

# Virginia Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program

The 2021 General Assembly established the Virginia Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program (BHLRP) to help recruit and retain behavioral health (BH) professionals to practice in medically underserved areas of the Commonwealth and provide counseling and treatment to underserved populations. The program will repay a portion of an eligible BH professional's loan debt. In return, recipients commit to practicing in Virginia for at least two years at any eligible site.

## Eligible Applicants

Awardees must possess a valid unrestricted license to practice in Virginia in one of the following disciplines:

### Tier One Providers:

- CAP Fellows (limited fellow (unrestricted) license is acceptable)
- Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists (CAP)
- Psychiatric - Mental Health Nurse Practitioners
- Psychiatric Pharmacists
- Psychiatric Physician Assistants
- Psychiatric Registered Nurses
- Psychiatrists

### Tier Two Providers:

- Licensed Clinical Psychologists
- Licensed Clinical Social Workers
- Licensed Professional Counselors (including Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists)

### Tier Three Providers (Added in FY25):

- Art Therapy Associate Therapist
- Behavioral Health Assistant Technician
- Behavioral Health Technician
- Certified Substance Abuse Counselor
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Licensed Substance Abuse Treatment Practitioner
- Mental Health Professional
- Professional Counselor
- Qualified Mental Health Professional
- Registered Nurse
- Registered Peer Recovery Specialist
- School Psychologist
- Social Worker



## Program Highlights

Eligible practice sites include the following:

- Academic Medical Centers
- Behavioral health authorities or community services boards
- Correctional facilities, including juvenile detention centers
- Federally qualified health centers
- Free clinics or hybrid clinics
- Nonprofit organizations that serve uninsured or medically underserved populations and communities
- Rural health clinics
- Stand-alone inpatient psychiatric facilities dedicated to serving uninsured or medically underserved populations and communities.
- State mental health facilities

While priority is given to eligible behavioral health professionals of color and those who are fluent in more than one language, all BH practitioners listed on the first page are encouraged to apply.

The total award amount will not exceed \$50,000 for Tier One providers, \$20,000 for Tier Two providers, and \$10,000 for Tier Three providers as defined in §54.1-2400.1 of the Code of Virginia.

No employer or community match is required.

## Application

The application cycle opens on October 15 and closes on April 15 each year.

Scan the QR code or visit us at <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/health-equity/virginia-behavioral-health-student-loan-repayment-program/>

