Ohio Dentist Loan Repayment Program and Ohio Dental Hygienist Loan Repayment Program 2016 Annual Report

January 1 - December 31, 2016

Background

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) operates the Ohio Dentist Loan Repayment Program (ODLRP) and the Ohio Dental Hygienist Loan Repayment Program (ODHLRP) to recruit and retain general and pediatric dentists and dental hygienists in underserved areas of Ohio. In exchange for loan repayment assistance, the dentists and dental hygienists commit to a minimum of two years of practice at an eligible site in a dental health resource shortage area, accept Medicaid, and otherwise see patients regardless of ability to pay.

For the first two-year contract, selected applicants may receive up to $25,000 annually for repayment of outstanding dental or dental hygiene school debt. Those who remain at their practice sites and otherwise maintain eligibility may be eligible to receive up to $35,000 annually for the third and fourth years.

Note: For purposes of the ODLRP and the ODHLRP, dental health resource shortage areas include areas designated by ODH using state-developed criteria and areas designated by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration as Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs).

1. The number of requests received for designation of dental health resource shortage areas:
   Requests for state-designated dental health resource shortage areas are processed by ODH in response to requests for loan repayment through the ODLRP and the ODHLRP. There were three requests for state-designated dental health resource shortage areas and one request for a federally-designated dental HPSA in 2016.

2. The dental health resource shortage areas that are designated and the priorities assigned to them:
   As of December 31, 2016, there were seven state-designated dental health resource shortage areas, prioritized by low-income population to dentist ratios for the individual areas. In addition, there were 121 federally-designated dental HPSAs in Ohio, including 64 Geographic and Population HPSAs and 57 Facility HPSAs. The federal government employs its own system for scoring the severity of shortage in each dental HPSA.

3. The number of applications received for the ODLRP and the ODHLRP in 2016:
   A total of 24 new applications for loan repayment were received for the ODLRP in 2016, 21 of which met the program’s qualification criteria. The program did not have sufficient funds to award new contracts this year.

     Eight new applications for loan repayment were received for the ODHLRP in 2016, six of which met the program’s qualification criteria. These six dental hygienists will be offered contracts in 2017.
4. **The number of dentists and dental hygienists assigned to dental health resource shortage areas and the payments made on behalf of them under the ODLRP and ODHLRP:**

During calendar year 2016, seven dentists were serving in dental health resource shortage areas through the ODLRP. A total of $112,500 in ODLRP funds were paid on their behalf during the calendar year. These state dollars were leveraged by utilizing matching funds from the federal Bureau of Health Workforce State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) for three dentists’ contracts in 2016 (see attached funding summary). To qualify for matching funds, the dentist must be a U.S. citizen and work in a safety net dental clinic located in a federally-designated dental HPSA.

The ODHLRP opened its first application cycle in 2016 and will be offering contracts to six dental hygienists assigned to dental health resource shortage areas in 2017.

5. **The dental health resource shortage areas that have not been matched with an adequate number of dentists:**

There are seven state-designated dental health resource shortage areas and 121 federally-designated dental HPSAs in Ohio. All of these areas need at least one additional dentist to meet federal or state guidelines for minimally acceptable population to dentist ratios.

6. **The number of dentists and dental hygienists failing to complete their service obligations, the amount of damages owed and the amount of damages collected:**

There is currently one dentist who has failed to complete her service obligation. The department and the dentist agreed to a settlement of $30,000 in 2013. The dentist began repaying the funds in 2014, has paid a total of $17,000 and has a remaining balance of $13,000 due to ODH by March, 2019.

As noted above, no dental hygienists have begun service through the ODHLRP, which had its first application cycle in 2016.
# 2016 FUNDING SUMMARY
Ohio Dentist Loan Repayment Program
December 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DENTIST NAME</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>AMOUNT OF ODLRP FUNDS PAID IN CY 2016</th>
<th>AMOUNT OF SLRP FUNDS PAID IN CY 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Darr, Jaime</td>
<td>Stark (Urban), Wayne (Rural)</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engler, Kristie</td>
<td>Summit (Urban)</td>
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<td>Forche, Amanda</td>
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<td>Hengehold, Bradley</td>
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<td>Johnson-Curry, Danielle</td>
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<td>Scott, Tyler</td>
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<td>Taylor, Nicholas</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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<td>$112,500</td>
<td>$52,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

^Contracts for these dentists began and first payments were made in CY 2014; second payments were processed in late CY 2015 and their contracts extended into 2016.