



MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION

1300 17th Street, Suite 1000
Sacramento, CA 95811
(916) 445-8696
FAX: (916) 445-4927

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 17, 2009

\$2.5 Million of Prop 63 Money Offered in the New Mental Health Loan Assumption Program

Up to \$2.5 Million of Proposition 63 (Mental Health Services Act) funds are being offered annually to mental health professionals in the new Mental Health Loan Assumption Program. The California Department of Mental Health and the Health Professions Education Foundation/Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development partnered in the development of this new loan repayment program that assists mental health professionals in paying off debt incurred while obtaining education and training in their field.

The program offers eligible registered, licensed and assistant/trainee employees of the Public Mental Health System up to \$10,000 a year for a maximum of six years to pay off educational loans. Eligible applicants consist of psychologists, marriage and family therapists, social workers, psychiatrists, and psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners that hold "hard-to-fill" or "hard-to-retain" positions as defined by their county mental health director.

The Mental Health Loan Assumption Program is being made available in addition to the Licensed Mental Health Service Provider Education Program (LMHSPEP), a loan repayment program that repays up to \$15,000 in educational loans for mental health service providers. The Mental Health Loan Assumption Program can be applied for by filling out the LMHSPEP application and checking the box on page three, indicating that the applicant is currently employed in the Public Mental Health System. The application can be found at <http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HPEF/LMHSPLRP.html> and is due March 24, 2009 for the Spring 2009 application cycle.

For assistance and questions regarding the LMHSPEP and/or the Mental Health Loan Assumption Program, potential applicants may call 1(800) 773-1669 or (916) 326-3640 to speak with a Licensed Mental Health Service Provider Education Program representative.