

# Alaska's SHARP Program

## **What is the SHARP Program?**

Alaska's SHARP Program is our statewide support-for-service effort that provides partial financial support to healthcare practitioners in medical, dental and behavioral health disciplines. It is a public-private partnership working to improve the recruitment, retention, and distribution of health professionals for Alaska. SHARP offers two types of support-for-service benefit, either (a) education loan repayment, or (b) direct incentive, to practitioners in support of their work, and particular with of Alaska's priority populations.

## **What is SHARP-1?**

SHARP-1 was and remains Alaska's fundamental state-operated support-for-service program effort. It is based on the state's receipt of competitive HRSA partnership grants from the federal State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP). Alaska has now received four such grants from federal HRSA. All SHARP-1 contracts are partially HRSA-funded, with the remainder derived from assorted non-federal sources, including employers. SHARP-1 contracts provide education loan repayment only, and, are based on licensed generalist practitioners providing service in federally designated HPSA locations, mostly in outpatient primary care clinics.

- When is SHARP-1 Application Cycle: Closed until later-spring 2021.

## **What is SHARP-3?**

SHARP-3 is Alaska's upcoming, newest state-operated support-for-service program effort. SHARP-3 features (a) advanced blended funding; (b) use of tax exemption for loan repayment; (c) very broad eligibility criteria for both employers and practitioners; (d) adjustable funding proportions between employers and contributor(s); and (e) pre-authorization of registered employers; and (f) a range of possible contributors. The Alaska Legislature unanimously passed SHARP-3 into law (AS 18.29) and the Governor then signed on 8/1/19.

- When is SHARP-3 Application Cycle: Opening in January 2021, and then remain open.

## **Questions?**

If you have questions, please submit those via our web-link: [SHARP Inquiry Submission Form](#)

Robert Sewell, MA, Ph.D., Program Director

SHARP – Alaska's Healthcare Workforce Incentive Program

Division of Public Health, Alaska DHSS

Visit our website at: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/healthplanning/pages/sharp/>

