



How to Make the State
***Rural Health Services Loan
Repayment Program***
Work for You

Scott Ekblad, Director
Oregon Office of Rural Health

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- The state loan repayment program is called the “Rural Health Services” program
- It covers primary care physicians, nurse practitioners (NPs), physician assistants (PAs), dentists and pharmacists
- There is also a Nursing Services loan repayment program



- Both state loan repayment programs are administered by the Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC)
- OSAC receives assistance from the Oregon Office of Rural Health (ORH)



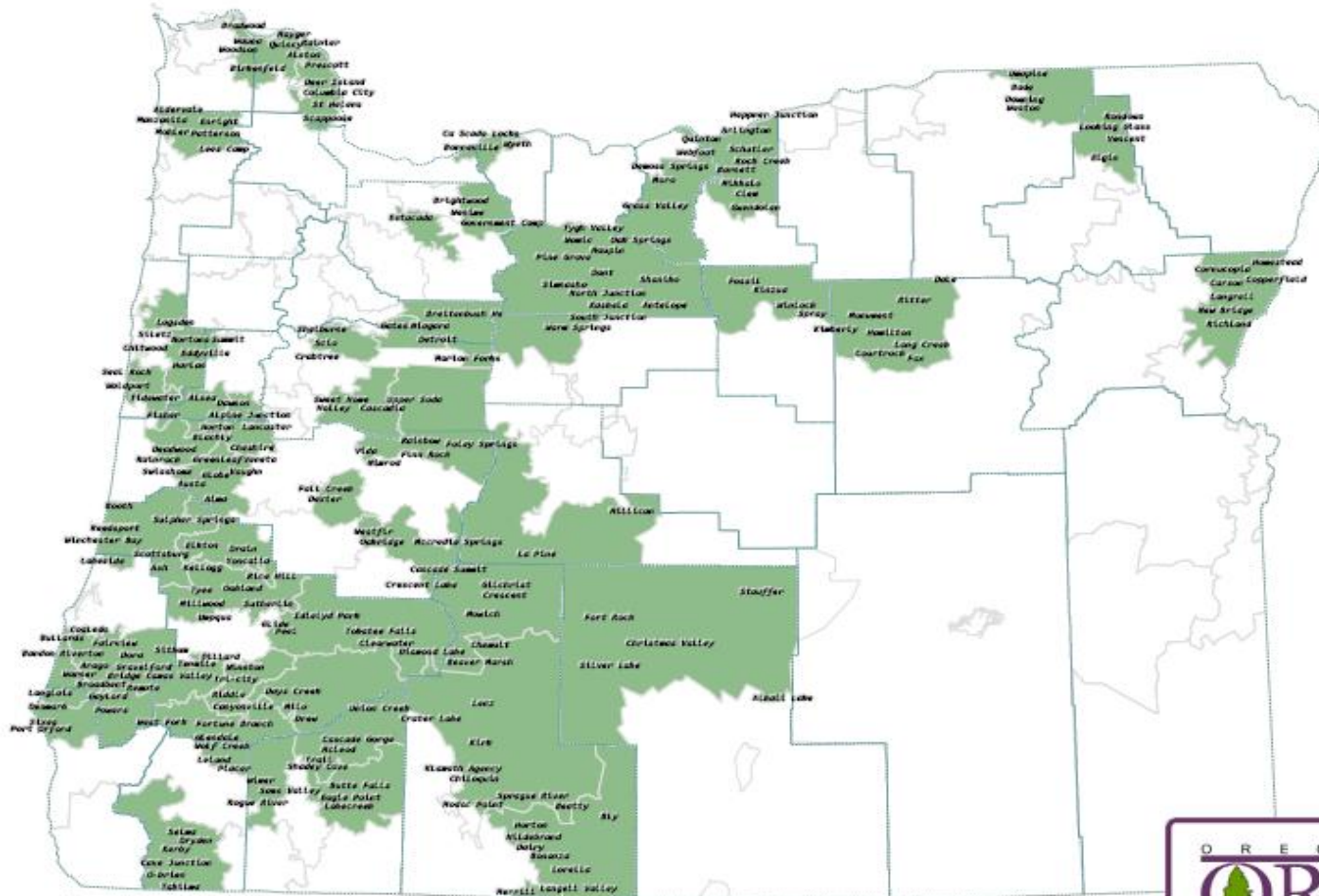
- Awards are made to the practitioner (not to the site)
- Awardees must then find a job in a qualifying practice site
- Awardees receive assistance in finding a qualifying job by ORH (Jo Johnson)



- Maximum award is \$100,000
- Service obligation:
 - Physicians, dentists and pharmacists: minimum 3 years and maximum 5 years (20% per year)
 - NPs and PAs: minimum 2 years and maximum 4 years (25% per year)

Qualifying sites for physicians, NPs and PAs:

2008-2009 LOAN REPAYMENT ELIGIBLE AREAS



9/18/2008



This map, as well as a list of qualifying communities, can be found on the ORH web site:

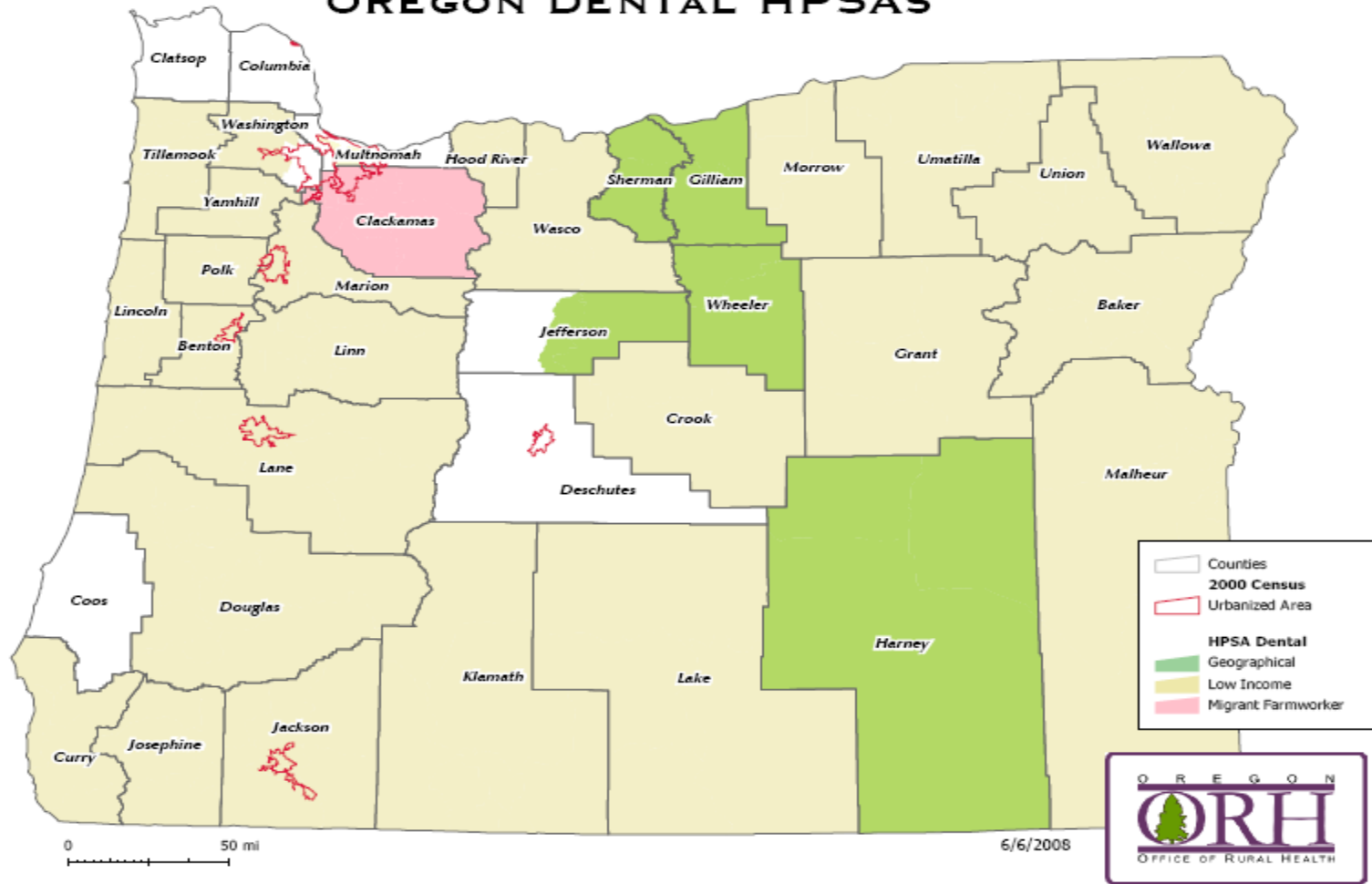
www.ohsu.edu/oregonruralhealth



- All awardees may also practice in any rural hospital or Rural Health Clinic
- Pharmacists may also practice in a federally designated HPSA community
- Pharmacy cannot be part of a group of six or more pharmacies under common ownership

Dentists must practice in a dental HPSA

OREGON DENTAL HPSAS





- First awards were made in 1994
- Since that time, 123 awards have been made
- Of that number, 69 recipients have begun or completed their obligated service; 54 declined their awards



Of those physicians, NPs and PAs who have completed their obligation:

24% completed the minimum

6% completed the maximum

6% completed the max + 2 years

60% completed the max + 3 years



2007 legislative session – SB 188

- Minimum practice obligation must be served at the beginning of the service period
- “Bonus points” are given to applicants with a contract or MOA with a qualifying site, or who have been practicing in a qualifying site for less than 1 year



ORH may raise matching funds for the program

- From the community
- From foundations
- From the state



The state?

– Good luck!

Foundations?

– We're working on it

Communities?

– You can make that happen!



If a candidate applies for loan repayment...

and

If s/he has a contract or MOA with a practice site in a qualifying area...

and

The practice or other community entity has contributed matching funds to the RHS program...



That applicant is *highly likely* to receive loan repayment and begin practice in that community.

- So few awards can be made
- Another community may be even more needy



No minimum contribution; could be as low as \$5,000/year

If a contributing community's applicant is not awarded loan repayment, those funds will not be used for another community.



- ✓ Chamber of Commerce
- ✓ Local/neighboring hospital
 - ✓ Community foundation
 - ✓ Civic groups
 - ✓ Local business
- ✓ A newly formed booster club!



Your Office of Rural Health is ready to help you successfully recruit and retain your local health care workforce

- Jo Johnson, Recruitment Services Coordinator, johnsjo@ohsu.edu
- *“Recruitment for Board Members and the Community”* tomorrow at 10:30 am



Thank you!

Scott Ekblad

503-494-4450

ekblads@ohsu.edu