



July 6, 2021

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am pleased to share that the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA's) Bureau of Health Workforce recently launched a new program to further support combating the nation's substance use disorder (SUD) crisis. The [Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Loan Repayment Program \(STAR LRP\)](#), expands the eligible pool of provider disciplines and treatment facility types, allowing substance use disorder workers to focus on helping their communities fight epidemics like the opioid crisis without the burden of having to worry about their student loan debt.

The STAR LRP provides up to \$250,000 to eligible health professionals in exchange for a 6-year, full-time service commitment at a STAR-approved facility. The STAR LRP program:

- Supports the interdisciplinary SUD treatment team;
- Complements other SUD loan repayment programs, including National Health Service Corps programs;
- Expands the eligible pool of SUD treatment provider disciplines; and
- Adds to the list of eligible SUD treatment facility types.

STAR LRP funding recipients will be able to repay their educational loans while working in a full-time SUD treatment position that involves direct patient care either in:

- A Mental Health Professional Shortage Area, or
- A county (or a municipality, if not contained within any county) where the drug overdose death rate is above the national average. This is defined as the rate per 100,000 people over the past three years, as reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This information is available on our [website](#).

We are now accepting applications for the [STAR LRP](#). The deadline to apply is July 22, 2021. Applicants can access a [recorded](#) information session. Additional information is available on the [STAR LRP](#) site. Please share this information with the health care facilities in your communities; many of them are automatically STAR-approved sites and others are [eligible for approval](#). As approved sites, their eligible SUD treatment providers can apply for this funding opportunity.

If you have questions, please contact your [HRSA regional points-of-contact](#) or email [aianhealth@hrsa.gov](mailto:aianhealth@hrsa.gov). Thank you in advance for your consideration of this program.

Sincerely,

/s/

Diana Espinosa  
Acting Administrator