

Fact Sheet

Conrad State 30 (J-1 Visa Waiver) Program

The purpose of the Conrad State 30 (J-1 Visa Waiver) Program is to recruit needed primary care and specialty physicians, into federally designated health professional shortage areas (HPSA). The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) will support the request for the waiver through the Conrad State 30 program once all of the following criteria are met.

CRITERIA FOR DEPARTMENT OF STATE WAIVER REQUESTS AND/OR LDH SUPPORT LETTERS:

- Primary care shall include pediatrics, ob/gyn, internal medicine, family practice, general practice and psychiatry. From October 1st through March 31st, 80% of the 24 slots will be reserved for primary care physicians and 20% for specialists (6 slots). After April 1st, applicants will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Physicians must have completed a United States residency in primary care (or their specialty).
- Current Louisiana medical license.
- Primary care physicians must practice outpatient preventive and primary care medicine. Specialists must practice as appropriate to their area of specialty. Physicians must work a minimum

Quick Facts:

- Conrad State 30 program that supports the annual placement of 30 foreign and medical graduate physicians who enter the U.S. to participate in residency training.
- Conrad State 30 program enables Louisiana medical clinics and hospitals that provide outpatient services to HPSA populations.
- 45 physicians worked under this program in 2015-2016.

of 32 clinical hours out of a 40 hour week over no less than a four day period.

- Physicians must have a contract for a minimum of 3 years with an employer.
 - Practice must be comprised of at least 30% Medicaid and Medicare.
 - Employer must have a sliding fee scale or some type of Indigent Care policy for people whose income falls below 200% of poverty.
 - Physician must practice in a HPSA area, with the exception of up to 10 slots per year where the physician would serve a HPSA population.
 - The employer must provide adequate advertisements and recruitment documentation from at least the prior six-month period prior to submitting the Conrad State 30 application packet to establish that the J-1 Visa physician will not be displacing a U.S. physician.
- The employer must provide a written guarantee that the physician will submit quarterly reports.

Fact Sheet

Louisiana State Loan Repayment Program

The purpose of the Louisiana State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) is to encourage primary health care practitioners to serve in HPSA. Eligible primary care practitioners include physicians who have completed a residency in family practice, general practice, obstetrics/gynecology, internal medicine, pediatrics, or general psychiatry and dentists (DDS or DMD general or pediatric). Other eligible health care professionals include primary care physician assistants, certified nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, registered clinical dental hygienists, licensed clinical or counseling psychologists (Ph.D. or equivalent required), psychiatric nurse specialists, licensed professional counselors (masters or Ph.D. required), marriage and family therapists (masters or Ph.D. required) and licensed clinical social workers (masters or Ph.D. required).

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Work in a HPSA.
- Work for a public or non-profit private entity.
- Work full-time (40 hours per week) in an outpatient capacity.
- Accept assignment of Medicare and Medicaid.
- Have a sliding fee scale for low-income, uninsured patients.
- Be a United States citizen or national.
- Be licensed to practice in Louisiana.
- Have no other obligation for health professional services.
- Have not defaulted on educational loans without addressing the default.
- Have not breached a health professional service contract.

Quick Facts:

- A total of 54 providers received loan repayment under this program in 2015-16 (it is a 50/50 match with the feds).
- \$846,000 in annual funding.
- Since 2008, 100% of annual funding has been awarded to health professionals working in non-profit and public outpatient clinics through Louisiana.

Applications will be accepted from April 1st through June 30th. Funding notifications will be made in September. Applying to the program does not guarantee that funding will be awarded.

If incomplete application packets are submitted, they will not be considered.

May be able to extend the commitment "12,000 annually" for a two (2) year extension.

Compensation:

To enhance the provision of the health care services, the program will repay governmental or commercial educational loans obtained by the practitioner. Physicians and dentists can receive up to \$30,000 annually for a three (3) year initial commitment. Other professionals can receive up to \$15,000 annually for a three (3) year initial commitment.

Participants who complete their original commitment, remain in an eligible site in a health professional shortage area, still have educational loans to repay and have been compliant with all requirements may be able to extend their commitment for a 2-year extension.



The Louisiana Department of Health through its Bureau of Primary Care and Rural Health administers this program. For more information, go to www.pcrh.dhh.louisiana.gov or contact Beth Butler at (225) 342-6326 or by mail at 628 North 4th Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802 or by e-mail at beth.butler@la.gov.