



**Health Professions Education Foundation (HPEF)  
Update for California Medical Board  
January 23, 2019**

**Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program (STLRP)**

- The 2018-2019 Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program (STLRP) application cycle opened on December 3, 2018. The deadline to apply is February 26, 2019.
- Since the STLRP cycle opened, HPEF has received 36 submitted applications and 110 applications are in-process.
- HPEF continues to hold technical assistance calls for potential applicants. For information on STLRP and the schedule for technical assistance calls, visit <https://oshpd.ca.gov/loans-scholarships-grants/loan-repayment/stlrp>.
- HPEF is seeking volunteers to score STLRP applications in mid-March. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact [Michael.Andrijich@oshpd.ca.gov](mailto:Michael.Andrijich@oshpd.ca.gov).

**Other HPEF Application Cycles**

- HPEF's 2018-19 application cycles for the Allied Healthcare, Nursing and Mental Healthcare Loan Repayment Programs closed in October.
- Over 1,600 applications were submitted and over 1,000 applications are eligible. Award notifications to applicants will go out by mid-March.
- HPEF will hold a scholarship application cycle for nursing students on March 4, 2019. The deadline to apply is April 2, 2019.

**HPEF Scholarship and Loan Repayment Awards FY 2018-19**

- HPEF has approximately \$5 million for scholarship and loan repayment awards for FY 2018-19.
- This is a significant change from previous award cycles. In FY 2017-18, HPEF awarded approximately \$17 million in loan repayment awards.

**Outreach**

- HPEF launched in 2018 an Ambassador Program. There are currently 50 ambassadors, and some have shared their story of the impact the loan repayment award has made on their life and career. These testimonials are posted on our website at [www.healthprofessions.ca.gov](http://www.healthprofessions.ca.gov)

- Participants in the HPEF Ambassador Program commit to furthering HPEF's goals through community outreach and education, development, and professional dialogue. Ambassadors can choose from a variety of options and levels of participation that best fit their schedules and strengths. Through these opportunities, Ambassadors will have a platform to engage with community, give back, and connect with other health professionals who are passionate about HPEF's mission.
- Ambassadors can assist through community outreach by providing a written testimonial of their experience and the impact the HPEF award has had on your life and career, spoken testimonial to students and professionals currently in the health professions about their service, collaboration with HPEF on blogs and media resources, such as interviews and op-eds, and mentorship of interested students and professionals.
- Ambassadors can also support each other and network to spark dialogue about community and best practices, which can improve the status of individual and community health.
- In partnership with the CA Primary Care Association, HPEF has created a video testimonial of Dr. Ava Asher from Sacramento Native American Health Center to encourage health providers to apply to HPEF's loan repayment programs. We plan to have this video posted on our website this Spring.

### **Annual Giving Campaign**

- HPEF sent out donation letters to prior loan repayment awardees in mid-December.
- As of January 23, 2019, HPEF has received a total of \$2,945 individual donations from prior awardees who have completed their service obligation.
- Personal financial support is a way to say you value HPEF and its work. If you would like to make a donation, visit <https://donation.healthprofessions.ca.gov>, or request a Contribution Form to provide your tax-deductible donation.

### **Social Media**

- HPEF posts daily updates on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.
- Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HealthProfessionsEducationFdn>
- Follow us on Twitter at [https://twitter.com/HPEF\\_Official](https://twitter.com/HPEF_Official)
- Follow us on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/healthprofessionseducationfdn/>



# Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program

Supporting physicians providing critical  
primary care resources in medically  
underserved areas of California.AA

- Up to \$105,000 for 3 years of serviceAA
- Must have an active M.D. or D.O. license in CaliforniaAA
- Employed by a worksite located in a HPSA-PC or A PCSA, a FQHC, Indian Health Center or county contracted facilityAA
- Commit to providing medical services full-time (at least 40 hours per week), with at least 32 hours spentAA on direct patient care. Exception: OB/Gyn physicians must spend at least 21 hours on direct patient careAA

Application Cycle OpenAA  
December 3, 2018 - February 27, 2019AA

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Learn more at [www.healthprofessions.ca.gov](http://www.healthprofessions.ca.gov)AA



## **STEVEN M. THOMPSON PHYSICIAN CORPS LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM**

The **2018/2019 Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program (STLRP) application cycle is open December 3, 2018 – February 26, 2019**. You may be eligible to receive up to \$105,000 to help pay outstanding educational debt. You must be currently licensed and practicing as an Allopathic or Osteopathic Physician and meet the criteria listed below to be eligible for consideration of the award.

STLRP is a program administered by the Health Professions Education Foundation (HPEF), a 501(c)3 nonprofit public benefit corporation housed within the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD), that provides financial support to aspiring and current health professionals through scholarship and loan repayment programs in exchange for service in a medically underserved area of California. To learn more, visit the STLRP page at [www.healthprofessions.ca.gov](http://www.healthprofessions.ca.gov).

### **STLRP Eligibility Requirements:**

- *Full-Time Service Commitment*
  - A weekly minimum of 40 hours with at least 32 of those hours in direct patient care for a minimum of 45 weeks per year. For physicians continuously engaged in the practice of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the weekly direct patient care hours requirement is at least 21 hours. The 40 hours per week may be compressed into no less than four days per week, with no more than 12 hours of work in any 24-hour period. This does not include hours spent on call.
  - Commit to providing full-time direct patient care (defined above) in a Health Professional Shortage Area-Primary Care (HPSA-PC) or Primary Care Shortage Area (PCSA) for a minimum of 3 years.
- *Practice outpatient care*
  - At least 90% of direct patient care hours must be spent working in an outpatient setting, not a hospital. EXCEPTION: Emergency Room Physicians providing care to patients not admitted to the hospital
- *Have a valid, unrestricted MD or DO license to practice in California*
  - Be currently employed or have accepted employment in a HPSA-PC or PCSA in California. Confirm facility eligibility by entering the address into the map search on the STLRP page located at [www.healthprofessions.ca.gov](http://www.healthprofessions.ca.gov)
- *Be free of any contractual service obligations* (i.e. the National Health Service Corps Federal Loan Repayment Program or other financial incentive programs)
- *Have outstanding educational debt* from a government or commercial lending institution

Apply at <https://eapp.oshpd.ca.gov/funding/>. Selection for this program is extremely competitive and applicants are encouraged to review the attached FAQ to learn more. If you have any other questions, please email [hpef-email@oshpd.ca.gov](mailto:hpef-email@oshpd.ca.gov) or speak with our staff at 800-773-1669.

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## **STLRP Program Overview**

STLRP was established in 2003 to increase access to healthcare and promote the retention of primary care physicians in medically underserved areas of California. The program has an Advisory Committee of seven members, with two 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 Health Professional Shortage Area - Primary Care (HPSA-PC) or Primary Care Shortage Area (PCSA) for a minimum of 3 years.

## **Application FAQs**

### **1. How do I apply?**

Visit <https://eapp.oshpd.ca.gov/funding/>.

### **2. If I have previously applied to STLRP and want to re-apply, do I need to submit a new application?**

Yes, you must submit a new application each time you apply.

### **3. When is the deadline to apply for STLRP?**

The application must be submitted via the online application system between December 3, 2018, and February 26, 2019. Applications submitted after February 26, 2019, at 5:00 PM will not be accepted.

### **4. Can I submit my application prior to the deadline?**

You are encouraged to submit your application prior to the deadline; however, the application will not be available until December 3, 2018.

### **5. How do you select the award recipients for STLRP?**

No single factor determines award selection. Below are some factors that are taken into consideration:

- Cultural and linguistic competence
- Experience working in underserved areas with underserved populations
- Geographic distribution of awardees
- Career goals
- Other community service and involvement
- Specialty and experience working with adults over the age of 65 and/or with disabilities.

### **6. What are the eligibility requirements?**

To be eligible, you must:

- A. Have a valid, unrestricted MD/DO license to practice in California
- B. Be working a minimum of 40 hours per week with 32 hours of direct patient care. If you are an OB/GYN, you must be working at least 21 hours of direct patient care per week
- C. Be working at a qualifying worksite in a Health Professional Shortage Area - Primary Care (HPSA-PC) or Primary Care Shortage Area (PCSA). (Please refer to question #11 regarding qualifying worksite facilities)
- D. Be practicing outpatient care. At least 90% of direct patient care hours must be spent working in an outpatient setting, not a hospital. Exception: Emergency Room Physicians providing care to patients not admitted to the hospital.
- E. Have outstanding educational debt from a government or commercial lending institution

### **7. What is a “service obligation?”**

A “service obligation” means the contractual obligation agreed to by the recipient of a loan assumption or stipend. It is the time you spend working or volunteering for your employer for the duration that is outlined in your grant agreement, if you are awarded. STLRP has a 3 year service obligation.

### **8. Is a social security number (SSN) required to apply?**

Applicants can apply using the last four digits of their SSN. If an applicant does not have an SSN, they can apply using their individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN).

**9. Can I apply for other Health Professions Education Foundation (HPEF) programs while applying for STLRP?**

Yes. You may apply to all HPEF programs for which you are eligible. However, if selected for more than one program, you may only accept **one** award, since you may not have overlapping service obligations.

**10. Can I apply for STLRP, even if I currently owe a service obligation to HPEF or another entity?**

Yes. You may apply if you have an existing service obligation to HPEF or another organization, but only if your service obligation ends before June 30, 2019. You must complete your existing service obligation before starting your (new) obligation with HPEF/STLRP. This includes, but is not limited to, State Loan Repayment Program, National Health Service Corps, or other stipend programs.

**11. How do I know if my practice site will qualify for STLRP?**

To qualify, your practice site must fall within either a Health Professional Shortage Area - Primary Care (HPSA-PC) or a Primary Care Shortage Area (PCSA). It must also meet the requirements listed on page 2 of the Certification of Practice Setting form (COPS). To confirm if your practice falls within a HPSA-PC or PCSA, and to obtain a copy of the COPS form, visit the STLRP page at [www.healthprofessions.ca.gov](http://www.healthprofessions.ca.gov).

**12. Will my employer need to fill out any forms for STLRP?**

Yes. Your direct Supervisor or Administrative Officer will be required to sign the COPS form included in the application. If you are awarded, your Direct Supervisor or Administrative Officer will also complete a one-page Progress Report every six (6) months during your service obligation.

**13. Do all applicants of STLRP receive a loan repayment award?**

No. Awards for STLRP are made on a competitive basis. Additionally, applicants may not always receive the maximum loan repayment award of \$105,000, as awards are based on the availability of funding and applicant's amount of educational debt.

**14. What types of physicians are eligible for STLRP?**

Any doctor with an active MD or DO license may apply if they meet the criteria listed in question #6; however, priority is given to primary care physicians. Up to 15% of funds may be directed toward physicians who are trained and practice in geriatric care, and no more than 20% of funds may be directed to other specialties, such as surgery, psychiatry and emergency medicine.

**15. Can physicians in fellowships apply?**

Yes, if they meet the criteria listed in question #6.

**16. What if my loans are consolidated?**

If your educational loans are consolidated, you may list only the consolidated loan information on the Educational Debt Reporting Form. Also, include the corresponding lender statement. Loans may not be consolidated with other types of debt or with another person.

**17. What if my loans are in forbearance or deferment?**

You are considered eligible for a loan repayment award if your loans are in forbearance or deferment so long as those remain with a commercial or government educational lender. You are, however, not qualified to apply if your loan is in default.

**18. What is a medical exchange program?**

A medical exchange program is a program where medical students study abroad with the objective of experiencing a comparative approach to medical practices in both clinical and didactic settings.

**19. What is culturally appropriate service delivery?**

Culturally appropriate service delivery is a set of competent behaviors, attitudes, and policies that come together in a system, agency, or among professionals that enables effective work in cross-cultural situations.

**20. How many applicants are awarded through STLRP?**

The number of applicants awarded will depend on the number of eligible applications and the availability of funding.

**21. How will I be notified of an award?**

HPEF will notify all applicants of their STLRP results when all applications have been reviewed and scored. Award notifications will be sent before service obligations begin on or before June 30, 2019. Award notifications and other correspondence will be sent via email.

**22. If I am selected for a STLRP award, does the money come directly to me, or will it be sent to my lender?**

The check will be sent directly to the awardee. Awardees should expect it to take 6 to 8 weeks for the payment to be processed after they have completed their obligation and submitted all necessary paperwork.

**23. If I am selected for a STLRP award, 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 STLRP. HPEF is not responsible for any late fees, penalties, or accrued interest.

**24. 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 for STLRP. The start date of your 3 year service obligation will begin after you are awarded and have signed your agreement. STLRP service obligation will begin on or before June 30, 2019.

**25. What happens if I am unable to fulfill the terms of my contractual obligation and complete my service obligation?**

A physician participating in the program who is unable to complete the required three years of service will be required to repay, within 365 calendar days after notification by the program, an amount equal to the total amount of loan repayment paid to the physician by the program. Failure to repay the amount within 365 days will result in the accrual of interest, at prime, on the outstanding balance.