

1 AN ACT concerning health.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Community Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment
6 Program Act.

7 Section 5. Purpose. The purpose of the Community Behavioral
8 Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program is to recruit
9 and retain qualified mental health and substance use
10 professionals to practice in underserved or rural areas and to
11 address this State's community-based behavioral health care
12 workforce shortage that causes disparities in access to
13 critical mental health and substance use services.

14 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

15 "Commission" means the Illinois Student Assistance
16 Commission.

17 "Physician" means a person licensed by this State to
18 practice medicine in all its branches and includes any person
19 holding a temporary license, as provided in the Medical
20 Practice Act of 1987.

21 "Program" means the Community Behavioral Health Care
22 Professional Loan Repayment Program.

1 "Psychiatrist" or "licensed psychiatrist" means a
2 physician who has successfully completed a residency program in
3 psychiatry accredited by either the Accreditation Council for
4 Graduate Medical Education or the American Osteopathic
5 Association.

6 Section 15. Establishment of Program. Beginning on July 1,
7 2019, there is created the Community Behavioral Health Care
8 Professional Loan Repayment Program, which shall be
9 administered by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.
10 The Program shall provide loan repayment assistance, subject to
11 appropriation, to eligible mental health and substance use
12 professionals practicing in a community mental health center in
13 an underserved or rural federally designated Mental Health
14 Professional Shortage Area.

15 Section 20. Applications. Each year, the Commission shall
16 receive and consider applications for loan repayment
17 assistance under this Act. All applications must be submitted
18 to the Commission in a form and manner prescribed by the
19 Commission. Applicants must submit any supporting documents
20 deemed necessary by the Commission at the time of application.

21 Section 25. Award; maximum loan time; maximum amount.
22 Subject to appropriation, the Commission shall award a grant to
23 each qualified applicant for a maximum of 4 years. The

1 Commission must encourage the recipient of a grant awarded
2 under this Act to use the grant award for payments towards the
3 recipient's educational loans. The amount of the grant shall
4 not exceed (i) \$35,000 per year for a psychiatrist, (ii)
5 \$15,000 per year for an advanced practice registered nurse or a
6 physician assistant, (iii) \$12,000 per year for a psychologist
7 who holds a doctoral degree, (iv) \$6,500 per year for a
8 licensed clinical social worker or a licensed clinical
9 professional counselor, and (v) \$2,500 per year for a substance
10 use professional.

11 Section 30. Eligibility; work requirement.

12 (a) To be eligible for assistance under the Community
13 Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program,
14 the Commission must find that the applicant satisfies all of
15 the following:

16 (1) He or she is a United States citizen or an eligible
17 noncitizen.

18 (2) He or she is a resident of this State.

19 (3) He or she has worked for at least 12 consecutive
20 months as a behavioral health professional in a community
21 mental health center in an underserved or rural federally
22 designated Mental Health Professional Shortage Area in
23 this State.

24 (4) He or she is a borrower with an outstanding balance
25 due on an educational loan.

1 (5) He or she has not defaulted on an educational loan.

2 (b) The Commission may grant preference to a previous
3 recipient of a grant under the Program, provided that the
4 recipient continues to meet the eligibility requirements under
5 this Section.

6 (c) A recipient of a grant under the Program must complete
7 a separate 12-month period working in a community mental health
8 center in an underserved or rural federally designated Mental
9 Health Professional Shortage Area in this State for each grant
10 that he or she is awarded.

11 Section 35. Administration; rules. The Commission shall
12 administer the Program and shall adopt rules not inconsistent
13 with this Act for the Program's effective implementation.