Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The FAQs are intended to answer commonly asked questions and provide information about important deadlines as it pertains to the Health Professions Education Foundation (HPEF) Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs.

General

What is the Health Professions Education Foundation?

Established in 1987, HPEF is the state’s only non-profit foundation statutorily created to encourage persons from underrepresented communities to become health professionals and increase access to health providers in medically underserved areas. Supported by grants, donations, licensing fees, and special funds, HPEF provides scholarship and loan repayment programs to students and graduates who agree to practice in California’s medically underserved communities. Housed in the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, HPEF’s track record of delivering health providers to areas of need has resulted in approximately 16,385 awards totaling more than $186.75 million to allied health, nursing, mental health and medical students and recent graduates practicing in all 58 counties of California.

Do all applicants receive an award?

Unfortunately, no. Awards for the scholarship and loan repayment programs are made on a competitive basis and only those applicants that meet the program eligibility requirements will be considered for an award.

How many applicants are awarded each cycle for the scholarship and or loan repayment programs?

The number of applicants awarded each cycle depends on the number of eligible applications received for that program as well as the availability of funding for that fiscal year.

If I am selected to be a scholarship or loan repayment recipient, how many times can I reapply?

There is no limit as to the number of times someone can apply.

How many times can an applicant be awarded for each program?

Applicants can be awarded more than once. The maximum number of awards available to an applicant vary by program. Please refer to the individual program pages at www.healthprofessions.ca.gov.
If I receive a scholarship or loan repayment, is it likely I will receive a subsequent scholarship or loan repayment?

Being a current recipient does not increase or decrease your likelihood of receiving a subsequent scholarship or loan repayment. Recipients must resubmit a complete application each time they apply.

If I am not selected to be a scholarship or loan repayment recipient and I reapply, do I need to submit my entire application, or can you reuse the materials I have already submitted?

Applicants must resubmit a complete application with all required documents each time they apply. HPEF will not reuse or return any documentation previously submitted.

Eligibility

Do I need to have educational debt in order to be eligible to apply?

If applying for a loan repayment program, yes, you must have outstanding educational debt from a government or commercial lending institution.

Can I still apply for the scholarship and or loan repayment program if I currently owe an existing service obligation?

Yes. You may apply if you have an existing service obligation with HPEF or another organization, only if your current service obligation ends before the new service obligation begins. You CANNOT have overlapping obligations.

Educational Loans

What if my loans are consolidated?

You are still eligible for a loan repayment award. Loans may be consolidated as long as they are with an educational lender. They cannot be consolidated with other types of debt or with another person. All debt must be educational and in your name.

Do applicants need to be in good standing with their educational loans?

Yes, applicant’s educational loans must be in good standing. Good standing for the purpose of educational loan debt is defined as not being in default. Applicants may have educational loans in deferment and/or forbearance. Awardees must continue to make payments during their terms of the...
contract. As part of this application, applicants will be required to submit current educational loan statements showing the outstanding balance.

What needs to be included on the lender statement?

Lender statements must include the following:

- Date of the most recent statement
- Include the applicant’s name, outstanding balance, account number, lender’s name, and lender’s physical mailing address

What if I am unable to obtain the information requested above on my account?

Please contact your lending institution and request a lender statement and ensure the information above is included. Your monthly lender statement may not include all required information.

Can I copy and paste my lender information into a Word doc?

No. A copy or screenshot of your lender information is required. Any lender information submitted in an editable format will not be accepted and deemed ineligible.

Award

What is a “Service Obligation?”

“Service Obligation” means a scholarship and or loan repayment service commitment in which the recipient has a contractual obligation to practice their profession in a qualified facility/agency in California for a specified period of time.

How will I know if I have been awarded?

HPEF will notify all applicants of their results when all applications have been reviewed and scored. Award notifications will be sent before the service obligation begins via email. Applicants will also receive their grant agreement for review, completion, and signature via DocuSign.

Is the award amount based on my original educational loan balance or my current educational loan balance?

The award is based on the verified loan total outstanding balance at the time of application submission. Discrepancies in lender statement information may result in reduction in award amount. Applicants will not be awarded more than their outstanding balance.
If awarded, do I still have to make payments to my lender(s)?

Yes, you are responsible for making continued loan payments to your lender(s) throughout your participation in the HPEF program, unless they are in forbearance or deferment. HPEF is not responsible for any late fees, penalties, or accrued interest.

If awarded, does the money come directly to me, or will it be sent to my lender?

Payments are issued by the State Controller’s Office and are mailed directly to the awardee. Awardees should expect payments to take 6-8 weeks for the payment to be processed and mailed upon the submission of all necessary documentation required for payment. Failure to submit documents timely or accurately can further delay your payment.

Is my award taxable?

OSHPD/HPEF cannot provide tax advice to awardees. OSHPD/HPEF are not tax professionals and tax consequences may vary depending on the awardee. For this reason, awardees should seek professional tax advice. OSHPD/HPEF does not withhold any tax from the scholarship or loan repayment award. In past years, scholarship recipients generally received a form 1099 notice from OSHPD/HPEF, loan repayment recipients generally did not.

What do I do if my mailing address changes during my service obligation?

You must notify HPEF and complete the “Payee Data Record” form (STD 204), which will be provided to you by HPEF. This form will allow you to update your residential address and ensure your payment is mailed to the correct address. Failure to update HPEF and complete a STD 204 with your updated address can result in a delay in receiving your payment.

If awarded, can I change jobs during my service obligation?

Yes, you have the option to change employers during the term of your service obligation. However, to comply with the terms of your agreement, you must remain employed with an eligible practice setting. If there is a change in the employment site, you must notify HPEF within 30 days and submit the required documentation. HPEF will verify the new employment site is an eligible site under your contract. HPEF will notify you with their decision within 10 business days.

If I have been working in a qualified facility for several years already, can I backdate my contract to include time that I have already served?

No, you cannot use prior employment in order to complete the terms of your service obligation. The start of your service obligation will begin after you are awarded and have signed your grant agreement with the effective start date.
What happens if I am unable to fulfill the terms of my contractual obligation and cannot complete my service obligation?

Awardees may be considered in breach of their contract if they are unable to comply with the terms of their service obligation and will be ineligible to apply for other HPEF programs while in breach status.

Awardees will also be required to repay the scholarship and or loan repayment funds received, plus (10) percent interest over a period of (7) years.

**EXCEPTIONS:** STLRP awardees must repay, within 365 calendar days after notification by HPEF, an amount equal to the total amount of loan repayment paid to the awardee by HPEF. Failure to repay the amount within 365 days will result in the accrual of interest, at prime, on the outstanding balance.

What is the maximum award amount for the scholarship and or loan repayment program and am I guaranteed to receive this full amount?

Below is a list of the maximum award amounts for the scholarship and loan repayment programs. Recipients may receive up to the maximum amount per award cycle. However, based on the availability of funding and amount of educational debt, recipients may not receive the maximum award amount.

**Scholarship Programs**

- Allied Healthcare Scholarship Program (AHSP) - $8,000
- Vocational Nurse Scholarship Program (VNSP) - $4,000
- Licensed Vocational Nurse to Associate Degree Nursing Scholarship Program (LVN to ADN) - $8,000
- Associate Degree Nursing Scholarship Program (ADNSP) - $8,000
- Bachelor of Science Nursing Scholarship Program (BSNSP) - $10,000
- Advanced Practice Healthcare Scholarship Program (APHSP) - $25,000

**Loan Repayment Programs**

- Allied Healthcare Loan Repayment Program (AHLRP) - $16,000
- Licensed Vocational Nurse Loan Repayment Program (LVNLRP) - $6,000
- Bachelor of Science Nursing Loan Repayment Program (BSNLRP) - $10,000
- Advanced Practice Healthcare Loan Repayment Program (APHLRP) - $25,000
- Licensed Mental Health Services Provider Education Program (LMHSPEP) - $15,000
- Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program (STLRP) - $105,000
If I am selected to be a scholarship and or loan repayment recipient, what are the terms of my contractual obligation?

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<th>Document Submission Requirements</th>
<th>Length of Service Obligation</th>
<th>Where Service Can Be Fulfilled</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allied Healthcare Scholarship Program</td>
<td>• Graduation Date Verification Form</td>
<td>1-year service obligation providing direct patient care in your field of study</td>
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<td>• Copy of Cost of Attendance</td>
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<td>• Semi and Annual Reports</td>
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<td>Vocational Nurse Scholarship Program</td>
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<td>Licensed Vocational Nurse to Associate Degree Nursing</td>
<td>• Graduation Date Verification Form</td>
<td>1-year service obligation providing direct patient care as a Licensed Vocational Nurse</td>
<td>Qualified Facility/Agency</td>
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<td>Scholarship Program</td>
<td>• Copy of Cost of Attendance</td>
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<td>• Semi and Annual Reports</td>
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<td>• For LVN students, a copy of your LVN license</td>
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<td>Associate Degree Nursing Scholarship Program</td>
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<td>Bachelor of Science Nursing Scholarship Program</td>
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<td>Advanced Practice Healthcare Scholarship Program</td>
<td>• Graduation Date Verification Form</td>
<td>1-year service obligation providing direct patient care in your field of study</td>
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<tr>
<th>Loan Repayment Program</th>
<th>Document Submission Requirements</th>
<th>Length of Service Obligation</th>
<th>Where Service Can Be Fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Allied Healthcare Loan Repayment Program** | • Lender Statements  
• Employment Verification Form  
• Copy of License, Registration or Certification (if applicable to Health Profession)  
• Semi and Annual Reports | 1-year service obligation providing direct patient care in your field of study |  |
| **Licensed Vocational Nurse Loan Repayment Program** | • Lender Statements  
• Employment Verification Form  
• Copy LVN License  
• Semi and Annual Reports | 1-year service obligation providing direct patient care as a Licensed Vocational Nurse |  |
| **Bachelor of Science Nursing Loan Repayment Program** | • Lender Statements  
• Employment Verification Form  
• Copy BSN License  
• Semi and Annual Reports | 1-year service obligation providing direct patient care as a Registered Nurse |  |
| **Advanced Practice Healthcare Loan Repayment Program**  *No Cycle At This Time* | • Lender Statements  
• Employment Verification Form  
• Copy of License, Registration or Certification (if applicable to Health Profession)  
• Semi and Annual Reports | 2-year service obligation providing direct patient care in your field of study |  |
| **Licensed Mental Health Services Provider Education Loan Repayment Program** | • Lender Statements  
• Employment Verification Form  
• Copy of Mental Health License or Registration  
• Progress Reports | 2-year service obligation providing direct patient care as a Mental Health Provider |  |
| **Steven M. Thomson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program** | • Lender Statements  
• Certification of Practice Setting Form  
• Copy of D.O or M.D. License  
• Progress Reports | 3-year service obligation providing direct patient care |  |
Application

Can I submit my application prior to the deadline?

You are encouraged to submit your application prior to the deadline, but not before the cycle officially opens. Applications submitted after the deadline date will not be accepted by the Funding Portal system. Dates can be found on the HPEF website – www.healthprofessions.ca.gov or on the Funding Portal - https://eapp.oshpd.ca.gov/funding/.

Where do I apply?

Applicants can register and apply here: https://eapp.oshpd.ca.gov/funding/

May I request an extension to file my application if I cannot obtain all required documents by the deadline?

No, all documents must be submitted accurate and complete by the application due date. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Is the scholarship and or loan repayment renewable from year to year?

No, you must reapply for the scholarship and or loan repayment program during the program’s annual open application cycle.

What if I need to make a correction to my application?

You will need to contact HPEF and they will be able to assist you with updating your application as needed as long as it is before the application cycle deadline. Any corrections and or modifications after the deadline will not be accepted and may deem your application ineligible.