

Mental Health Professional Loan Repayment Program

January 1, 2024



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Mental Health Professional Loan Repayment Program – FY23

Iowa Code section 261.117 requires submission of an annual report on the Mental Health Professional Loan Repayment Program as follows:

261.117(8). The commission shall submit in a report to the general assembly by January 1, annually, the number of mental health professionals who received loan repayment pursuant to this section, where the mental health professionals practiced, the amount paid to each mental health professional, and other information identified by the commission as indicators of outcomes from the program.

The Mental Health Professional Loan Repayment Program provides student loan repayment awards to non-prescribing mental health practitioners who serve high-need communities in Iowa. The program provides up to \$40,000 in loan repayment benefits for up to five years of full-time service, or 8 years of part-time service.

In fiscal year (FY) 2023, the first year the program was available, a total of 120 individuals applied for funding. Thirteen applicants were selected to receive funding, obligating a total of \$520,000 in loan repayment benefits. The chart below illustrates the employment categories of both applicants and designated recipients in FY23.

	Total Unique and Complete Applications	Award Designations
Social Workers	59	9
Marriage/Family Therapists	4	0
Mental Health Counselors	56	4
Psychologists	1	0
	120	13

Priority for awards is given first to eligible applicants who are students in their final year of a degree program that leads to their qualification as a non-prescribing mental health professional. All FY23 awards were provided to eligible applicants who met this criteria. Following completion of the specified degree program, the eligible applicant must complete a two-year post-degree period of clinical experience prior to entering into eligible service under the program. As such, locations of eligible practice for the FY23 recipient cohort won't be available for at least two years, and payments will be made only upon completion of five full-time years of eligible practice, or eight part-time years of eligible practice.