

## Health Professionals Programs Frequently Asked Questions

### What are the major differences between FSLRP and HPLRP?

	FSLRP	HPLRP
<b>Award amount</b>	\$70,000	\$75,000
<b>Contract service obligation period</b>	Minimum two (2) years	Minimum three (3) years
<b>Employment type</b>	Full-time only	Less than full-time allowed
<b>Default penalties</b>	Minimum \$31,000 See default section for details	Double the amount disbursed, plus interest
<b>Eligibility requirements</b>	Vary for site and provider	Vary for site and provider

### Can I apply for both the FSLRP and the HPLRP programs?

Yes. Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) staff will review your application for both programs if you qualify for both. WSAC awards FSLRP funds first. If selected for FSLRP, you may choose to decline the award, and your application will remain in the HPLRP funding pool, but WSAC does not guarantee an award. If you accept an FSLRP offer, WSAC will remove your application from consideration for a HPLRP award.

### Are the site qualifications the same for both programs?

FSLRP has more requirements. For example, the site must have a federal Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) designation, and use a posted sliding fee discount schedule.

### What if I don't have a job by the application deadline? Can I still apply?

Application eligibility requires employment at one of the approved sites, or that you have a contract stating you will be starting employment by July 1 of the application year.

### Do you accept late applications?

We receive more applications than we can fund. In fairness to the providers who submit complete applications by the deadline, we do not accept late applications.

### What are my chances of receiving an award?

Every year is different, depending on the applicant pool. WSAC awards providers based on score. WSAC scores applications based on criteria outlined in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC), along with scoring elements identified by the program's planning committee.

### I see there is a limit on the number of days per year I can be away from the clinic/site. I was planning to take a month off next year for an extended vacation. Will this impact my contract?

Yes. If awarded, the contract limits you to a maximum number of days away from the site for any reason (holidays, sick leave, paid time off, leave without pay, etc.). If you exceed the number of days allowed, it may put your account into default and require repayment, according to the guidelines in your contract.

**How long after I submit my application will I know whether I am selected for an award?**

WSAC will contact all applicants as soon as decisions are made. Applications are due in January. Award notifications will go out between May and June. WSAC sends notification of offers to FSLRP awardees first and completes this process before notifying HPLRP awardees. WSAC also notifies applicants who are not awarded.

**What happens if I get laid off or terminated?**

Contact our office immediately. WSAC has a Site Change Policy and will work with you to try to keep your account from going into default repayment. You may have the option to look for another site where you can complete your service obligation. Participants terminated for cause go into default repayment immediately.

**What happens if more than one person from my site applies?**

More than one person at a site may be able to receive loan repayment. There are a number of variables. There is a cap on the number of awards per profession at one site. If the providers are in different professions, there can be more than one award at a site.

**I am a nurse who sometimes works outside of the ambulatory clinic. I do home visits, educational classes, and other activities. Do I qualify for the program?**

To be eligible for the program, you must work in a clinic (or hospital) with scheduled appointments. Programs such as WIC, immunization programs, etc. are not included. If you are a Public Health Nurse, you do not qualify for the program. Please refer to the full-time and less than full-time definitions and hours allowed that are not scheduled appointments in the Reference Guides.

**If I am selected for an award, are these funds tax exempt?**

You will need to refer to IRS Publication 970 Tax Benefits for Education (Section - 5 Student Loan Repayment Assistance). We do not report the funds to the IRS.