

**RFA # 18137**  
**Grants Gateway # (DOH01-DRPLR6-2019)**

**New York State Department of Health**  
*Office of Primary Care and Health Systems Management*  
*Center for Health Care Policy and Resource Development*  
*Division of Workforce Transformation*

**Request for Applications**

**Doctors Across New York**  
**Physician Loan Repayment and**  
**Physician Practice Support Programs**  
**Cycle VI**

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

*Questions below were received by the deadline announced in the RFA. The NYSDOH is not responsible for any errors or misinterpretation of any questions received.*

The responses to questions included herein are the official responses by the State to questions posted by potential bidders and are hereby incorporated into the RFA # **18137**. In the event of any conflict between the RFA and these responses, the requirements or information contained in these responses will prevail.

**GRANTS GATEWAY**

**Question 1:** How do I determine if my agency is pre-qualified through the Grants Gateway?

**Answer 1:** Your organization's status can be viewed by accessing your document vault and observing the current status noted in the details panel at the top of your document vault main menu. The status can also be obtained by running the "State Prequalification Application Status Report" under the Management Screens section of your vault.

**Reminder:** Only non-profit organizations are required to be pre-qualified. To do so, an organization must have submitted a registration form, identified a grantee delegated administrator, entered required documents into the document vault, and submitted the document vault for review. Please note the documents in the vault must be submitted with sufficient time to be reviewed and approved - waiting until the last minute is not advised. If your agency vault is in review status and not yet prequalified, please send an email to the mail log for this solicitation at [DANY2018@health.ny.gov](mailto:DANY2018@health.ny.gov) in order to request expedited handling of your document vault.

**Question 2:** Can an agency apply if they are not prequalified through the Grants Gateway?

**Answer 2:** Non-profit organizations must be prequalified by the date and time applications are due. If a not for profit organization is not prequalified the application will be rejected. Individuals and governmental entities do not need to be prequalified.

**Question 3:** What does the asterisk \* mean in the Grants Gateway on-line application?

**Answer 3:** The asterisk \* alerts applicants that a response is mandatory. Applicants will not be allowed to submit their application without completing all mandatory questions.

**Question 4:** Are there character limits for Gateway fields?

**Answer 4:** Character limits are included in the Grants Gateway fields. As an applicant types their response; the number of characters allowed as a response is shown. As an applicant types a response, the number of characters (including spaces) used will be displayed up to the maximum allowed. Applicants will not be able to exceed the character limit allowed per question.

**Question 5:** I am trying to get a copy of the RFA. Can you advise me on how to get it?

**Answer 5:** The RFA is in the Grants Gateway system. You can access the Grants Gateway through the following link:

[https://grantsgateway.ny.gov/IntelliGrants\\_NYSGG/module/nysgg/goportal.aspx](https://grantsgateway.ny.gov/IntelliGrants_NYSGG/module/nysgg/goportal.aspx)

Once you are in the Grants Gateway, you can access the RFA by clicking on Browse Opportunity. Select the Opportunity from the list of RFAs.

You can also, click on “Search for Opportunities” and type in DOCTORS on the “Search for Grant Opportunity” Line. Click on the grant opportunity on the list. Once in the Opportunity, click on “View Grant Opportunity” to view the RFA. Please note that you cannot be logged in as any of your grantee roles when viewing the opportunity. Potential applicants should also go to the DANY webpage at

[https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/doctors/graduate\\_medical\\_education/doctors\\_across\\_ny/](https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/doctors/graduate_medical_education/doctors_across_ny/) for additional information to assist in completing the application.

**Question 6:** The website says I need to pre-register in Grants Gateway to apply for this grant. Do I register as the applicant or does the hospital I'll be working for need to register?

**Answer 6:** You can register as an individual or the health care organization can apply on your behalf. See RFA Section IV, (M) (1) for details on how to register.

**Question 7:** For the DANY program, it seems applicants are now required to register as an administrator of an organization and obtain a NYS SFS Vendor ID just to be able to apply for the grant if the application comes out. Is this true, or am I misunderstanding something?

**Answer 7:** Both individual physician applicants and health care facility applicants must register for a Grants Gateway account to apply for this grant opportunity. When registering as an individual physician applicant, the applicant must name themselves as the administrator of an organization and obtain a NYS SFS Vendor ID number. The customized steps for individual physician applicants on how to fill out the "Registration Form for Administrators" and the "Substitute W-9 Form" are listed in Section IV, (M) (1) of the RFA. In addition, you may contact the Grants Gateway Help Desk for more information at [grantsgateway@its.ny.gov](mailto:grantsgateway@its.ny.gov) or (518) 474-5595 (Monday thru Friday 8am to 4pm).

**Question 8A:** What are the steps to register in the Gateway?

**Question 8B:** When I try to register it seems the administrator form is designed for a business (i.e. it asks for Vendor ID, Business ID and other organization information). Is this the right form to complete to register?

**Question 8C:** Is there a way to fill out the Grants Gateway registration form as an individual rather than as an institution?

**Question 8D:** When filling out the application for the grants gateway, do we enter our employer information as the organization information?

**Question 8E:** If I can apply as an individual, do I use my personal information in the "organization information" section?

**Answer 8(A-E):** You need to submit a Grants Gateway registration form and, if you don't currently have a NYS Vendor ID, the W-9 form to the Grants reform team at the address listed on the registration form. The website where these forms can be found is: <https://grantsmanagement.ny.gov/register-your-organization>. Once on this page, click on "Get Started" then Register Your Organization", and "Forms for Download".

Steps are included in the RFA Section IV, (M) (1) on how to register both as an individual and as a health care facility. In addition, you may contact the Grants Gateway Help Desk for more information: at [grantsgateway@its.ny.gov](mailto:grantsgateway@its.ny.gov) or (518) 474-5595 (Monday thru Friday 8am to 4pm).

**Question 9A:** Will I be able to submit my information and supporting documents before March 7<sup>th</sup>? If I do this, can I simply press "submit" on March 7<sup>th</sup> if everything I need is prepared?

**Question 9B:** Is it possible to start the application prior to the first submission day on March 7<sup>th</sup> or does the application not become live until that day?

**Answer 9(A-B):** The gateway will not open prior to March 7, 2019 for any submissions. However, you can download a copy of the RFA and the Attachments now and complete all questions on paper so that when the Gateway does open, you can more quickly enter the data.

**Question 10:** Can individual physician submit their application in the Gateway without a Vendor ID Number?

**Answer 10:** Yes, you can submit with Vendor ID blank if the individual also submits the W-9 form with it. The Grants Reform Team will then initiate the process to get the individual physician a Vendor ID number.

**Question 11:** What time will the Gateway open on March 7, 2019?

**Answer 11:** The Gateway will be open for application submissions the morning of March 7, 2019.

**Question 12:** Our hospital has three physicians that we will be applying for DANY grant funds. How do you start a new application after you have finished the first application?

**Answer 12:** In this situation, if the applicant is the health care facility with multiple submissions under one Grants Gateway ID, the facility would start any additional applications the same way it started the first one. When the second and third applications are initiated, the system will alert you that you already have an application in process, just click OK and proceed. After you've started 3 applications, the system won't allow you to begin a 4<sup>th</sup>.

\* These directions apply to health care facility applicants only. For an individual physician applicant, only ONE application is accepted. If a physician submits more than one application, only the application received first will be reviewed.

### **WHO MAY APPLY**

**Question 13:** Is any physician working in a non-profit eligible for this grant?

**Answer 13:** A physician must meet the specifications listed in RFA Section II. Who May Apply and be registered in the Grants Gateway in order to be eligible to apply for this grant.

**Question 14A:** We are a FQHC located in Westchester New York. Do we qualify to apply for the DANY program?

**Question 14B:** Will Rochester General Hospital be an eligible hospital for the DANY Award?

**Answer 14(A-B):** Refer to Attachment 6 of the RFA. You must be able to determine that the location where the physician works is an underserved area using either Option A, Option B, or Option C.

**Question 15:** Is it better to apply as an individual or should I have the health care facility I work for apply on my behalf?

**Answer 15:** You can apply either way, one type of applicant does not have a clear advantage over the other when the Department makes awards. Awards are primarily made in order of the date and time of receipt of initial application until funding is exhausted for that region or provider category. See RFA Section V, (C) for award process details.

**Question 16A:** Can a Doctor of Pharmacy apply for this grant opportunity?

**Question 16B:** Can Dentists apply for this grant opportunity?

**Question 16C:** Can Midlevel's apply for this grant opportunity or is it strictly for physicians?

**Question 16D:** Can Nurse Practitioners or Physician Assistants apply for this grant opportunity?

**Question 16E:** Do therapists, RN's, Physician Assistants (PA), and Psychologists qualify for this grant opportunity?

**Question 16F:** Is a primary care physician eligible if they are an MD or DO?

**Question 16G:** It mentions that the physician would have to be a graduate of an allopathic or osteopathic medical school. Does that mean that a specialty physician (gastroenterology, endocrine, etc.) would be eligible if they were not a D.O.?

**Answer 16(A-G):** Only a Doctor of Medicine (MD) or a Doctor of Osteopathy (DO) may qualify for this opportunity.

**Question 17:** Are VA employees eligible for Doctors Across NY funding?

**Answer 17:** A physician employed by a health care facility operated by the federal government is not eligible to apply under this RFA.

**Question 18:** Does the physician have to practice full time in the underserved area or could they spend say 25 hours in the underserved area and 15 in an area that is not underserved?

**Answer 18:** The physician must be working full time (as defined in the RFA Section II. Who May Apply) with at least 100% of the hours being in an underserved area.

### **EDUCATIONAL LOANS**

**Question 19:** If I were to refinance my loans would I still be able to apply and receive the funds from DANY?

**Answer 19:** Refinanced loans are eligible if they are marketed as educational loans and must be from lending institutions subject to governmental regulation.

**Question 20:** Can I use DANY funding to repay private and federal loans?

**Answer 20:** DANY funds can be used to repay qualified educational debt, both state and federal. Alternative student loans (or private loans) specifically used for higher education purposes only are eligible if they are marketed as educational loans and must be from lending institutions subject to governmental regulation.

**Question 21:** If an applicant paid for their graduate medical loans first because they had a higher interest rate, can they still apply to DANY with their outstanding undergraduate loan amount?

**Answer 21:** Both undergraduate and graduate educational loans may be eligible to be considered for the DANY program.

**Question 22:** If an applicant has educational loans in their parents' names, do those loans qualify for DANY loan repayment?

**Answer 22:** Educational loans must be in the physician's own name.

**Question 23:** Can you put your loans in deferment status while you apply and still qualify for DANY?

**Answer 23:** A physician may have loans in deferment or forbearance status. However, applicants are not eligible if loans are in default status.

**Question 24:** I'm a family physician who is a dual Canadian and US citizen with \$70k in US federal loans and \$150k in Canadian student loans through a Canadian bank. I will be applying for a DANY loan repayment grant. Am I eligible for the full \$120k in loan repayment or must I limit my requested award to \$70k?

**Answer 24:** Eligible physician applicants may use DANY funds to repay outstanding qualified educational debt. For purposes of this RFA, "qualified educational debt" means any outstanding amounts remaining on student loans that were used by the physician to pay graduate or undergraduate tuition or related educational expenses, where such loans were made by or guaranteed by the federal or state government or made by a lending or educational institution approved under Title IV of the federal Higher Education Act. Canadian banks are not subject to scrutiny and examination by US regulators, therefore, loans from Canadian banks are not eligible for this grant opportunity.

## **USE OF FUNDS**

**Question 25A:** What is DOH's definition of "enhanced compensation"?

**Question 25B:** Please define/provide examples regarding what qualifies as "enhanced compensation" to the physician.

**Answer 25(A-B):** Enhanced compensation means additional funding over and above what would have been provided to the physician prior to a DANY award being granted. For example, if the physician salary had been set at \$X, you could give the physician a bonus (on top of the \$X salary) with funds from the grant. However, you could not use the funds to pay a portion of \$X since doing so would be considered a salary offset. Money should be used to provide added support to the physician.

**Question 26:** Would the hospital be responsible for providing the funds for physician loan repayment directly to the physician and then the physician pays the debt?



**Answer 26:** Grant fund payments are made to the individual or health care facility that holds the contract. If a hospital applied for loan repayment funds for a physician, the payment is made to the hospital with expectation that 100% of the funds be passed along to the physician named in the contract.

**Question 27:** If the hospital used DANY funds to repay outstanding educational debt what documentation would be required to ensure that funds were used to cover the educational debt?

**Answer 27:** As defined in the RFA Section IV, (H), it states that physicians accepting monies for loan repayment are expected to use the funds to pay down qualified educational debt. Statements submitted must demonstrate that all disbursed grant funds were applied in full to the loan following receipt of payment from the Department. These statements must come from the educational institution holding the loan and statements must be current within 30 days.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

**Question 28:** We have a provider who joined the practice on August 1, 2017. We looked into a Grant at the time, but applications were not being accepted. Cycle VI is the first opportunity for us to apply for him. His contract runs through 2025, so he would meet the service obligation requirement. Is he able to apply given that he had no prior opportunity to do so?

**Answer 28:** A physician who joined a practice in an underserved area on August 1, 2017, was eligible to apply for Cycle V. This physician may not be eligible to apply for the Cycle VI funding opportunity depending on the particular circumstances.

**Question 29:** Are physicians who were hired or working in an approved underserved hospital prior to June 2018 eligible to apply for this current award?

**Answer 29:** For Cycle VI, the date on which the physician's employment contract or business plan begins must be no earlier than June 13, 2018 and no later than November 1, 2019. This is defined in the RFA Section II. Who May Apply.

#### **APPLICATION LIMITS**

**Question 30:** Is there a limit on how many applications you will fund for physicians who work or will be working in the same location and for the same employer?

**Answer 30:** No more than (3) awards will be made to support a DANY service obligation to be carried out at the same health care facility. A health care facility is defined as having the same operating certificate number, or in the case of a medical practice the same Department of State



Identification Number. If more than three applications for a DANY service obligation at a health care facility are received, then only the first three applications received from eligible applicants will be reviewed. This application limit will apply regardless of whether the application is submitted by a physician or a health care facility. A physician should not be named in more than one application. This is defined in the RFA Section III, (B).

### **AWARD AMOUNTS/LIMITS**

**Question 31:** Are there awards for less than \$120,000 for individual physicians? I have just under \$100,000 left on my educational loan.

**Answer 31:** The DANY grant will award up to \$40,000 per year for three years (totaling up to \$120,000). You can request less than this amount if your loan balance is lower than \$120,000. However, you cannot request more than \$120,000.

### **ATTACHMENTS / UPLOADS**

#### ***Attachment 3 - Loan Statements for Qualified Educational Debt***

**Question 32:** Is Attachment 3 only for individual physician applicants?

**Answer 32:** Attachment 3 needs to be filled out for every applicant that is requesting funds to repay qualified educational debt. The loan statements should be dated no more than 30 days prior to submission.

#### ***Attachment 6 – Tool to Identify an Underserved Area***

**Question 33A:** I work at {XYZ} location. How do I determine if I work in an underserved area?

**Question 33B:** I'm inquiring on the status of a public hospital system. Does New York City H+H Hospitals qualify as a DANY loan forgiveness system?

**Answer 33(A-B):** Refer to Attachment 6 of the RFA. You must be able to determine that the work location is an underserved area using either Option A, Option B, or Option C.

**Question 34:** How do I figure out if the facility I am at qualifies for DANY? I checked Underserved Option A using <http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/GeoAdvisor/ShortageDesignationAdvisor.aspx>? It seems like it qualifies.

**Answer 34:** As defined in Attachment 6, Option A: To identify if a facility is located in a HPSA, MUA or MUP (or is designated as a HPSA) go to: <https://data.hrsa.gov> . Click on the “Tools” drop down menu at the top of the page. Under “Find Shortage Areas”, select “Shortage Areas by Address”. Enter the address under consideration. The resulting search should yield all HPSA’s, MUA’s and MUP’s by status, in which the address is located. Applicants are instructed to upload documents supporting your HPSA/MUA/MUP status as Attachment 8 in the Grants Gateway online application.

**Question 35:** If the hospital is not in a rural area, does this disqualify me from applying?

**Answer 35:** In Attachment 6 of the RFA, you must be able to complete either Option A, Option B or Option C to qualify for this grant. Your site may not be rural; however, it may still qualify as an underserved area if you can successfully answer “yes” to six out of the 17 questions in Option C.

**Question 36:** The hospital is in an area MUP; however, I am not a primary care/psychiatric physician. I am a specialty surgeon. Can I choose Option A or do I have to choose Option C?

**Answer 36:** In Attachment 6 of the RFA, you must choose Option C. Options A and B can only be answered by primary care or psychiatric physicians.

**Question 37:** I work in the NYC jail system as a primary care doctor. When I last looked into this program, the map did not include Rikers Island, but it seems wrong that this would be the case, as this is a very underserved population. Is this work location eligible for this grant opportunity?

**Answer 37:** For Rikers Island to be considered an underserved area, the applicant would need to complete Option C of Attachment 6, successfully answer “yes” to six out of the 17 questions, and provide supporting documentation. In addition, the applicant would have to be an individual physician because Rikers Island is not one of the four approved Health Care Facility Applicant Types.

**Question 38:** According to the instructions for questions (1-5) under Option C, applicants are to go to the Census Bureau’s American FactFinder. The data provided through this resource is 18 years old (i.e., from the 2000 census). Do applicants have the option of using the more recent 2010 census data, or the 2012-16 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, which are both also available through the American FactFinder website? Or are we all required to respond to Questions (1-5) using 2000 census data only?

**Answer 38:** Applicants may use 2010 census data; however, they should not use the American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

**Question 39:** For Attachment 6, do questions (8-12) only apply to applicants who are primary care doctors? If not, how should a specialist in private practice answer these questions? (i.e., there is no ED data for question 8, and I am unsure how to answer questions 9-10 as I would not have access to this data; For question 11, I have openings in my practice, but it's only because I'm new and most other doctors in my practice are booked out for weeks-months. For question 12, I joined the practice last year, but I am the only physician they have been able to recruit in 12 months, so I am unsure how to answer that.

**Answer 39:** Question 8, 9 and 10 are for primary care physicians only. Questions 11 and 12 relate to both primary care and specialty physicians. Applicants may want to consult with their employer for data needed to support their answer to these questions. The instructions in this section state that for questions (8-12) – you will affirm to any “yes” answers when you complete the attestation on Attachment 9 of this application.

#### ***Attachment 10 – Vendor Responsibility Attestation***

**Question 40A:** I am a physician preparing to apply to DANY for assistance with repayment of educational loans. In my understanding, Attachment 10 is not necessary if the DANY funds are to be used only for physician education loan repayment. Can you please confirm whether I can omit Attachment 10?

**Question 40B:** Attachment 10 is not for individual physician applicants, correct? Just want to be sure.

**Answer 40(A-B):** A Vendor Responsibility Questionnaire is required only from Health Care Facility Applicants applying for an award of greater than \$100,000. Since the questionnaire is not required for individual physician applicants, then the Attestation (Attachment 10) is not required by individual physician applicants.

#### **DEFAULT PROVISIONS**

**Question 41A:** What happens if a physician leaves before his/her 3-year commitment is fulfilled? Would they have to pay back the entire amount received, or would they be able to keep the funding received for the years completed? In the webinar's Power Point presentation, you say that severe consequences will result if the physician fails to complete his/her DANY service obligation.

**Question 41B:** If someone must move out of the state unexpectedly during the 3-year grant period what happens?

**Answer 41(A-B):** There are significant financial consequences in the event a physician fails to complete his/her three-year service obligation. The penalties for default are detailed in Section IV, (O) of the RFA. The default provisions differ based on the source of the funding.

**Question 42:** If the health facility receives DANY funding to help a physician repay outstanding qualified educational debt and that physician fails to complete their three-year service obligation who repays the funds to the Department?

**Answer 42:** Applicants should be aware that the penalty for default would always be assessed against the individual or organization that holds the contract. Thus, if a health care facility applied for a DANY award for one of their physicians and the physician left prematurely, the health care facility would be responsible for repayment.

### **CONTRACT MODIFICATIONS**

**Question 43:** My practice is considering re-locating to another site 10 minutes away (technically a different city with a different zip code), but papers have not been signed and nothing is set in stone yet. Should I submit my application with our current address and if the practice decides to relocate, would I notify you then? Or what would be the most appropriate way to handle this?

**Answer 43:** At the time of application, the applicant would provide information relating to their current address. If the practice relocates, the applicant would need to contact the Department to gain approval for a change in service location. This request must be submitted in writing to the Department and explain the reason for the location change (i.e. practice relocation). The new location must meet all the requirements under the RFA to be approved. The decision to permit a change of location will be solely at the discretion of the Department.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS & LOAN FORGIVENESS**

**Question 44:** How would the grant work for individuals who do Public Service Loan forgiveness? Could the grant be used to cover monthly loan payments, or does it have to be applied to loan principle?

**Answer 44:** A physician participating in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program (PSLFP) is eligible to apply for the DANY program even if their service obligation dates overlap. The Department cannot comment on the payment obligations of the PSLFP. However, the physician must apply 100% of DANY funds to his/her outstanding educational loan debt. Monthly principal and interest payments, as well as lump sums paid from DANY proceeds, will count toward satisfying this requirement.

**Question 45:** We are an employer in the process of recruiting candidates for the Doctors Across New York Cycle VI program. In order to rule out any physicians who are already fulfilling an overlapping health professionals service obligation, it would be helpful if you could provide us with a list of National Health Service Corps physicians currently active in X and Y counties.

**Answer 45:** Per the NHSC Region II staff, identifying information on NHSC awardees (or applicants) is not releasable. Therefore, it is up to the employer to ask candidates if they are NHSC awardees, and to make it clear to DANY candidates that a physician participating in DANY cannot be fulfilling a public or private obligation under any local, state or federal loan repayment program (except the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program) where the obligation period would overlap or coincide with the DANY obligation period.

### **EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS OR BUSINESS PLAN**

**Question 46:** My employment contract does not specify my start date. Can this be included in the addendum letter?

**Answer 46:** In addition to addressing all the requirements for the addendum letter, an applicant can also use this document to specify their start date.

**Question 47:** I am in the middle of getting a contract together for one of our current Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellows who will be graduating in July who we are hoping will qualify for the DANY loan repayment. Can you tell me if it is required or would be beneficial to have his contract completed and signed prior to his application being submitted for this round of funding?

**Answer 47:** At the time of application, the grantee must submit a copy of a signed employment contract for the named physician.

**Question 48:** If a physician applicant works in an underserved hospital site and this physician has an employment contract with a physician group who contracts with the hospital to have this physician work at the underserved hospital, is the physician eligible to apply for DANY if they meet all other requirements? Would the DANY application require the employment contract of the physician with the physician group and/or require a copy of the contract between the physician group and the underserved hospital?

**Answer 48:** The physician is eligible to apply for a DANY award if they have an employment contract with a health care facility requiring the physician to provide physician services for at least the entire DANY service obligation period. For these purposes, a “health care facility” means:

- A general hospital, diagnostic and treatment center (D&TC), or a nursing home licensed by the New York State Department of Health pursuant to PHL Article 28;
- A facility certified, but not operated, by the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) pursuant to Mental Hygiene Law (MHL) Article 31;
- A facility licensed, but not operated, by the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (OASAS) pursuant to MHL Article 32;
- A hospital or nursing home operated by the New York State Department of Health, meaning Helen Hayes Hospital, the New York State Veterans Home at Batavia, the New York Veterans Home at Montrose, the New York State Veterans Home at Oxford, or the New York State Veterans Home at St. Albans; or
- A medical practice that is registered with the New York State Department of State as a Professional Corporation (PC) or Professional Limited Liability Corporation (PLLC).

The DANY application requires a copy of the employment contract between the physician and his or her direct employer (in this case, the physician group). It is not required to submit a copy of the contract between the physician group and the underserved hospital.

The applicant will include data on the site where the healthcare services are provided (i.e. the underserved hospital) when completing Section V, (2), (Part 3) of the RFA and also in Attachments 2 and 6-8.

**Question 49:** I'm writing with a question about my employment hours – I'm currently negotiating a contract with the intention of taking on 32 salaried hours in patient care as well as additional hours of per diem care. I intend to do at least 12 additional hours a week - which has yet to be formally determined. In addition, I am negotiating with a community clinic serving a mostly Mandarin/Korean speaking population to take on 5-10 per diem hours per week. In total I'll have more than full time (40 hour) status, but I'm curious how I should go about documenting this for my application. If needed, I can have both facilities write Contract Addendum Letters.

I could have my salaried position indicate that I promise to do at least 3-4 additional per diem shifts per month (12 hours each); alternatively, if I am absolutely required to work full time at one institution, I may be able to renegotiate my contract so that it is fulltime. I'd prefer not to do this last option, as it would take time away from the Mandarin speaking community clinic, but ultimately, I would consider it for this application.

**Answer 49:** It is not required that full time employment hours be solely at one institution. If the applicant works at more than one institution, their cumulative contract hours must equate to a full-time schedule (as defined in Section II. Who May Apply.) The applicant would need to provide contracts and addendum letters from each employer. The hours per week must be set by the contract and cannot be variable to ensure the physician meets the minimum number of hours per week on a consistent basis. Furthermore, the applicant must be able to determine that both work locations are an underserved area using either Option A, Option B, or Option C in Attachment 6.



**Question 50:** I moved to New York and currently practice in Rochester as an emergency medicine physician. My current contract is for 1,770 hours per year, which is roughly 34 hours per week when averaged out through the year. This is considered full time for my group; would this still be acceptable to be eligible for DANY Award?

**Answer 50:** Full time employment is defined in the RFA, Section II. Who May Apply. The number of work hours are specified on a weekly basis, not using an average over time. The hours per week must be provided on a consistent basis in order to meet the specifications of the grant.

## **MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS**

**Question 51:** Will an application be viable if a healthcare facility applies without the naming a specific physician?

**Answer 51:** For the application to be complete, the applicant **must** provide the name of the physician who will be carrying out the DANY service obligation.

**Question 52:** I missed the webinar, is there a way that I can still watch the video recording?

**Answer 52:** Webinar slides and a link to the live recording, are posted on our website at: [https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/doctors/graduate\\_medical\\_education/doctors\\_across\\_n\\_y/](https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/doctors/graduate_medical_education/doctors_across_n_y/)

**Question 53:** My practice is amid transitioning from a LLC to a PLLC to help me become eligible for this grant. Does this process need to be completed by the time I apply? Or could I provide documentation noting that we are making the transition when I submit the application?

**Answer 53:** In this case, a physician must be contracted with the PLLC (or PC) between the dates of June 13, 2018 and November 1, 2019 to be eligible to apply for this grant opportunity. The transition to a PLLC must be completed no later than November 1, 2019.

**Question 54:** I'm a doctor that is working in an underserved community via a FQHC for the past 1.5 years and plan to continue working there for the foreseeable future. If I apply to this program, can I retroactively start counting my time served 1.5 years ago?

**Answer 54:** For all Cycle VI applicants, the DANY service obligation period runs from November 1, 2019 to October 31, 2022. Applicants are not able to retroactively count time previously worked towards this service obligation.



**Question 55:** I have been an attending physician at [XYZ] Hospital in Buffalo, NY since October 2015. I moved to Buffalo from NYC after finishing my residency in July 2015. DANY wasn't available in 2016 and 2017 so I applied to NHSC loan repayment in 2017. I received their award in August 2017 and it goes until August 2019. I found out in 2018 that DANY reopened loan repayment program. I couldn't apply due to my obligations with NHSC. Can I apply for DANY this year and get help with my student loan?

**Answer 55:** A physician is eligible for Cycle VI if they have not worked as a physician in any capacity in any underserved area, as defined in Attachment 6 of this RFA, prior to June 13, 2018 (these limits do not apply to time spent as a resident or fellow). Therefore, in this instance the physician is not eligible for Cycle VI.

### **QUESTIONS ASKED DURING THE WEBINAR**

**Question 56:** When is the DANY service obligation? In the RFA it says November 1st, but in the addendum letter attachment it says it starts October 1st.

**Answer 56:** The DANY service obligation period is November 1, 2019 – October 31, 2022. The error has been corrected on Attachment 5.

**Question 57:** This seems to be a “LRP” only for physicians who started working at a facility after 6/13/18 correct?

**Answer 57:** Physicians applying for this grant (PLR or PPS) cannot have worked as a physician in any capacity in any underserved area, as defined in Attachment 6 of this RFA, prior to June 13, 2018 (these limits do not apply to time spent as a resident or fellow). However, any physician that was named in any Cycle V application that was either wait listed and not given an award or disapproved, may be submitted in a new application for consideration in Cycle VI provided that the physician did not work in any underserved area between the dates of August 30, 2010 and August 30, 2015 (i.e. the eligibility dates for Cycle V).

**Question 58:** What if I have a practice in the area but need the funds to assist in hiring new provider.

**Answer 58:** Facility applicants can apply for DANY funds to assist in recruiting or retaining a physician as defined in Section III, (A) of this RFA. In all cases, 100 percent of funding provided under the award must go to the physician.

**Question 59:** Can a physician be awarded a DANY grant and a grant from the Regents loan forgiveness program?

**Answer 59:** A physician participating in DANY cannot be fulfilling a public or private obligation under any local, state or federal loan repayment program (except the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program) where the obligation period would overlap or coincide with the DANY obligation period.

**Question 60:** Does the legal business name on the W-9 form equate to the individual's name (i.e. if you are an individual physician applicant)?

**Answer 60:** If you are an individual physician applicant, when the W-9 form asks for the legal business name, provide the physician's name.

**Question 61:** What makes an applicant NOT receive the grant?

**Answer 61:** To be eligible and considered for an award an applicant must: meet all the requirements listed under this RFA; reply promptly to any questions received from the Department; and submit an initial application in a timely manner (awards are made in order of the date and time of receipt of initial application). If an applicant fails to do any of these actions they will not receive the grant. If an applicant meets all of these mandates, they are eligible to be considered for an award, but they are not guaranteed an award.

**Question 62A:** What are the number of applicants versus grants given?

**Question 62B:** How many applicants in each "group" receive the grant?

**Question 62C:** What is the percentage of approval versus application? Does everyone who meets all criteria get an award? Do you always give away all grant money?

**Answer 62(A-C):** In the past five cycles, the Department has awarded funding to all eligible applicants. However past results are not indicative of future awards. Each time the grant is offered there is a set amount of funding available for distribution. The number of awards vary with each cycle depending on the number of eligible applicants and the amount of funding requested and approved for those applicants.

The RFA specifies that one third of the funds are allocated to New York City and two thirds of the funds are allocated to the rest of the state. No less than 50% of the funds are allocated to obligations in general hospitals. No more than 5% of funds are allocated to obligations in facilities certified by OMH. Finally, no more than 5% of funds are allocated to obligations in facilities licensed by OASAS. For Cycle VI, if the number of eligible applicants exceed the

amount of funding available, the Department will create a wait list to use if grantees withdraw before entering into contract.

**Question 63:** On Attachment 6, question #17, the PQI website link is broken. Will you be providing an updated link?

**Answer 63:** The Department is working on a solution to this problem. When the issue is resolved, the answer will be posted prominently on our Department website at: [https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/doctors/graduate\\_medical\\_education/doctors\\_across\\_ny/](https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/doctors/graduate_medical_education/doctors_across_ny/)

**Question 64:** What does RFA stand for?

**Answer 64:** Request for Applications.

**Question 65:** What are the Federal and State tax obligations for this loan?

**Answer 65:** Funds to support loan repayment under the DANY Physician Loan Repayment and Physician Practice Support programs may be currently exempt from federal and state taxes. Funds used for purposes other than loan repayment in the Physician Practice Support program are currently not tax exempt. If you receive monies for loan repayment, you should not be issued a 1099 statement. Please consult your tax professional for more information about your specific tax situation.

**Question 66:** If an applicant started working on 6/14/18, on a 3-year contract, if I understand correctly, the contract must be rewritten to extend to 2022 date?

**Answer 66:** This grant does not require the contract to be rewritten. Per Attachment 5, the applicant will provide a Contract Addendum which specifies the intent to work for the full DANY service obligation period of November 1, 2019 – October 31, 2022.

**Question 67:** What if I'm working at a facility prior to June 2018, can I apply?

**Answer 67:** The date on which the physician's employment contract begins must be no earlier than June 13, 2018 and no later than November 1, 2019. In addition, the physician cannot have worked as a physician in any capacity in any underserved area, as defined in Attachment 6 of this RFA, prior to June 13, 2018 (these limits do not apply to time spent as a resident or fellow).

**Question 68:** Are there any preferences for group A, B, or C (Attachment 6)?

**Answer 68:** No all options are considered equally.

**Question 69:** Does the Physician have to be a US citizen?

**Answer 69:** The physician must be a citizen of the United States or a permanent resident alien holding an I-155 or I-551 card.

**Question 70A:** Is there a limit of applications to submit from a facility?

**Question 70B:** If a physician works in a hospital in an underserved area and is employed with a physician practice and the practice has a contract with the underserved hospital, will the 3-award rule apply to the hospital or the practice?

**Answer 70(A-B):** No more than one application will be accepted from a single physician. If a physician submits more than one application, only the application received first will be reviewed.

No more than three applications will be accepted from a health care facility with the same operating certificate number or health care facility that is a medical practice with the same Department of State Identification Number. If a health care facility or employed physician of that health care facility, in aggregate, submit more than three applications, only the first three eligible applications will be reviewed.

**Question 71:** What's the difference between "PCP" and the "LRP"?

**Answer 71:** PLR refers to Physician Loan Repayment and PPS refers to Physician Practice Support. Both programs were united under the current Public Health Law. When applying, applicants state how they wish to use the funds and the Department determines which program best suits the applicant. Refer to Section III, (A) of the RFA for more information about how funding provided in this grant may be used. PCP refers to a primary care physician.

**Question 72:** If the physician has less than \$120,000 in loans, can a hospital apply for some money for loans and some money for salary enhancement?

**Answer 72:** Any applicant type may request less than \$120,000 for eligible purposes in their grant application. In relation to health care facility applicants specifically, they may apply for funds to be used to support the cost of recruiting or retaining physicians. For example, funds can be used to provide one physician (who must be identified in the application) with:

- A sign-on, productivity or retention bonus (i.e. additional funding over and above what would have been provided to the physician prior to a DANY award being granted; funds cannot be used as a bonus offset);
- Repayment of outstanding qualified educational debt;
- Enhanced compensation (i.e. additional funding over and above what would have been provided to the physician prior to a DANY award being granted, the funds cannot not be used as a salary offset); or
- Any combination thereof, with one exception: a health care facility operated by SUNY can only use DANY funds for loan repayment of outstanding qualified educational debt. In all cases, 100 percent of funding provided under the award must go to the physician.

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