

Addendum #1 to RFA 67-103

Pennsylvania Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Loan Repayment Program (LRP)

This addendum is to provide answers to all submitted questions in response to  
the RFA Potential Applicant Letter



**Questions and Answers**

**To RFA #67-103**

**Pennsylvania Substance Use Disorder Loan Repayment Program (SUD LRP)**

**Application Instructions**

	<b>Question Detail</b>	<b>Answer</b>
1.	I currently have my CADC and am in a master program, so I am currently only working part time. However, I expect within the next two years that I may move from half time to full time. Am I only eligible for the half time repayment? If down the line I become full time could I apply for the other portion of repayment?	Yes. Your employment status as of the time you apply is what determines your service commitment status for the duration of this RFA.
<b>Eligibility</b>		
2.	I have my LSW, but it is a probationary license until next year. Will that disqualify me?	Yes, to be eligible, all LSW practitioners must have a current, full, permanent, unencumbered, unrestricted Pennsylvania Certification. See RFA 67-103, Paragraph A 1.c.,2, vi, c, page 10.
3.	I hold an active LSW in the state of West Virginia. Am I eligible for this program?	No, to be eligible, all LSW practitioners must have a current, full, permanent, unencumbered, unrestricted Pennsylvania Certification. See RFA 67-103, Paragraph A 1.c.,2, vi, c, page 10.
4.	Due to being employed by UPMC Health Plan, my job title is Mobile Social Service Case Manager, which doesn't accurately fit the description of my job duties. I work as a social worker and provide primary, direct, clinical counseling to our patients. My question is how should I document my employment so that is qualifies?	Eligible practitioners for the SUD LRP are Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CAADC), Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC), Physicians (Allopathic (MD), Osteopathic (DO)), Physician Assistants (PA-C), Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNP), Certified Addictions Registered Nurses (CARN), Certified Addiction Registered Nurse - Advanced Practice (CARN-AP) Psychologists, Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW), Licensed Social Workers (LSW), Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC) See RFA 67-103, Paragraph A.1 , pages 2 and 3.

	Question Detail	Answer
5.	I am writing to inquire regarding eligibility for student loan repayment program for substance use disorder. Is there any consideration for clinicians who are RNs with certification in addictions nursing?	Yes. Eligible practitioner for the SUD LRP are Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CAADC), Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC), Physicians (Allopathic (MD), Osteopathic (DO)), Physician Assistants (PA-C), Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNP), Certified Addictions Registered Nurses (CARN), Certified Addiction Registered Nurse - Advanced Practice (CARN-AP) Psychologists, Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW), Licensed Social Workers (LSW), Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC) See RFA 67-103, Paragraph A.1 , pages 2 and 3.
6.	I see a mix of patients and while many of them do have substance use disorder, others do not. What kind of documentation is required? Or is proof of employment at the approved facility for the required hours adequate?	Once your application is submitted the Department of Health sends an employment verification form to your employer to verify your employment dates, total hours worked weekly, and the amount of direct substance use disorder treatment hours per week.
7.	I am pondering about applying for Pennsylvania Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Loan Repayment Program (LRP). I am currently a student at Waynesburg University in PA doing a Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision. I am both Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC) and Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Approved Supervisor (LCAD) in the State of Maryland and have worked in this field of Substance and Co-Occurring Disorders in the last 11 years in Baltimore, MD. I am currently a Program Manager (Director) for Substance Abuse and Co-Occurring Disorders. Do I qualify for Pennsylvania Substance Use Disorder (SUD), though I don't have a License Entity or Organization in PA?	Eligible practitioner for the SUD LRP are Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CAADC), Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC), Physicians (Allopathic (MD), Osteopathic (DO)), Physician Assistants (PA-C), Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNP), Certified Addictions Registered Nurses (CARN), Certified Addiction Registered Nurse - Advanced Practice (CARN-AP) Psychologists, Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW), Licensed Social Workers (LSW), Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC) See RFA 67-103, Paragraph A.1 , pages 2 and 3. Additionally all eligible practitioners must have a current, full, permanent, unencumbered, unrestricted Pennsylvania Certification. See RFA 67-103, Paragraph A 1.c, 2, vii, c, page 10.

### Eligible Disciplines

	Question Detail	Answer
8.	I am reaching out today to inquire why Pharmacists were not included. I am a Doctor of Pharmacy who serves in the SUD field and find pride in helping these patients in need.	Eligible practitioner for the SUD LRP are Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CAADC), Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC), Physicians (Allopathic (MD), Osteopathic (DO)), Physician Assistants (PA-C), Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNP), Certified Addictions Registered Nurses (CARN), Certified Addiction Registered Nurse - Advanced Practice (CARN-AP) Psychologists, Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW), Licensed Social Workers (LSW), Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC) See RFA 67-103, Paragraph A.1 , pages 2 and 3.
9.	I am reading through the eligible practitioners for the SUD LRP and am wondering if pharmacists are included?	No. Eligible practitioner for the SUD LRP are Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CAADC), Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC), Physicians (Allopathic (MD), Osteopathic (DO)), Physician Assistants (PA-C), Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNP), Certified Addictions Registered Nurses (CARN), Certified Addiction Registered Nurse - Advanced Practice (CARN-AP) Psychologists, Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW), Licensed Social Workers (LSW), Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC) See RFA 67-103, Paragraph A.1 , pages 2 and 3.
10.	Right now, I am working as a Drug and Alcohol Therapist at an outpatient facility full-time in the Cumberland County area. Previously I worked at two inpatient hospitals that assisted with Drug and Alcohol Therapy. It has been about 3 years since I started worked as a therapist and have a master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. As of right now I am working toward licensure for my LPC. I have already passed my licensure exam (NCE), which gives me the certification of a National Certified Counselor. While filling out the application it doesn't give an option to choose these credentials. Please let me know what my next step should be so that I can complete the application.	To be eligible, all LPC practitioners must have a current, full, permanent, unencumbered, unrestricted Pennsylvania Certification. See RFA 67-103, Paragraph A 1.c.,2, vii, c, page 10.

## Eligible Treatments

	Question Detail	Answer
11.	Is there a list of services provided that qualify a practitioner can perform under the substance use disorder loan repayment program? I'm wondering if the following services qualify to count toward the 20 hours per week (full time): assessments, evaluations, supervision of practitioners providing counseling services, DUI related services (general education groups, DUI treatment, and evaluations).	As noted in RFA 67-103 A.1 page 3. SUD treatment services are defined as at least 50% of care provided being associated with substance use counseling or medical assistance treatment (MAT) and related support services with an established plan of care. Practitioners who exclusively provide referral-based services, alcohol abuse counseling or care or case management services only during the two years processing December 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2019, do not qualify. In addition, each application must meet the eligible treatment requirements as outlined in RFA 67-103, paragraph A.1.d.1 and 2 on page 11.
12.	I am finding it unclear as to whether administrative roles qualify for the SUD-LRP. I currently have my LSW and CADC. I serve as the Executive Director of approved practice sites. Any clarification you can provide would be greatly appreciated.	As noted in RFA 67-103 A.1, a.1, page 4. Up to eight hours per week may be spent providing patient care in alternative settings (for example, hospitals, nursing homes, shelters) as directed by the approved site(s) or performing clinical-related administrative activities. In addition, each application must meet the eligible treatment requirements as outlined in RFA 67-103, paragraph A.1.d.1 and 2 on page 11.
13.	What counts as Site hours in SUD treatment?	See answer 12 above.
14.	Are these only direct contact with clients or does this include treatment team meetings, supervision, etc.?	This program is geared towards practitioners who are providing direct care to SUD clients.
15.	My supervisor received my employment verification form, she asked me how many hours a week of treatment services I am providing, would you please assist me in defining treatment services?	See answer 12 above.

### Loan Verification

	Question Detail	Answer
16.	The account number is that which all the individual loans are under for each lender is how I input my loan information. For example, for American Education Services, if my account number is 16362828 and then each loan is numbered 1 through 5. Is the assigned 1-5 number what you refer to as “sub-loans?” I entered the total amount for the account number, which is what all the “sub-loans “equal as the balance.	Yes. If you have multiple sub-loans with the same loan servicer but the base loan number is the same. You do not need to list these individually. Just include the total for all sub-loans under the base loan number.
17.	For the academic period, as the individual loans cover many semesters, is it correct to put the earliest loan as the from date and the latest loan as the to date? For example, an account with multiple loans through multiple years, would it be correct to enter the earliest loan date as the “from” and the latest loan date as the “to” under academic period?	Yes. You are correct.

### Other

18.	I see that this is for clinicians practicing “where high use of opioids is evident and where a shortage of healthcare providers exists.” Are you able to give more information about this (e.g. specific counties)?	There are 30 highly impacted counties where opioid use disorder is most prevalent; 15 rural, including Armstrong, Blair, Cambria, Carbon, Crawford, Fayette, Greene, Lawrence, Mercer, Mifflin, Monroe, Perry, Schuylkill, Venango, and Washington; and 15 urban, including Allegheny, Beaver, Berks, Bucks, Dauphin, Delaware, Erie, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lehigh, Luzerne, Northampton, Philadelphia, Westmoreland and York.
19.	I’m considering applying for the SUDLRP. However, I’m wondering if receiving loan forgiveness in this program would then have an impact on my ongoing participation in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program?	We are unable to answer qualification for the Public Service loan forgiveness program. This question should be directed to someone at the program.

	<b>Question Detail</b>	<b>Answer</b>
20.	Is the program listed on PA.gov the same as the program listed on NHSC.hrsa.gov.?	No. These are separate programs that have separate eligibility criteria.
21.	Is there a deadline by which I may hear a response?	No. We anticipate communicating all decisions within 90 days after the application period closes on January 21st, 2020.
<b>Previous Work History</b>		
22.	I have been employed at my current site since 1.16.18. Do I need to provide information about my former employer to account for the 16 days I did not work for my current employer in 2018? My former employer provided Dual Diagnoses services- would these be eligible for demonstrating hx of substance use disorder treatment?	Yes. All practitioners must have provided two years of full- or part-time immediately preceding December 31, 2017. See RFA 67-103, Paragraph A.1, page 3.
<b>Qualifying Loans</b>		
23.	To verify the loan, the application asks for both an account statement and a disbursement report. My loan servicer provides me with a loan verification letter, that includes Lists all loans on your account, along with their details and status (including disbursement date) Includes actual or estimated monthly payment amounts, when available Is on company letterhead, will this document satisfy both the account statement and the Disbursement report? I am not provided with an account summary, though I would be able to attach a payment history.	Yes, if the documentation includes the required data elements as outlined in RFA 67-103, A.3.2 on page 15.
<b>Site Issues</b>		
24.	I listed my FT employment as site 1, which is addiction medicine specifically. I also work at another facility 5 hours per week. The primary scope of practice of my second job is family medicine. I attempted to add this site to "Site information" but as it was not listed on the drop-down box of approved sites, it would not allow me to leave this blank and update the form. I included this information on previous employment, although it is still a current employment. Please advise me how to proceed with entering this information correctly, or if it is even needed.	Any employment outside of your full-time or half-time hours unrelated to SUD treatment is not needed for this application.