



# Oklahoma Dental Loan Repayment Program Dental Health Service

## Statute Required Reporting State Fiscal Year 2018

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### **Purpose of the Oklahoma Dental Loan Repayment Program (ODLRP)**

The Oklahoma Dental Loan Repayment Act, authorized by the state legislature in 2006, created a program designed to increase the number of dentists serving and caring for those dependent upon the state for dental care, and to make dental care accessible to underserved metropolitan and rural areas by providing educational loan repayment assistance to qualified service providers. The ODLRP is administered by the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) Dental Health Service. The effective start date for the program was November 1, 2006.

### **Design of the ODLRP**

Loan repayment assistance will be provided to as many as 25 full-time equivalent Oklahoma-licensed dentists per year for up to five years per dentist. Dentists entering the program as a faculty participant shall agree to teach at the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry. The remaining participating dentists shall practice in a designated underserved area and agree that a minimum of 30% of his/her patients treated during the service obligation are Medicaid recipients.

A five-member committee with representation from the Oklahoma Dental Association, the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, the Oklahoma Board of Dentistry, and the Oklahoma Oral Health Coalition advises and supports the OSDH with program issues, and the participant selection process.

The award maximum per year for each participating full-time equivalent dentist is \$50,000. The OSDH, along with the advisory committee, determines the award amount, based on the amount of funds available and the number of participants. The

current practice is to award dentists \$25,000 per year for loan repayment assistance.

### **General Eligibility Requirements for All Applicants**

- Graduate from an accredited U.S. dental school during the five years prior to submitting an application for the ODLRP. Preference will be given to graduates of the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry.
- Have an active unrestricted Oklahoma dental license or faculty permit at the time the service obligation begins.
- Demonstrate financial need with outstanding eligible dental school loans.
- Enter into a written agreement with the OSDH.

### **Activities and Accomplishments During SFY 2018**

- The University Hospitals Authority and Trust renewed funding at \$463,670 for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2019, allowing a level of participation commensurate with funding.
- Recruiting efforts were activated to implement the program as funded. Six new or vacated positions were filled.
- Designations were determined and approved by the Commissioner of Health for the 2018 dental health professional shortage areas in anticipation of continued funding. Shortage area designations are reviewed every calendar year.

### Service Delivery in Shortage Areas

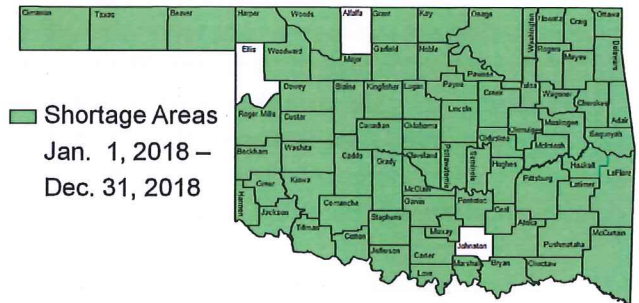
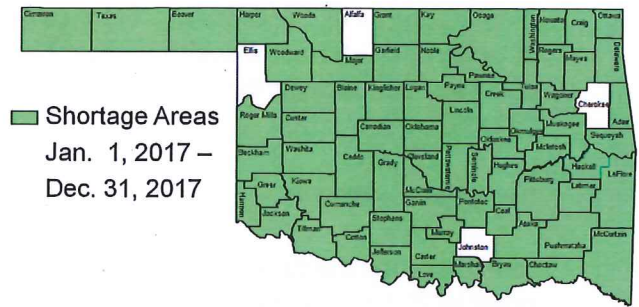
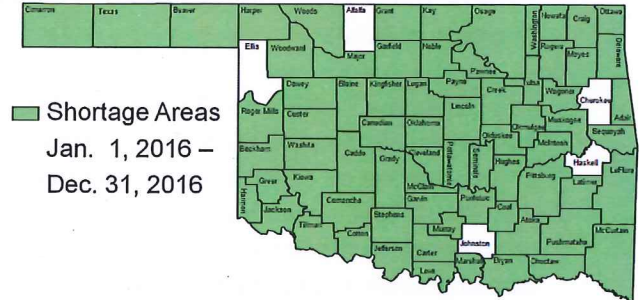
#### Number of Medicaid Clients Served

- During SFY 2016, 24 participating dentists practiced a total of 200 months resulting in 33,651 Medicaid encounters.
- During SFY 2017, 20 participating dentists practiced a total of 214 months resulting in 36,024 Medicaid encounters.
- During SFY 2018, 23 participating dentists practiced a total of 211 months resulting in 34,888 Medicaid encounters.

### Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas

Dental health professional shortage area counties, as designated by the OSDH, are determined using three criteria:

- The percentage of Medicaid enrollees receiving dental services.
- The ratio of Medicaid enrollees to Medicaid dental providers.
- The ratio of the general population less than 21 years of age to Oklahoma licensed general or pediatric dentists.





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#### Plan for State Fiscal Year 2019

- Apply funds appropriated into the Dental Loan Repayment Revolving Fund to sustain the program.
- Refill vacated positions as participants complete or leave the program, as funding allows.

#### Ongoing Activities

- Maintain effective partnerships established with the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry, the dentists receiving the assistance, agencies concerned with the placement of dental health professionals in targeted areas, the Oklahoma Dental Association, the Oklahoma Dental

Foundation, and the Oklahoma Primary Care Association.

- Identify qualified applicants, including faculty positions.
- Review monthly invoices and supporting documentation, and distribute monthly warrants to participating dentists.
- Respond to all telephone, email and in-person inquiries as well as those generated from the OSDH website.
- Update applicable documents and application forms and make them available on the OSDH website.

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This report is submitted in compliance with Oklahoma Statute 63, Section 1-2712 by:

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# Oklahoma Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas For Purposes of the Oklahoma Dental Loan Repayment Program

