



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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MI Kids Now Loan Repayment Program offers medical education debt relief to behavioral health care services providers

LANSING, Mich. – Medical providers of behavioral health services in underserved areas in Michigan are now eligible for medical education loan repayment.

The MI Kids Now Loan Repayment Program is a medical education debt repayment program that focuses on incentivizing behavioral health care providers to practice in underserved areas in Michigan. It is open to providers of services to both children and adults, but the priority will be providing debt relief to those who serve children.

The program aims to assist schools and employers in recruiting and retaining behavioral health providers who will continue to demonstrate their commitment to building long-term behavioral health infrastructure in these communities. The program will provide participants up to \$200,000 to repay their educational debt if they participate in the program for eight years.

“Increasing access to behavioral health services for Michigan families and children is a top priority for MDHHS,” said Lindsay McLaughlin, acting director of the department’s Bureau of Children’s Coordinated Health Policy and Supports. “Children need both physical and behavioral health services so that they have the best opportunity to grow up to be healthy and successful adults. Creating the MI Kids Now Repayment Program is one of the ways that MDHHS will address this important need.”

The program is available to behavioral health providers including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, counselors, therapists and certified behavioral analysts. Eligible providers must provide behavioral health services in clinical or public-school based systems located within Health Professional Shortage Areas. Providers and employers can determine if a practice site is located within a Health Professional Shortage Area by entering its address in the federal Health Resource and Services Administration website at [Find Shortage Areas](#).

The MI Kids Now Loan Repayment Program application cycle opens July 18, 2022, and closes on July 29, 2022. Further program information, resources, applications, and application instructions can be found [on the MI Kids Now Loan Repayment Program website](#).

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Behavioral health providers are encouraged to review the materials in advance and submit applications when the cycle begins.

Providers who have questions or need more information can contact Reanna Kathawa at kathawar@michigan.gov.

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