

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 780

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

Senator ROBERT W. SINGER

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Renames, extends eligibility, and makes various other changes to Primary Care Practitioner Loan Redemption Program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Higher Education Committee on February 10, 2025, with amendments.



1 AN ACT concerning the Primary Care Practitioner Loan Redemption
2 Program, amending various ¹**sections of the New Jersey Statutes**
3 parts of the statutory law¹, supplementing chapter 71C of Title 18A
4 of the New Jersey Statutes, and ¹**making an appropriation**
5 repealing section 9 of P.L.2009, c.236¹.

6
7 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
8 of New Jersey:

9
10 1. N.J.S.18A:71C-32 is amended to read as follows:

11 18A:71C-32. "Approved site" means a site located within a State
12 designated underserved area or a health professional shortage area,
13 or a clinic which is part of the extramural network of dental clinics
14 established by the New Jersey Dental School of Rutgers, The State
15 University, or a site that has been determined by the Higher
16 Education Student Assistance Authority, in consultation with the
17 Department of Health **and Senior Services**, to serve medically
18 underserved populations according to criteria determined by the
19 authority¹**, including, but not limited to, the percentage of**
20 medically underserved patients served **in accordance with section**
21 17 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
22 bill)¹.

23 "Authority" means the Higher Education Student Assistance
24 Authority.

25 "Eligible qualifying loan expenses" means the cumulative
26 outstanding balance of student loans covering the cost of attendance
27 at an ¹**undergraduate**¹ institution of medical, dental, or other
28 primary care professional education at the time an applicant is
29 selected for the program. Interest paid or due on qualifying loans
30 that an applicant has taken out for use in paying the costs of
31 ¹**undergraduate**¹ medical, dental, or other primary care
32 professional education shall be considered eligible for
33 reimbursement under the program. The ¹**authority may establish a**
34 **limit on the**¹ total amount of qualifying loans which may be
35 redeemed for participants under the program¹**, provided that the**
36 total redemption of qualifying loans does not exceed \$120,000 for
37 participants employed at an approved site, or \$100,000 for
38 participants employed at a place of employment other than **shall be**
39 \$200,000 for participants employed at¹ an approved site, or the
40 maximum amount authorized by the federal government, whichever
41 is greater, either in State funds or the sum of federal, State, and
42 other non-federal matching funds, pursuant to section 338I of the

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SHI committee amendments adopted February 10, 2025.

1 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.s.254q-1), whichever is
2 applicable.

3 "Executive director" means the executive director of the Higher
4 Education Student Assistance Authority.

5 "Health professional shortage area" (HPSA) means an urban or
6 rural area, a population group or a public or non-profit private
7 medical or dental facility or other public facility which the
8 Secretary of Health and Human Services determines has a health
9 professional shortage pursuant to section 332 of the Public Health
10 Service Act (42 U.S.C. s.254e).

11 ¹"Medical, dental, or other primary care professional education"
12 means the period of time between entry into medical school, dental
13 school, or other primary care or medical professional training program
14 and the award of a degree in allopathic or osteopathic medicine,
15 dentistry, or another primary care profession, respectively.¹

16 "Primary care" means the practice of family medicine, general
17 internal medicine, general pediatrics, general obstetrics,
18 gynecology, pediatric dentistry, general dentistry, public health
19 dentistry, and any other areas of medicine or dentistry which the
20 Commissioner of Health **【and Senior Services】** may define as
21 primary care. Primary care also includes the practice of a nurse-
22 practitioner, certified nurse-midwife, and physician assistant.

23 "Primary care practitioner" means a State-licensed or certified
24 health care professional who has obtained a degree in allopathic or
25 osteopathic medicine, dentistry, or another primary care profession
26 at an ¹**【undergraduate】¹** institution of medical, dental, or other
27 primary care professional education, as applicable.

28 "Program" means the **【Primary Care Practitioner】** Health Care
29 Professional Loan Redemption Program established pursuant to
30 N.J.S.18A:71C-33.

31 "Program participant" means a **【primary care】** practitioner who
32 contracts with the authority to engage in the clinical practice of
33 primary care, psychiatry or other qualifying health care field **【at an**
34 **approved site】** ¹at an approved site¹ in exchange for the redemption
35 of eligible qualifying loan expenses provided under the program.

36 "Qualifying loan" means a government or commercial loan for
37 the actual costs paid for tuition and reasonable education and living
38 expenses relating to the obtaining of a degree in allopathic or
39 osteopathic medicine, dentistry, or another primary care profession.

40 "State designated ¹medically¹ underserved area" means a
41 geographic area in this State which has been ranked by the
42 Commissioner of Health **【and Senior Services】** on the basis of
43 health status and economic indicators as reflecting a medical or
44 dental health professional shortage ¹, in consultation with the
45 Commissioner of Human Services; a municipality which has more
46 than 50 percent of its households at or below 185 perent of the federal
47 poverty level; or a municipality with a medically underserved area or

1 population designation reflecting health status and economic indicators
2 as determined by the United States Health Resources and Services
3 Administration¹.

4 "Total and permanent disability" means a physical or mental
5 disability that is expected to continue indefinitely or result in death
6 and renders a participant in the program unable to perform that
7 person's service obligation, as determined by the executive director
8 or ¹【his】 a¹ designee.

9 ¹【"Undergraduate medical, dental, or other primary care
10 professional education" means the period of time between entry into
11 medical school, dental school, or other primary care or medical
12 professional training program and the award of a degree in
13 allopathic or osteopathic medicine, dentistry, or another primary
14 care profession, respectively.】¹

15 (cf: P.L.2012, c.45, s.99)

16

17 2. N.J.S.18A:71C-33 is amended to read as follows:

18 18A:71C-33. There is established a **【Primary Care Practitioner】**
19 **Health Care Professional** Loan Redemption Program within the
20 Higher Education Student Assistance Authority. The program shall
21 provide for the redemption of a portion of the eligible qualifying
22 loan expenses of program participants for each year of service **【at**
23 **an approved site】** ¹at an approved site¹.

24 (cf: P.L.2009, c.145, s.2)

25

26 3. N.J.S.18A:71C-34 is amended to read as follows:

27 18A:71C-34. To be eligible to participate in the program, an
28 applicant shall:

29 a. be a resident of the State;

30 b. be a primary care practitioner , psychiatrist, or other health
31 care professional designated by the Commissioner of Health
32 pursuant to section 16 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
33 Legislature as this bill) for inclusion in the program; and

34 c. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2009, c.145.)

35 d. agree to practice primary care, psychiatry, or other
36 qualifying medical care, as appropriate, 【at an approved site】 ¹at an
37 approved site¹ under the terms and conditions provided in
38 N.J.S.18A:71C-36 and the agreement issued thereunder.

39 (cf: P.L.2009, c.145, s.3)

40

41 4. N.J.S.18A:71C-35 is amended to read as follows:

42 18A:71C-35. The Commissioner of Health **【and Senior**
43 **Services】**, after consultation with the ¹【Commissioner of
44 Corrections and the】¹ Commissioner of Human Services, shall
45 designate and establish a ranking of State designated underserved
46 areas ¹, including both professional shortage areas and medically
47 underserved areas¹. The criteria used by the Commissioner of Health

1 **【and Senior Services】** in designating areas shall include, but not be
2 limited to:

3 a. the financial resources of the population under
4 consideration, including the percentage of the population that is
5 eligible for medical assistance pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413
6 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.) and P.L.2005, c.156 (C.30:4J-8 et seq.), and the
7 percentage of the population that does not have health insurance
8 coverage;

9 b. the population's access to primary care , psychiatry, and
10 other medical services;

11 c. appropriate physician, dentist, ¹**【psychiatry】 psychiatrist¹**, or
12 other primary care staffing in State, county, municipal and private
13 nonprofit health care facilities and in clinics which are part of the
14 extramural network of dental clinics established by the New Jersey
15 Dental School of Rutgers, The State University; and

16 d. the extent to which racial and ethnic disparities in health
17 care in a geographic area, including, but not limited to, disparities
18 in the incidence of cancer, cardiovascular disease, stroke, chemical
19 dependency, diabetes, asthma, homicide, suicide, accidental injury,
20 infant mortality, child immunization rates, HIV/AIDS, dental caries,
21 and periodontal disease, indicate the need to increase access to
22 **【primary】 health** care services among racial and ethnic minority
23 populations in that area.

24 ¹A municipality which has more than 50 percent of its households
25 at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level shall automatically
26 be deemed a State designated underserved area without action by the
27 Commissioner of Health.¹

28 The Commissioner of Health **【and Senior Services】** shall
29 transmit the list of State designated ¹medically¹ underserved areas
30 and the number of positions needed in each area to the executive
31 director or designee ¹by January 1 of each year. The Commissioner
32 of Human Services shall transmit the total percentage of Medicaid
33 enrollees in each county as required by paragraph (3) of subsection
34 a. of section 17 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
35 Legislature as this bill) to the executive director or designee by
36 January 1 of each year¹.

37 (cf: P.L.2012, c.45, s.100)

38

39 ¹5. (New section) The authority shall annually publish on its
40 Internet website:

41 a. the list of State designated medically underserved areas and
42 the number of positions needed in each area as determined pursuant
43 to section 4 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
44 as this bill) as transmitted by the Commissioner of Health;

45 b. the total percentage of Medicaid enrollees in each county as
46 required by paragraph (3) of subsection a. of section 17 of

1 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), as
 2 transmitted by the Commissioner of Human Services; and

3 c. any other sources for criteria utilized by the authority to
 4 review and evaluate loan recipients' or approved sites' applications
 5 for the Health Care Professional Loan Redemption Program
 6 established pursuant to N.J.S.18A:71C-33.¹

7
 8 ¹**[5.]** 6.¹ N.J.S.18A:71C-36 is amended to read as follows:

9 18A:71C-36. a. In administering the program, the authority or
 10 its designated agent shall contract only with a primary care
 11 practitioner, psychiatrist, or other health care practitioner employed
 12 in a field designated by the Commissioner of Health for inclusion in
 13 the program pursuant to section 16 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
 14 before the Legislature as this bill).

15 b. The contract for a program participant employed at an
 16 approved site shall require a program participant to:

17 (1) serve at least an initial two-year period at an approved site in
 18 the full-time clinical practice of that person's **[primary care]**
 19 profession;

20 (2) charge for professional services at the usual and customary
 21 rate prevailing in the area in which the approved site is located, but
 22 allow a patient who is unable to pay that charge to pay at a reduced
 23 rate or receive care at no charge;

24 (3) not discriminate against any patient in the provision of
 25 health care services on the basis of that person's ability to pay or
 26 source of payment; and

27 (4) agree not to impose any charge in excess of the limiting fee
 28 for a service, as determined by the United States Secretary of
 29 Health and Human Services, to a recipient of benefits under the
 30 federal Medicare program established pursuant to Pub.L.89-97 (42
 31 U.S.C.s.1395 et seq.).

32 c. The contract for any program participant shall also specify
 33 the applicant's dates of required service and the total amount of
 34 eligible qualifying loan expenses to be redeemed by the State in
 35 return for service, and stipulate that the applicant has knowledge of
 36 and agrees to the six-month probationary period required prior to
 37 final acceptance into the program pursuant to N.J.S.18A:71C-38.

38 ¹**[d.** The contract for a program participant employed at a site
 39 other than an approved site shall require a program participant to:

40 (1) serve at least an initial two-year period in the full-time
 41 clinical practice of that person's profession; and

42 (2) include such other provisions as the Commissioner of Health
 43 may determine.]¹

44 (cf: P.L.2009, c.145, s.5)

45
 46 ¹**[6.]** 7.¹ Section 10 of P.L.2009, c.145 (C.18A:71C-36.1) is
 47 amended to read as follows:

1 10. a. A program participant, as a condition of participation,
 2 shall be required to adhere to performance standards established by
 3 the executive director or ¹his a¹ designee and if the [approved
 4 site is] program participant is employed at a clinic which is part of
 5 the extramural network of dental clinics established by the New
 6 Jersey Dental School of Rutgers, The State University the program
 7 participant shall also meet performance standards set by the New
 8 Jersey Dental School.

9 b. The standards shall include, but not be limited to,
 10 requirements that a participant:

11 (1) maintain residency in the State;

12 (2) maintain a license or certification to practice a primary care
 13 profession, psychiatry, or other qualifying health care profession in
 14 the State;

15 (3) remain current with payments on student loans;

16 (4) enter into a mutually acceptable contract with an approved
 17 site ¹[or employer, as applicable]¹;

18 (5) maintain satisfactory performance of services rendered [at
 19 an approved site]; and

20 (6) report to the authority or its designee, on a form and in a
 21 manner prescribed by the authority or its designee, on the program
 22 participant's performance of services rendered [at an approved site]
 23 prior to repayment of the annual amount eligible for redemption.

24 (cf: P.L.2012, c.45, s.101)

25
 26 ¹[7.] 8.¹ N.J.S.18A:71C-37 is amended to read as follows:

27 18A:71C-37. a. Maximum redemption of loans under the loan
 28 redemption program shall amount to 18 [%] percent of principal
 29 and interest of eligible qualifying loan expenses in return for one
 30 full year of service [at an approved site] ¹at an approved site¹, an
 31 additional 26 [%] percent for a second full year of service, an
 32 additional 28 [%] percent for a third full year of service and an
 33 additional 28 [%] percent for a fourth full year of service for a total
 34 redemption of eligible qualifying loan expenses of up to, but not to
 35 exceed, ¹[\$120,000] \$200,000¹ for service at an approved site,
 36 ¹[and \$100,000 for service at an employer other than an approved
 37 site,]¹ or the maximum amount authorized by the federal
 38 government, whichever is greater, either (1) in State funds or (2) the
 39 sum of federal, State, and other non-federal funds pursuant to
 40 section 338I of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.s.254q-1),
 41 whichever is applicable. No amount of eligible qualifying loan
 42 expenses shall be redeemed for services performed for less than a
 43 full year.

44 b. A participant who enters an agreement to fulfill service in a
 45 State designated underserved area that is also a HPSA shall be
 46 permitted a total redemption of eligible qualifying loan expenses for

1 four years of service up to, but not to exceed, the sum of federal,
2 State and other non-federal matching funds provided pursuant to
3 section 338I of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.s.254q-1).

4 c. A program participant who enters an agreement to fulfill
5 service in a State designated underserved area that is not also a
6 HPSA shall be permitted a total redemption of eligible qualifying
7 loan expenses for four years of service up to, but not to exceed,
8 ¹["\$120,000"] \$200,000¹, or the maximum amount authorized by the
9 federal government, whichever is greater, in State funds.

10 d. A program participant who has engaged in full-time clinical
11 practice during the participant's initial two years of participation in
12 the program shall be permitted to fulfill the program participant's
13 subsequent service obligations on a part-time basis with the
14 approval of the authority or its designee and the program
15 participant's employer ~~["in a State designated underserved area"]~~¹in a
16 State designated underserved area¹, with the program participant's
17 redemption credit accruing on a pro rata basis. The program
18 participant may be permitted a total redemption of eligible
19 qualifying loan expenses for the equivalent of four years of full-
20 time service.

21 (cf: P.L.2009, c.145, s.6)

22
23 ¹[8.] 9.¹ N.J.S.18A:71C-38 is amended to read as follows:

24 18A:71C-38. Each program participant shall serve a six-month
25 probationary period upon initial placement ~~["at an approved site"]~~ ¹at
26 an approved site¹. During that period, the ~~["primary care"]~~
27 supervisory staff of the ¹~~["employer or"]~~¹ approved site, or in the
28 case of a clinic which is part of the extramural network of dental
29 clinics established by the New Jersey Dental School of Rutgers, The
30 State University, the director of the clinics and the vice-dean of the
31 dental school, together with the program participant and the
32 executive director or ¹~~["his"]~~ a¹ designee, shall evaluate the
33 suitability of the placement for the program participant. At the end
34 of the probationary period, the ~~["primary care"]~~ supervisory staff
35 shall recommend the continuation of the program participant's
36 present placement, a change in placement, or its determination that
37 the program participant is an unsuitable candidate for the program.
38 If the ~~["primary care"]~~ supervisory staff of the ¹~~["employer or"]~~¹
39 approved site recommends a change in placement, the executive
40 director or a designee shall approve an alternate placement at an
41 ¹~~["employer or"]~~¹ approved site. If the ~~["primary care"]~~ supervisory
42 staff determines that the program participant is not a suitable
43 candidate for the program, the executive director or ¹~~["his"]~~ a¹
44 designee shall take this recommendation into consideration in
45 regard to the program participant's final acceptance into the
46 program. No loan redemption payment shall be made during the six-
47 month probationary period; however, a program participant shall

1 receive credit for the six-month period in calculating the first year
2 of required service under the loan redemption contract.
3 (cf: P.L.2012, c.45, s.102)
4

5 ¹[9.] 10.¹ N.J.S.18A:71C-39 is amended to read as follows:

6 18A:71C-39. The executive director or ¹[his] a¹ designee, in
7 consultation with the Commissioner of Health ~~and Senior~~
8 ~~Services~~, shall ¹[match] assist¹ program applicants and¹
9 participants ~~to~~ ¹[interested in serving in] State designated
10 underserved areas or HPSAs to such sites] in identifying an
11 approved site. A program applicant or participant may identify a
12 proposed site for designation as an approved site, provided that the
13 site meets the criteria established pursuant to section 17 of P.L. ,
14 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill). Nothing in
15 this act shall prohibit a program applicant or participant from
16 identifying an approved site for designation and approval under the
17 program¹.

18 (cf: P.L.2009, c.145, s.8)
19

20 ¹[10.] 11.¹ N.J.S.18A:71C-40 is amended to read as follows:

21 18A:71C-40. The executive director or ¹[his] a¹ designee shall
22 select the program participants from among those applicants who
23 meet the eligibility criteria established pursuant to N.J.S.18A:71C-
24 34, subject to available funds and available approved sites, as
25 applicable. ¹[No less than 40 percent of available funds in each
26 program year shall be reserved for program participants serving at
27 an approved site.]¹ In the event that there are insufficient funds or
28 approved sites to select all of the applicants who meet the eligibility
29 criteria, the executive director or ¹[his] a¹ designee shall accord
30 priority to applicants in the following manner:

31 a. first, to any applicant who is ¹[completing a fourth, third or
32 second year of a loan redemption contract] employed by or has an
33 offer of employment at an approved site¹;

34 b. second, to any applicant according to the severity of the
35 ~~physician, dentist, or other primary care~~ health care provider
36 shortage in the area selected by the applicant; ¹[and]¹

37 c. third, to any applicant whose residence in the State at ¹[the
38 time of entry into postsecondary education] any time prior to
39 initiating an application¹ was within a State designated underserved
40 area ¹;

41 d. fourth, to any applicant whose approved site is a community-
42 based ambulatory healthcare practice, which includes practices
43 operated by a private entity that provide comprehensive pediatric
44 care, behavioral health care, preventative care, or primary care
45 health services;

1 e. fifth, to any applicant whose approved site is a hospital-
2 affiliated practice or clinic that provides comprehensive pediatric
3 care, behavioral health care, preventative care, or primary care
4 services; and

5 f. sixth, to any applicant who graduated from a high school or
6 institution of higher education in the State, or completed a medical
7 residency in the State¹.

8 In the event that there are more applicants who have the same
9 priority than there are program positions, the executive director or
10 **1**[his] **a**¹ designee shall select program participants by means of a
11 lottery or other form of random selection.

12 (cf: P.L.2009, c.145, s.9)

13
14 **1**[11.] **12.**¹ N.J.S.18A:71C-41 is amended to read as follows:

15 18A:71C-41. A program participant who has previously entered
16 into a contract with the authority may nullify the agreement by
17 notifying the authority in writing and reassuming full responsibility
18 for the remaining outstanding balance of the loan debt. In no event
19 shall service **1**[at an approved site] for less than the full calendar
20 year of each period of service entitle the program participant to any
21 benefits under the program. A program participant seeking to
22 nullify the contract before completing a second full year of service
23 shall be required to pay 50 **1**[%] percent of the redeemed portion of
24 indebtedness in not more than one year following nullification of
25 the agreement.

26 (cf: P.L.2009, c.145, s.11)

27
28 **1**[12.] **13.**¹ N.J.S.18A:71C-44 is amended to read as follows

29 18A:71C-44. A student who is participating in the federally
30 administered National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment
31 Program, section 338B of the Public Health Service Act (42
32 U.S.C.s.254 l-1), shall not be eligible to participate simultaneously
33 in the **1**[Primary Care Practitioner] Health Care Professional Loan
34 Redemption Program.

35 (cf: P.L.2009, c.145, s.15)

36
37 **1**[13.] **14.**¹ Section 18 of P.L.2009, c.145 (C.18A:71C-46.1) is
38 amended to read as follows:

39 18. The authority shall work with State institutions of medical,
40 dental, and other **1**[primary] health care professional education to
41 ensure that information on the **1**[Primary Care Practitioner] Health
42 Care Professional Loan Redemption Program is made available to
43 students upon enrollment.

44 (cf: P.L.2009, c.145, s.18)

45
46 **1**[14. Section 9 of P.L.2009, c.236 (C.18A:71C-58) is amended
47 to read as follows:

1 9. Of the funds annually appropriated for the **Primary Care**
2 **Practitioner Health Care Professional** Loan Redemption Program
3 established in the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority
4 pursuant to N.J.S.18A:71C-32 et seq., 25 **%** percent shall be
5 dedicated to the Nursing Faculty Loan Redemption Program
6 established pursuant to this act. The program shall be administered
7 directly by the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority.
8 (cf: P.L.2009, c.236, s.9)¹

9
10 15. Section 7 of P.L.2017, c.126 (C.18A:71C-65) is amended to
11 read as follows:

12 7. An individual who is participating in the **Primary Care**
13 **Practitioner Health Care Professional** Loan Redemption Program,
14 N.J.S.18A:71C-32 et seq., or in the federally administered National
15 Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, section 338B of
16 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. s.2541-1), shall not be
17 eligible to participate simultaneously in the tuition reimbursement
18 program ¹for psychiatrists¹ established pursuant to ¹**[this act]**
19 section 2 of P.L.2017, c.126 (C.18A:71C-60)¹.

20 (cf: P.L.2017, c.126, s.7)

21
22 16. (New section) The Commissioner of Health, after
23 consultation with the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce
24 Development ¹and the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs¹,
25 may designate additional health care fields experiencing critical
26 Statewide labor shortages for inclusion in the program. ¹**[Any**
27 **additional health care field included in the program shall require a**
28 **degree in allopathic or osteopathic medicine]**¹.

29
30 ¹**[17. (New section) There is appropriated from the General**
31 **Fund to the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority the sum**
32 **of \$10,000,000 to effectuate the provisions of P.L. , c. (C.)**
33 **(pending before the Legislature as this bill).]**¹

34
35 ¹17. (New section) a. A site shall automatically be deemed an
36 approved site if the site:

37 (1) is located within a State designated underserved area or a
38 health professional shortage area, or is a clinic which is part of the
39 extramural network of dental clinics established by the New Jersey
40 Dental School of Rutgers, The State University, or is determined by
41 the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, in consultation
42 with the Department of Health, to serve medically underserved
43 populations;

44 (2) participates in the Medicaid and Medicare programs,
45 however, the authority shall not require participation in more than
46 one Medicaid managed care organization;

1 (3) serves medically underserved populations at a rate equal to or
2 greater than 80 percent multiplied by the percentage of residents of
3 the county in which the site is located that are Medicaid enrollees;

4 (4) uses a sliding fee scale for patients falling under 250 percent
5 of the federal poverty level who are uninsured or underinsured; and

6 (5) does not discriminate against any patient in the provision of
7 health care services on the basis of that person's ability to pay or
8 source of payment.

9 b. If a site is unable to demonstrate that it serves medically
10 underserved populations as required pursuant to paragraph (3) of
11 subsection a. of this section, the authority may approve a site if the
12 site:

13 (1) meets each requirement outlined in subsection a. of this
14 section except for the requirement outlined in paragraph (3) of
15 subsection a. of this section; and

16 (2) is accepting new Medicaid patients.

17 c. The authority shall not require any additional site eligibility
18 requirements.¹

19
20 ¹18. (New section) The authority shall annually submit a report
21 on the Health Care Professional Loan Redemption Program
22 established pursuant to N.J.S.18A:71C-32 et seq. to the Governor,
23 and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
24 (C.52:14-19.1). The report shall be submitted no later than August 1
25 of each year and shall include, but not be limited to, the following
26 information for the prior fiscal year:

27 a. the total number of participants receiving loan redemption
28 under the program;

29 b. the total amount of loan redemption provided through the
30 program;

31 c. a profile of program participants, including demographic
32 information and medical specialty, information on the employers of
33 program participants, including if a participant's approved site
34 contracts with a State entity, and the last institution of higher
35 education from which the participant received a degree;

36 d. the average annual loan redemption amount and the five-year
37 average loan redemption amount of program participants;

38 e. the total number of health care professionals who have
39 completed the program and remain licensed to practice in the State,
40 including information on if a health care professional who completed
41 the program is employed in a medically underserved community; and

42 f. the effect of the program on meeting the demand for labor in
43 primary care, psychiatry, and other qualifying health care fields in
44 the State.¹

45
46 ¹19. Section 9 of P.L.2009, c.236 (C.18A:71C-58) is repealed.¹

1 ¹20. N.J.S.18A:71C-48 is amended to read as follows:

2 The authority shall adopt rules and regulations pursuant to the
3 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
4 seq.) necessary to implement the provisions of N.J.S.18A:71C-32
5 through N.J.S.18A:71C-47 and section 17 of
6 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).¹
7 (cf: P.L. N.J.S.18A:71C-48)

8
9 ¹**[18.]** 21.¹ This act shall take effect immediately ¹and shall first
10 apply to initial program applications submitted on or after the
11 enactment of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
12 this bill)¹.