



# Oklahoma Dental Loan Repayment Program Dental Health Service

## Statute Required Reporting State Fiscal Year 2015

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### **Purpose of the Oklahoma Dental Loan Repayment Program (ODLRP)**

The Oklahoma Dental Loan Repayment Act, authorized by the state legislature in 2006, created a program designed to increase the number of dentists serving and caring for those dependent upon the state for dental care and to make dental care accessible to underserved metropolitan and rural areas by providing educational loan repayment assistance to qualified service providers. The Oklahoma Dental Loan Repayment Program is administered by the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), Dental Health Service. The effective start date for the program was November 1, 2006.

### **Design of the ODLRP**

Loan repayment assistance will be provided to as many as 25 full time equivalent Oklahoma licensed dentists per year for up to five years per dentist. Dentists entering the program as a faculty participant shall agree to teach at the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry. The remaining participating dentists shall practice in a designated underserved area and agree that a minimum of 30% of his/her patients treated during the service obligation are Medicaid recipients.

A five-member committee with representation from the Oklahoma Dental Association, the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, the Oklahoma Board of Dentistry, and the Oklahoma Oral Health Coalition advises and supports the OSDH with program issues and the participant selection process.

The award maximum per year for each participating full time equivalent dentist was raised from \$25,000 to \$50,000 by the legislature. The OSDH, along with the advisory committee, determines the award

amount, based on the amount of funds available and the number of participants.

### **General Eligibility Requirements for All Applicants**

- Graduate from an accredited U.S. dental school during the five years prior to submitting an application for the ODLRP. Preference will be given to graduates of the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry.
- Have an active unrestricted Oklahoma dental license or faculty permit at the time the service obligation begins.
- Demonstrate financial need with outstanding eligible dental school loans.
- Enter into a written agreement with the OSDH.

### **Activities and Accomplishments During FY 2015**

- The University Hospitals Authority renewed funding at \$590,625 allowing a level of participation commensurate with funding.
- Recruiting efforts were activated to increase the program as funded. Six new or vacated positions were filled between November and January.
- Designations were determined and approved by the Commissioner of Health for the 2015 dental health professional shortage areas in anticipation of continued funding. Shortage area designations are reviewed every calendar year.





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### Plan for State Fiscal Year 2016

- Request \$625,000 into the revolving fund to sustain the program.
- Refill vacated positions as participants complete or leave the program, if funding is available.

### Ongoing Activities

- Maintain effective partnerships established with the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry, the dentists receiving the assistance, agencies concerned with the placement of dental health professionals in needy areas, the Oklahoma Dental Association, the Oklahoma Dental Foundation, and the Oklahoma Primary Care Association.

- Identify qualified applicants for the faculty positions.
- Review monthly invoices and supporting documentation, and distribute monthly warrants to participating dentists.
- Respond to all telephone, email and in-person inquiries as well as those generated from the OSDH website.
- Update applicable documents and application forms and make them available on the OSDH website.

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This report is submitted in compliance with Oklahoma Statute 63, Section 1-2712 by:

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