

**Healthcare Workforce Development Division**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SONG-BROWN TO AWARD \$500,000 IN SPECIAL PROGRAM  
FUNDING TO PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT TRAINING PROGRAMS**

SACRAMENTO – The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) today announced the release of the Request for Application (RFA) for the new Song-Brown Physician's Assistant Mental Health Special Program.

All accredited Physician's Assistant training programs in California are eligible to apply for the Special Program funding on a competitive basis. These special programs include the development of courses or programs that will enhance the public mental health curriculum and develop clinical rotations in public mental health settings. Any Physician's Assistant program may apply for a single award of \$100,000 for a project no longer than two years in duration.

California voters approved Proposition 63, the Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) in November 2004, providing a transformation in the delivery of public mental health services. The \$500,000 funding for this special program comes from the MHSA.

OSHPD works in conjunction with the California Healthcare Workforce Policy Commission (CHWPC) awarding Song-Brown program funding in an effort to increase the number of providers who serve the healthcare needs of the State's underserved populations.

Applications are available at [http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/Song\\_Brown\\_Prog.html](http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/Song_Brown_Prog.html).

For more information about the Song-Brown program, contact the office at (916) 326-3752.