



**Workforce, Education and Training Unit  
October 2011  
ANNOUNCEMENT  
State Department of Mental Health  
MHSA Mental Health Loan Assumption Program (MHLAP)**

A state loan assumption program for mental health professionals in the public mental health system is being offered by the State Department of Mental Health and the Health Professions Education Foundation. A limited number of awards will be available in Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (ACBHCS) for up to \$10,000 towards repayment of student loans. Eligible applicants must work in ACBHCS County-operated mental health settings or in contracted, community-based mental health agencies. This program requires that eligible applicants work in a "hard to fill/retain" position, as defined by ACBHCS. Please refer to the attached document for the "hard to fill/retain" criteria established by ACBHCS to meet our critical workforce needs.

To download an application and obtain additional information regarding the MHLAP Program, please visit the MHLAP homepage at <http://oshpd.ca.gov/HPEF/MHLAP.html>. To assist with the application process, a Power Point Presentation and Frequently Asked Questions are also available on the MHLAP homepage. After reviewing the online information, applicants may participate in the MHLAP Question & Answer Conference Calls listed below. No RSVP is required. These calls are scheduled during the following Wednesdays:

October 19 11:30 am -12:00 pm  
October 26 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm  
November 2 11:00 am -11:30 am  
November 9 12:00 pm -12:30 pm  
November 16 10:30 am -11:00 am  
November 30 10:30 am -11:00 am  
November 30 1:30 pm - 2:00 pm  
November 30 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm  
December 7 11:30 am -12:30 pm

***Conference Call #: 1-877-213-1782, Participation Code #: 439482***

The entire application, with required documentation, **must be postmarked no later than December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011** (faxes will not be accepted) and mailed to the following address:

**Health Professions Education Foundation  
ATTN: MHLAP  
400 R Street, Suite 460  
Sacramento, CA 95811**

For questions on the application process and requirements, contact the Foundation directly. For questions on eligible contracted, community-based mental health agencies and/or the "hard to fill/retain" eligibility criteria, contact Toni Tullys, ACBHCS Acting Workforce Development Manager, at [ttullys@acbhcs.org](mailto:ttullys@acbhcs.org) or by phone at 510.639.1209.



**ALAMEDA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES (ACBHCS)  
HARD TO FILL/RETAIN ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA for the  
STATE MENTAL HEALTH LOAN ASSUMPTION PROGRAM (MHLAP)  
FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012**

**ACBHCS applicants must meet the following hard to fill/retain criteria, based on the MHSWA Workforce Needs Assessment and priority workforce needs, to be considered eligible for the MHLAP:**

<b>REQUIREMENTS DIRECT CLINICAL SERVICE STAFF</b>
<b>Work/Volunteer Hours</b> Must work a minimum of 32 hours per week in a public mental health program.
<b>Employment Status</b> Must be employed in an eligible provider role, as identified in the MHLAP application, and in a permanent position for a minimum of one year.
<b>Total Weekly Hours of Direct Clinical Service</b> Must provide a minimum of 20 hours direct service.
<b>Work Location</b> Must work within an eligible ACBHCS County-operated mental health setting or a contracted, community-based mental health agency. Hospital programs and publicly-funded programs administered by adult correctional entities or services provided in adult correctional facilities are not eligible.

**AND AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

<b>Providers who are bi-lingual in one of the County's threshold languages and/or who represent the ethnically and culturally diverse communities that ACBHCS serves.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bi-lingual in Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese or Farsi <i>and/or</i></li><li>• Represent the ethnically and culturally diverse communities that ACBHCS serves.</li></ul>
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**OR:**

<b>Providers in hard to fill/retain positions or those who possess experience/expertise in hard to fill/retain skill sets.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners/Advanced Practice Nurses</li><li>• Child Psychiatrists</li><li>• Physician Assistants with psychiatric or geropsychiatric experience/expertise</li><li>• Providers who have experience/expertise in serving:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Older Adults</li><li>2) Youth in the Juvenile Justice System</li><li>3) Clients/Consumers in integrated primary care/behavioral health care settings</li></ol></li></ul>
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