

# WI LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

## Annual Report, FY2020-2021



WISCONSIN OFFICE OF  
**Rural Health**

Wisconsin created the **Health Professions Loan Assistance Program** in 1989 to address workforce shortages in underserved rural and urban communities. Since then, hundreds of health care providers have received assistance in paying down education loans, in return for three years of service in these communities. In 2014 Wisconsin added the **Rural Physician Loan Assistance Program**, which addresses chronic provider shortages in rural communities. These programs help to increase access to health care in communities that have traditionally lacked providers, including primary care Physicians, Dentists, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Nurse Midwives, and Dental Hygienists. This report reflects Loan Assistance Program (LAP) activity in fiscal year 2020-2021 (July-June).

**\$1,001,166** awarded to health care providers to pay down educational loans in return for three years of service

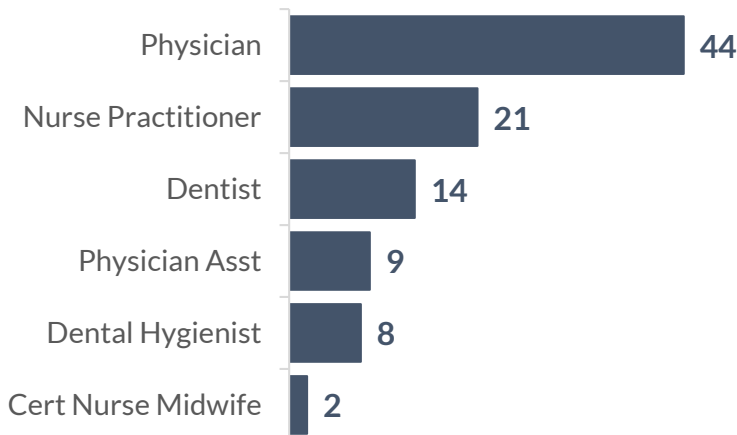
**103** concurrent awards:

Service Year 1:	Service Year 2:	Service Year 3:	New:
24	29	25	25

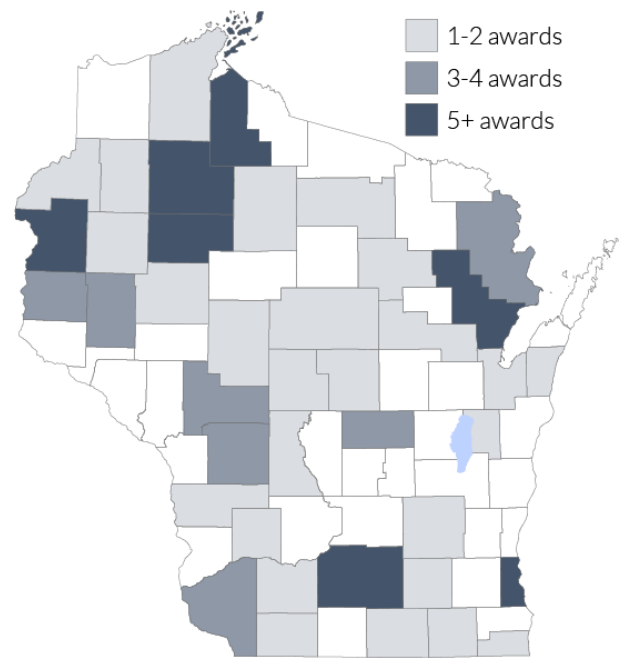
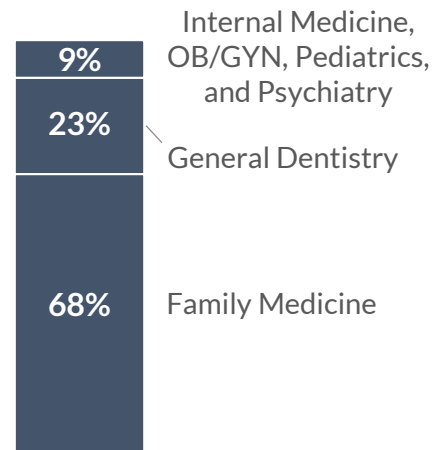
**98** awardees\* practicing at **73** clinics in underserved areas

**15** FQHCs  
**81%/19%** Primary care clinics/  
 Dental clinics  
**82%** rural

Profession:



Discipline:



\*Some awardees have more than one award.

# Impact

The LAP increases access to health care in communities that experience chronic provider shortages. In their third year of service, LAP awardees are asked about their experience with the Program. Here's what this year's cohort said:

**78%** said LAP was a factor in deciding to work at their practice site

**87%** intend to stay at their practice site after their LAP contract ends

*"Thank you so much for this opportunity. I feel as though a huge burden has been lifted off of me. I have a little over \$3000 yet in student loan debt which is so much more manageable than where I started. I appreciate all the help I have been given, especially since I am doing what I want to do. I get to work with the underserved and have reaped an additional benefit besides a paycheck. My student loan debt payoff is within reach. Everyone should be so blessed."* – Nurse Practitioner

*"I cannot thank you enough for all your help and your organization's generosity. Your support means so much to me, my family, and the vulnerable members of our population that [redacted] provides for."* - Dentist

*"The LAP has helped me tremendously and am very grateful to have received it. I enjoyed working at my practice site and to help the underserved population."* - Physician

## Program Outreach & Support



**0.47**  
FTE staff  
administer  
the LAP



Reviewed and processed  
**79** applications  
**25** new contracts  
**81** payments



Provided assistance  
**236** times to LAP  
applicants, awardees,  
and practice sites



Promoted LAP in  
**6** presentations to  
**65** potential participants

Funding for the Loan Assistance Program is provided by HRSA's Health Workforce State Loan Repayment Program, Wisconsin Tribal Gaming Revenue, and the Wisconsin Critical Access Hospital Assessment.

For more information about the Loan Assistance Program, visit  
<http://worh.org/loan-repayment>



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