



**Workforce, Education and Training Unit
October 2010**

**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 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 a fillable application or obtain additional information regarding the MHLAP Program, please visit the MHLAP homepage at: <http://oshpd.ca.gov/HPEF/MHLAP.html> A PowerPoint presentation and Frequently Asked Questions are available on the website and have been designed to answer questions from interested applicants.

After reviewing the online information, applicants may participate in the MHLAP Question and Answer Conference Calls listed below. No RSVP is required. Participants can email questions prior to the conference calls to jmelson@oshpd.ca.gov. Please include “MHLAP Conference Call Question” in the email subject line. Conference calls are scheduled on the following Wednesdays, from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm:

**November 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th
December 1st and 8th**

Conference Call #: 1-877-213-1782 - Participant Code #: 439482

The entire application, with required documentation, must be mailed or postmarked (faxes will not be accepted) no later than December 10, 2010 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, Acting ACBHCS Acting Workforce Development Manager, at ttullys@acbhcs.org or by phone at 510.639.1209, or Cherrie Rondon, ACBHCS Internship Coordinator, at crondon@acbhcs.org or by phone at 510.567.8071.



**ALAMEDA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES (ACBHCS)
HARD TO FILL/RETAIN ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA for the
STATE MENTAL HEALTH LOAN ASSUMPTION PROGRAM (MHLAP)
FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011**

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

**REQUIREMENTS
DIRECT CLINICAL SERVICE STAFF***

Work/Volunteer Hours
Work a minimum of 32 hours per week in a public mental health program.

Employment Status
Must be employed in a permanent position for a minimum of one year.

Total Weekly Hours of Direct Clinical Service
Must provide a minimum of 20 hours direct service.

Work Location
Work within an eligible ACBHCS county program or a contracted, community-based mental health agency. **
Hospital programs will not be considered.

AND AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

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.

- Speak Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese or Farsi and/or
- Represent the ethnically and culturally diverse communities that ACBHCS serves.

OR:

Providers in hard to fill/retain positions or those who possess experience/expertise in hard to fill/retain skill sets.

- Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners/Advanced Practice Nurses
- Child Psychiatrists
- Providers who have expertise/experience in serving older adults, youth in the juvenile justice system and/or consumers in integrated primary care/behavioral health care settings.

* Refer to the Application Package, 2nd Page (Program Background and Eligibility) and section "What Professions Are Considered Eligible?"

**Refer to the Application Package, 2nd Page (Program Background and Eligibility) and section "What Is A Qualified Facility?"