

Sign Up, Pay Down! *Recruiting Dentists to the Safety Net*

Note: Applications are due by April 10, 2023.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Q: What is a Dental Professional Shortage Area (DPSA) and how do I know if the practice for which we are recruiting a dentist is in one?**

A: A DPSA geographic area has a shortage of dental providers or services. The Health Resources and Services Administration (*HRSA*) and State Primary Care Offices work together using public, private, and state-provided data to determine when such a shortage qualifies for designation as a DPSA. Click [here](#) to see if your locality has a DPSA designation.

- **Q: Who is the applicant for this package? My organization, or the person we hire?**

A: Your organization is the applicant. If your organization is selected to receive funds under this initiative, your new dentist will be given instructions and access to the student loan repayment online portal to access the loan repayment funds designated for this initiative.

- **Q: If my organization is awarded Sign Up, Pay Down! funds, how and when will the payments be issued?**

The funds for loan repayment will be provided by Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation administered by the Virginia Department of Health (*VDH*), and go to the newly hired dentist at the end of each service year (*\$10,000 at the end of year one and \$10,000 at the end of year two*).

VHCF will fund and administer the cash bonuses. VHCF will issue a check to your organization for the signing bonus so you may distribute it as negotiated in the contract with the new dentist.

- **Q: What will be required of the dentist?**

A: The dentist receiving these funds will be required to provide a two-year service commitment at your dental safety net organization.

- **Q: Are part-time dentists eligible for this initiative?**

A: No. This initiative is designed to help recruit full-time dentists to Virginia's dental safety net.

- **Q: Can we use the package to recruit dental hygienists or dental assistants, as well?**

A: No. While we understand there is a shortage of both, this initiative is targeted to dentists only.

- **Q: If awarded funds, how long do we have to fill the dentist position?**

A: A contract with the new dentist should be fully executed within 4 months of award notification.

- **Q: What will be the reporting requirements?**

A: Report requirements will be simple. At year-end, you will be asked to provide: when the dentist was hired, the number of patients and visits s/he treated, the payments made to the dentist in that year, and a brief description of the status of the dental practice operations (*any current wait list, staffing levels, etc.*).

**Other Questions? Great! We'd Love to Hear from You.
Send them to Rachel Rees @ rrees@vhcf.org.**