

# RECRUITMENT ASSISTANCE

## for SOUTH DAKOTA HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

### RECRUITMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (RAP)

This state program provides qualifying physicians, dentists, physician assistants, certified nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, or certified registered nurse anesthetists an incentive payment in return for three continuous years of practice in an eligible rural community.

The amount of incentive payment is based on University of South Dakota (USD) resident tuition rates. Contact the Office of Rural Health for the current incentive amount for each profession.

#### ELIGIBLE COMMUNITIES MUST:

- + Have a population under 10,000
- + Have been assessed by the SD Department of Health and determined to both need and be able to sustain and support additional providers
- + Agree to pay a prorated portion of the total amount of the incentive payment:
  - » 0-2,500 population – 25%
  - » 2,501-4,999 – 50%
  - » 5,000-10,000 – 75%

#### ELIGIBLE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS MUST:

- + Be licensed in SD as a physician, dentist, physician assistant, certified nurse practitioner, certified nurse midwife or certified registered nurse anesthetist.
- + Be recruited to a community and be on-site and practicing for less than four months.
- + Physicians and Dentists must have either completed an accredited residency program in family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, or obstetrics/gynecology or completed a general or pediatric dentistry program.
- + Enter into a contract with the Department of Health and agree to practice full-time in an eligible community for at least three consecutive years.
- + Agree to be a participating SD medical assistance provider and to serve any individual eligible under Chapter 28-6 and may not refuse treatment to any such individual while participating in the program.
- + Provide services to Medicaid, Medicare, and State Children's Health Insurance Program patients.
- + Not have previously participated in such program, or any other state or federal scholarship, loan repayment, or tuition reimbursement program which obligates the person to provide medical services within an underserved area.

### RURAL HEALTHCARE FACILITY RECRUITMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (RHFRAP)

This state program provides a \$10,000 payment to eligible health professionals after three years of full-time practice in an eligible healthcare facility. The \$10,000 payment to the selected health professional will be divided among the employing facility and the state. The amount the facility pays will depend on the population of its community. Eligible SD facilities must be located in a community with a population of 10,000 or less.

Applications for the program can be submitted to the SD Office of Rural Health beginning on May 1 for each program year. Applications must be submitted by the employing facility, with a limit of three participants per facility. Slots are limited and the program operates on a first-come, first-serve basis. Applying health professionals must be employed less than nine months at the time the application is received.

#### ELIGIBLE OCCUPATIONS:

- + Dietitians or Nutritionists
- + Nurses (LPN or RN)
- + Occupational Therapists
- + Respiratory Therapists
- + Pharmacists
- + Physical Therapists
- + Paramedics
- + Radiologic Technologists
- + Medical Laboratory Professionals
- + Healthcare Social Workers
- + Speech Therapists
- + Dental Hygienists

#### ELIGIBLE FACILITIES:

- + Hospitals
- + Nursing Facilities
- + Federal Certified Home Health Agencies
- + Chemical Dependency Treatment Facilities
- + Intermediate Care Facilities for People with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities
- + Community Support Providers
- + Community Mental Health Centers
- + ESRD Facilities
- + Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
- + Ambulance Services
- + Dental Practices

## STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (SLRP)

South Dakota's State Loan Repayment Program is for primary care providers, mental health providers, and dental health providers practicing in rural and urban Health Professional Shortage Areas in South Dakota. The amount awarded depends on the participation level of the healthcare professional. Participants can work full-time or half-time and must have qualifying educational loans.

### ELIGIBLE LICENSED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS:

- + Primary Care Physicians (MD or DO)
- + Dentists
- + Dental Hygienists
- + Certified Nurse Midwives
- + Nurse Practitioners
- + Physician Assistants
- + Health Service Psychologists
- + Licensed Clinical Social Workers
- + Licensed Professional Counselors
- + Psychiatric Nurse Specialists
- + Marriage & Family Therapists
- + Registered Nurses
- + Pharmacists
- + Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselors

### PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS (MD OR DO) INCLUDES:

Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Geriatrics and Psychiatry

### ELIGIBLE HEALTH CARE PRACTICE SITES:

- + **Private Practices** (Solo or Group)
- + **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Certified Rural Health Clinics**
- + **Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)**
  - » Community Health Centers
  - » Migrant Health Centers
  - » Homeless Programs
  - » Public Housing Programs
- + **FQHC Look-a-Likes**
- + **Other Types of Health Facilities**
  - » Community Outpatient Facilities
  - » Community Mental Health Facilities
  - » State and County Health Department Clinics
  - » Free Clinics
  - » Mobile Units
- » Immigration and Customs Enforcement Health Service Corps
- » School-based Programs
- » Critical Access Hospitals affiliated with a qualified outpatient clinic
- » State Mental Health Facilities
- + **Indian Health Service Facilities and Programs**
  - » Federal Indian Health Service (IHS) Clinical Practice Sites
  - » Tribal/638 Health Clinics
  - » Urban Indian Health Programs
  - » IHS and Tribal Hospitals
- + **Correctional or Detention Facilities**
  - » Federal Prisons or State Prisons

## J-1 VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

The J-1 Visa Waiver Program assists rural communities in the recruitment of international medical graduate physicians. The contract requires a three-year commitment of full-time employment (an average of 40 hours of medical practice per week).

### APPLICATION/FACILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- + Applications will only be accepted from the employing facility on behalf of a J-1 physician seeking a visa waiver.
- + The employing facility must be located in or serving residents of a shortage area as determined by the SD Department of Health and designated by the federal government.
- + The facility must have made a bona fide employment offer to a J-1 physician and submit a J-1 Visa Waiver application to the Department of Health.
- + Applications are accepted beginning October 1 each year.

## NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS PROGRAMS (NHSC)

The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) provides student loan repayment assistance and scholarship awards to qualified providers and students in exchange for a service commitment to practice in designated areas with a shortage of healthcare professionals. NHSC participants work at NHSC-approved sites located in and serving a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA).

- + **Loan Repayment Program:** offers fully trained providers repayment of qualified educational loans in exchange for a minimum of two years' service at an NHSC-approved site.
- + **Scholarship Program:** offers the payment of tuition and fees, books, supplies, and equipment for up to four years of education, and a monthly support stipend.
- + **Nurse Corps Programs:** The Nurse Corps awards scholarships and loan repayment to nursing students, nurses who work in a critical shortage facility, and nurse faculty employed at an eligible school of nursing.
  - » Loan Repayment Program
  - » Scholarship Program



### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

SD Office of Rural Health  
1-800-738-2301  
[ruralhealth.sd.gov](http://ruralhealth.sd.gov)



Scan to learn more about our recruitment programs and to apply!