipients

Practice Site Types

CSB
State Hospital
Correctional Center
Non-Profit
FQHC
Free Clinic
Private Practice
Private Hospital
University



Looking for facilities/providers in a HPSA?

- Register at 3RNET.org
 - <https://3rnet.org/>
- HPSA Find Shortages by Address
 - <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area/by-address>



In a Mental Health HPSA: ✓ Yes

HPSA Name: Planning District I MHCA

ID: 7518432925

Designation Type: High Needs Geographic HPSA

Status: Designated

Score: 18

Designation Date: 03/30/2020

Last Update Date: 03/30/2020

HPSA Name: Planning District I Mental Health Catchment Area

ID: 7513341253

Designation Type: High Needs Geographic HPSA

Status: Proposed For Withdrawal

Score: 17

Designation Date: 02/05/2001

Last Update Date: 03/30/2020

Questions?

For more information, please contact:

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<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/health-equity/virginia-loan-repayment-programs-2/>