

Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program

Supplement to the 2004 Report to the Legislature

Improving conditions which lead to healthcare disparities in California,
including those arising from cultural and linguistic barriers



Prepared by the
Medical Board of California

This supplement, prepared in October 2005,
provides information about the 2005 class of awardees and
offers updated statistics about the program.

To obtain a copy of the 2004 Report to the Legislature,
please visit our Web site at:
<http://www.medbd.ca.gov/MDLoan.htm>

If you would like further information about the
Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program,
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Funding

The challenge of raising funds continues, yet the Medical Board has met those expectations by ensuring that there are enough resources for the program to continue.

Early in 2005, the Medical Board received another private donation, this time in the amount of \$200,000. That donation was the trigger which released the initial payment of The California Endowment's (TCE) matching grant. (The total amount of TCE's matching grant is \$500,000, to be paid over three years.) A check in the amount of \$167,000 was received from TCE shortly thereafter.

In the State of California's Budget for 2005-06, passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, \$3 million was earmarked for the loan repayment program; specifically, \$2 million was designated from the Physician Services Account of the Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund, while the other \$1 million came from the Unallocated Account of the same fund. This additional income to the program triggers the release of the remaining grant money from TCE. The second payment from TCE will be made in late-2005 and the final payment will be made in late-2006.

Taking into account all money which has been committed to the loan repayment program and interest earned, over \$8 million has been raised. Cumulatively, almost \$5.9 million has been encumbered in the contracts signed with the 65 physicians in the three classes of awardees.

This leaves over \$2 million available for awards to be made in subsequent years.

Changes in the 2003 and 2004 Classes of Awardees

There are no changes to the composition of the 2003 class of awardees.

Following the end of the first year of service, one of the 2004 awardees has decided to withdraw from the loan repayment program because he was participating in a loan repayment program which precluded participation in any other similar program; his award money will be used to fund future awards. The other 17 awardees (94 percent of the 2004 class) continued into their second year of service.

(Note: Because the physician from the 2004 class who dropped out had completed more than six months of service, he is included within the statistics of this report.)

2005 Class of Awardees

During the Spring of 2005, the Medical Board received applications from 65 physicians who wanted to be considered for an award. The qualified applicants represented a cumulative request of almost \$7.8 million in loan repayments. There was significant diversity in the applicants' cultural background, the languages they speak, and the geographic locations of the practice settings. Awards were given to 19 physicians working in 27 practice settings; a total of \$1.7 million in loan repayments were funded.

The map on the following page provides the location of the practice settings served by the 2005 class of awardees; the affiliated list documents the name of the physician and the physician's practice setting. The numbers on the map correlate with the numbers on the list.

**2005 Loan Repayment Award Recipients
(Listed by Postgraduate Training)**

Numbers Correspond with the 2005 Map

PEDIATRICS

11. Shirley Leong, MD
North East Medical Services
San Francisco

12. John Lynn, MD
Neighborhood Healthcare
Lakeside

16. Marlene Rodriguez, MD
La Clinica de La Raza
Oakland

FAMILY PRACTICE

2. Jason Auriemma, MD
Communicare Health Cntrs
Woodland

3. Marjan Banooni, MD
St. Anthony Medical Center
Hollywood

4. Carmen Espitia, MD
San Joseph Medical Clinic
Van Nuys

6. Goretti Garcia, MD
Clinica Msr. Oscar Romero
Los Angeles

7. Salvador Garfias, MD
Clinica Msr. Oscar Romero
Los Angeles

9. Wendi Joiner, MD
Humboldt Medical Group
Fortuna and Ferndale

13. Miles Masatsugu, MD
Community Care Health
Centers
Huntington Beach

OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

1. Chibuike Anucha, MD
Clinica Sierra Vista
Arvin and Lamont

15. My-Linh Pham, MD
Sequoia Comm Health
Fresno

FAMILY PRACTICE and OB/GYN

10. Lamia Kadir, MD
Tri-City Health Center
Fremont

PSYCHIATRY

5. Lyle Forehand, MD
Stanislaus Health Services
Modesto

CHILD and ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY

14. Huey Merchant, MD
Valley Child Guidance Clinic
Palmdale

17. Erica Shoemaker, MD
Augustus F. Hawkins Clinic
Los Angeles

**PSYCHIATRY and
NEUROLOGY**

19. Brian Thomas, MD
Mendocino Comm Health
Ukiah, Lakeport and Willits

**INTERNAL and
PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE**

18. Lorrie Strohecker, MD
San Diego Family Care Clinics
San Diego

**FAMILY PRACTICE
and GERIATRICS**

8. Patrick Giesemann, MD
Neighborhood Healthcare
Escondido

Three Years, 65 Awardees

From Border to Border

The following map documents the geographic diversity of the practice settings served by all of the awardees under the loan repayment program. While there are still some counties that are not being served by program awardees, the Board is proud that those selected are working in many communities throughout California. Assuming that the metropolitan areas of Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, and San Francisco are urban areas, then about 41 percent of the awardees are offering their services in rural areas while about 59 percent of the awardees are working in urban areas.

A Wide Range of Experience

With the inclusion of the new class of awardees, these physicians' wide range of postgraduate training programs has broadened even further. Their area of specialty training was only one of the selection factors considered, but it was an important criterion in consideration of the needs of underserved populations. There is a requirement that most participants are to be selected from the primary specialty areas of family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, and obstetrics/gynecology; however, up to 20 percent of the participants may be selected from other specialty areas. To date, 88 percent of the awardees were trained in at least one of the primary specialties and 12 percent of the awardees received their postgraduate training in other specialties.

The breakdown of postgraduate training is as follows:

- Family Practice - 43%
- Pediatrics - 23%
- Psychiatry - 7%
- OB/GYN - 7%
- Internal Medicine - 4%
- Child and Adult Psychiatry - 3%
- Psychology and Neurology - 1%
- Combination of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics - 3%
- Combination of Internal Medicine and Preventative Medicine - 3%
- Combination of Internal Medicine and Geriatrics - 1%
- Combination of Family Practice and Geriatrics - 1%
- Combination of Family Practice and OB/GYN - 1%

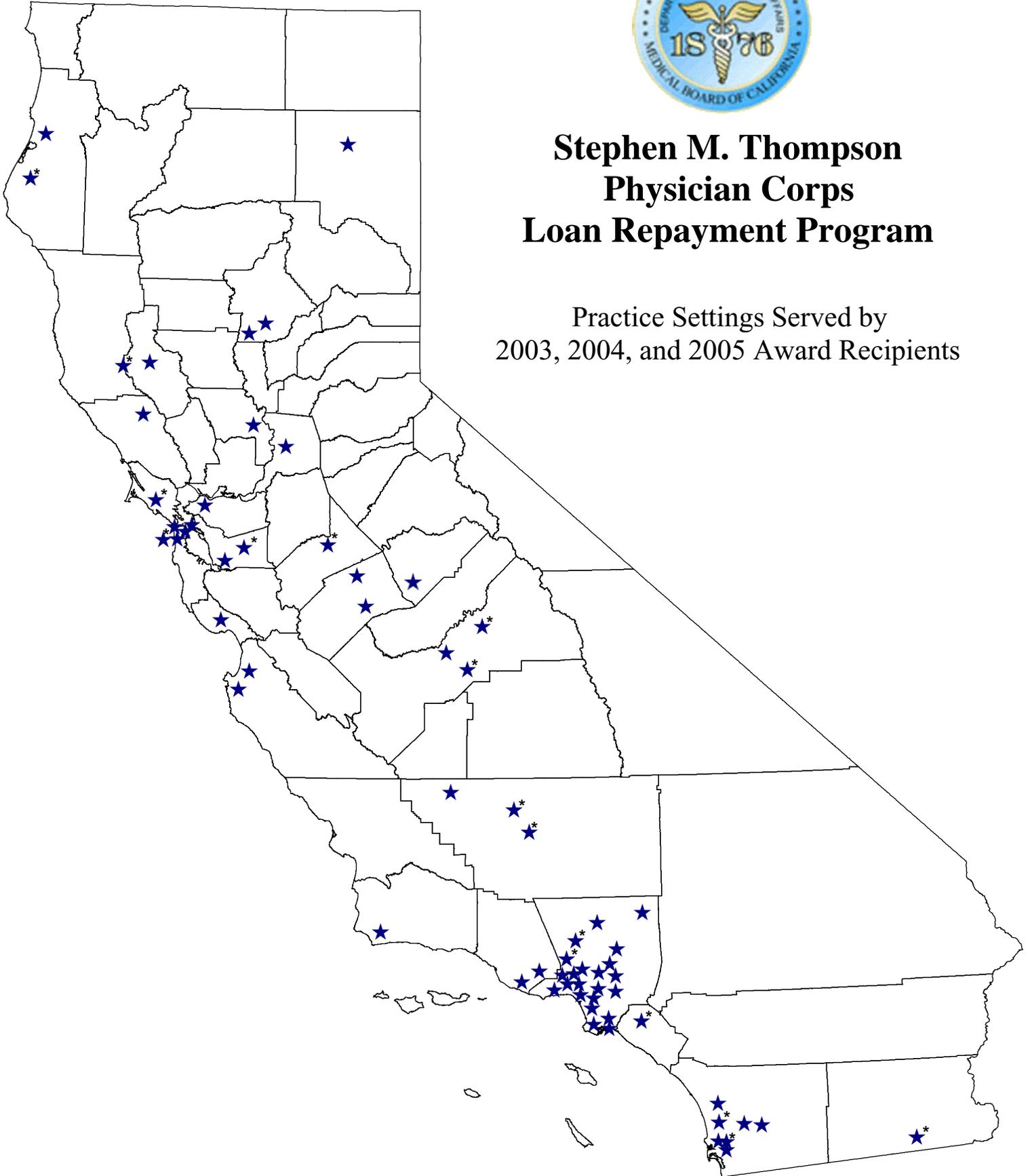
Total Money Granted

The Medical Board of California is proud of the amount of funds awarded to deserving physicians throughout California. During the first three years of the program, awards were made to 69 physicians, of whom 65 remain in the program. Awards of \$5,892,602 were granted to these 65 physicians who are willing to dedicate three years' service to California's underserved populations.



Stephen M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program

Practice Settings Served by
2003, 2004, and 2005 Award Recipients



* - Multiple practice settings for this recipient.

Eligible Practice Settings

Under the Board’s loan repayment program, awardees must work in practice settings according to the following criteria:

- (1) the facility is located in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA), or,
- (2) the facility holds a federal designation as one of the following:
 - (A) Community Health Center (CHC)
 - (B) Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)
 - (C) Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike (FQHC-LA)
 - (D) Rural Health Center (RHC)
 - (E) Migrant Health Center (MHC)
 - (F) Public Housing Health Center (PHHC)
- (3) the facility is an outpatient health program/facility operated by tribal organizations (under the Indian Self-Determination Act) or urban Indian organizations (under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act)

The following matrix documents the avenue used to qualify a practice setting as eligible under the loan repayment program. Because some practice settings are located in a HPSA and they hold a federal designation (or some clinics may hold more than one designation), the total will equal more than the number of practice settings represented by the awardees.

	HPSA	CHC	FQHC/LA	RHC	MHC	PHHC
2003	35	19	23	4	5	1
2004	7	10	7	2	2	2
2005	10	16	18	2	5	--

In an attempt to identify the split between urban and rural practice settings, we estimate that in 2003, about 65 percent of the practice settings serviced by awardees are urban and 35 percent are rural. In 2004, those figures are about 70 percent urban and 30 percent rural and in 2005, these figures are below 60 percent urban yet more than 40 percent rural.

Medi-cal Threshold Languages

The Medi-Cal threshold languages eligible under the Program include Armenian, Cambodian, Cantonese, Farsi, Hmong, Korean, Mandarin, Other Chinese, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. Program applicants were asked to self-identify the languages which they spoke.

Of the 2003 awardees, 88 percent spoke Spanish, 3 percent spoke Vietnamese, 3 percent spoke Mandarin, and 6 percent did not speak a Medi-Cal threshold language.

Of the 2004 awardees, 72 percent spoke Spanish, 11 percent spoke Farsi, 6 percent spoke Tagalog, 6 percent spoke Cantonese, and 6 percent did not speak a Medi-Cal threshold language.

Of the 2005 awardees, 63 percent spoke Spanish, 5 percent spoke Farsi, 5 percent spoke Vietnamese, 5 percent spoke Cantonese, 5 percent spoke Mandarin, and 16 percent did not speak a Medi-Cal threshold language.

NOTE: Please note that the statistics in the report are based on awardees and their practice settings at the time of selection. Some awardees have since changed practice settings or dropped out of the Program. Also, due to rounding, some totals may not equal 100 percent. No awards have been given to physicians in tribal practice settings.

2005 Legislation

Two bills were signed into law that affect the loan repayment program.

AB 327 (de la Torre, Statutes 2005, Chapter 293)

This bill authorizes the Board to charge a voluntary \$50 fee, for the issuance and renewal of a physician's license, to provide support for the Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program (Program). The funds collected will be deposited into the Medically Underserved Account created for the Program.

Monies collected will complement matching grants to sustain the Program. This voluntary fee was established to help provide a continuous source of funding for the Program which will allow loan repayments into the future.

AB 920 (Aghazarian, Statutes 2005, Chapter 317)

This bill moves both the Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program and the Volunteer Physician Program from the Medical Board of California to the California Physician Corps Program within the Health Professions Education Foundation (HPEF).

This transfer will help the programs seek donations and secure funding through writing grants. These programs were moved to enable them to grow and increase access to care for Californians.

The objective of the transfer is the expansion of the programs and ability to continuously operate the programs into the future through the receipt of private funding mechanisms.

Major implementation objectives:

- Notify interested parties and keep them involved in the transition
- Medical Board President at November Board meeting to appoint two Board Members to HPEF to serve beginning January 1, 2006
- Meet with: Executive Director of HPEF and Foundation Board; Department of Consumer Affairs Fiscal/Legal; and Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development Fiscal/ Legal
- Notification to all awardees regarding transfer of the loan repayment program; awardees contract amendments
- Transfer programs to HPEF on July 1, 2006