

*****Michigan SLRP 2023 Application Period Update*****

11/1/2022

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MI Login for Third Party/DHHS-FILE TRANSFER:

<https://milogintp.michigan.gov>

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Please Note: Genesee county applicants remain a top priority, but employers will now be required to make contributions equal to 20 percent of their providers' loan repayment agreements.

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Please Note: For providers other than OB/GYN physicians and certified nurse midwives (CNMs) to be considered a top priority, employers must include a signed letter with their Practice Site Applications (See below.)

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a. **Non-priority Practice Sites with HPSA Scores of 8 or Higher Treated as Priority**

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Program Purpose:

The Michigan State Loan Repayment Program (MSLRP) assists employers in the recruitment and retention of medical, dental, and mental health primary care providers who continue to demonstrate their commitment to building long-term primary care practices in underserved communities designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). MSLRP will assist those selected by providing up to \$300,000 in tax-free funds to repay their educational debt over a period of up to ten years of participation. New applicants and current participants compete for consecutive two-year MSLRP agreements requiring them to remain employed for a minimum of 40 hours per week for no less than 45 weeks per year at eligible nonprofit practice sites providing primary healthcare services to ambulatory populations. Providers must remain with the employers who sponsor them during their two-year agreements, and employers must continue to employ the providers they sponsor during their two-year service obligations. Employers must not use MSLRP payments to offset participants' salaries or other components of their compensation packages. MSLRP payments must be in addition to participants' salaries, which must be based on prevailing rates in their practice areas. Due to significant program changes starting with this application period, providers and employers are urged to carefully read this update, as well as the entire updated MSLRP website and instructions for all application forms.

1. MSLRP Application Process

MSLRP will continue to utilize the File Transfer Application for the 2023 application period. MSLRP is using this system to streamline the MSLRP application submission process. For the 2023 application period, all MSLRP applications must be uploaded to the File Transfer Application. **Providers, not their employers, must upload their applications via the File Transfer Application.** Providers can access this system through the State of Michigan MILogin system using following link <https://milogintp.michigan.gov>.

In order for providers to access the File Transfer Application, providers must first create an account. Once an account is created, providers will then need to select the option "Request Access." Providers must then enter 'File Transfer' in the "Search Application" field. Next under "Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS)" click on the DCH-File Transfer link. The MSLRP office will be notified of this request and will grant providers access to the File Transfer Application. Providers will then be able to upload their documents which will complete the submission process of their MSLRP applications. **When uploading documents, providers must select 'DHHS-Michigan State Loan Repayment Program' from the "Area" dropdown list.** Providers must properly label each document when uploading material and also include their name on each document. For example, for Provider Application Part A, providers should label it, "First Name, Last Name- Provider Application Part A." **Uploading all MSLRP Application Documents will complete the application submission process.**

Providers can access the user manual for the File Transfer Application using the hyperlink below. Providers should only refer to pages 5-14 of the File Transfer Application Manual. This manual explains each step of the process for creating an account, requesting access, and uploading documentation. Providers experiencing issues accessing the File Transfer Application should contact the File Transfer Support Team at DCH-File-Transfer-Support@michigan.gov. **Please note, providers should create an account as soon as possible.** This will allow them to access this system and have everything set for the MSLRP Application Period. **Providers should only upload their MSLRP Application Documents during the MSLRP Application Period.**

Additional Instructions for the File Transfer Application can be found in the [User Manual](#).

2. 2023 Application Period: March 6 - 31, 2023 Submission Dates Only

The 2023 application period will begin on **March 6** and continue through **March 31, 2022**. Applications will be batched according to the week their **completed** MSLRP application is uploaded via the File Transfer Application System. **There will be four batches corresponding to each week of the application cycle.** Batch 1: March 6-11; Batch 2: March 12-18; Batch 3: March 19-25; Batch 4: March 26-31. **Uploading all MSLRP Application Documents will complete the application submission process.** Applications in each

batch will have preference over those in each subsequent batch. First, applications in the March 6 - 11 submission batch will be ranked according to their applicant priority status and randomly generated lottery numbers assigned during intake and then screened and reviewed. This process will continue with each following weekly submission batch until enough applications have been approved to obligate program funds. The best strategy for being awarded in 2023 is to start working on applications early, make sure they are 100% complete, and upload them via the File Transfer Application on March 6, 2023. The date the application is submitted is what matters, not the time in which the application was submitted. **Applications with submission dates earlier than March 6, 2023 will be placed in the fourth batch.** You will find more information about applicant priority status, lottery numbers and rank ordering, as well as the screening and review process on the MSLRP website.

New application forms will be posted on the MSLRP website under *Application Periods, Forms, and Process* as soon as possible. The new forms must be used to apply. Briefly, providers must complete the *Provider Application Part A* and *Part B* forms, and employers must complete the *Practice Site Application and Declaration of Intent form* and include all required attachments. Providers should start with their *Part B* forms, because they take the longest to complete.

Loan repayment agreements for successful applicants will begin October 1, 2023 and continue through September 30, 2025. The contribution requirement for nonprofit employers will remain at 20 percent of their providers' agreement amounts. For-profit employers placing providers in nonprofit practice sites, such as state prisons, will continue to contribute 50 percent. Participation in MSLRP is contingent upon the availability of program funds at the time of contracting. Although the program expects to receive funding for loan repayment agreements resulting from this application period, applicants should be aware that state and federal budgeting processes may affect their participation. **Applicants are asked not to call the MSLRP Office to inquire about funding status. Applicants will be notified as soon as information is available.**

Applications must be submitted through the File Transfer Application System. This following link will direct providers to the File Transfer Application:
<https://milogintp.michigan.gov>

Providers should create an account as soon as possible. This will allow them to access this system and have everything set for the MSLRP Application Period. **Providers should not upload their MSLRP application documents until March 6, 2023.**

3. Providers are Strongly Encouraged to have their File Transfer Application Accounts Set Up Before the Start of the Application Period

When providers request access to the File Transfer Application, the MSLRP office is notified of the request and will grant access to providers. For providers who request access to the File Transfer Application after business hours during the application period, the MSLRP office will not be able to grant access until the following day. Please note that this may delay providers from submitting their applications until the following day. **All providers should request access to the File Transfer Application by 4 pm March 31, 2023. The MSLRP office will be unavailable to grant access to providers after 4 pm on March 31, 2023. This will cause providers who have not requested access to the File Transfer Application by then, to be unable to submit their application by the deadline.** Providers should have their File Transfer Application accounts set up before the start of the application period to avoid delay in the submission of their applications.

4. MSLRP Awards up to \$300,000 over a period of up to 10 Years

A senate bill recently passed which allows MSLRP to award providers up to \$300,000 in loan repayment over a period of up to 10 years. This bill further aids the program in its objective of recruitment and retention of health care providers through the loan repayment incentive. It allows

for a greater impact on student loan debt while increasing the likelihood of participants remaining in HPSAs beyond their service obligations.

5. Rural Health Clinics Not Approved as NHSC Practice Sites Must Submit NHSC-Compliant Sliding Fee Schedule and Policy

Many Rural Health Clinics have recently lost their HPSA facility designations because they are no longer National Health Service Corps (NHSC) approved practice sites and are no longer listed on their HPSA-Find county report. Employers must check whether their Rural Health Clinics are still listed on their HPSA-Find county reports at <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area>.

- Rural Health Clinics not approved as NHSC practice sites must have a HPSA score of eight (8) or higher for providers working there to be considered single-priority applicants.

Employers with Rural Health Clinics **not** listed on their county reports must submit Sliding Fee Schedule (SFS) charts and policies that meet NHSC guidelines.

- Applications submitted without NHSC compliant SFS charts and policies will not be accepted. There will be no opportunity to resubmit or change SFS charts and policies during the application period.
- NHSC SFS and Policy Guidelines can be found at <https://nhsc.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/nhsc/nhsc-sites/nhsc-site-reference-guide.pdf>. General requirements can be found on pages 10 and 11. Sliding Fee Schedule and Policy examples can be found on pages 48-53. MSLRP will be screening SFS charts and policies for the following requirements.
 - SFS charts and policies must be based on the 2023 or 2022 Federal Poverty Level guidelines.
 - Patients at or below the 100% FPL level must receive a 100% discount or be charged no more than a nominal flat fee not to exceed \$25. Employers may not require payment of a percentage of charges, such as 10%, because it may exceed the \$25 limit.
 - There should be adjusted fees (partial sliding fee discount) based on family size and income for individuals and families with incomes above 100% and at or below 200% of the FPL.
 - Employers must highlight the portions of their SFS charts and policies that explain patient discounts.
 - Patient discounts shown on SFS charts must be clearly labeled as discounts.
 - If employers collect patient financial information, it cannot be used as part of an asset test to determine eligibility for services under their SFS policies.

6. Top Priority Applicants for 2023 Application Period

a. Inpatient Pediatric Psychiatrists, Physician Assistants, and Nurse Practitioners:

Psychiatrists, Physician Assistants, and Nurse Practitioners specializing in pediatrics at inpatient psychiatric units will be a priority during the 2023 application period. To be eligible for priority status, psychiatrists, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners must be involved in the assessment, admission, and treatment of pediatric inpatients. Employers of those awarded will be required to make 20 percent employer contributions. Applicants must meet all program eligibility and application requirements except they may be:

- Inpatient hospital-based, instead of clinic-based.
- Treating an inpatient hospital, instead of an outpatient, ambulatory population.
- Working at a practice site(s) that does **not** have a mental health HPSA facility designation and is not located within a mental health geographical HPSA.

b. Genesee County Applicants:

Providers working at practice sites in Genesee County will continue to be a priority during the 2023 application period. Employers are required to make contributions equal to 20 percent of providers' loan repayment agreements. Providers must meet all MSLRP requirements except:

- Provider practice sites are not required to be located within a Health Professional Shortage Area.

c. Northern Obstetric Service Providers:

This includes all obstetric service providers working at practice sites in, or north of, Mason, Lake, Osceola, Clare, Gladwin, Arenac, Bay and Huron Counties. This includes OB/GYN physicians and certified nurse midwives (CNMs), as well as family medicine physicians, nurse practitioners (NPs), and physician assistants (PAs) who provide obstetric services on a regular basis at hospital or non-hospital-based clinics. Clinicians who provide prenatal care, but do not perform deliveries, may also receive priority status. For more information see the *Selection Criteria, Review Process, and Final Phase Procedure* chapter on the MSLRP website.

Please Note: For providers other than OB/GYN physicians and certified nurse midwives (CNMs) to be considered a top priority, employers must include a signed letter with their Practice Site Applications which includes the: 1) Number of hours per week the applicant spends providing obstetric services (**which must be 10 hours per week or more**); and, 2) Provider types and number of hours per week other practitioners provide obstetric services at the applicant's practice site(s).

- **For providers other than OB/GYN physicians and certified nurse midwives (CNM), if the number of hours per week the applicant spends providing obstetric services are not specifically stated in the signed and dated letter, the provider will not be considered a top priority applicant.**

Please Note: MSLRP reserves the ability to add to the priority list.

7. Important Reminders:

a. Non-priority Practice Sites with HPSA Scores of 8 or Higher Treated as Priority

Non-priority practice sites with Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) scores of at least eight, will be treated as priority sites. To be considered a priority applicant, all the non-priority practice sites at which a provider may complete their MSLRP service obligation must have HPSA scores of at least eight. Non-priority applicants working at sites with less than a score of eight will be included in the fourth and final batch of applications, regardless of the submission date.

b. Updated MSLRP Review Process

The review process has been streamlined to accommodate increasing application volume. In the past, those submitting incomplete applications were provided an opportunity to complete their applications by submitting supplemental documentation. Now, those submitting incomplete application packages will be notified they have been screened out of the current application process and encouraged to reapply the following year. Emails notifying applicants they have been screened out will outline deficiencies in their current applications to assist them in submitting complete future applications.

Providers and employers are strongly encouraged to read more about the review process in the *Selection Criteria, Review Process and Final Phase Procedure* section of the MSLRP website.

c. Workdays Away Form Must be Submitted with Final Work Verification Form

Employers are required to complete, sign and mail each participant's *Workdays Away from Practice Sites (WDA)* form with their final *Work Verification Form (WVF)*. Employers will find instructions for calculating workdays away in the *Participant Information and Requirements* section of the MSLRP website. Complete mailing instructions are included on each WVF. **Participants will only receive their final payments if their WDA forms are submitted.**

d. Participants Must Complete Service Obligations with Original Employers

Providers applying for MSLRP are agreeing to stay with their employers during their two-year service obligations. Providers uncertain about remaining with their current employers during their entire two-year MSLRP service obligations should not apply for loan repayment during the current application period. They should wait until issues with their current employers are resolved or start with other employers before applying. Provider-initiated transfers to new employer practice sites with start dates other than the first day of their next MSLRP loan repayment agreement, if awarded, are a breach of

that agreement for which they will receive a *Non-Compliance Assessment*. This means they will not be eligible to participate in the next application period during which they would normally reapply.

e. Employers Must Employ Participants Throughout Service Obligations

Employers applying for MSLRP are agreeing to employ the providers they sponsor throughout their service obligations to the program. Employers uncertain about continuing to employ providers should not sponsor them during the current application period. They should wait until issues with those providers are resolved or sponsor other providers. Employers who terminate their MSLRP participant's employment during their service obligations without 'good cause' are in breach of their agreements and will receive a *Non-Compliance Assessment*. This means the sponsoring agency will not be able to participate in the next application period by sponsoring providers applying to the program for the first time as their employees. They will, however, be able to continue sponsoring employees who are reapplying to the program.

Additional MSLRP Information:

You will find additional information regarding MSLRP eligibility requirements and application forms on the MSLRP Website at: www.michigan.gov/mslrp. If you have further questions **after reading the MSLRP website**, please contact Brittany Brookshire at BrookshireB1@michigan.gov.