Student loan repayment assistance for mental health and addiction professionals!

The State of Indiana recently established the Mental Health and Addiction Services Loan Repayment Assistance Program. Eligible applicants may be awarded up to 25 percent of their student loan debt, not to exceed $25,000 per year, for no more than four years. The exception is for an addiction psychiatrist who can apply for assistance up to five years. An evaluation tool will be used by a selection committee to determine eligibility and the award amount.

Eligibility Requirements

Eligible applicants include psychiatrists, addiction psychiatrists, psychologists, psychiatric nurses (including psychiatric nurse practitioners), addiction counselors and mental health professionals.

- A recipient must be from Indiana, a new college graduate, and accepting a new position in Indiana.
- A recipient must be employed full-time, which is a minimum of 30 hours per week.
- A recipient must not be in default on repayment of any federal student loans.
- An individual who is moving to Indiana may be eligible if he or she is not currently practicing in Indiana and has not practiced in Indiana for the past three years.

All eligible applications will be reviewed utilizing an evaluation tool with emphasis on financial need/debt, written personal statement, geographic diversity, and program discipline.

Eligible Student Loans

- William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan and Federal Perkins Loans
- Federal consolidation loans and Federal Direct Consolidation loans, respectively
- Other loans may be considered at the discretion of the board.

How to Apply

An application packet and detailed information on how to apply may be found on the Loan Repayment Assistance Program for Mental Health and Addition Professionals webpage at www.in.gov/fssa/dmha/2892.htm.

All applications are due by **February 15, 2016**. Awardees will be notified by **April 6, 2016**. Questions about the program can be directed to the Division of Mental Health and Addiction by emailing DmhaHB1360@fssa.in.gov or calling 317-232-7800.