

**TITLE 310. OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CHAPTER 526. DENTAL SERVICES**

SUBCHAPTER 3. OKLAHOMA DENTAL LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

310:526-3-2. Description and operation of the Program

(a) **Department's equal opportunity policies applicable.** The Department's Dental Service will administer the Oklahoma Dental Loan Repayment Program in accordance with the Department's policies governing equal opportunity and access to programs, services and activities.

(b) **General operation of the Program.** The Program will provide educational loan repayment assistance ~~to as many as five (5) for a number not to exceed twenty-five (25) Oklahoma licensed full time (or full time equivalent, or as designated by Advisory Committee or Department) dentists licensed to practice in Oklahoma per year for a 2 to 5 year period per dentist.~~ The Program will provide prorated educational loan repayment assistance based upon the percentage of time worked, ~~up to four full time equivalent dentists working in a designated dental health professional shortage area and one dentist full time equivalent entering or participating in the Program each year agreeing~~ Dentists entering the Program agree to teach at the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry if applicable faculty positions are available, or provide dental care and services to Medicaid recipients in a designated dental health professional shortage area (DHPSA).

(c) **Determining individual awards.** The amount of award, not to exceed \$25,000 per year for each participating full time equivalent dentist, shall be determined by the Department annually based upon the amount of funds appropriated to the Department. If the participating dentist's eligible loans are less than the cumulative repayment assistance total available over 5 years, that participating dentist shall be in the Program no longer than required to pay off the total eligible loans and shall not receive more funding assistance than the total eligible indebtedness.

(d) **Distributing the awards.** Each award shall be distributed ~~to the participating dentist by two party drafts made payable to the dentist and the appropriate loan agency in equal monthly disbursements throughout the service obligation~~ in accordance with state law.

(e) **Default.** If the participating dentist does not fulfill the terms of the service obligation, the Department may collect from the participant the entire amount of loan repayment assistance extended to the participant under the Program, plus interest.

310:526-3-3. Eligibility to participate in the Program

(a) **Eligibility requirements common to both non-faculty and faculty participants.** Eligibility for repayment assistance for non-faculty and faculty participants requires compliance with the following requirements:

- (1) receipt or award of a dental degree from an accredited United States dental school within the previous five (5) years;
- (2) completion of all requirements to receive or be awarded an active unrestricted license to practice dentistry in the State of Oklahoma at the time the service obligation begins; and,
- (3) a financial need with outstanding eligible dental school loans.

(b) **Additional eligibility requirements for non-faculty participants.** Eligibility for repayment assistance for non-faculty participants requires compliance with the following additional requirements:

- (1) an established general or pediatric dental practice, or the commitment to establish such a practice, located in an Oklahoma DHPSA;
 - (2) fulfillment of all applicable requirements of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority to qualify as a Medicaid Dental Provider at the time the service obligation begins; and,
 - (3) agree that during the service obligation/contract period, a minimum 30% of ~~patients treated are Medicaid recipients at the time of treatment, or 30% of patient visits~~ are by Medicaid recipients.
- (c) **Additional eligibility requirements for faculty participants.** Eligibility for repayment assistance for faculty participants requires compliance with the additional requirement of abiding by the rules and regulations for a faculty member, and the job duties assigned by the Dean of the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry.
- (d) **Limitations upon eligibility common to both non-faculty and faculty participants.** A non-faculty or faculty participant's eligibility may be rescinded or terminated if any of the following conditions occur:
- (1) a breach of an obligation for service to a federal, state, or local government entity;
 - (2) an obligation for service to a federal, state, or local government entity that will interfere with the fulfillment of the requirements of the Program that remains unsatisfied; or,
 - (3) default or material breach of an agreement to repay a higher education loan or borrowing agreement.
- (e) **Additional considerations.**
- (1) Preference will be given to graduates of the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry.
 - (2) Preference will be given to eligible practice sites that are not Medicaid/SoonerCare specific.
 - (3) Geographic diversity of the participants is an objective of the Program.
 - (4) An eligible practice site is a solo, group, or incorporated private practice, and any federal, state, local, or private for-profit or nonprofit dental facility.
 - (5) To qualify for the 30% minimum Medicaid recipient requirement the participant must use ~~an unduplicated count of the patients treated~~ or a count of patient visits during the service obligation. The 30% requirement will be monitored monthly, but the participant will be deemed to be compliant if the yearly average is 30% or greater.
- (f) **Eligible loans.** Loans eligible for repayment assistance are any loans for educational expenses while attending dental school from a college, university, government, commercial source, or an organization, institution, association, society, or corporation that is exempt from taxation under 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. The ODLRP participant must be able to provide, upon request, documentation that commercial loans were used for payment of educational expenses.