

July 8, 2024
Department of Health Professions
Conference Center
Board Room 3
10:30 a.m.

Agenda
Board of Veterinary Medicine and State Veterinarian
Veterinarian Shortage Study Workgroup
Financial Resources Subgroup

Call to Order – Kelli Moss, Executive Director, Board of Veterinary Medicine

- Welcome
- Emergency Egress Procedures
- Introductions

Ordering of Agenda – Ms. Moss

Public Comment – Ms. Moss

The Board will receive all public comment related to the scope of work of the workgroup.

Discussion

Pages 1 - 28

Review of programs and grants – **Ms. Moss**

Loan Repayment Programs:

- USDA NIFA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program VMLRP (pp 1-2)
- AVMA State Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Programs (pp 3-15)
- KS Veterinary Training Program (p 16)
- Rural Iowa Veterinary Loan Repayment Program (pp 17-19)

Grants:

- USDA NIFA Veterinary Services Grant Program VSGP (pp 20-27)
- NC Large Animal Grant (p 28)

Programs/Partnerships:

- Requirements
- Procurement

Parameters:

- Program expansion to LVT
- Statutory & Regulatory Considerations

Next Steps:

- Data Compilation/Coordination
- Recommendations

New Business – Ms. Moss

Next Meeting – Ms. Moss

Meeting Adjournment – Ms. Moss

This information is in **DRAFT** form and is subject to change.

VMLRP General Information

USDA's Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP), authorized by the National Veterinary Medical Services Act (NVMSA) helps qualified veterinarians offset a significant portion of the debt incurred in pursuit of their veterinary medicine degrees in return for their service in certain high-priority veterinary shortage situations.

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) will carry out NVMSA by entering into educational loan repayment agreements with veterinarians who agree to provide veterinary services in veterinarian shortage situations for a determined period of time. If you commit to at least three years to providing veterinary services in a designated veterinary shortage area, NIFA may repay up to \$25,000 of your student loan debt per year. Loan repayment benefits are limited to payments of the principal and interest on government and commercial loans you received for the attendance at an accredited college of veterinary medicine resulting in a degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine or the equivalent.

Legislative Authority

In December 2003, NVMSA was passed into law adding section 1415A to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1997. This law established a new Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (7 U.S.C. 3151a) authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a program of entering into agreements with veterinarians under which they agree to provide veterinary services in veterinarian shortage situations. Subsequently, Section 7105 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Pub. L. 110-246, amended section 1415A to revise the determination of veterinarian shortage situations to consider (1) geographical areas

that the Secretary determines have a shortage of veterinarians; and (2) areas of veterinary practice that the Secretary determines have a shortage of veterinarians, such as food animal medicine, public health, epidemiology, and food safety. This section also added that priority should be given to agreements with veterinarians for the practice of food animal medicine in veterinarian shortage situations.

Federal Register Notices

- [Final Rule for the VMLRP, published April 19, 2010, in the Federal Register](#)
- [Applicant Forms and Reporting Requirements, published January 20, 2010, in the Federal Register](#)
- [Interim Rule for the VMLRP, published July 9, 2009, in the Federal Register](#)

Contact Information

For further information, email [VMLRP](#).

PROGRAMS:

[The Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program](#)

[VMLRP Contact Information](#)

FARM BILL PRIORITY AREAS:

Animal health and production and animal products

TOPIC:

[Animals](#)

State Veterinary Medicine Loan Rayment Programs

State	Statute/Regulation	Number of Recipients	Award Allocated	Type of Medicine Practiced
<p>Arizona</p>	<p>Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 15-1650.06</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>If the board determines that the veterinarian satisfied the terms of the agreement described in subsection D of this section, the board shall distribute to the veterinarian from the Arizona veterinary loan assistance fund an amount that is equal to the amount of the veterinarian's outstanding veterinary college educational loan balance or \$100,000, whichever is less.</p>	<p>To participate in the program, the board shall require an applicant to sign an agreement to both:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remain and work as a full-time veterinarian in this state for the following four years. 2. Work in one of the following practice areas for at least two of the four years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Agricultural practice in an area designated by the United States department of agriculture as having a shortage. (b) A nonprofit, county or municipal shelter.

<p>Arkansas</p>	<p>A.C.A. § 6-81-1105: Veterinary medicine loans</p> <p>A.C.A. § 2-16-215: Scholarships — Degree programs related to agriculture —Post- graduate degree programs related to agriculture or veterinary medicine</p> <p>A.C.A. § 17-101- 205: Rural Veterinary Student Scholarship Program</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>Veterinary medicine loans: The loan repayment amount shall not exceed the amount of tuition assistance provided under the Southern Regional Education Compact program.</p> <p>Scholarships Post-graduate degree programs related to agriculture or veterinary medicine: TBD</p> <p>Rural Veterinary Student Scholarship Program: TBD</p>	<p>Veterinary medicine loans: Participants in the loan repayment program are required to practice food supply veterinary medicine in Arkansas for up to 5 consecutive years.</p> <p>Scholarships Post-graduate degree programs related to agriculture or veterinary medicine: Recipients must obtain degree from a school in Arkansas within six years of award and work full- time inside the state for two years after their graduation.</p> <p>Rural Veterinary Student Scholarship Program: Recipients must complete a veterinary medicine degree program, all required advanced training, an externship and mentoring requirement with a licensed and accredited veterinarian in rural Arkansas, engage in the full-time practice of veterinary medicine [practice must be in a county with fewer than 40,000 people and registered veterinary premises under a licensed veterinarian if food-animal patients make up at least 50% of the veterinarian's practice at the time the person entered into the Rural Veterinary Student Scholarship Program agreement), must practice within those requirements for 12 continuous months for each year the participant received a scholarship award, and must commence practice within 90 days of completing their education program.</p>
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<p>Colorado</p>	<p>C.R.S.A. § 23-31-1009</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>(a) Upon completion of six months of the first year of service under the program, ten thousand dollars; (b) Upon completion of a second year of service under the program, an additional fifteen thousand dollars; (c) Upon completion of a third year of service under the program, an additional twenty thousand dollars; and (d) Upon completion of a fourth year of service under the contract, an additional twenty-five thousand dollars. (3) A veterinarian is not entitled to receive more than seventy thousand dollars under the program.</p>	
<p>Connecticut</p>	<p>C.G.S.A. § 10a-19g</p>	<p>(b) The president of The University of Connecticut shall establish and administer the Kirklyn M. Kerr program to support the veterinary medicine education of not more than 5 veterinary students per cohort. Each cohort may be funded for a 4-year period.</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>Residents pursuing degrees</p>

<p>Georgia</p>	<p>Ga. Code Ann., § 20-3-518.4</p>	<p>(b) The board shall not enter into new loan purchase agreements with more than 5 persons per year; provided, however, that the total sum of loan purchases from state appropriations for which the board contractually obligates itself in any fiscal year shall not exceed the amount of funds for such loan purchase purposes specified in annual appropriations Acts. Funds in the loan purchase fund account that are not expended or contractually obligated by the board for loan purchases during any fiscal year shall lapse.</p>	<p>(a)(1) Persons whose applications are approved and enter into a loan purchase agreement with the board shall receive a loan purchase in a total amount to be determined by the board, but not exceeding \$80,000.00 per person, as provided by Code Section 20-3-518.3. The loan purchases shall be paid in such manner as the board shall determine.</p>	<p>(b) Only persons whose veterinary medicine practices in this state include food animal specialties shall be eligible for loan purchases under this part.</p>
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<p>Illinois</p>	<p>110 ILCS 995/20</p>	<p>(c) Subject to appropriation and upon recommendation of the College, the University may enter into a program agreement with up to 4 veterinary students during the first year of operation of the Program; up to 8 veterinary students during the 2nd year of operation of the Program; up to 12 veterinary students during the 3rd year of operation of the Program; and up to 16 veterinary students during the 4th year of operation of the Program and every year thereafter until the expiration of the Program, as set forth in Section 40 of this Act. Preference must be given to those students who are Illinois residents.</p>	<p>Each student entering into a program agreement shall receive a loan in the amount of \$20,000 per year to cover tuition, books, supplies and other school expenses and travel and training expenses incurred by the student in pursuing a veterinary medicine degree. A student may be the recipient of a loan under the Program for no more than 4 years.</p>	<p>(2) complete all advanced training in public health, livestock biosecurity, foreign animal disease diagnosis, regulatory veterinary medicine and zoonotic disease and complete an externship and mentorship with a licensed, accredited veterinarian in Illinois who practices in one of the areas of veterinary service need identified in this Act and as required by the University; (3) engage in the full-time practice of veterinary medicine in any of the identified areas of veterinary service need identified in this Act;</p>
<p>Iowa</p>	<p>Iowa Code Ann. § 261.120 (West)</p>	<p>b. Subject to the availability of funding for this purpose, the commission shall enter into at least five program agreements annually.</p>	<p>a. Unless the agreement entered into under subsection 4 stipulates otherwise, the amount of loan repayment an individual who enters into an agreement shall receive if in compliance with obligations under the agreement shall not exceed fifteen thousand dollars annually for an eligible loan. Payments under this section may be made for each year of eligible practice during a period of four consecutive years and shall not exceed a total of sixty thousand dollars or the amount of outstanding eligible loans, whichever amount is less.</p>	<p>a. When possible, the commission shall enter into agreements under subsection 4 with individuals who agree to practice in areas in the following priority order: (1) Private practice food supply veterinary medicine in any veterinary shortage area. (2) Private practice food supply veterinary medicine in a city in Iowa with a population of less than twenty-six thousand that is located more than twenty miles from a city with a population of fifty thousand or more, especially in remote or economically depressed rural areas. (3) Animal veterinary medicine in a rural service commitment area.</p>

<p>Kansas</p>	<p>KANSAS STATUTES ANNOTATED 76-4,112.</p>	<p>Five first-year veterinary students</p>	<p>(c) Subject to the provisions of appropriation acts, each student entering into a program agreement under this section shall receive a loan in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 per year for not more than four years for tuition, books, supplies and other school expenses, and travel and training expenses incurred by the student in pursuing a veterinary medicine degree.</p>	<p>(A) In any county in Kansas that has a population not exceeding 40,000 or a registered veterinary premises under a licensed veterinarian if food animal patients make up at least 50% of such veterinarian's practice at the time the person entered into the program agreement; and (B) for a period of at least 12 continuous months for each separate year a student receives a loan under the program, unless such obligation is otherwise satisfied as provided in this section; (4) commence such full-time practice of veterinary medicine within 90 days after completion of such person's degree program, or if such person enters a post-degree training program such as a graduate school or internship or residency program, within 90 days after completion of such post-degree training program;</p>
<p>Louisiana</p>	<p>LSA-R.S. 17:3042.62</p>	<p>The commission may receive and accept funds from public and private sources to meet administrative and other expenses of the implementation of this Chapter.</p>	<p>A. A loan may be made by the commission pursuant to this Chapter for not in excess of the amount of actual tuition charges to be paid by the student to a school of veterinary medicine, provided such loan is used to defray the tuition of any such applicant at a school of veterinary medicine. Such a loan shall be made at such time, in such amounts, and in such increments as the commission shall determine and as shall be provided in the contract with the applicant as provided in this Chapter.</p>	<p>(1) Is a bona fide citizen and resident of the state. However, first priority shall be given to students who have been residents of the state for at least two years. (2) Has been accepted to enroll in a school of veterinary medicine. (3) Intends to acquire a doctor of veterinary medicine degree from a school of veterinary medicine. (4) Intends to practice as a food animal veterinarian in the state of Louisiana. (5) Meets such other qualifications as the commission may prescribe by rule.</p>

<p>Maine</p>	<p>Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A, § 12122</p>	<p>Beginning January 1, 2023, the chief executive officer shall, as resources allow, award up to 8 loans annually up to an aggregate of 32.</p>	<p>The maximum loan amount available under the program to each participant is \$35,000 per year for a period of up to 4 years.</p>	<p>At least half, and no fewer than 2, of the annual loans awarded must be awarded to applicants who have demonstrated a likelihood to practice livestock veterinary medicine in the State unless the authority does not receive enough qualified applicants to meet this requirement, in which case the chief executive officer may award the remaining loans to other eligible applicants. Loans are available to Maine residents enrolled in a school of veterinary medicine.</p>
<p>Minnesota</p>	<p>M.S.A. § 136A.1795</p>	<p>Subd. 4. Loan forgiveness. (a) The commissioner may select a maximum of 5 applicants each year for participation in the loan forgiveness program, within the limits of available funding. Applicants are responsible for securing their own qualified educational loans.</p>	<p>(c) The commissioner must make annual disbursements directly to the participant of \$15,000 or the balance of the participant's qualifying educational loans, whichever is less, for each year that a participant meets the service obligation required under subdivision 3, paragraph (b), up to a maximum of 5 years.</p>	<p>Subd. 2. Establishment; administration. (a) The commissioner shall establish and administer a loan forgiveness program for large animal veterinarians who:</p> <p>(1) agree to practice in designated rural areas that are considered underserved; and</p> <p>(2) work full time in a practice that is at least 50% involved with the care of food animals.</p> <p>(b) Appropriations made to the program do not cancel and are available until expended.</p>

<p>Missouri</p>	<p>V.A.M.S. 340.335</p>	<p>2. Up to 6 qualified applicants per academic year may be awarded loans under the provisions of sections 340.381 to 340.396. Priority for loans shall be given to eligible students who have established financial need. All financial assistance shall be made from funds credited to the veterinary student loan payment fund.</p>	<p>2. For each year of obligated services that an individual contracts to serve in an area of defined need, the department may pay up to twenty thousand dollars on behalf of the individual for loans described in subsection 1 of this section.</p>	<p>(D) Area of defined need means a geographic area within Missouri with at least 1 of the following characteristics and approved by the director or the director's designated agent:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Large animal populations/producers sufficient to potentially sustain/employ a large animal veterinarian; 2. Employment opportunity as a large animal veterinarian; 3. Veterinary population in region is diminishing; 4. Economics of area adequate to support veterinarian; 5. Presence of livestock markets; and 6. Requests from individual, groups, organizations, and communities;
<p>Nebraska</p>	<p>Neb.Rev.St. § 54-504</p>	<p>Each year the department shall select from a pool of applicants up to 4 veterinarians to participate in the program.</p>	<p>The selected veterinarians are eligible to receive up to \$80,000 under the program as an incentive to locate in rural Nebraska and practice food supply animal veterinary medicine.</p>	<p>(c) Enter into a contract with the department to provide full-time veterinary medicine services as a food supply animal veterinarian in a food supply animal veterinary practice or in a rural mixed animal veterinary practice for 4 years in one or more communities approved by the department; and</p> <p>(d) Be accredited by the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to provide services relating to food supply animals by the end of the 1st year of service.</p>

New Jersey	Introduced a bill in 2021-2022/ Reintroduced for 2023-2024 session			
North Dakota	NDCC, 43-29.1-01	The number of applicants that the council may select for participation in the loan repayment program is limited only by the moneys available to support the program, as provided for in this chapter.	The selected applicants are eligible to receive up to \$80,000 in loan repayment funds.	<p>2. An applicant selected to receive loan repayment funds under this chapter must:</p> <p>a. Have graduated from an accredited college of veterinary medicine; and</p> <p>b. Be licensed to practice veterinary medicine in this state.</p> <p>3. A selected applicant shall contract to provide full-time veterinary medicine services for 2, 3, or 4 years in one or more selected communities.</p>
Ohio	R.C. § 4741.40	TBD	(1) The veterinarian agrees to provide large animal veterinary services or to provide veterinary services necessary to implement or enforce the law or to protect public health, as applicable, in a veterinary resource shortage area identified in the letter of intent for at least 2 years or 1 year per \$10,000 of repayment agreed to under division (B)(3) of this section, whichever is greater.	<p>(2) When providing veterinary services in the veterinary resource shortage area, the veterinarian agrees to do both of the following:</p> <p>(a) Provide veterinary services for a minimum of forty hours per week;</p> <p>(b) Devote not less than 60% of total monthly veterinary services to large animal veterinary services or veterinary services necessary to implement or enforce the law or to protect public health, as applicable.</p>

<p>Oklahoma</p>	<p>59 Okl.St. Ann. § 698.33</p>	<p>Subject to available funds, each year the Veterinary Center may enter into program agreements with up to 3 1st year veterinary students or currently practicing large animal veterinarians with qualifying school loans, as determined by the Veterinary Center.</p>	<p>C. Subject to available funds, each student or large animal veterinarian entering into a program agreement under this section shall receive assistance in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 per year for not more than 4 years for tuition, books, supplies, and other school expenses, and travel and training expenses incurred by the student in pursuing a veterinary medicine degree.</p>	<p>3. Engage in the full-time practice of veterinary medicine in any community in Oklahoma which has a population not exceeding 25,000 as determined by the most recent Federal Decennial Census at the time the person entered into the program agreement for a period of at least 12 continuous months for each separate year a student receives assistance under the program, unless the obligation is otherwise satisfied as provided in this section. If, after the date a program agreement was entered into by the parties, a community no longer meets the maximum population requirements provided in this paragraph, a person engaging in the full-time practice of veterinary medicine pursuant to the program agreement shall continue to practice in that designated community.</p>
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<p>Pennsylvania</p>	<p>24 P.S. § 5198.3</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>(c) Maximum forgiveness.--No more than \$2,000 shall be forgiven in any year, and no more than \$10,000 shall be forgiven for any applicant. Awards shall be made in accordance with the procedures established by the agency.</p>	<p>(1) Holds: (i) a degree in a field related to the production of agricultural products from an accredited college or university; (ii) a current certification under the Department of Education's Certification and Staffing Policies and Guidelines Number 30-Agriculture Certification or a successor document; or (iii) a degree in the field of veterinary medicine, from an accredited college or university. (2) Has commenced: (i) the first year of full-time employment or work on a family farm on or after July 1, 1991; (ii) the first year of full-time employment teaching an agricultural curriculum at the elementary or secondary level in a public or private school on or after the effective date of this subparagraph; or (iii) the practice of veterinary medicine, a portion of which activity must be for the protection and enhancement of agricultural animal health and productivity, on or after July 1, 1991. (3) Has: (i) borrowed through the agency-administered Guaranteed Student Loan Programs for an educational institution located in this Commonwealth; or (ii) for individuals who have commenced work under paragraph (2)(i) or practice under paragraph (2)(iii), borrowed through the agency-administered Guaranteed Student Loan Programs for an accredited college or university.</p>
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<p>Texas</p>	<p>Texas Education Code Chapter 56, Subchapter G*</p> <p>*County population amended by TX H.B. 2026, sent to Governor 5/30/2023 but not signed as of 6/15/2023.</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>It may be any type of practice, but the program is targets large or food animal practice. Applicants are eligible if they are practicing in any county with 150,000 or fewer people. Program requires participants to practice veterinary medicine in a rural county for one calendar year for each academic year for which the participant receives financial support under the program.</p>
<p>Vermont</p>	<p>6 V.S.A. § 20</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>(c) The Agency shall administer the Fund, and the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall have the discretion to provide annual student loan repayment awards to licensed, qualified veterinarians who are significantly dedicated to treating food animals in the State.</p>	<p>The Secretary may determine the level of service that qualifies as “significantly dedicated” to treating food animals, may establish additional eligibility requirements, and may create program requirements for all fund recipients. The Agency may contract with a Vermont nonprofit entity for administration of the program, which shall administer awards in compliance with the requirements of Section 108(f) of the Internal Revenue Code.</p>

<p>Washington</p>	<p>West's RCWA 28B.121.020</p>	<p>(1) To select, in consultation with the college, up to 2 students each year to receive conditional scholarships;</p>	<p>The university may award conditional scholarships to eligible students from the funds appropriated to the university for this purpose, or from any private donations, or any other funds given to the university for this program. The amount of the conditional scholarship awarded an individual may not exceed the amount of resident tuition and fees at the college, as well as the cost of room, board, laboratory fees and supplies, and books, incurred by an eligible student and approved by a financial aid administrator at the university. Participants are eligible to receive conditional scholarships for a maximum of 5 years.</p>	<p>To remain an eligible student and receive continuing disbursements under the program, a participant must be considered by the college to be making satisfactory academic progress.</p>
<p>Wyoming</p>	<p>W.S.1977 § 11-18-119</p>	<p>(c) The selection of Recipients is at the sole discretion of the Board. (d) The total amount of the Loan Repayment Grant is at the sole discretion of the Board.</p>	<p>(ii) Provide that the veterinarian shall be repaid up to 100% of the total amount of outstanding educational loans the veterinarian has acquired as a direct result of undergraduate or postgraduate educational training directly related to providing food animal veterinary services, not to exceed \$30,000 per year, including the matching funds specified in subsection (d) of this section, in exchange for practicing his profession under the terms of this section;</p>	<p>(iii) Require the veterinarian to practice food animal veterinary services for a minimum of 3 years under the agreement;</p>

Veterinary Training Program for Rural Kansas

In 2006, the Kansas Legislature initially passed the Veterinary Training Program for Rural Kansas (VTPRK), which provides financial incentive for veterinary students to practice in rural Kansas upon their graduation from the four-year professional DVM program. Through this program, underserved counties throughout Kansas are provided with passionate, knowledgeable and dedicated veterinarians eager to help serve unique communities across the Sunflower State.

Upgraded by HB 2605 in 2022, the program provides for up to seven students selected each year during their first year in the DVM program to receive a loan of \$25,000 per year for four years to help cover tuition and other school-related expenses.

After graduating from the DVM program, for each year that the graduate works full-time in a veterinary practice in a Kansas county with fewer than 40,000 residents, or in a full-time veterinary practice if food animal patients make up at least 50% of the practice, a year of loans is forgiven. In addition to completing the four-year DVM curriculum, students selected in their first year for the VTPRK spend additional time during the summer months learning about public health, rural sociology, natural disaster preparedness, and foreign animal diseases.

Application for the VTPRK is open only to Kansas State College of Veterinary Medicine students and the application cycle opens by announcement in the first year of the DVM program.

Rural Iowa Veterinarian Loan Repayment Program

The Rural Iowa Veterinarian Loan Repayment Program was established to address critical veterinarian shortages in rural Iowa communities. The program provides loan repayment incentives to individuals that practice in specified locations for up to four years. The maximum award for this program is \$60,000, which is paid in four increments toward outstanding Federal Subsidized Stafford, Unsubsidized Stafford, and Graduate PLUS balances at the end of each 12 month employment period. Details on the taxability of loan repayment benefits can be found on the [IRS website](#).

Eligibility Criteria

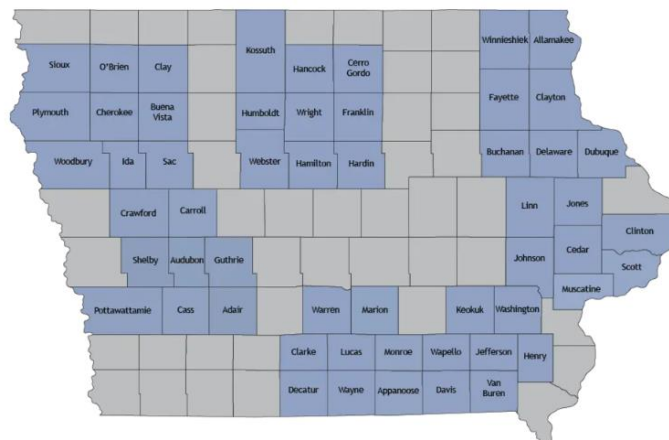
An individual is eligible to apply to enter into a program agreement if he or she:

- Is in the final year of, or has completed within the past five years, a doctor of veterinary medicine degree program.
- Has not participated in or received loan repayment awards through the National Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.
- Will receive or possess a license to practice veterinary medicine in Iowa.
- Will secure full-time employment in an eligible area and practice full-time for a period of four consecutive years after entering into the program agreement.

Eligible Areas

An eligible applicant must work full-time for four consecutive years in a veterinary shortage area or service commitment area.

- **Veterinary Shortage Area** (blue areas on the map)
 - A veterinary shortage area is a service area in Iowa published by the United States Department of Agriculture.
 - The Veterinary Shortage Areas below were established for 2024.

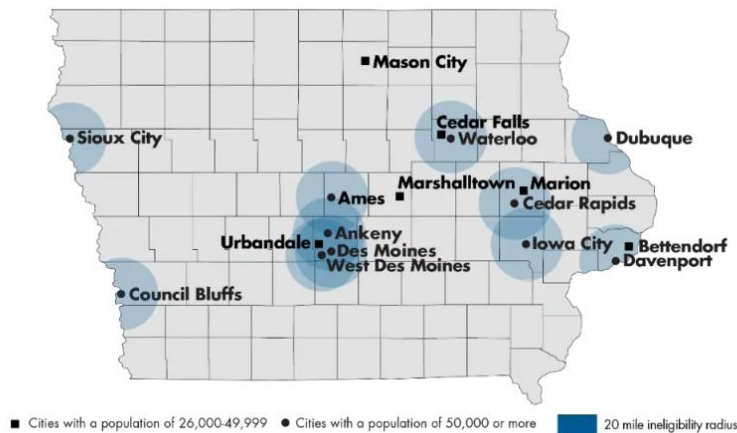


If the applicant is *NOT* going to work full-time in a Veterinary Shortage Area (map above), the individual can still qualify as long as they plan to work in a Rural Service Commitment Area (map below). Although, the Rural Service Commitment Area must agree to provide a matching contribution equal to 12.5 percent of the veterinarian's eligible federal student loan balance.

- **Rural Service Commitment Area** (gray areas on the map)
 - A rural service commitment area is an Iowa city with a population less than 26,000 located more than 20 miles from a city with a population of at least 50,000.
 - Service commitment areas must provide a matching contribution equal to 12.5% of the veterinarian's eligible student loan balance to a trust fund held by the state of Iowa that will fund future recipient awards.

Eligible Service Commitment Areas

Current eligible service commitment areas appear in gray on the map below (based on 2019 U.S. Census population estimates). In addition to those indicated below, cities with a population of 26,000 or more are also ineligible service commitment areas



Program Agreement

An individual who meets the above eligibility requirements, and is selected to sign a program agreement must fulfill the following requirements:

- Become licensed and employed in the practice of veterinary medicine in a veterinary shortage area or rural service commitment area in Iowa within one year of signing a program agreement or completing the doctor of veterinary medicine degree, whichever is most recent.
- Work for a minimum of four consecutive years in an eligible area.

Priority for Awards

In the event that all on-time eligible applicants cannot be funded with available appropriations, program agreements will be prioritized as follows:

- Eligible applicants who will practice as private practice food supply veterinarians in a **veterinary shortage area** and who graduated from an Iowa high school; followed by eligible applicants who will practice as private practice food supply veterinarians in a **veterinary shortage area** and who did not graduate from an Iowa high school.
- Eligible applicants who will practice as private practice food supply veterinarians in a **service commitment area** and who graduated from an Iowa high school; followed by eligible applicants who will practice as private practice food supply veterinarians in a **service commitment area** and who did not graduate from an Iowa high school.
- Eligible applicants who will practice as veterinarians in a service commitment area and who graduated from an Iowa high school; followed by eligible applicants who will practice as veterinarians in a service commitment area and who did not graduate from an Iowa high school.
- Eligible applicants within each priority category will be prioritized by the date the application is received by Iowa College Aid.

Process

Up to \$15,000 can be paid annually toward eligible student loan balances upon successful completion of each 12-month employment period. Federal loans eligible for repayment include all Subsidized Stafford, Unsubsidized Stafford, and Graduate PLUS. If an applicant signs an agreement but fails to meet the program criteria prior to receiving a loan repayment award, the applicant has no further employment requirement under the agreement.

How to Apply

The 2024-25 application cycle has closed.

The 2025-26 application cycle will begin Feb. 1, 2025. The application link will be accessible on this webpage at that time.

<https://educate.iowa.gov/higher-ed/financial-aid/loan-repayment/rural-iowa-veterinarian-loan-repayment-program>

HISTORICAL REPORT

VETERINARY SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM (VSGP)



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Food animal veterinarians are critical to maintaining a healthy, secure, and safe food supply and for safeguarding the health and well-being of food animals. Today, there is a critical shortage of food animal veterinarians in both private and public practice, particularly in rural communities in the United States and Insular Areas. Food animal producers rely on veterinarians and veterinary technicians with expertise in food animal medicine and surgery as well as advanced training in herd health, diagnostic medicine, epidemiology, public health, and food safety.

The [Veterinary Services Grant Program \(VSGP\)](#) is designed to help mitigate food animal veterinary service shortages in the U.S. and its territories. VSGP provides grants for two component programs: Education, Extension, and Training (EET) and Rural Practice Enhancement (RPE). EET grants have a three-year duration and up to \$250,000 in funding for education and Extension activities that provide veterinarians, veterinary students and veterinary technicians with specialized skills and practices by establishing or expanding educational programs at American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)-accredited schools and organizations. RPE grants have a three-year duration and funds directly support veterinary clinics and practices by providing up to \$125,000 to enhance food animal veterinary services in a designated veterinary shortage situation area.

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized the establishment of the VSGP as a companion to the [Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program \(VMLRP\)](#) to incentivize food animal veterinary services in veterinary shortage situation areas and to educate the next generation of food animal veterinarians. Congress appropriated \$2.4 million for VSGP between fiscal years 2016 – 2018. In 2019 Congress increased appropriated funds for VSGP to \$3 million.

EET PROGRAM SUMMARY

NIFA has funded over \$10 million in grants to the EET program since its inception in 2016. EET funds are used to:

- Establish or expand veterinary education programs, veterinary residency and fellowship programs, or veterinary internship and externship programs carried out in coordination with AVMA-accredited colleges of veterinary medicine.
- Provide continuing education and Extension, including veterinary telemedicine and other distance-based education, for veterinarians, veterinary technicians and other health professionals needed to strengthen veterinary services and enhance food safety and public health.
- Cover travel and living expenses of veterinary students, veterinary interns and externs, fellows and residents, and veterinary technician students attending training programs in food safety, public health or food-animal medicine.
- Expose students in grades 11 and 12 to education and career opportunities in food-animal medicine.

EET Program Application and Award History

Fiscal Year	EET Applications	EET Awards	Success Rate	Funds distributed
FY 2016	27	8	30%	\$1,652,388
FY 2017	26	7	27%	\$1,661,199
FY 2018	20	7	35%	\$1,556,356
FY 2019	20	9	45%	\$2,002,459
FY 2020	12	7	58%	\$1,678,731
FY 2021	17	7	41%	\$1,653,077
TOTAL	134	45	34%	\$10,204,210

RPE SUMMARY

NIFA has funded over \$5 million in grants to the RPE program since its inception in 2016. Uses of RPE funds include:

- Expand or enhance private practice capabilities, services, and resources.
 - Equipment purchases:
 - Overhead costs
 - Establish mobile veterinary facilities
- Expose students in grades 11 and 12 to education and career opportunities in food animal medicine.

RPE Application and Award History

Fiscal Year	RPE Applications	RPE Awards	Success Rate	Funds distributed
FY 2016	11	4	36%	\$747,612
FY 2017	23	6	26%	\$816,000
FY 2018	20	7	35%	\$834,845
FY 2019	19	7	41%	\$873,986
FY 2020	19	10	53%	\$1,201,269
FY 2021	34	10	29%	\$1,228,906
TOTAL	126	44	37%	\$5,702,618

VETERINARY SHORTAGE SITUATION AREAS

Identifying areas experiencing shortages of food animal veterinary services is one of the primary goals of the VMLRP and VSGP. Therefore, at the beginning of each fiscal year the VMLRP solicits nominations of [veterinary shortage situation areas](#) by state animal health officials. Each U.S. state and territory, including the federal government and the District of Columbia, is allocated a maximum number of shortage nominations for submission. NIFA determines the maximum number to allocate to each entity based on data from the most recent USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service Census of Agriculture. The reasoning behind the use and development of the allocation table is provided on the [Allocation Table and Rationale webpage](#). NIFA accepts all veterinary shortage area nominations after a review by a panel of food animal veterinary medical professionals. Each veterinary shortage nomination provides details of the geographic area where veterinary services are needed, agricultural species that must and may be served, and specific activities related to the must-and-may-serve species. Addressing veterinary shortage situations only applies to VSGP-RPE (and not VSGP-EET) grants. Applicants to the RPE program propose to serve one veterinary shortage situation area and are rated based on their ability to serve the specific needs of that area.

Distribution of Must Cover Species for RPE Awarded Grants

Fiscal Year	Beef	Dairy	Swine	Poultry	Small Ruminant	Other
FY 2016	4				1	1
FY 2017	6	5	2	3	4	1
FY 2018	7	5	1	1	5	1
FY 2019	6	3	1		3	
FY 2020	10	6	4	1	7	
FY 2021	10	4	4		7	1
TOTAL	43	23	12	5	27	4

EET Funding History

2016 funded projects

- **The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System:** Advanced training in dairy cattle well-being to provide different models of veterinary practice in rural America.
- **Utah State University:** Collaborative diagnostic methods to enhance capabilities of early career rural veterinary practitioners.
- **Colorado State University:** A Holistic Approach to Expanding Rural Veterinary Services and Improving Retention of Rural Practitioners.
- **Regents of the University of Minnesota:** Support for further development and implementation of web-based educational materials in dairy production medicine and food safety.
- **Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association:** Food Armor Veterinary Student Educational Program: Optimizing food safety and proper drug use in the dairy industry.
- **University of Georgia:** Senior Veterinary Pathology residency program at the UGA Tifton Veterinary Diagnostic and Investigational Laboratory (TVDIL).
- **American Association of Bovine Practitioners:** Next Generation Veterinary Practice Analysis Workshops.
- **Kansas State University:** Enhancing rural practitioner aptitude for endemic, transboundary, and emerging diseases of production animals.

2017 funded Projects

- **University of Tennessee:** Supporting Early Career Veterinarians in Rural Practice in Tennessee.
- **University of Florida:** Comprehensive Aquaculture Veterinary Medicine Training for Veterinarians in Rural America.
- **Iowa State University of Science and Technology:** Parasitology residency to support rural areas that are underserved in veterinary medicine.
- **University of Kentucky:** Case-Based Distance Learning for Food Animal Veterinarians.
- **Auburn University:** Recruitment and support of veterinarians in underserved rural areas of Kentucky.
- **University of Hawaii:** Transforming all veterinarians into food-animal vets through focused CE.
- **North Carolina State University:** Training rural mixed-animal veterinarians in residue avoidance with support of a new collaborative food animal medicine internship.

2018 funded projects

- **American Association of Bovine Practitioners:** Manage Your Practice for Success.
- **Michigan State University:** Improving Food Animal Veterinary Service Shortage Situations in Rural Bovine Practice through Recruitment and Continuing Education of Early Career Veterinarians.
- **University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service:** UA Cooperative Extension Service Food Animal Medicine Workshop Series: Utilizing Extension to Provide Continuing Education for the Expansion of Veterinary Services in Shortage Situations.

- **Pennsylvania State University:** Poultry Training for Large and Small Animal Veterinarians in Pennsylvania Counties with a Defined Veterinarian Shortage Situation.
- **University of Georgia:** Veterinary Microbiology Residency Program at the Tifton Veterinary Diagnostic and Investigational Laboratory.
- **Iowa State University of Science and Technology:** Zoonotic Disease Prevention Tools for Rural Veterinary Practices.
- **Texas A&M AgriLife Research:** Texas Panhandle and Plains Rural Veterinary Practice Revitalization.

2019 funded projects

- **Oklahoma State University:** Integrated Beef Cattle Program for Veterinarians to Enhance Practice Management and Services.
- **Lincoln Memorial U to U of Arizona:** Delivering a Comprehensive Food Safety Database to Support Early Career Veterinarians in Rural, Large-Animal Practice as an Amazon Alexa Skill.
- **Food Armor Foundation, Inc:** Food Armor Veterinary Student Educational and Outreach Program: Building On-Farm Antimicrobial Stewardship Plans.
- **University of Missouri:** Veterinary Education and Training in Beef Cattle Reproduction and Genomics.
- **University of Illinois:** A Multiaudience Online Educational Program for Rural Practitioners and Veterinary Students Entering Rural Veterinary Practice.
- **Iowa State University:** Telehealth for Swine Medicine: Tools to Support Shortage Situations, Expand Surge Capacity, and Teach Students with Less Biosecurity Risk.
- **Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University:** Training the Veterinary Public Practitioner.
- **Kansas State University:** Summer Program for Aspiring Kansas (Spark) Veterinarians.
- **University of Kentucky:** Advanced Diagnostic Training for Food Animal Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians.

2020 funded projects

- **Regents of the University of Minnesota:** Collaborative food animal diagnostician and anatomic pathology training grant.
- **Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association, Inc.:** Building a Veterinary Medical Mastermind: Leaning on each other to improve professional development skills.
- **Food Armor Foundation, Inc:** Food Armor Veterinary Student Educational Program Expansion: Reaching more food animal students and early graduate veterinarians across the United States.
- **University of Missouri:** Show-Me VET ECHO: Veterinary Education and Training (VET) through Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) program.
- **University of Kentucky Research Foundation:** Online avian medicine course for veterinarians targeting small poultry producers to ensure early disease detection for animal/public health.
- **American Association of Bovine Practitioners:** Your Practice Now and Next Generation Workshops.

- **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension:** Improving the sustainability of rural veterinarians through mentoring, targeted education, telemedicine, and monitoring of disease syndromes.

2021 funded projects

- **Iowa State University:** Expanding Rural Veterinary Practice through Continuing Education in Organic and Nonconventional Livestock.
- **The Ohio State University:** Moving from Meows to Moos: Recruiting Teens to Food Animal Veterinary Medicine through Education, Experience and Engagement.
- **Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University:** Training the Veterinary Public Practitioner.
- **Colorado State University:** CSU-UAF Hub Outpost Project: Educating for Veterinary Success in Rural Communities.
- **Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois:** Veterinary Microbiology Residency Program at the University of Illinois Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.
- **Prairie View A&M University:** Targeted training for veterinary students in goa medicine and production.
- **Kansas State University:** Developing a Food Animal Veterinary Toxicology Training Program at Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

RPE funding history

2016 funded projects

- **Lewistown Veterinary Service, LLC:** clinic location in Lewistown, Montana, serving MT151
- **Squared Circle Veterinary, LLC:** clinic location in Woodruff, Utah, serving UT165
- **Betsy the Vet, Inc.:** clinic location in Hardin, Montana, serving MT166
- **Town & Country Veterinary Clinic, P.C.:** clinic location in Auburn, Nebraska, serving NE152

2017 funded projects

- **Agrarian Veterinary Services:** clinic location in Buckingham, Virginia, serving VA124
- **Lodi Veterinary Care:** clinic location in Lodi, Wisconsin, serving WI174
- **West River Veterinary Clinic:** clinic location in Hettinger, North Dakota, serving ND174
- **Mondovi Veterinary Service, LLP:** clinic location in Mondovi, Wisconsin, serving WI165
- **Downs Veterinary Clinic, LLC:** clinic location in Downs, Kansas, serving KS171
- **Allegheny Equine Veterinary Service, PLLC:** clinic location in Montrose, West Virginia, serving WV152

2018 funded projects

- **KN Veterinary Services, DBA Clifton Veterinary Clinic:** clinic location in Clifton, Texas, serving TX152
- **Dutton Veterinary Services, PLLC:** clinic location in Walton, New York, serving NY182
- **Southwest Veterinary Services:** clinic location in Espanola, New Mexico, serving NM173
- **Uinta Veterinary Hospital:** clinic location in Fort Bridger, Wyoming, serving WY184

- **Stonehouse Veterinary Service:** clinic location in Saint Clairsville, Ohio, serving OH182
- **Mountain Legacy Veterinary Services, LLC:** clinic location in Gunnison, Colorado, serving CO171
- **Bear Lake Animal Hospital, LLC:** clinic location in Montpelier, Idaho, serving ID181

2019 funded projects

- **Flyin' 3 Veterinary Service, Inc.:** clinic location in Eureka, Kansas, serving KS196
- **Solomon Valley Veterinary Hospital, P.A.:** clinic located in Beloit, Kansas, serving KS192
- **Central Veterinary Clinic, P.C.:** clinic location in Sioux Center, Iowa, serving IA163
- **Clover Acres Livestock Veterinary Services, LLC.:** clinic location in Mount Holly, Vermont, serving VT131
- **Stillwater Veterinary Clinic, P.C.:** clinic location in Absarokee, Montana, serving MT176
- **Betsy the Vet, Inc.:** clinic location in Hardin, Montana, serving MT166
- **Cattleman's Resource, Inc.:** clinic location in Bush, Colorado, serving CO197

2020 funded projects

- **Greenwood Veterinary Clinic:** clinic location in West Lebanon, Indiana, serving IN205
- **Bar SL Veterinary Services, LLC:** clinic location in Commerce, Georgia, serving GA173
- **Christina Kyung-Eun Park Halpin:** clinic location in Edgewood, New Mexico, serving NM205
- **Monticello Veterinary Clinic:** clinic location in Monticello, Iowa, serving IA202
- **Leading Edge Veterinary Services:** clinic location in Hayward, Wisconsin, serving WI203
- **Agrarian Veterinary Services:** clinic location in Buckingham, Virginia, serving VA204
- **Crazy Mountain Veterinary Service, PLLC:** clinic location in Harlowton, Montana, serving MT205
- **Farm Call Vet, PLLC:** clinic location in Muskogee, Oklahoma, serving OK201
- **Mid-Michigan Equine Services, PLLC:** clinic location in Laingsburg, Michigan, serving MI201
- **Ark Veterinary Services, LLC:** clinic location in Sumter, South Carolina, serving SC163

2021 funded projects

- **GKW Blue Valley, Inc.:** clinic location in Beatrice, Nebraska, serving NE145
- **Animal Clinic West O Street, P.C.:** clinic location in Ogallala, Nebraska, serving NE206
- **Old Dominion Veterinary Services, LLC:** clinic location in Ruther Glen, Virginia, serving VA215
- **Urban Livestock and Equine Veterinary Services, LLC:** clinic location in San Tan Valley, Arizona, serving AZ172
- **Playa Veterinary Associates, PLLC:** clinic location in Panhandle, Texas, serving TX212
- **Twin Forks Clinic, Inc.:** clinic location in Benkelman, Nebraska, serving CO184
- **Ellis County Animal Hospital:** clinic location in Shattuck, Oklahoma, serving OK212
- **Siskiyou Veterinary Services:** clinic location in Montague, California, serving CA213
- **Headwaters Veterinary Services:** clinic location in Coudersport, Pennsylvania, serving PA213
- **Miller Veterinary Clinic, P.C.:** clinic location in Miller, South Dakota, serving SD213

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024

Large Animal Grants program accepting applications

Deadline to apply is Aug. 16

RALEIGH – Large animal veterinarians in North Carolina are eligible to apply for up to \$25,000 in funds to help support their large animal practice. This \$125,000 fund was created by the N.C. General Assembly in 2023 and will be administered by the N.C. Ag Finance Authority.

The funding opportunity is available to veterinarians who practice in one of the 70 North Carolina counties with a population of 100,000 or fewer and that spend 30% or more of their patient care involved in large animal veterinary care.

“North Carolina, like many other states, has a deficit of large animal veterinarians. In many areas of the state, a single veterinarian may be the only option within 100 square miles,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “These funds can be used for repayment of educational loans related to the recipient’s veterinary degree, to purchase equipment or technology for use in the practice or any additional uses the advisory committee determines is appropriate to promote and develop large animal veterinarians to practice in the designated counties.”

The application period runs from June 17 through Aug. 16. Applications are available online at <https://fs4.formsite.com/QopHZM/4llcxkovj4/signup>. More information on the grant program can be found in [frequently asked questions](#).

The Large Animal Health Enhancement Advisory Committee will make the determination on grant dispersal based on eligible applications. This committee includes the N.C. Commissioner of Agriculture; the State Veterinarian of North Carolina; the Executive Director of the North Carolina Agricultural Finance Authority; one designee from the Food Animal Scholars Program, North Carolina State University, College of Veterinary Medicine; two practicing large animal veterinarians; two representatives of the livestock industry; one designee by the Commissioner of Agriculture of North Carolina; and one designee by the State Veterinarian of North Carolina.