

**Healthcare Workforce and Community Development**

1600 9th Street, Room 440
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 653-0733
Fax (916) 654-3138
www.oshpd.ca.gov/hwccd

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 8, 2006

CONTACT: Teresa Smanio

(916) 654-1606

**STATE AWARDS \$935,342 IN LOAN REPAYMENTS
TO CALIFORNIA HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**

SACRAMENTO - The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) recently awarded \$935,342 in loan repayments to 42 health professionals practicing in 14 California counties. These health professionals have committed to providing direct patient primary health care services to underserved parts of California for a minimum of two years. The funding is provided through the National Health Services Corp (NHSC)/ State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP).

The NHSC/SLRP, created in 1987, authorizes the federal government to provide grants to states to assist in the recruitment and retention of primary health care clinicians in federally designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). OSHPD is authorized to use these grants to repay outstanding government and commercial loans for expenses incurred during undergraduate or graduate education.

The following is a breakdown of awards by discipline:

- Physicians - \$522,500
- Dentists - \$42,500
- Physicians Assistants - \$306,324
- Nurse Practitioners - \$50,000
- Licensed Clinical Social Workers - \$14,018

“Through the NHSC/SLRP program, health clinics located in rural and urban underserved areas throughout the state have an opportunity to recruit and retain health care providers to care for patients,” said OSHPD Director Dr. David M. Carlisle.

Since 1991, NHSC/SLRP has awarded more than \$12 million and placed approximately 420 health professionals in underserved areas around the state. The NHSC/SLRP accepts applications annually from August 1 through October 1. Application information is available at www.oshpd.ca.gov/hwccd/stateloan/index.htm. For more information about the NHSC/SLRP, please contact OSHPD’s Healthcare Workforce and Community Development Division at (916) 653-0733.

###