

# Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program

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Annual Report to the Legislature  
April 2016

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Prepared by the Health Professions  
Education Foundation



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## Executive Summary

The Health Professions Education Foundation (HPEF) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation housed within the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD). Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 128330-128370, HPEF is required to submit an annual report to the California State Legislature documenting the performance of the Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program (STLRP). The report is to include: 1) the number of STLRP program participants, 2) name and location of all practice settings with program participants, 3) amount expended for the program, 4) annual performance reviews by the practice settings, and 5) the program participants and the status of the Physician Volunteer Program. As the Physician Volunteer Program is not currently administered by HPEF, an update on this program is not included in this report.

This report covers the period of July 1, 2014 through November 30, 2015, for the purpose of including the second year of The California Endowment's (TCE) three-year \$21.4 million total grant for STLRP. This report also includes data on STLRP recipients awarded during this period that were funded by The Medical Board of California and Osteopathic Medical Board of California licensure fees, and the Managed Care Administrative Fines and Penalties Fund, which is administered by the Department of Managed Health Care.

From July 1, 2014 through November 30, 2015, HPEF administered two application cycles. The first cycle was from October 6, 2014 to November 30, 2014 and the second cycle was from May 18, 2015 to June 26, 2015. A total of 230 STLRP applications were received and 107 recipients were awarded a total of \$10.3 million during this period.

## Program Authority

STLRP guidelines are in California Health and Safety Code Section 128550-128558 and the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, sections 97931.01-97931.06. In June 2015, the administration of STLRP was transferred from The Medical Board of California to HPEF.

## Program Background

STLRP was established in 2003 to increase access to healthcare and promote the retention of primary care physicians in medically underserved areas<sup>1</sup> (MUAs) of California. The program is counseled by an Advisory Committee of seven members, with 2 members recommended by the California Medical Association. Physicians and surgeons can receive up to \$105,000 in exchange for providing direct patient care in a MUA for a minimum of three years.

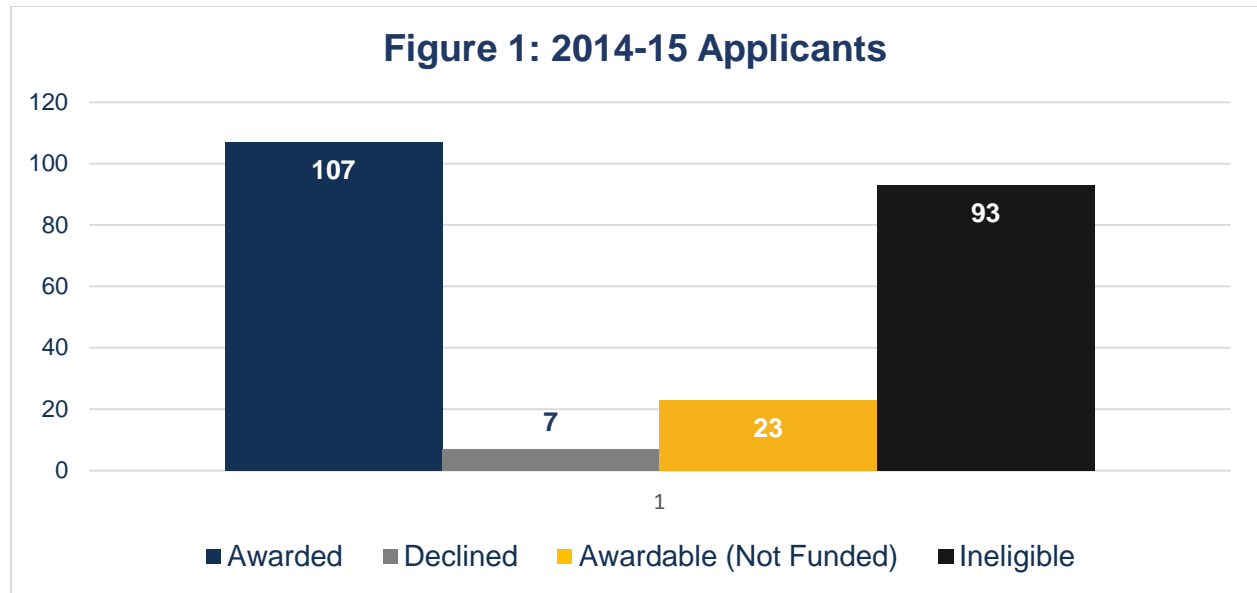
Since its inception, STLRP has received 1,172 applications. This program has awarded and monitored the progress of 475 physicians providing direct patient care in 45 of California's 58 counties. Over this period of time, the program has awarded more than \$41 million. Consistent with the intent of the program, 80 percent of the total recipients are certified in a primary care specialty.

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<sup>1</sup> "Medically underserved area" means an area defined as a health professional shortage area in Part 5 of Subchapter A of Chapter 1 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations or an area of the state where unmet priority needs for physicians exist as determined by the California Healthcare Workforce Policy Commission pursuant to Section 128225.

## Section 1: Participants

From July 1, 2014 to November 30, 2015, HPEF received 230 STLRP applications representing 30 counties and more than \$45 million of applicant educational debt. As displayed in Figure 1, 107 applicants were awarded, seven awards were declined due to change in employment, practice site, and required number of hours, 23 were eligible but did not receive an award due to a limit on awarded applicants with outside specialties, and 93 were not eligible due to practice setting or part-time employment.



The number of applicants for this cycle increased by 68 percent over the previous year due to HPEF's increased participation in outreach events, stakeholder partnerships, and expanded use of social media. Accordingly, the number of ineligible applicants also increased. HPEF reviews and modifies the application process on a yearly basis to ensure clarity of program requirements. HPEF will continue to improve how eligibility criteria is communicated to potential applicants through outreach and marketing with the goal of reducing the number of ineligible applicants.

STLRP applicants are awarded based on their practice setting, medical specialty, and ability to meet the cultural and linguistic needs of the patients they serve. All recipients must serve in a MUA where more than 50 percent of its patients are uninsured, Medi-Cal beneficiaries, or beneficiaries of another publicly funded program serving patients who earn less than 250 percent of the federal poverty level. Applicants are reviewed by the STLRP Selection Committee, which is required to have a minimum of three members, including a member appointed by The Medical Board of California. The Selection Committee is required to award at least 65 percent of available funds to primary care physicians who have completed a three-year postgraduate residency in the areas of family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, or obstetrics and gynecology. Up to 15 percent of the total funds are dedicated to loan assistance for physicians and surgeons who practice in geriatric care settings, and up to 20 percent of funds may be awarded for other specialties.

Furthermore, priority consideration is given to the applicants best suited to meet the cultural and linguistic needs of patients, as determined by meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- Speaks a Medi-Cal threshold language.
- Comes from an economically disadvantaged background.
- Has significant training in culturally and linguistically appropriate service delivery.
- Has three years of experience working in a medically underserved area or with a medically underserved population.
- Has obtained a license to practice medicine in any state of the United States or Canada within the last 15 years.

Table 1 illustrates a listing of postgraduate training for the recipients.

**Table 1: Specialty Certifications Held by Recipients**

American Board of Medical Specialties Certifications	# of Recipients
Family Physician	48
Internist	5
Obstetrician/Gynecologist	9
Pediatrician	29
Psychiatrist	13
Other: Child Neurology	1
Other: Gastroenterology and Hepatology	1
Other: Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>107</b>

## Section 2: Practice Settings

The STLRP Advisory Committee selects the most qualified applicants practicing in settings that meet program requirements. All settings are located in MUAs, and at least 50 percent of their patients are from the Medi-Cal Program and uninsured populations. The Committee also considers if applicants work in the areas of California with the greatest need to ensure a geographic distribution of awards. Northern California, the Bay Area, the Central Valley, the Central Coast, Southern California, and the Inland Empire are the geographic regions represented within Appendix A and B, detailing the distribution of recipients by practice setting and county.

Fifty of the 107 recipients worked in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (areas deficient in primary care, dental care, or mental health providers); 44 recipients worked in a Primary Care Shortage Area (areas with shortages of family physicians, nurse practitioners, and physicians assistants), as determined by the California Healthcare Workforce Policy Commission; 67 of the physicians came from an economically disadvantaged background; and 88 spoke at least one of the Medi-Cal threshold languages.

HPEF utilized TCE grant funding to fund primary care physicians providing direct patient care in TCE Building Healthy Community counties, which included: Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno,

Kern, Los Angeles, Merced, Monterey, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, and San Diego. HPEF also funded physicians in four Central Valley counties: Madera, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare.

### **Section 3: Expenditures**

Funds for STLRP during this period were allocated from The Medical Board of California and the Osteopathic Medical Board of California through a \$25 licensure fee surcharge fund, the Managed Care Administrative Fines and Penalties Fund, and a three-year grant from TCE, which was received in 2013. Licensure fees totaled \$2.6 million dollars, funding from the Managed Care Administrative Fines and Penalties Fund totaled \$1.7 million, and TCE provided \$6 million. Funding from all sources for this report period was \$10.3 million.

### **Section 4: Performance**

As of November 30, 2015, HPEF continued to monitor 233 active STLRP participants for compliance according to the program's statutory and regulatory guidelines. Twenty-seven recipient contracts will end in June 2016 with another 115 contracts ending in June 2017. Each recipient is contractually obligated to work full-time providing direct patient care for a minimum of three years in a MUA. Every six months, HPEF requests a signed statement from the recipient's employer or practice site to verify employment and eligibility for continued program participation and award payments.

Upon the completion of each year of service, HPEF issues a portion of the recipient's total award for the repayment of their educational debt. A payment of 24 percent of the total award is made upon completing one year, 33 percent upon completing two years, and 43 percent upon completing the third and final year.

At the completion of the recipient's service obligation, HPEF sends a post-program survey to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. Survey data is shared with the HPEF Board of Trustees and OSHPD to develop and improve future outreach, application, and award processes.

## Appendix A: Employment County, Practice Settings, Award Amounts, and Specialties

#	County	Practice Setting	Award Amount (\$)
<b>Family Practice</b>			
1	Alameda	La Clinica de la Raza	105,000
2	Alameda	Lifelong Medical Care	98,887
3	Contra Costa	Lifelong Medical Care	49,230
4	Contra Costa	West County Health Center/Contra Costa Regional Medical Center	98,887
5	Fresno	Central California Faculty Medical Group	105,000
6	Fresno	Central California Faculty Medical Group	105,000
7	Humboldt	Mad River Community Hospital	105,000
8	Los Angeles	The Children's Clinic	105,000
9	Los Angeles	South Central Family Health Center	71,385
10	Los Angeles	Los Angeles County, MLK Jr. Multi-Service Ambulatory Care Center	105,000
11	Los Angeles	AltaMed Medical Group	105,000
12	Los Angeles	AltaMed Medical and Dental Group	105,000
13	Los Angeles	AltaMed	105,000
14	Los Angeles	Saban Community Clinic	105,000
15	Los Angeles	Los Angeles County DHS Hubert H. Humphrey Comprehensive Health Center	105,000
16	Los Angeles	The Children's Clinic	98,887
17	Los Angeles	The Children's Clinic of Long Beach	59,119
18	Los Angeles	East Valley Community Health Clinic	98,887
19	Los Angeles	Eisner Pediatric and Family Center	98,887
20	Los Angeles	Northeast Valley Health Corporation	98,887
21	Los Angeles	Grand Medical Associates	98,887
22	Los Angeles	Los Angeles Christian Health Centers	98,887
23	Los Angeles	Comprehensive Community Health Center	98,887
24	Los Angeles	Venice Family Clinic	59,314
25	Madera	Madera Family & Pediatrics Medical Group	98,887
26	Merced	Golden Valley Health Clinic	105,000
27	Merced	MFA Medical Group, Inc. - Hilmar Family Medical Center	98,887
28	Monterey	Salud Para La Gente	56,495
29	Orange	AltaMed Health Services	105,000
30	Orange	Nhan Hoa Comprehensive Health Care Clinic	105,000
31	Orange	Nhan Hoa Clinic	98,887
32	Orange	AltaMed	98,887
33	Orange	AltaMed	55,039
34	Orange	Serve The People, Inc.	98,887
35	Sacramento	UC Davis	105,000
36	San Diego	San Ysidro Health Center	105,000

#	County	Practice Setting	Award Amount (\$)
37	San Diego	San Ysidro Health Center	105,000
38	San Diego	San Ysidro Health Center	98,887
39	San Diego	San Ysidro Health Center	98,887
40	San Diego	Imperial Beach Health Center-Nestor	98,887
41	San Diego	Family Health Centers of San Diego	98,887
42	San Diego	Imperial Beach Community Clinic	98,887
43	Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz County	105,000
44	Ventura	Fillmore Medical Clinic	105,000
45	Ventura	Conejo Valley Family Care Center	105,000
46	Ventura	Family Health Center of Moorpark	105,000
47	Ventura	Moorpark Family Medical Clinic	105,000
48	Ventura	Clinicas Del Camino Real	105,000
48 Family Practice Physicians awarded			Total: \$4,644,435
<b>Internal Medicine</b>			
49	Alameda	Highland Hospital Adult Medicine Clinic	105,000
50	Los Angeles	AltaMed	98,887
51	Los Angeles	Highland Hospital Adult Medicine Clinic	98,887
52	Madera	Camarena Health	75,167
53	San Diego	Family Health Centers of San Diego	105,000
5 Internists awarded			Total: \$482,941
<b>Obstetrics/Gynecology</b>			
54	Los Angeles	Northeast Community Clinic	98,887
55	Sacramento	Camellia Women's Health	98,887
56	San Diego	Family Health Centers of San Diego	98,887
57	San Diego	San Ysidro Health Center	98,887
58	San Luis Obispo	Community Health Center	105,000
59	Santa Cruz	Salud Para La Gente	105,000
60	Tulare	Living Water Clinic	98,887
61	Ventura	Clinicas Del Camino Real	105,000
62	Ventura	Clinicas Del Camino Real, Inc.	105,000
9 Obstetricians/Gynecologists awarded			Total: \$914,435
<b>Pediatrics</b>			
63	Alameda	Asian Health Services	98,887
64	Fresno	Valley Health Team, Inc.	98,887
65	Kern	Clinica Sierra Vista	105,000
66	Los Angeles	Children's Hospital Los Angeles	105,000
67	Los Angeles	East Valley Community Health Center	105,000
68	Los Angeles	Children's Hospital Los Angeles Medical Group - AltaMed Clinic	88,508
69	Los Angeles	Children's Hospital Los Angeles	105,000
70	Los Angeles	Clinica Monsenor Oscar A Romero	98,887
71	Los Angeles	Serra Medical Clinic	98,887
72	Los Angeles	Venice Family Clinic	98,887



#	County	Practice Setting	Award Amount (\$)
73	Madera	Specialty Medical Group	98,887
74	Madera	Valley Children's Specialty Medical Group	98,887
75	Madera	Specialty Medical Group	98,887
76	Madera	Specialty Medical Group, Central California	98,887
77	Madera	Specialty Medical Group	49,749
78	Monterey	Soledad Medical Clinic	36,994
79	Orange	Friends of Family Health Center	98,887
80	Riverside	Borrego Community Health Foundation	105,000
81	Riverside	Community Health Service Inc.	98,887
82	Riverside	Borrego Community Health Foundation	98,887
83	Riverside	Borrego Health	94,329
84	Riverside	Borrego Health	98,887
85	Sacramento	WellSpace Health	98,887
86	San Diego	La Maestra Comunity Health Centers	42,495
87	San Diego	North County Health Services	98,887
88	Santa Clara	Santa Clara Valley Medical Center - Tully Clinic	105,000
89	Shasta	Shasta Community Health Center	105,000
90	Tulare	Tulare Community Health Clinic	105,000
91	Ventura	Ventura County Medical Center, Sierra Vista Family Medical Clinic	105,000
29 Pediatricians awarded			Total: \$2,740,380
Psychiatry			
92	Alameda	TRUST Clinic, Healthcare for the Homeless	105,000
93	Humboldt	Humboldt Mental Health	105,000
94	Los Angeles	Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health/ Edelman Mental Health	52,027
95	Los Angeles	Olive View-UCLA Medical Center	45,669
96	Napa	California Department of State Hospitals	105,000
97	Napa	Department of State Hospitals-Napa State Hospital	105,000
98	Riverside	Riverside County Department of Mental Health	105,000
99	San Bernardino	Department of State Hospitals Patton State Hospital	105,000
100	San Diego	San Diego American Indian Health Center	105,000
101	San Diego	Family Health Centers of San Diego	105,000
102	Santa Clara	Santa Clara County/East Valley Federally Qualified Health Center	105,000
103	Santa Clara	Santa Clara County	105,000
104	Ventura	Ventura County Behavioral Health, Oxnard Adult	79,976
13 Psychiatrists awarded			Total: \$1,227,672

#	County	Practice Setting	Award Amount (\$)
<b>Other</b>			
105	Fresno	Adventist Health Selma	105,000
106	San Diego	Department of Child Neurology UCSD/ Rady Children's Hospital	105,000
107	Ventura	Centers For Family Health	105,000
3 Other physicians awarded			Total: \$315,000
<b>107 Total Physicians awarded</b>			<b>Total: \$10,324,863</b>

## Appendix B: Map of Recipients by County of Employment

STLRP Recipients by County of Employment July 1, 2014 to November 30, 2015



\*STLRP is available to applicants in all of California's 58 counties serving in MUAs.

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