



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
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### **State Health Council Announces Latest Approval of Loan Repayment Program Recipients**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The State Health Council in conjunction with the North Dakota Department of Health announces that three dentists and one physician have been approved for loan repayment assistance through the Dentist and Physician Loan Repayment Programs.

These programs are awarded to health professionals and dentists who have agreed to work in areas of the state that do not have a sufficient number of health-care workers or dentists to meet the needs of the area. The awards are given to help pay for the educational loans the recipient has incurred.

“The Loan Repayment Program was set up by the legislature in an effort to attract students back to North Dakota after obtaining their professional degrees and training. In exchange, we can help place professionals in areas of the state that are seeing a workforce shortage,” said Marlene Kouba, chair of the State Health Council. “It is recognized that a lot of our students leave the state in order to obtain graduate college degrees, but many do not return.”

During its June meeting, the State Health Council awarded a loan repayment to three dentists who will be working in Bowman, Hazen and the Langdon/Walhalla areas. The Council also approved a loan repayment to an orthopedic surgeon who will be working in Williston.

There were numerous applications for these awards. The State Health Council approves them on the basis of consultation with stakeholders and the criteria set by the legislature. The council’s 11 members are appointed by the governor for three-year terms. Four members are appointed from the health-care provider community, five from the public sector, one from the energy industry and one from the manufacturing and processing industry.

For more information, contact Marlene Kouba, State Health Council, at 701.563.4560.

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