



Bilingual Mental Health Clinician Stipend Program Frequently Asked Questions

1. What type of NJ Department of Health, Certificate of Need and Licensing mental health license is needed to be considered a Qualified Agency?

The following licenses qualify an agency:

Outpatient N.J.A.C. 10:37E

Partial Care N.J.A.C. 10:37F

Programs in Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) N.J.A.C. 10:37J

Supervised Group Homes N.J.A.C. 10:37A

CSS is not included as it is a rehabilitative, not treatment, service.

2. *Is a licensed provider of substance use treatment services considered Qualified Agency?*

This funding is for licensed mental health agencies providing treatment services.

3. *What type of student loans is eligible for this program?*

Any federal or New Jersey state (NJCLASS) student loans for which you are the borrower. Loans that someone else borrowed on your behalf (such as Parent PLUS loans) are not eligible for redemption.

4. *If a practitioner had a 10-year loan and made 8 years of payments (while practicing), is he/she/they able to apply for the last 2 years of payments? May I recover the 8 years I already paid?*

Stipends may be requested for the last 2 years of payments, so long as all the other eligibility criteria and proof of loan payments are met. However, any payments already made to the lender are not eligible for loan reimbursement. Loan reimbursement is only for any outstanding loan balances at the time of application for this program. Evidence of current loan debt is required.

5. *Am I still eligible to apply for a loan repayment stipend even though I graduated 8 years ago?*

Yes, you are eligible to apply as long as you have an outstanding loan balance for the degree associated with your current license.

6. *Are Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselors (LCADCs) eligible for this stipend program?*

No, this stipend program is for mental health practitioners. Practitioners with LCADCs are not authorized to diagnose and treat mental health or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders without another license, like a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC).

7. *Are non-licensed bilingual practitioners eligible for this program?*

No, this program is limited to for bilingual licensed practitioners providing treatment services to individuals with mental health and co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders.

8. *If I leave employment at a qualifying agency before 2 years, am I able to keep the stipend and continue employment elsewhere?*

This stipend program requires a commitment to provide 2 years of service at the Qualifying Agency where the application was made. Although it is preferred the 2-year service commitment is completed at the original Qualifying Agency; DMHAS may consider the applicant completing the balance of the two (2) year commitment at another Qualifying Agency, subject to all of the terms and conditions of the Stipend Policy. Both the Applicant and the Agency are required to provide DMHAS with written notice.

9. *Is there a due date for applications to be submitted?*

Applications will be accepted through Friday, June 14th, 2024. Applications are reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis. If all awards have not been made by June 19th, 2024, DMHAS reserves the right to consider, in its reasonable discretion, increases to all previously awarded stipends for this award period.

10. *How are the funds for the awards distributed?*

Funds are disbursed directly to the Qualifying Agency to manage monthly distribution to the approved applicant.

11. *How will I know if my application has been received?*

The Qualifying Agency and the Applicant will be notified in writing by DMHAS whether the application is accepted, rejected, or on waitlist. DMHAS may consider accepting resubmission of applications that were rejected for being incomplete.

12. How will I know if my application has been approved?

The Qualifying Agency and the Applicant awarded DMHAS funds will be notified by email.

13. What happens if I cannot fulfill the 2-year commitment to practice required by the program?

You would be required to notify DMHAS in writing. Staff who are unable to fulfill the 2-year commitment are no longer eligible to receive additional payments. In addition, DMHAS reserves all rights to recover funds. Applicant is obligated to repay all Stipend Program payments to the Qualifying Agency in the event the Applicant becomes ineligible for State licensure or violates any Stipend Program requirements. The Qualifying Agency remains obligated to DMHAS for all repayments due, regardless of ability to collect from the Applicant.

14. Can I withdraw my application?

An applicant may withdraw an application at any time by notifying DMHAS in writing.

15. Are multiple applications from one agency permitted?

Yes, multiple applications are allowable, so long as the bilingual clinician meets all eligibility criteria for this stipend program.

16. How will this program be monitored?

The Qualifying Agency is responsible for maintaining all necessary documentation to support receipt of funds from DMHAS and disbursement of funds to approved applicants. Additionally, the Qualifying Agency must meet all requirements in Section VI on page 3 of the Bilingual Mental Health Clinician Stipend Program Guidance document. DMHAS will monitor a random sample for compliance.

17. How can I contact someone at the DMHAS with a question about this program?

Please email questions to DMHAS.Bilingual-Stipend@dhs.nj.gov