



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB5466

Introduced 2/13/2026, by Rep. Camille Y. Lilly

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 996/10
110 ILCS 996/30

Amends the Community Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program Act. Provides, that to be eligible for assistance under the Community Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission must find that the applicant, among other requirements, at the time of application, is currently working as a behavioral health professional in a community mental health center. Provides that an applicant seeking a renewal award in a subsequent year must be employed by a community mental health center, behavioral health clinic, substance use treatment center, or State-operated psychiatric hospital in an underserved or rural federally designated Mental Health Professional Shortage Area in the State at the time of application and must provide evidence of continuous employment for the 12 months that precede the application for renewal. Defines "behavioral health professional". Effective July 1, 2026.

LRB104 20003 LNS 33454 b

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Community Behavioral Health Care
5 Professional Loan Repayment Program Act is amended by changing
6 Sections 10 and 30 as follows:

7 (110 ILCS 996/10)

8 Sec. 10. Definitions. In this Act:

9 "Behavioral health professional" means a professional
10 engaged in the delivery of behavioral health, mental health,
11 or substance use disorder treatment or services.

12 "Commission" means the Illinois Student Assistance
13 Commission.

14 "Physician" means a person licensed by this State to
15 practice medicine in all its branches and includes any person
16 holding a temporary license, as provided in the Medical
17 Practice Act of 1987.

18 "Program" means the Community Behavioral Health Care
19 Professional Loan Repayment Program.

20 "Psychiatrist" or "licensed psychiatrist" means a
21 physician who has successfully completed a residency program
22 in psychiatry accredited by either the Accreditation Council
23 for Graduate Medical Education or the American Osteopathic

1 Association.

2 (Source: P.A. 100-862, eff. 1-1-19.)

3 (110 ILCS 996/30)

4 Sec. 30. Eligibility; work requirement.

5 (a) To be eligible for assistance under the Community
6 Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program,
7 the Commission must find that the applicant satisfies all of
8 the following:

9 (1) He or she is a United States citizen or an eligible
10 noncitizen.

11 (2) He or she is a resident of this State.

12 (3) At the time of application, he ~~He~~ or she is
13 currently working has worked for at least 12 consecutive
14 months as a behavioral health professional in a community
15 mental health center, behavioral health clinic, substance
16 use treatment center, or State-operated psychiatric
17 hospital licensed or certified by the Department of Human
18 Services or the Department of Healthcare and Family
19 Services in an underserved or rural federally designated
20 Mental Health Professional Shortage Area in this State.

21 (4) He or she is a borrower with an outstanding
22 balance due on an educational loan.

23 (5) He or she has not defaulted on an educational
24 loan.

25 (b) The Commission may grant preference to a previous

1 recipient of a grant under the Program, provided that the
2 recipient continues to meet the eligibility requirements under
3 this Section.

4 (c) A recipient of a grant under the Program must complete
5 a separate 12-month period working in a community mental
6 health center in an underserved or rural federally designated
7 Mental Health Professional Shortage Area in this State
8 following his or her initial application for this grant. An
9 applicant seeking a renewal award in a subsequent year must be
10 employed by a facility identified in paragraph (3) of
11 subsection (a) at the time of application and must provide
12 evidence of continuous employment for the 12 months that
13 precede the application for renewal ~~for each grant that he or~~
14 ~~she is awarded.~~

15 (Source: P.A. 103-56, eff. 7-1-24.)

16 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
17 2026.