

**2023 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES**

**SB 2127**

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Human Services Committee**  
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2127  
1/10/2023

Relating to the student loan repayment program; to provide an appropriation to the department of health and human services for the behavioral health loan repayment program; and to declare an emergency.

10:30 AM **Madam Chair Lee** called the hearing to order. **Senators Lee, Cleary, Clemens, K. Roers, Weston** were present. **Senator Hogan** was absent.

## **Discussion Topics:**

- Risk incentives
- Program funds
- Certification clarification
- Eligible registration nurse

10:31 AM **Senator Cleary** opened the hearing.

10:31 AM **Tim Mathern, District 11**, who served on the interim Acute Psychiatric Treatment Committee, introduced SB 2127 and testified in favor. #12741

10:40 AM **Kim Mertz, Director of Healthy and Safe Communities Section within the ND Department of Health and Human Services**, testified neutrally. #12726

10:46 AM **Kalee Werner, Director State Loan Repayment**, provided information. (no written testimony)

10:48 AM **Madam Chair Lee** closed the hearing.

*Patricia Lahr, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Human Services Committee**  
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2127  
1/10/2023

Relating to the student loan repayment program; to provide an appropriation to the department of health and human services for the behavioral health loan repayment program; and to declare an emergency.
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3:07 PM **Madam Chair Lee** called the committee work to order. **Senators Lee, Cleary, Clemens, K. Roers, Weston, Hogan** are present.

## **Discussion topics**

- Eligibility
- Loan repayment
- Access treatment

3:08 PM **Jonathan Alm, Attorney, ND Department of Health and Human Services** provided additional information verbally.

3:10 PM **Senator Lee** called for recess.

3:32 PM **Senator Lee** reconvenes meeting.

3:33 PM **Senator K. Roers** shares materials for behavioral health loan payments, increase slots. #12795, 12796, 12797

3:41 PM **Kim Mertz Director, Healthy and Safe Communities Section Department of Health Services** provided information verbally.

3:54 PM **Madam Chair Lee** closed the committee work.

*Patricia Lahr, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Human Services Committee**  
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2127  
1/18/2023

Relating to the student loan repayment program; to provide an appropriation to the department of health and human services for the behavioral health loan repayment program; and to declare an emergency.
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2:40 p.m. **Madam Chair Lee** called the committee work to order. **Senators Lee, Cleary, Clemens, K. Roers, Weston, Hogan** are present.

**Committee Discussion Topics:**

- Advanced background check
- Behavioral professionals

**Senator K. Roers** moves **DO NOT PASS** on SB 2127.

**Senator Hogan** seconded.

**Senator K. Roers** **withdraws** motion.

**Senator Hogan** **withdraws** seconded motion.

2:51 p.m. **Madam Chair Lee** closed the committee work meeting.

*Patricia Lahr, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Human Services Committee**  
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2127  
1/31/2023

Relating to the student loan repayment program; to provide an appropriation to the department of health and human services for the behavioral health loan repayment program; and to declare an emergency.
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10:00 AM **Madam Chair Lee** called the committee to order. **Senators Lee, Cleary, Clemens, K. Roers, Weston, Hogan** are present.

**Committee Discussion Topics:**

- Advanced background check

**Senator Lee** calls for discussion.

**Senator K. Roers** moved **DO NOT PASS**.

**Senator Cleary** seconded the motion.

Roll call vote.

<b>Senators</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y

The motion passed 6-0-0.

**Senator Roers** will carry SB 2127.

10:13 AM **Madam Chair Lee** closed the meeting.

*Patricia Lahr, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2127: Human Services Committee (Sen. Lee, Chairman)** recommends **DO NOT PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2127 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**TESTIMONY**

**SB 2127**

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Good morning, Chairwoman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee. My name is Kim Mertz, Healthy and Safe Communities Section Director within the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health. I am here to provide information regarding two items related to Senate Bill 2127.

The first item is related to proposed eligibility changes in the behavioral health loan repayment program. In the bill, a psychiatric registered nurse has been added as an eligible health care professional on page 1, line 18 – which reads, “For a clinical psychologist ‘or a psychiatric registered nurse’”.

Eligible professionals under behavioral health include registered nurses (page 2, line 15) and specialty practice registered nurses (page 2, line 16). A psychiatric registered nurse could be included in the definition of a behavioral health professional.

The repayment amount is different between a clinical psychologist and a behavioral health professional. The loan repayment for a clinical psychologist may not exceed twelve thousand dollars per year, and may not exceed sixty thousand dollars over five years. The loan repayment for a behavioral health professional may not exceed four thousand dollars per year, and may not exceed twenty thousand dollars over five years.

Because of the differences in the repayment amounts described above, if this amendment is adopted clarification regarding the level of practice for this health care professional would be needed.

The second item is related to clarification regarding the number of years for program participation. On page 3, line 1, the completion of the number of years a participant in the student loan repayment program has been proposed to change from five years to three years.



The loan repayment obligation term in all the health care professional areas is five years. If the intent is to change the service obligation from five years to three, then the amount available per year would need to be increased.

This concludes my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

January 10, 2023

ND Senate Human Services Committee

Madame Chairman Lee and Committee Members,

My name is Tim Mathern and I served on the interim Acute Psychiatric Treatment Committee. A major issue coming up throughout the deliberation process was the shortage of behavioral health staff around the state. SB 2127 is before you as one measure to address that situation.

Some sessions ago we developed the behavioral health student loan program. This bill makes a few tweaks to the program and adds some money to enhance it.

The first change is on line 18 adding the profession of "psychiatric registered nurse". The goal here is to give added incentive to persons with this background who will be working full-time in psychiatric facilities where they take the added risk. The amount available is greater than nurses in other sections of the century code.

The second change is on page 3 line 1 changing 5 to 3 years as being the years of service required to gain the loan forgiveness. I was told that the five-year commitment has become too long to attract applicants to this field of practice.

The third change is that of the appropriation which is equal to the amount requested but short of the amount of money available in the most recent round of loan forgiveness granted.

I have spoken to health officials about some inconsistencies that need to be addressed in the bill and I have encouraged them and others to bring matters to your committee for amendments as you see fit.

I ask you for a Do Pass recommendation on SB2127.

Thank you.

Senator Tim Mathern

# North Dakota Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Programs

Program Type	North Dakota Health Care Professional Student Loan Repayment Program	ND Federal Loan Repayment Program	National Health Service Corps(NHSC)															
<b>Program Descriptions</b>	The State of North Dakota has established loan repayment programs for health care professionals willing to provide services in areas of this state that have a defined need for such services.	The purpose of the program is to improve healthcare access in our rural and underserved areas through placement of eligible clinicians in federally designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA).	The NHSC is part of the Bureau of Health Workforce and coordinates the recruitment and retention of health professions.															
<b>Eligible Disciplines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physicians (MD/ DO)</li> <li>Advanced Practice Registered Nurses</li> <li>Physician Assistants</li> <li>Clinical Psychologists (licensed by the State Board of Psychologist Examiners)</li> <li>Behavioral Health Professionals:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Licensed Addiction Counselors</li> <li>Licensed Professional Counselors</li> <li>Licensed Social Workers</li> <li>Registered Nurses</li> <li>Specialty Practice Registered Nurses</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physicians (MD/DO) (FP, IM, PED, OBGYN)</li> <li>General/Pediatric Dentistry</li> <li>Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant, Certified Nurse Midwife</li> <li>Registered Dental Hygienist</li> <li>Clinical or Counseling Psychologist, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Professional Counselor, Marriage and Family Therapist, Psychiatric Nurse Specialist</li> <li>Registered Nurse</li> <li>Pharmacist</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physicians (MD/DO) (FP, IM, PED, OBGYN, Geriatrics, PSY)</li> <li>Primary Care Physician Assistant</li> <li>Nurse Practitioner (adult, family, peds, psychiatric/ mental health, geriatric, women’s health, CNM, PNS)</li> <li>Dentist (DDS, DMD)</li> <li>Dental Hygienist</li> <li>Mental and Behavioral Health (psychologist, LCSW, LPC, MFT, Physician Assistant)</li> </ul>															
<b>Where Providers Serve</b>	Providers must serve in areas of the state with a defined need for such services.	Providers must serve in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HSPA) at an approved service site.	Providers must serve in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) at an approved NHSC site.															
<b>Financial Benefits</b>	<p>Providers can enter into an agreement up to 5 years</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Discipline</th> <th>State Match</th> <th>Community Match</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Physician</td> <td>\$100,000</td> <td>\$50,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>APRN, PA</td> <td>\$20,000</td> <td>\$2,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clinical Psychologist</td> <td>\$60,000</td> <td>\$15,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Behavioral Health</td> <td>\$20,000</td> <td>\$2,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Discipline	State Match	Community Match	Physician	\$100,000	\$50,000	APRN, PA	\$20,000	\$2,000	Clinical Psychologist	\$60,000	\$15,000	Behavioral Health	\$20,000	\$2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receive up to \$25,000/year for 2 years</li> <li>Opportunities for continuation awards years 3, 4, and 5</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 1 and 2                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HPSA* 14+ \$50,000 FT \$25,000 PT</li> <li>HPSA 0-13 \$30,000 FT \$15,000 PT</li> </ul> </li> <li>Years 3 &amp; 4 \$20,000 FT \$10,000 PT</li> <li>Years 4 &amp; 5 \$10,000 FT \$5,000 PT</li> </ul> <p>*Health Professional Shortage Area</p>
Discipline	State Match	Community Match																
Physician	\$100,000	\$50,000																
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**NORTH DAKOTA**  
Health Service Corps

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Program Type	North Dakota Health Care Professional Student Loan Repayment Program	ND Federal Loan Repayment Program	National Health Service Corps (NHSC)
<b>Provider Selection Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health care professional's specialty</li> <li>• Need for the specialty in the area</li> <li>• Education and experience</li> <li>• Date of availability and anticipated term of availability</li> <li>• Willingness to accept Medicaid and Medicare patients</li> <li>• Letters of recommendation</li> <li>• Personal statement questions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U.S. citizen or U.S. national</li> <li>• Must not have outstanding contractual obligations for health professional service</li> <li>• Must not have a judgment lien against their property for a debt to the U.S.</li> <li>• Must not be excluded, debarred, suspended or disqualified by a Federal agency</li> <li>• Have unpaid government or commercial loans for school tuition, reasonable educational expenses, and reasonable living expenses, segregated from all other debts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U.S. citizen or U.S. national</li> <li>• Currently work, or applying to work, at an NHSC-approved site</li> <li>• Have unpaid government or commercial loans for school tuition, reasonable educational expenses, and reasonable living expenses, segregated from all other debts</li> <li>• Licensed to practice in state where employer site is located</li> </ul>
<b>Community Selection Criteria</b>	<p>Public and private entities are eligible for this program.</p> <p>Site criteria is based on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located in an area that is statistically underserved</li> <li>• Located at least 20 miles outside the boundary of a city with more than 40,000 residents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be located in HPSA</li> <li>• Sites must be public or nonprofit private status</li> <li>• See all patients regardless of ability to pay</li> <li>• Accept patients covered by Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP</li> <li>• Not discriminate in the provision of services</li> <li>• Must have sliding fee scale or charity care plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be located in HPSA</li> <li>• See all patients regardless of ability to pay</li> <li>• Accept patients covered by Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP</li> <li>• Not discriminate in the provision of services</li> <li>• Must have sliding fee scale</li> </ul> <p>*see NHSC site guidelines for full details.</p>
<b>Service Commitment</b>	Must practice full-time for up to five years.	Must practice a minimum of two years. Full-time and part-time practice is available.	Must practice a minimum of two years. Full-time and part-time practice is available.
<b>Payments</b>	Payments are made at the conclusion of each twelve month period of service directly to the lender after completion of annual verification form. Community match payments are made to lender or provider. Funds provided through this program are non-taxable income.	Lump sum payments 90 days after the contract start date paid to the loan servicer. Funds provided through this program are non-taxable income.	Lump sum payments 90 days after the contract start date; NHSC loan repayment is non-taxable income.
<b>Application Deadline</b>	Complete applications are due March 15 and reviewed by the State Health Council. Awards are made in May.	Complete applications are due March 15 and reviewed by the Primary Care Office advisory body. Awards will be made in May.	After Jan. 1 each year; sign up at <a href="http://nhsc.hrsa.gov">nhsc.hrsa.gov</a> to be notified when the application cycle is open.
<b>Penalties</b>	No penalties are incurred as payments are made after the service year is provided.	The amount of loan repayments paid to the participant representing any period of obligated service NOT completed; \$7,500 multiplied by the number of months of obligated service NOT completed; and interest on the above amounts at the maximum legal prevailing rate.	The amount of loan repayments paid to the participant representing any period of obligated service NOT completed; \$7,500 multiplied by the number of months of obligated service NOT completed; AND interest on the above amounts at the maximum legal prevailing rate.



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
Health Service Corps

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Health Service Corps

# ND Federal Loan Repayment Program

## Eligible Disciplines

- Physicians (MD/DO)
  - Family Medicine
  - Internal Medicine
  - Obstetrics and Gynecology
  - Pediatrics
  - Psychiatry
- General/ Pediatric Dentists (DDS, DMD)
- Registered Dental Hygienist
- Clinical Psychologist (PsyD, PhD)
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)
- Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)
- Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT)
- Psychiatric Nurse Specialist (PNS)
- Registered Nurse (RN)
- Pharmacist (PharmD)
- Advanced Practice Providers (DNP, NP, CNM, PA)



## Community Selection Criteria

- Must be located in a HPSA
- Sites must be a public or nonprofit status
- See all patients regardless of ability to pay
- Accept patients covered by Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP
- Not discriminate in the provision of services
- Must have a sliding fee scale or charity care plan

## Service Location

Providers must serve in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)

## Service Commitment

The obligation is a minimum of 2-years.  
Full-time and part-time available

## Financial Benefits

- Receive up to \$50,000 (depending on discipline) for a 2-year service obligation
- Opportunities for continuation contracts after initial 2-year service obligation

## Community Match

No Community Match commitment is required

## Provider Selection Criteria

- Be a U.S. citizen or U.S. national
- Not have a current service obligation (currently part of a loan repayment program, etc.)
- Have unpaid government or commercial loans for school tuition, reasonable educational expenses and reasonable living expenses, segregated from all other debts



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Loan Repayment, Scholarship, and Apprenticeship Opportunities in North Dakota by Entity				
Organization Name	Program Eligibility Requirements	Disciplines Allowed	Length of Service	Funding Amount
North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services, Primary Care Office	<u>ND Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program</u>	Physicians, Advanced Practice, Psychologists, Licensed Professional Counselors, Social Work (LBSW, LMSW, LCSW), Behavioral Analysts, Licensed Addiction Counselors	5 years	Physicians = \$100,000 (State) + \$50,000 (CM) Advanced Practice, Social Work, Behavioral Analyst, LAC = \$20,000 (state) + \$2,000 (CM)
North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services, Primary Care Office	<u>ND Dentists' Loan Repayment Program</u>	Dentists	5 years	\$100,000
North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services, Primary Care Office	<u>Federal State Loan Repayment (SLRP)</u>	Primary Care Physicians (MD/DO), Dentists, Primary Care NP, Primary Care PA, CNM, Clinical Psychologist, Clinical Social Worker, LPC, MFT, PNS, RN, Pharm	2 years, with continuation awards for up to 5 years	up to \$50,000 over 2 years with opportunities for continuation
North Dakota University System	<u>ND Career Builders</u>	<u>High Need and Emerging Occupations</u>	3 years	Up to \$17,000 (1:1 community match)
North Dakota University System	<u>ND Career Builders</u>	<u>High Need and Emerging Occupations</u>	up to 3 years	Up to \$17,000 (1:1 community match)
North Dakota Dental Foundation	<u>Bright Futures In Dentistry</u>	Future Dental Assistant	None	Up to \$400 for test prep and \$450 for Dental Assisting National Board exam
North Dakota Area Health Education Center (AHEC)	<u>AHEC Scholars</u>	Certificate program for health profession students	1 (technical program) otherwise 2 year options; 40 hours/year community based/clinical and 40 didactic	\$500/year, \$1,000 total
North Dakota Area Health Education Center (AHEC)	<u>AHEC (Rural) Clinical Rotations</u>	Funding for students completing clinical rotations in a rural community	Funding per clinical rotation	Minimum of \$250, funding dependent on sites.
North Dakota University System	<u>Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP)</u>	Professional studies in Dentistry, Optometry, or Veterinary Medicine	Up to 4 years; amount dependent upon the institution and program attending	Program brings the tuition cost down to roughly the in-state rate
UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences	<u>RuralMed program</u>	UND Medical Students	5 years	Estimated \$237,000 (depending on tuition/fees per year)
Job Service North Dakota (JSND)	<u>WIOA Training</u>	Long-Term Training (Registered Nurse)	3 Years	\$16,000 for tuition, books, and fees
Job Service North Dakota (JSND)	<u>WIOA Training</u>	Short Term Training (CNA, CMA, etc.)	6 months	\$12,000 for tuition, books, and fees
HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW)	<u>NHSC Loan Repayment Program</u>	Physicians (MD/DO), NP, PA, CNM, HSP, LCSW, PNS, MFT, LPC, Dentist (DDS/ DMD), Dental Hygienists	2 years	\$50,000 full time/ \$25,000 part time (no match requirement)
HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW)	<u>NHSC Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery (STAR) LRP</u>	STAR LRP Eligible Disciplines	6 years	\$250,000
HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW)	<u>NHSC Rural Communities LRP</u>	Physicians (MD/DO), NP, PA, CNM, HSP, LCSW, PNS, MFT, LPC, SUD Counselors, Pharm, RN, CRNA	3 years	\$100,000 full time/ \$50,000 part time
HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW)	<u>NHSC SUD Workforce LRP</u>	Physicians (MD/DO), NP, PA, CNM, HSP, LCSW, PNS, MFT, LPC, SUD Counselors, Pharm, RN	3 years	\$75,000 full time/ \$37,500 part time
HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW)	<u>NHSC Scholarship</u>	Primary Care Physician (MD/DO), Dentists (DDS/ DMD), NP, CNM, PA	min. 2 years, max. 4 years (dependant on number of years of support)	Covers tuition, fees, educational costs, plus monthly stipend. Stipend is taxable.
HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW)	<u>Nurse Corp Loan Repayment</u>	RN, APRN	2 year min. Optional 3rd year.	60% of outstanding qualifying educational loan balance. Add'l 25% for 3rd year of service
HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW)	<u>Nurse Corp Scholarship</u>	Enrolls in a nursing degree program at an accredited school of nursing in the US (diploma, A.D.N, RN, BSN, NP)	min. 2 years, max. 4 years	Covers tuition, fees, educational costs, plus monthly stipend. Stipend is taxable.
HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW)	<u>Faculty Loan Repayment</u>	Faculty member at an approved health professions school	2 years	\$40,000 over 2 years
HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW)	<u>NHSC students to Service (S2S)</u>	MD, DO, NP, PA, CNM, DDS, DMD OR enrolled as a FT student in their last year of school in the listed degrees.	3 years full time/ 6 years half-time	\$120,000

Federal Funding
Other Funding Mechanism
State Appropriations

**Loan Repayment, Scholarship, and Apprenticeship Opportunities in North Dakota by Entity**

Organization Name	Program Eligibility Requirements	Type of Program	Disciplines Allowed	Length of Contract	Description	Credits
<a href="#">Lake Region State College</a>	<a href="#">Earn and Learn Apprenticeship Program Fact Sheet</a>	Apprenticeship in the Workplace	*Advanced CNA, CMA, Pre-Nursing , Paramedic to Nurse, Practical Nurse, Associate Degree Nurse, Speech Language Pathology Para,	2-3 years	Employer designed to fit their organization - nationally recognized by DOL	Curriculum delivered online and credit is offered for qualified certifications and experience.
<a href="#">North Dakota State College of Science</a>	ApprenticeshipND		*CNA, CMA, Paramedic, Pharmacy Tech-in-Training	2-6 year	Employer designed to fit their organization - nationally recognized by DOL	Curriculum delivered online and credit is offered for qualified certifications and experience.
<a href="#">Healthcare Career Advancement Program (HCAP)</a>	US DOL Incentive Funds and Foundation sub-grants	Apprenticeships	Numerous Healthcare Careers ( approx 60)	Grant	Program Development and Delivery	N/A
<a href="#">Cankdeska Cikana</a>	ND Tribal Apprentice Initiative	Apprenticeship in the Workplace	To Be Determined	To Be Determined	Employer designed to fit their organization - nationally recognized	Credits, delivery varies, wrap around services provided
<a href="#">ND Dept of Commerce</a>	<a href="#">Operation Intern</a>	Grant	<a href="#">Target Industry / In-Demand Occupations List</a>	1 year	1:1 match with employers wages for each eligible internship; \$4,000 per intern; up to \$20,000 per funding year	N/A
<a href="#">ND Dept of Commerce</a>	<a href="#">Non-resident Nursing Employment Recruitment Program (NNERP)</a>	Grant	RN, LPN, APRN	4 years	2:1 match with employers wage to licensed nurse (wages, bonuses, relocation costs, housing assistance); relocation and identifies primary residence in ND; signed 4 year work agreement; in state nursing graduates who have not been employed on a full time basis in the year preceding grant application	N/A

Federal Funding
Other Funding Mechanism
State Appropriations

\* Any medical occupation can be built with these institutions

2:1 match with employers wage to licensed nurse (wages, bonuses, relocation costs, housing assistance); relocation and identifies primary residence in ND; signed 4 year work agreement; in state nursing graduates who have not been employed on a full time basis in the year preceding grant application