

HRSA

Health Resources & Services Administration

Bureau of Health Workforce

Notice of Funding Opportunity








Application due 07/08/2026

Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program (DFLRP)

Opportunity number: HRSA-26-066



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Before you begin

If you believe you are a good candidate for this funding opportunity, secure your [SAM.gov](#) and [Grants.gov](#) registrations now. If you are already registered, make sure your registrations are active and up-to-date.

SAM.gov registration (this can take several weeks)

You must have an active account with SAM.gov. This includes having a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

[See Step 2: Get Ready to Apply](#)

Grants.gov registration (this can take several days)

You must have an active Grants.gov registration. Doing so requires a Login.gov registration as well.

[See Step 2: Get Ready to Apply](#)

Apply by the application due date

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on 07/08/2026.



To help you find what you need, this NOFO uses internal links. In Adobe Reader, you can go back to where you were by pressing Alt + Left Arrow (Windows) or Command + Left Arrow (Mac) on your keyboard.

All activities proposed in your application and budget narrative must align with applicable law, including but not limited to statutes, executive orders, federal regulations and applicable judicial holdings. Accordingly, discretionary awards shall not be used to fund, promote, encourage, subsidize, or facilitate; racial preferences or other forms of racial discrimination by the recipient, including activities where race or intentional proxies for race will be used as a selection criterion for employment or program participation; denial by the recipient of the sex binary in humans, or the belief that sex is a chosen or mutable characteristic; illegal immigration; or any other initiatives that compromise public safety. If an application does not align, the application will not receive funding to the extent permitted by law and applicable court orders.



Step 1:

Review the Opportunity

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Basic information

Health Resources and Services Administration

Bureau of Health Workforce

Increasing the dental faculty workforce through loan repayment.

Summary

The purpose of the Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program is to increase the number of dental and dental hygiene faculty in the workforce. The program helps attract and retain full-time faculty through awards to entities to plan, develop and operate a loan repayment program.

This program has three objectives:

- To reduce educational debt for dentists and dental hygienists in exchange for full-time employment as faculty.
- To encourage long-term employment as dental and dental hygiene faculty.
- To promote faculty development and advancement through mentoring and other institution-supported activities.

Funding details

Application Types: Competing continuation, new

Expected total available funding in FY26: \$800,000

Expected number and type of awards: 8 grants

Funding range per award: Up to \$100,000

We plan to fund awards in five budget periods for a period of performance from 09/01/2026 to 08/31/2031.

The program and awards depend on the appropriation of funds and are subject to change based on the availability and amount of appropriations.



Have questions?

Go to [Contacts and Support](#).

Key facts

Opportunity name:

Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program (DFLRP)

Opportunity number:

HRSA-26-066

Announcement version:

Initial

Federal assistance listing:

93.059

Key dates

NOFO issue date:

06/05/2026

Informational webinar:

See [Join the webinar](#)

Application deadline:

07/08/2026

Expected award date:

08/01/2026

Expected start date:

09/01/2026

See [other submissions](#) for other time frames that may apply to this NOFO.

Eligibility

You can apply if you are a:

- Program of general, pediatric, or public health dentistry in a dental or dental hygiene school.
- Residency or advanced education program in the practice of general, pediatric, or public health dentistry.

You must submit accreditation documentation in [Attachment 1](#).

Types of eligible organizations

These types of domestic organizations may apply if they otherwise meet the eligibility criteria.

“Domestic” means the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

- Public and State controlled institutions of higher education.
- Native American tribal governments (federally recognized).
- Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments).
- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education.
- Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education.
- Private institutions of higher education.
- Others (see text field entitled “Additional Information on Eligibility” for clarification).

Additional information on eligibility

You can apply if you are: A Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accredited program of general, pediatric, or public health dentistry in a public or private, nonprofit dental or dental hygiene school; or a CODA accredited residency or advanced education program in general, pediatric, or public health dentistry.

Individuals are not eligible applicants under this NOFO.

Other eligibility criteria

If you received an award under either of these previous program announcements, you are not eligible to apply because you are still within your project period:

- 2022 Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program (HRSA-22-046)
- 2023 Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program (HRSA-23-091)

Trainee eligibility

Participants must also meet all of these requirements:

- Participants must be either a general dentist, dental hygienist, or specialist in pediatric dentistry or dental public health.
- Participants must agree to work full-time as faculty members in general dentistry, pediatric dentistry, dental public health, or dental hygiene.
- Participants must be employed in a domestic organization.
- Participants cannot receive financial support from another federal program with a service commitment that would overlap with this program's commitment.
 - This includes scholarship and loan repayment programs through the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), Indian Health Service, HRSA's Faculty Loan Repayment Program, and Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Programs.
 - The Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program is not considered a service obligation.
- The grant project director (PD) and members of the selection committee are not eligible to participate.
- Faculty who previously participated in BHW's Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program may still participate but cannot:
 - Exceed five total years of participation in loan repayments.
 - Deviate from the statutorily prescribed repayment percentages.
 - Receive more than a total of 100% repayment.

Qualifying and non-qualifying loans

A participant will receive loan repayment funds to apply toward the principal and interest of eligible outstanding student loans. Eligible loans include government (federal, state, or local) and commercial (private) loans obtained for undergraduate or graduate education to cover tuition, reasonable educational expenses, and reasonable living expenses. For purposes of this NOFO, a residency loan is defined as a loan incurred for primary care dentistry training (general, pediatric, or public health dentistry). All qualifying educational loans must have been obtained prior to the date the participant signs the loan repayment service contract.

1. **Consolidated/refinanced loans** may be considered for repayment in the following circumstances:
 - a. A consolidated/refinanced loan must be from a government (federal, state, or local) or commercial lender and must include only qualifying educational loans of the applicant.
 - b. If an otherwise eligible educational loan is consolidated/refinanced with ineligible (non-qualifying) debt of the applicant, no portion of the consolidated/refinanced loan will be eligible for loan repayment.
 - c. For loans to remain eligible, applicants/participants must keep their eligible educational loans apart from all other debts.
 - d. Eligible educational loans consolidated with loans owed by any other person, such as a spouse or child, are ineligible for repayment.
2. **Non-qualifying educational loans**
 - a. Loans for which the associated documentation does not identify the loan was solely applicable to the undergraduate or graduate education of the applicants.
 - b. Loans not obtained from a government entity or private commercial student lending institution. Most loans made by private foundations to individuals are not eligible for repayment.
 - c. Loans that have been repaid in full.
 - d. Primary Care Loans.
 - e. Parent PLUS Loans (made to parents).
 - f. Personal lines of credit.
 - g. Loans subject to cancellation.
 - h. Credit card debt.

Completeness and responsive criteria

We will review your application to make sure it meets these basic requirements to move forward in the competition.

We will not consider an application that:

- Is from an organization that does not meet all [eligibility criteria](#).
- Requests funding above the award ceiling shown in the [funding range](#).
- Is submitted after the [deadline](#).
- Is not complete.

Application limits

You may not submit more than one application. If you submit more than one application, we will only accept the last on-time submission.

Cost sharing

This program has no cost-sharing requirement. If you choose to share in the costs of the project, we will not consider it during merit review. Recipients agree that once committed, cost sharing amounts are enforceable and subject to reporting and auditing requirements under 2 CFR 200.

Maintenance of effort

Federal funds must supplement, not replace, existing non-federal funds supporting the proposed activities. If awarded, you must maintain a level of non-federal expenditures that is at least equal to the amount spent in the fiscal year prior to receiving the award, in accordance with section 797(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. § 295n-2(b)).

We will enforce these statutory maintenance-of-effort requirements through all available means. You are required to submit documentation demonstrating compliance in Attachment 5.

Post-award requirements

Before you apply, make sure you understand the requirements that come with an award.

See [Step 6: Learn What Happens After Award](#) for information on regulations that apply, reporting, and more.

Program description

Purpose

The purpose of this program is to increase the number of dental and dental hygiene faculty in the workforce by assisting training programs to attract and retain full-time faculty through loan repayment.

Background

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of dentists is projected to grow by five percent from 2023 to 2033, driven by increased demand for dental services.^[1] The National Center for Health Workforce Analysis (NCHWA) projects that shortages of dentists and dental hygienists will persist through 2037, with estimated shortages of 8,100 full-time equivalent (FTE) dentists and 29,740 FTE dental hygienists by 2037.^[2]

There is also a need for dental faculty at the institution level; however, dental schools continue to face challenges recruiting and retaining faculty to teach these needed dental professionals. The American Dental Education Association (ADEA) reports an increase of total open faculty positions from 383 in Academic Year (AY) 2018-19 to 645 vacancies in AY 2022-23.

Average educational debt at the completion of dental school has also continued to increase from around \$273,000 in 2019 to \$298,000 in 2024. This debt prevents many new clinicians from pursuing academic teaching. In fact, the percentage of graduates intending to enter teaching decreased to 0.3% in AY 2023-24.^[3]

The Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program helps to directly address these shortages.

- It increases the number of full-time faculty recruited and retained at awarded dental schools, dental hygiene schools, and dental residency programs.
- It provides significant and much-needed student loan relief over a five-year period. This allows clinicians to enter academics earlier in their careers and thus train higher numbers of students and residents.

From AYs 2016 through 2022, a total of 148 Dental Faculty Loan Repayment participants provided a combined 424 years of service as full-time dental faculty. During that same six-year time frame, the program provided over \$12 million in loan repayment. This relieved an average of 43% of student loan debt for its participants and helped address a key barrier to dental faculty careers. According to NCHWA, without the Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program, dental faculty vacancies could have grown by 113% during

AY 2016-2021. Instead, they only grew by 78%. The program's faculty reduced national dental faculty vacancy rates from 6.3% to 5.2% in AY 2018-2019.^[4]

Program goal and objectives

The goal of this program is to increase the number of dental and dental hygiene faculty in the workforce by assisting training programs to attract and retain full-time faculty through loan repayment.

This program has three objectives:

- To reduce educational debt for dentists and dental hygienists in exchange for full-time employment as faculty.
- To encourage long-term employment as dental and dental hygiene faculty.
- To promote faculty development and advancement through mentoring and other institution-supported activities.

Program requirements and expectations

Award recipients are required to participate in federally designed evaluations to assess program effectiveness and efficiency upon request.

If you receive an award, you must:

- Develop a new or maintain an existing loan repayment program for faculty employed by the grant recipient institution.
- Promote faculty development and advancement through mentoring and other institution-supported activities.

Loan repayment program requirements

- You must create a selection committee to select participants for the loan repayment program. The committee should prioritize the selection of participants who are engaged in:
 - Faculty development activities that indicate long-term interest in education careers. These activities include mentoring, publishing, and training in clinical skills and leadership development.
 - Interprofessional teaching, such as case-based courses across health professions disciplines.
 - Community-based teaching, such as supervising students and residents in rotations to community-based organizations.
 - Activities that provide care to and meet the oral health needs of rural and medically vulnerable populations.

- The committee must select participants before the end of the first budget period of the award, August 31, 2027. If you fail to select participants in the first year, we may take administrative action, up to and including termination of the grant.
- The loan repayment program must pay an amount equal to the following percentages of each participant's student loan balance. The balance includes the principal and interest owed at the start of the loan repayment service contract:
 - 10% after year one of service.
 - 15% after year two.
 - 20% after year three.
 - 25% after year four.
 - 30% after year five.

For example, if a participant signed their service contract on October 1, 2026, they would be eligible to receive a payment equal to 10% of their total qualifying loan balance at the time of signing on October 1, 2027, after one full year of teaching.

- You may obligate loan repayments at the start of a participant's year of service, but you must only pay participants upon completion of each year of service. You cannot prorate loan repayments if a participant leaves or reduces to part-time teaching.
- If you pay a participant directly, you must verify that the participant applies the loan repayments to their qualifying educational loan and continuously monitor their loan balance after each annual payment is made.
- You must develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to guide your program administration.
- Loan repayments are taxable income. You must report them to the Internal Revenue Service. Participants are responsible for paying the federal, state, and local tax liabilities associated with these loan repayments.
 - To help participants, you may withhold applicable taxes using your existing payroll or payment systems. However, you cannot consider these loan repayments as additional salary to calculate faculty fringe benefits.
- You must track participants after program completion for up to one year.
- Consider use of methods such as Multiple Chronic Conditions (MCC) e-Care Plan, artificial intelligence and assistive technology, and mobile health technologies to provide telehealth and in-person care delivery.

Statutory authority

42 U.S.C. § 293k-2 (Section 748 of the Public Health Service Act)

Award information

Funding policies and limitations

Changes in HHS regulations

As of October 1, 2025, HHS has adopted [2 CFR Part 200](#), with some modifications included in 2 CFR Part 300. These regulations replace those in 45 CFR Part 75.

Policies

- To make an award, funding must be available and allocated for this program and purpose, at which point we will move forward with the review and award process.
- Have clear policies and good financial practices to avoid spending HRSA funds on unallowable activities. Like other award rules, we may audit your policies, procedures, and controls.
- Support beyond the first budget year will depend on:
 - Appropriation of funds.
 - Your satisfactory progress in meeting the project's objectives.
 - A decision that continued funding is in the government's best interest.
- If we receive more funding for this program, we may:
 - Fund more applicants from the rank order list.
 - Extend the period of performance.
 - Award supplemental funding.

General limitations

- For guidance on some types of costs we do not allow or restrict, see
 - Project Budget Information in Section 3.1.4 of the [R&R Application Guide \[PDF\]](#). You can also see [2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E](#) - General Provisions for Selected Items of Cost.
 - [Allowable and Unallowable Costs and Activities](#), in the HHS Grants Policy Statement.
- All costs must be [reasonable](#), necessary, [allocable](#) to the award, and adequately documented ([2 CFR 200.403](#)).
- You cannot earn profit from the federal award. See [2 CFR 200.400\(g\)](#).
- Current appropriations law includes a salary limit of \$228,000 as of January 2026 that applies to this program. You may pay salaries at a rate higher than the Executive Level II if the amount beyond the HHS SRL is paid with non-HHS funds.

For help calculating salaries under this limit, read more at “salary rate limitation” in the [R&R Application Guide \[PDF\]](#).

Program-specific statutory or regulatory limitations

HRSA estimates a minimum of approximately \$800,000 to be available to fund eight grant recipients. You may apply for a ceiling amount (including both direct and indirect) up to the following amounts in each budget year:

- Year 1: \$100,000
- Year 2: \$150,000
- Year 3: \$200,000
- Year 4: \$250,000
- Year 5: \$300,000

Staffing, administrative, and other basic operating costs (such as personnel costs and supplies) paid with grant funds are limited to \$10,000 for year 1 and \$5,000 per year for years 2 through 5. Examples of operating costs include:

- Activities associated with the creation of the selection committee.
- Faculty application development.
- Development of the loan repayment contract.
- Final processing of selected faculty into the program.

You must pay for any faculty contracts that offer loan repayment in excess of the HRSA annual budget using your own in-kind funds.

You must pay costs associated with creating and managing the loan repayment program out of these capped amounts or cover them with your own funds. This is separate from indirect costs capped at 8% of modified total direct costs allowable for training awards, per 2 CFR 300.414.

HRSA may reduce funding or take other enforcement actions beyond the first year if you cannot achieve the project goals, including recruiting faculty into the program.

You cannot use grant funds:

- To buy real property, or for construction.
- To pay for equipment costs.
- For foreign travel or training.
- For faculty development activities, including any proposed in the application.

You must have policies, procedures, and financial controls in place. You must comply with legal requirements and restrictions, including those that limit specific uses of funding.

See [Manage Your Grant](#) for other information on costs and financial management.

Indirect costs

Indirect costs are costs you charge across more than one project that cannot be easily separated by project. For example, this could include utilities for a building that supports multiple projects.

As of October 1, 2025, [2 CFR 300.414](#) indirect costs for training awards cannot exceed 8% of modified total direct costs. To calculate the (MTDC), we exclude from the direct cost base:

- Direct cost amounts for equipment, tuition, fees, and participant support costs
- Subawards and subcontracts exceeding \$50,000.

For modified total direct costs, we use the definition at [2 CFR 200.1](#).

Consider your indirect costs when developing your [budget](#).

Program income

Program income is money earned as a result of your award-supported project activities. You must use any program income you generate from awarded funds for approved project-related activities. Find more about program income at [2 CFR 200.307](#).



Step 2:

Get Ready to Apply

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Get registered

SAM.gov

You must have an active account with SAM.gov to apply. SAM.gov registration can take several weeks. Begin that process today.

To register:

- Go to [SAM.gov Entity Registration](#) and select Get Started. From the same page, you can also select the Entity Registration Checklist for the information you will need to register.
- You must agree to the [financial assistance general certifications and representations](#) specifically. Those for contracts are different.

When you register, you will also receive your required Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

Once you register:

- You will have to maintain your registration throughout the life of any award.
- If your organization has multiple UEIs, use the one associated with your physical location.

If you need additional information about user roles in SAM.gov, see “Get registered: SAM.gov user roles” in the [R&R Application Guide \[PDF\]](#).

Grants.gov

You must also have an active account with [Grants.gov](#). You can see step-by-step instructions at the Grants.gov [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#) and [How to Apply for Grants](#).

Find the application package

The application package has all the forms you need to apply. You can find it online. Go to [Grants Search at Grants.gov](#) and search for opportunity number HRSA-26-066.

After you select the opportunity, we recommend that you click the Subscribe button to get updates.

Application writing help

Visit [HHS Tips for Preparing Grant Proposals](#).

Visit [HRSA's How to Prepare Your Application](#) page for more guidance.

See [Apply for a Grant](#) for other help and resources.

Join the webinar

For more information about this opportunity, visit the [Bureau of Health Workforce's open opportunities](#) website. The webinar will be recorded.

FAQs will be posted on TA webpage after the webinar.



Have questions? Go to [Contacts and Support](#).



Step 3:

Build Your Application

In this step

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Application checklist

There are two types of forms in Grants.gov:

- Some forms allow you to upload components of your application to the form. These include components like your project narrative, budget and budget narrative, and attachments, as applicable.
- Other forms are more typical, fill-in-the-blank forms.

Make sure that you have everything you need to apply.

Narratives

See the instructions for the [project narrative](#) and the [budget and budget narrative](#).

Form	Included in page limit**?
<input type="checkbox"/> Research & Related Other Project Information	Yes*
<input type="checkbox"/> Research & Related Budget	Yes*

Attachments

See [instructions for attachments](#).

Form	Included in page limit**?
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Accreditation documentation	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Project organizational chart	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Agreements with other entities (if applicable)	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Staffing plan and job description	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Maintenance of effort documentation	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 6. Funding preference or priority documentation (if applicable)	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 7. Tables and charts	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 8. Letters of support (if applicable)	No
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.–15. Other relevant documents	Yes

Other required forms

See [form instructions](#).

Form	Included in page limit**?
<input type="checkbox"/> SF-424 (R&R)	No
<input type="checkbox"/> Project Abstract Summary form	No
<input type="checkbox"/> R&R Subaward Budget Attachment(s)	Yes*
<input type="checkbox"/> Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile form	No
<input type="checkbox"/> Project/Performance Site Location(s)	No
<input type="checkbox"/> Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)	No
<input type="checkbox"/> Standardized Work Plan (SWP) form	No

* Unless otherwise indicated, only what you attach to a form counts toward the page limit. The form itself does not count.

Application contents and format

This section includes guidance on each component found in the application checklist.

Application page limit: 60

Submit your information in English and express whole number budget figures using U.S. dollars.

Required format

Required format for project summary, project narrative, budget narrative, and attachments.

Font: A readable font like Arial, Courier, CG Times, or Times New Roman.

File format: We only accept the following document formats:

- .PDF - Adobe Portable Document Format
- .DOC/.DOCX - Microsoft Word
- .RTF - Rich Text Format
- .TXT - Text
- .WPD - Word Perfect Document
- .XLS/.XLSX - Microsoft Excel
- .VSD - Microsoft Visio

Size: 12-point font

Footnotes, charts, graphics, and budget tables may be 10-point or higher.

Ink color: Black

Spacing: Single-spaced, including all text and tables.

Alignment: Left

Headings: Bold all headings and align left.

Size: 8.5 x 11 (Make sure the print area is set and allows printing to 8.5 x 11.)

Margins: 1-inch on all sides.

Footer: On each page as the footer, include your organization's name and page numbers. If a competing continuation or competing supplement, also include your 10-digit award number.

Page numbering:

- Do not number the standard OMB-approved forms.
- Number each attachment page sequentially (that is, 1, 2, 3).
- Reset the numbering for each attachment.
- Treat each attachment as a separate section.

File names: You can find guidance for naming our files in the [R&R Application Guide \[PDF\]](#).

Project narrative

Use the Research & Related Other Project Information form to attach the project narrative. In the project narrative, you will describe all aspects of your project.

Use the section headers and the order as listed.

Introduction

See merit review criterion 1: [Need](#)

- Briefly describe the purpose of your project.

Need

See merit review criterion 1: [Need](#)

- Identify gaps in the current oral health workforce and explain how the proposed project will address those gaps. Specifically, describe the following:
 - The sites in which the full-time dental faculty participants will teach and provide oral health care.
 - The training that happens in these sites, including disciplines, levels of trainees, and descriptions of training rotations.
 - The interprofessional, integrated oral health, and primary care health care delivery models implemented in these sites.
 - The communities that are served by these sites.
- Describe your organization's current need for dental faculty and any challenges your organization has faced in recruiting, retaining and developing dental faculty. Use and cite demographic data whenever possible.

Approach

See merit review criterion 2: [Response](#)

Tell us:

- How you will address your stated needs and meet all [program requirements and expectations](#) described in this NOFO, including:
 - Your proposed plan to create or maintain a dental faculty loan repayment program. Include written rules that govern your program, or state who will develop your program rules.
 - Your recruitment plan for hiring new or retaining employed dental faculty in your institution.
 - How you will establish and implement a selection committee to select participants. Include how you will select participants that are engaged in faculty development activities that indicate long-term interest in education careers. Include likely committee members and a description of the review and scoring process.
- How you will determine and document:
 - Participant eligibility.
 - Student loan balance at the start of the service contract.
 - Completion of each year of full-time faculty service.
 - Payments.
- How you will develop a contract that includes full-time service requirements and annual payments.
 - Indicate how the program will calculate and pay the required amount upon completion of each year of service, based on each participant's student loan balance at the start of the service contract.
 - Specify the logistics you will use to make the loan repayments while staying within your annual budget. For example, you may pay participants directly or pay the participants' educational loan lenders.
- How you will support faculty engaged in interprofessional teaching, such as case-based courses across health professions disciplines.
- How you will support community-based teaching, such as supervising students and residents in rotations to community-based organizations.
- How you will promote faculty development and advancement through mentoring and other institution-supported activities.
- How you will prepare participants to teach oral health professionals how to care for the oral health needs of rural and medically vulnerable populations.

- The obstacles and challenges you may face during project design and implementation.
- Strategies for ongoing staff training, teamwork, and information sharing.

High-level work plan

See merit review criteria 2: [Response](#) and 4: [Impact](#)

- Describe how you will achieve each of the objectives during the period of performance.
- Provide a timeline that includes each activity and identifies who is responsible for each.
- As needed, identify how key stakeholders will help plan, design, and carry out all activities.
- Include the extent to which these stakeholders address the needs of the populations and communities served.
- Describe your plans to recruit and retain participants throughout the project. Be sure to include any faculty development activities currently planned or that you will start during the project.
- You will also include a more detailed work plan in your Standardized Work Plan (SWP). See [other required forms](#).

Resolving challenges

See merit review criterion 2: [Response](#)

- Discuss challenges that you are likely to encounter in designing and carrying out the activities in the work plan. Explain approaches that you'll use to resolve them.
- Be sure to address any anticipated challenges in the fiscal administration of a loan repayment program at your institution. Include steps you can take to resolve these challenges. Examples of challenges include:
 - Incorrect payment amounts.
 - Earlier payments due to improper tracking of anniversary service date.
- Discuss the steps you will take if a participant must leave the program before completing a full year of service.

Performance management

See merit review criteria 3: [Performance management](#) and 5: [Resources and capabilities](#)

- **Outcomes.** Describe the expected outcomes (desired results) of the funded activities.
- **Performance Measurement and Reporting.** See [the Performance Measures Handbook](#) for performance measure requirements and examples of reporting forms.
 - Describe how you will collect and report required performance data accurately and on time.
 - Describe how you will manage and securely store data.
 - Include how you will report and collect National Provider Identifier (NPI) numbers for participants. Participants must apply for and report an NPI.
- Describe your process to track participants after program completion for up to one year.
- Describe how you will monitor and analyze performance data to support continuous quality improvement.
- **Program Evaluation.** Describe your plans to evaluate the project. The evaluation should examine processes and progress towards goals, program objectives, and expected outcomes. Evaluations must follow the HHS Evaluation Policy, as well as the standards and best practices described in [OMB Memorandum M-20-12](#).
Include:
 - The evaluation questions, methods, data to be collected, and timeline for implementation. The evaluation plan must include an assessment of the impact of participants on the patient services and training provided.
 - The evaluation barriers and your plan to address them.
 - The evaluation capacity of your organization and staff. Include experience, skills, and knowledge.
 - How you will disseminate results, how you will assess whether your dissemination plan is effective, whether the results are national in scope, and the extent of potential replication.

See the [reporting](#) section for more information.

Sustainability

See merit review criterion 4: [Impact](#)

We expect you to sustain key project elements that improve practices and outcomes for the faculty participating in your program. Propose a plan for project sustainability after the period of federal funding ends.

- Describe the actions you will take to ensure the retention of participants at your institution, including:
 - Any existing retention efforts and resources at your institution.
 - Key elements of your retention plan, such as dedicated full-time equivalent (FTE) slots or faculty development activities. Include training methods or strategies that have been effective in improving practices.
 - Efforts to obtain future sources of funding for retention activities.
- Discuss challenges that you will likely encounter in sustaining the program. Include how you will resolve these challenges.

Organizational information

See merit review criterion 5: [Resources and capabilities](#)

- Briefly describe your mission, structure, and the scope of your current activities. Explain how they support your ability to carry out the program requirements. Include a project organizational chart in [Attachment 2](#).
- Discuss how you will follow the approved plan, account for federal funds, and record all costs to avoid audit findings.
- Describe how you will assess the unique needs of the faculty you support. Faculty development activities are not funded through this loan repayment program. However, you should include a description of additional faculty development or other enhancement activities supported by outside sources.
- Describe the organizations you will partner with to fulfill the program goals and meet the training objectives. Include key agreements in [Attachment 3](#) and letters of support in [Attachment 8](#).
- Include a staffing plan and job descriptions for key faculty and staff in [Attachment 4](#).
- You will also include biographical sketches for key staff using the Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile form. See [other required forms](#).

Budget and budget narrative

See merit review criterion 6: [Support requested](#)

Your **budget** should follow the instructions in budget narrative: detailed instructions section of the [R&R Application Guide \[PDF\]](#) and any specific instructions listed in this section.

HHS now uses the definitions for [equipment](#) and [supply](#) in [2 CFR 200.1](#). The new definitions change the threshold for equipment to the lesser of the recipient's capitalization level or \$10,000 and the threshold for supplies to below that amount.

The total project or program costs are all allowable (direct and indirect) costs used for the HRSA activity or project. This includes costs charged to the award and nonfederal funds used to satisfy any matching or cost sharing requirement (which may include maintenance of effort, if applicable).

Reminder: Indirect costs for training awards cannot exceed 8% of modified total direct costs.

The **budget narrative** supports the information you provide in the Research and Related Budget Form. The merit review committee reviews both. Your budget should show a well-organized plan.

The budget narrative includes an itemized breakdown and a clear justification of the requested costs. As you develop your budget, consider:

- If the costs are reasonable, allowable and allocable, and consistent with your project's purpose and activities.
- Restrictions on spending funds. See [Funding policies and limitations](#).

To create your budget justification narrative, see budget narrative instructions in the [R&R Application Guide \[PDF\]](#).

Participant and trainee support costs

The Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program requires the following:

- Faculty Loan Repayment (Other) line item: Only list total estimated faculty loan repayment costs under this budget line item.
 - Ensure your application specifies proposed individual faculty loan repayment costs annually in a loan repayment chart as [Attachment 7](#).
- See the Attachments section and [Appendix A](#) for additional instructions on how to complete the loan repayment chart.

Attachments

See section [3.2 of the HRSA R&R Application Guide \[PDF\]](#).

Place your PDF attachments in order in the Attachments form. See [application checklist](#) to determine if they count toward the page limit.

Unless the instructions below require it, do not submit organizational brochures or other promotional materials (for example, slides, films, clips).

Attachment 1: Accreditation documentation

Required.

You must provide documentation of your Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accreditation, or provisional accreditation. The documentation should:

- Include the dates of the initial accreditation.
- Indicate if the accreditation is provisional.
- Include the date of the next expected CODA accreditation review.

Please do not provide only the web link to the accreditation body's website. HRSA will not open any links included in the application.

Attachment 2: Project organizational chart

Required.

Provide a one-page diagram that shows the full project's organizational structure. Include all aspects, not just the applicant organization.

Attachment 3: Agreements with other entities

If applicable.

Submit documentation that describes the working relationships between your organization and any partners referenced in the proposal. Documents confirming current or pending contracts or agreements must clearly outline the roles of subrecipients and contractors, as well as their expected deliverables.

You do not need to provide full copies of lengthy agreements, provided that the excerpts included adequately describe the working relationship between your organization and the partner. Ensure that all letters of agreement are signed and dated.

Attachment 4: Staffing plan and job descriptions

Required.

See Section 3.1.7 of the [R&R Application Guide \[PDF\]](#).

Include a staffing plan that identifies the positions supporting the project and provides key details for each role. Justify your staffing approach by describing the required education, experience, qualifications, as well as the rationale for the level of effort requested for each position. In addition, describe your organization's timekeeping system and how it ensures compliance with federal requirements for documenting personnel costs.

For all key personnel, attach a one-page job description outlining the position's role, responsibilities, and qualifications.

Attachment 5: Maintenance of effort documentation

Required.

You will include non-federal funds that support proposed activities. These include cash, in-kind, and other contributions. Do not include any federal funds. See [Maintenance of Effort](#) requirement.

Use the sample format below to provide the Maintenance of Effort documentation.

FY before application: Actual nonfederal expenditures	First FY of award: Estimated nonfederal expenditures
\$	\$

Attachment 6: Funding priority documentation

If applicable.

Provide documents that prove you qualify for funding preference and/or your chosen funding priorities. Include the address of your facility and utilize the [Health Workforce Shortage Areas website](#) to determine if your facility is located within a dental HPSA or MUA/P.

See [Selection process](#) for information about how these apply.

Attachment 7: Tables and charts

Required.

Provide a chart that describes the breakdown by budget year of your planned faculty loan repayments as described in the [Budget and budget narrative](#) section.

The chart should account for the faculty's estimated debt upon entry into the program and show the required increases in annual loan repayment amounts, as outlined in the [Program requirements](#). You must ensure estimated faculty loan repayment costs do not exceed the total budget available in each year of the project. See sample chart in [Appendix A](#).

Attachment 8: Letters of support

If applicable.

You may provide letters of support from other organizations or departments involved in the proposed project.

Letters of support can also be from individuals within your institution who hold the authority to speak for the organization or department, such as a CEO or chair.

Recommenders should indicate an understanding of and commitment to the project, and what their contribution to the project will be. You should reference letters of support in the applicable section of the project narrative.

Recommenders must sign and date their letter of support for the document to be considered.

Attachment 9–15: Other relevant documents

You may use attachments 9 through 15 to add other relevant documents.

Other required forms

You will need to complete some other forms. Upload the following forms at Grants.gov. You can find them in the NOFO [application package](#) or review them and any available instructions at [Grants.gov Forms](#).

Forms	Submission Requirement
SF-424 R&R (Application for Federal Assistance) form	With application.
Project Abstract Summary form	With application.
Research & Related Other Project Information	With application.
Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)	With application.
R&R Subaward Budget Attachment(s) form	With application.
Project/Performance Site Location(s)	With application.
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)	If applicable, with the application or before award.
Standardizes Work Plan (SWP) form	With application.

Form instructions

In addition to the requirements for the [budget narrative](#), [project narrative](#), and [attachments](#), following are instructions for each of the other forms required by this NOFO. See the [application checklist](#) for a full list of all application requirements.

SF-424 (R&R) application for federal assistance

This is your application for federal assistance. Follow the instructions in section 3.1.1 of the [R&R Application Guide \[PDF\]](#). This is the application for Federal Assistance.

Important: public information

When filling out your SF-424 form, pay attention to Box 15: Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project.

We share what you put there with [USA Spending](#). This is where the public goes to learn how the federal government spends their money.

Instead of just a title, insert a short description of your project and what it will do.

[See instructions and examples.](#)

Project abstract summary form

Complete the information in the Project Abstract Summary form. Include a short description of your proposed project. Include the needs you plan to address, the proposed activities, and the specific, measurable objectives that the project will accomplish. When applicable, identify if you are requesting a funding preference and/or funding priority. For more information, see section 3.1.2 of the [R&R Application Guide \[PDF\]](#).

Research & related other project information

In addition to the requirements in the [project narrative](#) section, you will provide some additional information in this form.

- Complete sections 1 through 6.
- Upload a blank document in item 7: Project Summary/Abstract to avoid a cross-form error with your Project Abstract Summary Form.
- Upload your project narrative in item 8.
- Leave items 9, 10, and 11 blank.

Research & related senior/key person profile (expanded)

Include biographical sketches for people who will hold the key positions.

- Try to use no more than two pages per person.
- Do not include non-public [personally identifiable information](#).
- If you include someone you have not hired yet, include a letter of commitment from that person with their biographical sketch.
- Upload sketches in the Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile form.
- Include:
 - Name and title
 - Education and training – for each entry include Institution and location, degree and date earned, if any, and field of study.
 - Section A, Personal Statement. Briefly describe why the individual's experience and qualifications make them well-suited for their role.
 - Section B, Positions and Honors. List in chronological order previous and current positions. List any honors. Include present membership on any federal government public advisory committee.
 - Section C, Other Support. This section is optional. List selected ongoing and completed projects during the last three years. Begin with any projects relevant to the proposed project. Briefly indicate the overall goals of the projects and responsibilities of the person.

R&R Subaward Budget Attachment(s) form

You will also complete the R&R Subaward Budget Attachment form for each subaward you propose. These include subcontracts. You will do this using the R&R Subaward Budget Attachment(s) form.

Use the following instructions:

- Once you open this form, you can select “Click here to extract the R&R Subaward Budget Attachment”.
- Save the file and then open it to complete it.
- Once you save the file you can upload it within the form.
- Repeat the steps for each subaward.

If you have more than 10 subawards, you may upload the extra budget forms in the Research and Related Other Project Information form in Block 12 “Other Attachments”.

Project/performance site location(s)

Follow the form instructions in [Grants.gov Forms](#). Use the “Next Site” option rather than “Additional Location(s)” to add more than one project/performance site location.

Disclosure of lobbying activities (SF-LLL) form

Follow the form instructions in [Grants.gov Forms](#).

Standardized work plan form

Does not count toward the page limit

In addition to the requirements in [project narrative, high-level work plan](#), follow these instructions:

- Submit your workplan through the SWP Form. Provide a detailed work plan that demonstrates your experience or ability implementing a project of the proposed scope.
- Follow the instructions in the SWP Form.
- Select your organizational priorities that best fit the objective.
- As specified in the NOFO, [program goal and objectives](#) must be copied as stated.



Step 4:

Understand Review, Selection, and Award

In this step

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Application review

Initial Review

We will review your application to make sure that it meets [eligibility](#) criteria, including the [completeness and responsiveness criteria](#). If your application does not meet these criteria, we will not fund it. If this is the case, we will notify your authorized official.

We will not review any pages that exceed the page limit.

Merit review

A panel reviews all applications that pass the initial review. You can find more about the merit review process in the [R&R Application Guide \[PDF\]](#). The members use these criteria.

Criterion	Total number of points = 100
1. Need	10 points
2. Response	30 points
3. Performance management	10 points
4. Impact	15 points
5. Resources and capabilities	15 points
6. Support requested	20 points

Criterion 1: Need (10 points)

See the project narrative [Introduction](#) and [Need](#) sections.

The panel will review your application for how well it:

- Describes the problem and its contributing factors. Describe your organization's current need for dental and dental hygiene faculty and challenges you have faced in recruiting and retaining full-time faculty.
- Uses and cites demographic data to demonstrate need for the faculty loan repayment program.
- Describes barriers faced by oral health care professionals interested in teaching as faculty.
- Describes the sites where participants will teach and provide oral health care.

- Describes any interprofessional, integrated oral health and primary care delivery models used in your training sites.
- Describes the training that occurs at these sites, including disciplines, level of trainees, and descriptions of any training rotations in the community.
- Describes the communities served by your training sites.

Criterion 2: Response (30 points)

See the project narrative [Approach](#), [High-level work plan](#), and [Resolving challenge](#) sections.

Approach (15 points)

The panel will review your application for how well it:

- Proposes a project that responds to the program's [purpose](#).
- Describes how you will create or maintain a dental faculty loan repayment program, including written rules that govern the program.
- Describes how you will establish and implement a selection committee.
- Describes the proposed review and scoring criteria for faculty applicants.
- Describes how you will select participants, including the approaches you will use to select participants who are engaged in faculty development activities that indicate long-term interest in education careers, interprofessional teaching, community-based teaching, and activities that provide care to, and meet the oral health needs of, rural and medically vulnerable populations.
- Describes how you will determine and document:
 - Participant eligibility.
 - Student loan balances at the initiation of the faculty's service contract.
 - Completion of each year of full-time faculty service.
 - Payments.
- Explains how you will develop a contract that includes full-time service requirements and annual payments, including how the program will calculate and pay the required amount upon completion of each year of service and the logistics you will use to make the required annual loan payments to either the participants directly or to their student loan lenders.
- Clearly states how you will ensure loan payments are treated as taxable income.
- Details how you will ensure all participants will be limited to five total years of participation, and no more than 100% loan repayment.

- Describes opportunities for the promotion of faculty development and advancement achieved through mentoring and other institution-supported activities over the course of the grant program.

High-level work plan (10 points)

The panel will review your application for how well it:

- Describes activities that will address the problem and meet project objectives.
- Provides a timeline that includes each activity and identifies who is responsible for each.
- Identifies key stakeholders and details the extent to which they will address the needs of the populations and communities served.
- Includes a plan for hiring new or retaining employed dental faculty at the institution.
- Indicates a plan to ensure that, upon completion by an individual of each year of service, the program will pay an amount equal to 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 percent, respectively, of the individual's student loan balance as outlined in the [Program requirements and expectations](#) section.
- Explains strategies to be employed to provide professional mentorship and faculty development opportunities to loan repayment recipients to encourage professional growth and prepare them to teach oral health professionals how to care for the oral health needs of rural and/or medically vulnerable populations.

Resolution of Challenges (5 points)

The panel will review your application for how well it:

- Describes the obstacles and challenges you may face during project design and implementation. This includes the quality of your plan to deal with them.
- Addresses any anticipated challenges in the fiscal administration of a loan repayment program at your institution and steps you can take to mitigate such challenges.
- Discusses the steps you will take if a participant must leave the program before they complete a full teaching year required to receive loan repayment.

Criterion 3: Performance Management (10 points)

See the project narrative [Performance reporting and evaluation](#) section.

The panel will review your application for:

Evaluation (2 points)

- Overall approach and methodology to evaluate project results against goals and objectives and gain insights into program outcomes and impact.

Performance measurement (8 points)

- A clear plan to collect and manage data to ensure accurate and timely performance.
- A process to collect, manage, store, and report NPI numbers for eligible participants.
- The ability to track faculty participants after program completion for up to one year.
- The expected outcomes and desired results of the funded dental faculty loan repayment program.
- A proposal to assess any reductions in dental and dental hygiene faculty educational debt.
- An assessment of the impact of faculty loan repayment recipients on the patient services and training provided.
- The evaluation capacity of your organization and staff, including experience, skills, and knowledge.
- A plan to track faculty's long-term employment retention in dental and dental hygiene education settings.
- A description of how you will monitor and analyze performance data to support continuous quality improvement.
- Anticipated evaluation barriers and a plan to address them.

Criterion 4: Impact (15 points)

See the project narrative [High-level work plan](#) and [Sustainability](#) sections.

The panel will review your application for:

- How effective the proposed project is likely to be.
- How strong of a public health impact it is likely to have.
- How likely the project results could be national in scope.
- How easy it will be to replicate project activities.

- How well it proposes a solid plan for program sustainability, including:
 - How likely the program will continue beyond the federal funding.
 - Actions you will take to ensure the retention of participants.
 - Any existing retention efforts, resources, and faculty development activities available at your institution.
 - A clear description of any elements of a retention plan, such as dedicated full-time equivalent (FTE) slots or faculty positions with promotion potential.
 - A clear description of efforts to obtain future sources of funding for ongoing loan repayment and faculty retention and development activities.
 - A timeline for becoming self-sufficient.
 - Likely challenges you may encounter in sustaining the program and logical approaches to resolving the challenges.

Criterion 5: Resources and capabilities (15 points)

See the project narrative [Organizational information](#) and [Performance reporting and evaluation](#) sections.

The panel will review your application to determine the extent to which:

- Project staff have the training or experience to carry out the project.
- Project staff have the training and experience to carry out performance reporting and program evaluations.
- You have the capabilities to fulfill the needs of the proposed project.
- You describe your mission, structure, and scope of current activities, and how they support your ability to carry out the program requirements.
- You clearly describe your organization's capacity to effectively manage the programmatic, fiscal, and administrative demands of running your proposed loan repayment program within your institution.
- You discuss how you will follow the approved plan, account for federal funds, and record all costs to avoid audit findings.
- You include a clear description of faculty development or other enhancement activities supported by your institution or other outside sources from which your loan repayment faculty will benefit.
- You describe how you will assess the individual development needs of the faculty you enroll in the loan repayment program.
- You describe the organizations you will partner with to fulfill the program goals and objectives and include any key agreements and letters of support as Attachment 3 or 8.

- You have quality facilities available to carry out the project.
- You have the capacity to gather, manage, and use data.

Criterion 6: Support requested (20 points)

See the [Budget and budget narrative](#) section.

The panel will review your application to determine:

- How reasonable the proposed budget is for each year of the period of performance.
- How reasonable are costs and how well they align with the project's scope.
- How sufficient the time is for key staff to spend on the project to achieve project objectives.

We do not consider **voluntary** cost sharing during merit review.

Risk review

Before making an award, we review your award history to assess risk. We need to ensure all prior awards were managed well and demonstrated sound business practices. We:

- Review any applicable past performance.
- Review audit reports and findings.
- Analyze the budget.
- Assess your management systems.
- Ensure you continue to be eligible.
- Make sure you comply with any public policies.

We may ask you to submit additional information.

As part of this review, we use SAM.gov Entity Information [Responsibility/Qualification](#) to check your history for all awards likely to be more than \$250,000 over the period of performance. You can comment on your organization's information in SAM.gov. We'll consider your comments before making a decision about your level of risk.

If we find a significant risk, we may choose not to fund your application or to place specific conditions on the award.

For more details, see [2 CFR 200.206](#).

Selection process

When making funding decisions, we consider:

- The amount of available funds.
- Assessed risk.
- [Alignment with HRSA Mission and Strategic Priorities](#)
- Merit review results. These are key in making decisions but are not the only factor.

We may:

- Consider the larger portfolio of agency-funded projects, including project type and geographic distribution.
- Consider the funding priorities, funding preferences, and special considerations listed.
- Fund out of rank order.
- Fund applications in whole or in part.
- Fund applications at a lower amount than requested.
- Decide not to allow a recipient to subaward if they may not be able to monitor and manage subrecipients properly.
- Choose to fund no applications under this NOFO.

Additionally, we may not make an award if you are delinquent on two or more Single Audit Reports.

You cannot appeal a denial, or the amount of funds awarded.

Funding priorities

This program includes one or more funding priority, based on Section 748(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. §293k-2(c)). A funding priority adds points to merit review scores if we determine that the application meets the listed criteria. Qualifying for a funding priority does not guarantee that your application will be successful.

You may apply for more than one priority, but you cannot receive more than nine priority points. HRSA staff will review, approve, or deny priority points during the application review process.

You will provide documentation of your eligibility for the funding priorities in [Attachment 6](#). You will also state in your [Project Abstract Summary Form](#) which funding priorities you are applying for, if any.

Priority 1: Collaborative project (1 Point)

We will give you a funding priority if:

Your program is a collaborative project between 1) a department of general, pediatric, or public health dentistry, and 2) a department of primary care medicine. You must include a letter of agreement from the collaborating department of primary care medicine in [Attachment 3](#).

Priority 2: Discipline retention (1 Point)

We will give you a funding priority if:

The number of graduates from your dental or dental hygiene school or program completers from your residency training program who enter and remain in the practice of general, pediatric, or public health dentistry meet one of the following targets.

Record of training

To qualify under this method, you must confirm that 90% or more of your graduates or program completers who started practicing primary care dentistry in the last two academic years (AY 2023-24 and AY 2024-25) are still practicing primary care dentistry. You must provide a letter from the dean at your institution that affirms this. The letter must show your actual percentage of retention.

You can use the following formula to calculate this percentage:

$$\text{Percentage in primary care practice} = \left(\frac{N_{2024} + N_{2025}}{D_{2024} + D_{2025}} \right) \times 100$$

N2024 = Number of graduates or program completers in primary care practice settings in AY 2023-24.

N2025 = Number of graduates or program completers in primary care practice settings in AY 2024-25.

D2024 = Total number of graduates or program completers in AY 2023-24.

D2025 = Total number of graduates or program completers in AY 2024-25.

Significant improvement

To qualify under this method, you must demonstrate that your dental or dental hygiene school has achieved an increase of 20% or more in the percentage of graduates in primary care practice from AY 2022-23 to AY 2024-25. Applying residency training programs must demonstrate an increase of 50% or more in the percentage of program completers in primary care practice from AY 2022-23 to AY 2024-25. You must provide a

letter from your dean that affirms this. The letter must show your actual percentage improvement.

To calculate the rate of discipline retention, use these variables and formula:

N2025 = Number of graduates or program completers in primary care practice in AY 2024-25.

D2025 = Total number of graduates or program completers in AY 2024-25.

N2023 = Number of graduates or program completers in primary care practice in AY 2022-23.

D2023 = Total number of graduates or program completers in AY 2022-23.

$$\text{Percentage point increase} = \left(\frac{N2025}{D2025} - \frac{N2023}{D2023} \right) \times 100$$

Note: New programs that did not have graduates or program completers in the above academic years are not eligible for this priority due to the absence of baseline data.

Priority 3: Student background (1 Point)

We will give you a funding priority if:

25% or more of your total current trainee population is from a rural background, a disadvantaged background, or from underrepresented minorities. You must also affirm that you didn't count any trainee more than once when making the calculation. To calculate the greatest percentage, use these variables and formula:

Numerator = Number of currently enrolled trainees who are underrepresented minorities or from rural or disadvantaged backgrounds.

Denominator = Total number of currently enrolled trainees.

$$\text{Percentage} = \frac{\text{Numerator}}{\text{Denominator}} \times 100$$

Priority 4: Formal relationships (1 Point)

We will give you a funding priority if:

You have established a formal relationship with a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), a rural health center, or an accredited teaching facility that conducts training of students, residents, fellows, or faculty at the center or facility. You must include a letter of agreement from the FQHC, the rural health clinic, or accredited teaching facility in

[Attachment 3](#). To apply for this priority, you must provide sufficient documentation of the actual working relationship.

Priority 5: Vulnerable populations (1 Point)

We will give you a funding priority if:

Your organization conducts teaching programs targeting vulnerable populations such as older adults, homeless individuals, victims of abuse or trauma, individuals with mental health or substance-related disorders, individuals with disabilities, and individuals with HIV/AIDS, and in the risk-based clinical disease management of all populations.

Priority 6: Cultural competency and oral health literacy (1 Point)

We will give you a funding priority if:

Your dental or dental hygiene program includes educational activities in cultural competency and oral health literacy.

Priority 7: Placement in practice settings (1 Point)

We will give you a funding priority if:

The graduates from your dental or dental hygiene school or program completers from your general, pediatric, or public health dentistry residency practice in settings serving medically vulnerable areas or with health disparity populations at a high or significantly increased rate. If you request this priority, you must include a list of those individuals' NPI numbers and the addresses where they work so we can verify their place of employment. There are two ways to qualify:

High rate

To qualify under this method, the percentage of your graduates or program completers that practice in settings serving medically vulnerable areas or health disparity populations over the past two academic years (AY 2023-24 & AY 2024-25) must be 40% or greater. You must provide a letter from your dean or program director that affirms this and includes the percentage.

To calculate the rate of placement in practice settings, use these variables and formula:

N2024 = Number of program completers who practiced at a setting serving medically vulnerable areas or health disparity populations in AY 2023-24.

N2025 = Number of program completers who practiced at a setting serving medically vulnerable areas or health disparity populations in AY 2024-25.

D2024 = Total number of program completers in AY 2023-24.

D2025 = Total number of program completers in AY 2024-25.

$$\text{High rate} = \frac{N2024 + N2025}{D2024 + D2025} \times 100$$

Significant increase

To qualify under this method, the percentage of your graduates or program completers that practice in settings serving medically vulnerable areas or health disparity populations from AY2022-23 to AY2024-25 must have increased by 20 percentage points or more. You must provide a letter from your dean or program director that affirms this and includes the actual percentage.

To calculate the difference in percentages, use these variables and formula:

N2025 = Number of program completers who practiced at a setting serving medically vulnerable areas or health disparity populations in AY 2024-25.

D2025 = Total number of program completers in AY 2024-25.

N2023 = Number of program completers who practiced at a setting serving medically vulnerable areas or health disparity populations in AY 2022-23.

D2023 = Total number of program completers in AY 2022-23.

$$\text{Percentage point increase} = \left(\frac{N2025}{D2025} - \frac{N2023}{D2023} \right) \times 100$$

Note: New programs that did not have graduates or program completers in the above academic years are not eligible for this priority due to the absence of baseline data.

Priority 8: Special populations (1 Point)

We will give you a funding priority if:

You propose to establish either of these:

- An oral health care education center for special populations.
- A didactic and clinical education training program for dentists, dental health professionals, and dental hygienists who plan to teach oral health care for people with developmental disabilities, cognitive impairment, complex medical problems, significant physical limitations, and vulnerable elderly.

Priority 9: Shortage Areas (2 Points)

We will give you a funding priority if:

- The applicant is located within a Dental [Health Professional Shortage Area \(HPSA\)](#) or [Medically Underserved Area or Population \(MUA/P\)](#).

Include the address of your dental clinic in [Attachment 6](#) used to determine your dental HPSA or MUA/P status.

Funding preferences

This program includes funding preferences, based on Section 748(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. §293k-2(c)). If we determine that your application meets these criteria, we will move it up in our ranking of fundable applications. Qualifying for a funding preference does not guarantee that you will receive funding.

Pediatric dentistry faculty preference. If HRSA staff determines that your application meets these criteria, we will move it up in our ranking of fundable applications.

Qualifications to meet the funding preferences:

- **Qualification 1:** Pediatric dentistry faculty preference

You can request funding preference if:

- You propose loan repayment to pediatric dentistry faculty supervising dental students or residents and providing clinical services in dental clinics located in dental schools, hospitals, and community-based affiliated sites.

To qualify for the funding preference, you must provide:

- A concise narrative confirming:
 - Your ability to sign the proposed pediatric dentistry faculty into the loan repayment program before August 31, 2027, and retain this faculty during the entire project period.
 - The amount of the approximate total qualified educational debt owed by that faculty. This debt amount must be reflected in the annual loan repayment chart.
 - A letter signed by your dean or program director affirming that the qualified pediatric dentistry faculty has or will have a full-time appointment at the applying organization by the application due date.

Award notices

We issue Notices of Award (NOA) on or around the start date listed in the NOFO. See “how we make awards” in the [R&R Application Guide \[PDF\]](#) for more information.

By drawing down funds, you accept the terms and conditions of the award.



Step 5: Submit Your Application

In this step

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Application submission and deadlines

Your organization's authorized official must certify your application. See the section on [finding the application package](#) to make sure you have everything you need.

Application deadline

You must submit your application by 07/08/2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET.

Grants.gov creates a date and time record when it receives applications.

If you need a deadline extension, see "requesting a waiver" in the [R&R Application Guide \[PDF\]](#).

Submission method

Grants.gov

You must submit your application through Grants.gov. You may do so using Grants.gov Workspace. This is the preferred method. For alternative online methods, see [Applicant System-to-System](#).

For instructions on how to submit in Grants.gov, see the [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#). Make sure that your application passes the Grants.gov validation checks, or we may not get it. Do not encrypt, zip, or password protect any files.

If Grants.gov rejects your application due to errors, you must correct and resubmit before the deadline.

If you want to know more about correcting errors or tracking your application, you can refer to the [R&R Application Guide \[PDF\]](#).

Have questions? Go to [Contacts and Support](#).



Have questions? Go to [Contacts and Support](#).

Other submissions

Intergovernmental review

This NOFO is not subject to [Executive Order 12372](#), Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs. No action is needed.



Step 6: Learn What Happens After Award

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Post-award requirements and administration

Administrative and national policy requirements

There are important rules you need to know if you get an award. You must follow:

- All terms and conditions in the Notice of Award.
- The regulations at [2 CFR 200](#), Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, modifications at [2 CFR 300](#), or any superseding regulations.
- The [HHS Grants Policy Statement](#). This document is incorporated by reference in your Notice of Award. If there are any exceptions to the GPS, they'll be listed in your Notice of Award.
- All federal statutes and regulations relevant to federal financial assistance, including those highlighted in [HHS Grants Policy Statement](#), Appendix D: HHS Administrative and National Policy Requirements.
- See the requirements for performance management in [2 CFR 200.301](#).
- All anti-discrimination laws: By applying for or accepting federal funds from HHS, you certify compliance with all federal antidiscrimination laws and these requirements. Complying with those laws is a material condition of receiving federal funding streams. You are responsible for ensuring subrecipients, contractors, and partners also comply.

Required alignment with HRSA mission and strategic priorities

Recipients must use funds awarded under this NOFO to implement program goals or agency priorities in accordance with the HRSA [vision, mission, core values, and strategic priorities](#), where authorized by law.

In administering programs under this and all funding announcements, HRSA prioritizes:

- Evidence-based healthcare: Funding activities supported by rigorous scientific evidence, particularly for programs serving children and adolescents, where HRSA is committed to approaches that reflect the highest standards of clinical care and child safety.
- Biological and physiological integrity: Recognizing the relevance of biological sex to health outcomes, HRSA encourages applicants to account

for sex-based health factors in program design, data collection, and service delivery where scientifically appropriate.

HRSA will implement these priorities consistent with applicable laws, regulations, court orders, and all required administrative procedures. Applicants are encouraged to describe how their proposed programs align with these priorities in their project narratives.

Funded activities must advance HRSA's vision of protecting and improving the health and well-being of Americans. The particular focus is on those who are medically vulnerable or live in areas with limited access to care. HRSA's duty is to serve wisely, effectively, and with measurable results that justify every taxpayer dollar invested.

Consistent with HRSA's priorities, in carrying out any project funded under this NOFO, the recipient must adhere to the following principles, where they are consistent with the authority and scope of the award and its activities:

- **Gold standard science:** Design and deliver services using gold standard evidence-based and evidence-informed approaches, establish measurable performance goals, and use data to monitor outcomes and drive continuous improvement.
- **Program integrity and fiscal stewardship:** Recipients must:
 - Administer funds in accordance with all applicable federal statutes, regulations, and award conditions.
 - Maintain strong internal controls.
 - Prevent waste, fraud, and abuse.
- **Partnership and local leadership:** Coordinate with state, tribal, territorial, local, and community partners, as appropriate, and tailor services to meet community-identified needs while respecting local decision-making authority.

Recipients must manage any project awarded under this NOFO in accordance with the following objectives in programs authorized to advance them:

Make America Healthy Again (MAHA): HRSA prioritizes the health and well-being of all Americans by supporting common-sense, evidence-based health policies that promote:

- Personal responsibility.
- Strong families and communities.
- Proper nutrition.
- The prevention and management of chronic disease, while ensuring access to high-quality, affordable physical and mental health care.

Child protections, biological integrity, parental rights, and lawful use of funds: HRSA prioritizes safeguarding children's health and safety by:

- Not supporting medical interventions for gender dysphoria in minors that lack a strong evidence base.
- Applying sex-based definitions grounded in biological reality.
- Supporting parental authority, transparency, and choice in education, including school-based health centers that respect parental rights and religious upbringing.
- Ensuring taxpayer funds are not used to promote or support elective abortions, consistent with federal law and the Hyde Amendment.

Advancing evidence-based, merit-driven, and ethically grounded health care: HRSA will prioritize unbiased, transparent science; merit-based workforce opportunities; and programs that demonstrate measurable outcomes, while deprioritizing organizations with:

- Conflicts of interest.
- “Harm reduction” models.
- Housing-first approaches.
- Activities that facilitate illegal drug use or unsafe medical practices.

Promoting public safety, lawful use of federal funds, and national health priorities:

To the extent permitted by law, HRSA will align funding with administration priorities by:

- Supporting ending the HIV epidemic through authorized, evidence-based care.
- Reserving benefits for eligible individuals.
- Discouraging illegal immigration and unsafe community practices.
- Prioritizing recipients that enforce public safety, address serious mental illness and substance use through treatment and recovery, and reduce homelessness responsibly.

To the extent allowable by law, under awards, HRSA will give priority to states and municipalities for programs to:

- Enforce prohibitions on open illicit drug use.
- Enforce prohibitions on urban camping and loitering.
- Enforce prohibitions on urban squatting.
- Enforce, and where necessary, adopt, standards that address individuals who are a danger to themselves or others and suffer from serious mental illness or substance use disorder, or who are living on the streets and cannot care for themselves. The approach must be through assisted outpatient treatment or by moving them into treatment centers or other appropriate facilities through civil commitment or other available means, to the maximum extent permitted by law.

HRSA will implement these priorities consistent with applicable laws, regulations, court orders, and any required procedures.

The recipient must demonstrate ongoing compliance with these priorities, in all programs that are authorized to advance them, through program design, implementation, reporting, and evaluation.

Failure to meaningfully align funded activities with the applicable requirements may result in corrective action, additional reporting requirements, or other actions consistent with federal grant regulations at [2 CFR. part 200](#) and the terms and conditions of this award. This includes termination under [CFR. 200.340\(a\)\(4\)](#) if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities.

Cybersecurity

If awarded, you must develop plans and procedures, modeled after the NIST Cybersecurity framework, to protect HHS systems and data. See [details here](#).

Successful applicants under this NOFO agree that:

Where award funding involves:	Recipients and subrecipients are required to:
<p>Implementing, acquiring, or upgrading health IT for activities funded by any entity</p> <p>Implementing, acquiring, or upgrading health IT for activities by eligible clinicians in ambulatory settings, or hospitals, eligible under Sections 4101, 4102, and 4201 of the HITECH Act</p>	<p>Use health IT that meets standards and implementation specifications adopted in 45 CFR 170, Subpart B, if such standards and implementation specifications can support the activity.</p> <p>Visit to 45 CFR 170, Subpart B learn more.</p> <p>Use health IT certified under the ONC Health IT Certification Program if certified technology can support the activity.</p>

If standards and implementation specifications adopted in [45 CFR part 170, Subpart B](#) cannot support the activity, recipients and subrecipients are encouraged to use health IT that meets non-proprietary standards and implementation specifications developed by consensus-based standards development organizations. This may include standards identified in the [ONC Interoperability Standards Advisory](#).

Reporting

If you are successful, you will have to follow the reporting requirements in Section 4 of the [R&R Application Guide \[PDF\]](#). The NOA will provide specific details.

- Progress report(s) each quarter.
- Annual performance reports.
 - All HRSA recipients must collect and report performance data so that HRSA can meet its obligations under the Government Performance and Results Modernization Act of 2010 (GPRMA) and the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018.
 - The Annual Performance Report (APR) collects data on all academic year activities from July 1 to June 30. It is due to HRSA on July 31 each year. If award activity extends beyond June 30 in the final year of the grant, HRSA may require a Final Performance Report (FPR) to collect the remaining performance data. The FPR is due within 120 calendar days after the period of performance ends.
 - You can find examples of APRs at [Report on Your Grant](#) on the HRSA website. Performance measures and reporting forms may change each academic year. HRSA will provide additional information in the Notice of Award (NOA).



Contacts and Support

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Agency contacts

Program and eligibility

Jesse Ungard

Project Officer

Attn: Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program (DFLRP)

Bureau of Health Workforce

Health Resources and Services Administration

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Financial and budget

John Gazdik

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Division of Grants Management Operations

Office of Financial Assistance and Acquisition Management (OFAAM)

Health Resources and Services Administration

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301-443-6962

HRSA Contact Center

Open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET, except for federal holidays.

Call: 877-464-4772 / 877-Go4-HRSA

TTY: 877-897-9910

[Electronic Handbooks Contact Center](#)

Help with systems

Grants.gov

Grants.gov provides 24/7 support. You can call 800-518-4726, search the [Grants.gov Knowledge Base](#), or [email Grants.gov for support](#). Hold on to your ticket number.

SAM.gov

If you need help, you can call 866-606-8220 or live chat with the [Federal Service Desk](#).

Helpful websites

- [Application Guide](#)
- [HRSA Grants page](#)
- [HHS Tips for Preparing Grant Proposals](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Applicant Training](#)
- [Bureau of Health Workforce Glossary](#)
- [HRSA R&R Application Guide \[PDF\]](#)

Appendices

Appendix A: Sample of annual loan repayment chart

Sample 1. New faculty have been accepted into the program in Year 1 of the grant and will be paid 10% of their loan balance in the first year.

Loan Repayment	Initial Loan Indebtedness	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Faculty 1						
Loan Amount - Remaining	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$270,000	\$225,000	\$165,000	\$90,000
Repayment %		10%	15%	20%	25%	30%
Grant Funding		\$30,000	\$45,000	\$60,000	\$75,000	\$90,000
Faculty 2						
Loan Amount - Remaining	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$450,000	\$375,000	\$275,000	\$150,000
Repayment %		10%	15%	20%	25%	30%
Grant Funding		\$50,000	\$75,000	\$100,000	\$125,000	\$150,000
Total Grant Funded Loan Repayment	\$800,000	\$80,000	\$120,000	\$160,000	\$200,000	\$240,000

Sample 2. Faculty member #1 has previously received loan repayment from the grant recipient under a previous DFLRP award (has already been paid 10, 15, 20, and 25 percent), but will be considered a new participant for purposes of this award. In this example, faculty member #1 is eligible for the last payment of 30 percent.

Loan Repayment	Initial Loan Indebtedness	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
Faculty 1							
Loan Amount - Remaining	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$210,000	\$210,000	\$210,000	\$210,000	
Repayment %		30%					
Grant Funding		\$90,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$90,000
Faculty 2							
Loan Amount - Remaining	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$450,000	\$375,000	\$275,000	
Repayment %			10%	15%	20%	25%	
Grant Funding		\$0	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$100,000	\$125,000	\$350,000
Total Grant Funded Loan Repayment	\$800,000	\$90,000	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$100,000	\$125,000	\$440,000

If you propose to continue the repayment for the faculty from a previous project period, you must clearly show which faculty member it is in the chart and what payment percentages they have already received.

Endnotes

1. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Job Outlook. Available at: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dentists.htm#tab-6> ↑
2. HRSA's State of the U.S. Health Care Workforce, 2024. Available at: <https://bhw.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/bureau-health-workforce/state-of-the-health-workforce-report-2024.pdf> ↑
3. American Dental Education Association. Dentists of Tomorrow 2024: An Analysis of the Results of the 2024 ADEA Survey of U.S. Dental School Seniors Summary Report. Tables: "Figure 7. Average Education Debt and Average Dental School Debt, as Stated by Respondents Graduating with Debt, 2019-2024, in Nominal Dollars" and "Figure 4. Immediate Professional Plans Upon Graduation, Percent of Respondents Total and HURE, 2019 and 2024." Available at: <https://www.adea.org/home/publications/research-and-data/dental-school-seniors/dentists-of-tomorrow-2024> ↑
4. HRSA's National Center for Health Workforce Analysis' Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Programs Evaluation, <https://bhw.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/bureau-health-workforce/funding/dental-faculty-lrp-outcomes.pdf> ↑