

# DBHR listening session for behavioral health service providers

June 27, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

*Behavioral health providers have the power to stop an overdose. [Learn more.](#)*

# Teams listening session norms

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- ▶ Mute yourself if you are not speaking.
- ▶ Raise your hand if you want to speak.
- ▶ This time is for you. Ask questions, give comments, ask for help if you need it.
- ▶ If we cannot answer your question on this call, we will follow up after the webinar.

# Disclaimer

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- ▶ This meeting is being recorded.
- ▶ The meeting will be shared on [HCA's contractor and provider resource page.](#)
- ▶ This recording is open to public disclosure.
- ▶ Please do not disclose any private or confidential information.

# Agenda

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Subject	Who
• Welcome and DBHR section updates	• Keri Waterland
• SITT-MAT	• Kimberly Mount
• Loan repayment programs	• DOH Office of Rural Health
• Peer training opportunities and updates	• Theresa Adkison
• Questions	• All

# DBHR updates: Prevention

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- ▶ Annual Spring Youth Forum Hybrid event was a great success.
  - ▶ 36 Youth Teams (ages 12-18) from across the state participated with a total of 315 participants total.
  - ▶ We celebrated the 15th anniversary of the conference during SAMHSA's National Prevention Week and recognized Youth Teams for successfully implementing prevention projects in their communities.
  - ▶ This year's conference featured a keynote presentation, youth development workshops, prevention project presentations, and a Youth Town Hall.
  - ▶ Adult leaders were introduced to best practices for engaging youth in prevention work through a new workshop offering.
  - ▶ Initial conference feedback emphasized how youth walked away from the conference feeling energized with new ideas as they look forward to increasing the impact they are already making in their schools and communities.
- ▶ Visit [the Spring Youth Forum website](#).

# DBHR updates: Prevention

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- ▶ Join us for a two-day Opioid Summit: The Road to Healthier Communities: Creating Equitable and Responsive Systems to Address the Evolving Opioid Epidemic
  - ▶ Hilton Vancouver Washington
  - ▶ Wednesday, July 19 to Thursday, July 20
  - ▶ General Registration is \$200
  - ▶ [Register or learn more](#)

# DBHR updates: Prevention

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- ▶ Listening Sessions – Youth Fentanyl Campaign
- ▶ The WA Health Care Authority (HCA) in partnership with Desautel Hege (DH) is developing a primary prevention fentanyl education campaign for youth ages 12-18.
- ▶ HCA and DH hosted a series of listening sessions this week to gather feedback on early campaign materials for maximum campaign efficacy and impact. These events were attended by statewide prevention professionals, researchers, and advocates. The purpose of the meeting was to:
  - ▶ Share high-level summary of findings and themes from the landscape research and discovery.
  - ▶ Share back key messages/reinforce what we heard from prevention professionals through the insight interviews, including strategies and suggestions we are actively incorporating into the primary prevention fentanyl education campaign.
  - ▶ Share early examples of materials such as messaging, toolkit materials and samples, etc. for real-time feedback and further refinement.

# DBHR updates: Prenatal-25

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- ▶ Provider and network needs in response to youth SUD residential closures.
  - ▶ Join conversation hearing from providers serving youth, emerging adults and their families experiencing SUD and co-occurring SUD and mental health to learn what short term, mid term, and long-term system needs are from their direct service experience.
    - ▶ **Wednesday, July 19**
    - ▶ 10 to 11a.m.
    - ▶ [Register](#)
    - ▶ **Wednesday, August 8**
    - ▶ 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
    - ▶ [Register](#)



# DBHR updates: Prenatal-25

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- ▶ Infant Early Child Mental Health (IECMH) statewide tour.
  - ▶ Visit [the IECMH Statewide tour webpage](#) to register for the events outlined:
    - ▶ Monday, July 10 | North Sound region
    - ▶ Tuesday, July 11 | Pierce County region
    - ▶ Wednesday, July 12 | King County region

# DBHR updates: Prenatal-25

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## ▶ WISe symposium.

- ▶ Join us for this highly anticipated virtual event, packed with inspiring speakers, interactive sessions and incredible insights.
  - ▶ Wednesday, August 15 and Thursday, 16
  - ▶ 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (each day)
  - ▶ [Register](#)

# DBHR updates: Adult services and involuntary treatment

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- ▶ The Washington Behavioral Healthcare Conference was held June 14-16 in Kennewick.
  - ▶ This was the first in-person conference since 2019
  - ▶ 656 people registered to attend this conference
- ▶ Trueblood Settlement activities will be expanding into two more regions over the coming year.
  - ▶ Under the third phase of this initiative will now include the Thurston Mason and Salish regions.



Funded by National Institute on Drug Abuse (1R01DA052975-01A1)

*Partners:*

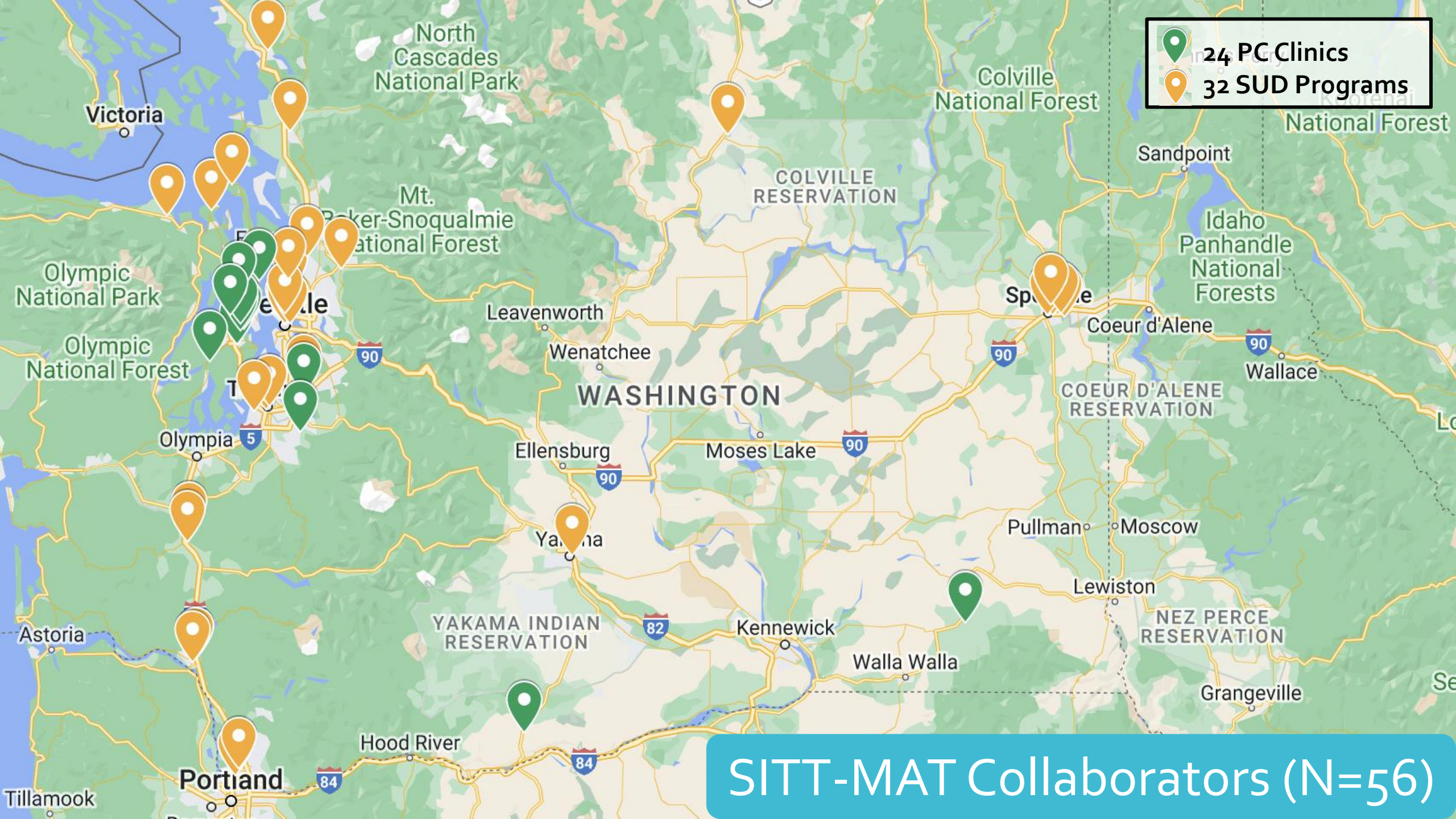




## Project Goals

# Increase **Accessibility** and **Quality** of MOUD treatment

*“I’m happy to have some support...to have other clinicians and other professionals to talk to about their experiences...so we don't have to completely reinvent the wheel, but we can share knowledge, and share successes.”*

*- SITT-MAT collaborator*

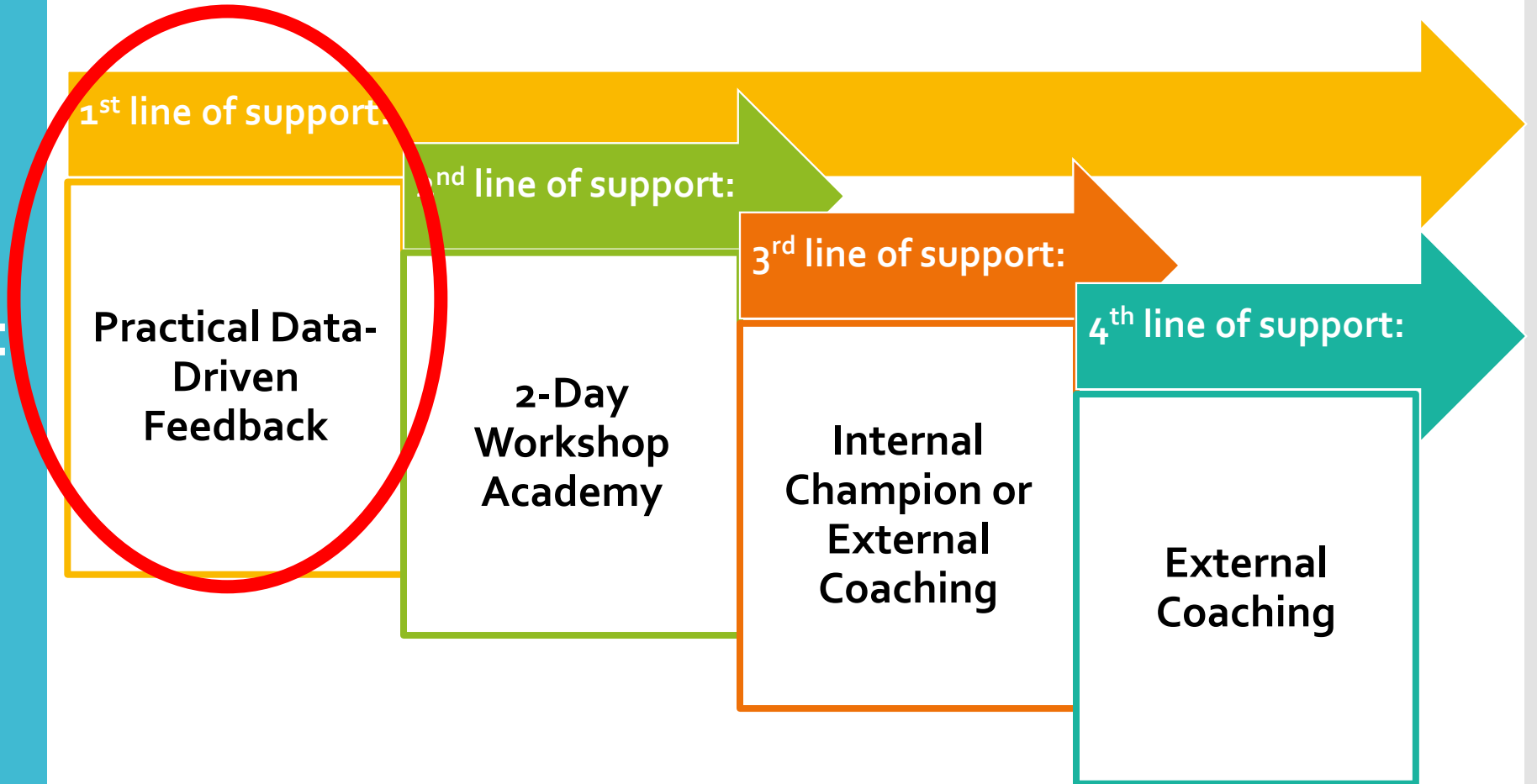


 **24 PC Clinics**  
 **32 SUD Programs**

**SITT-MAT Collaborators (N=56)**

# Measurement- Based Implementation:

Customized  
support based on  
need



How do we  
determine the  
line of support  
needed?

## Evidence-based measures of **access** and **quality**

- Reach
- Retention
- Quality: Integrating Medications for Addiction Treatment (IMAT) Index

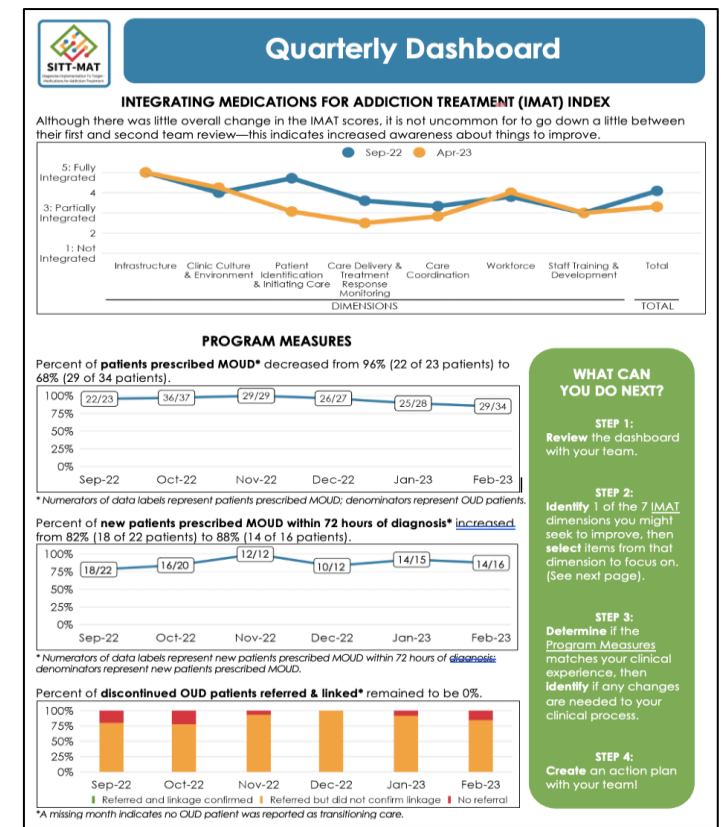


# Practical and actionable information to inform your practice team.

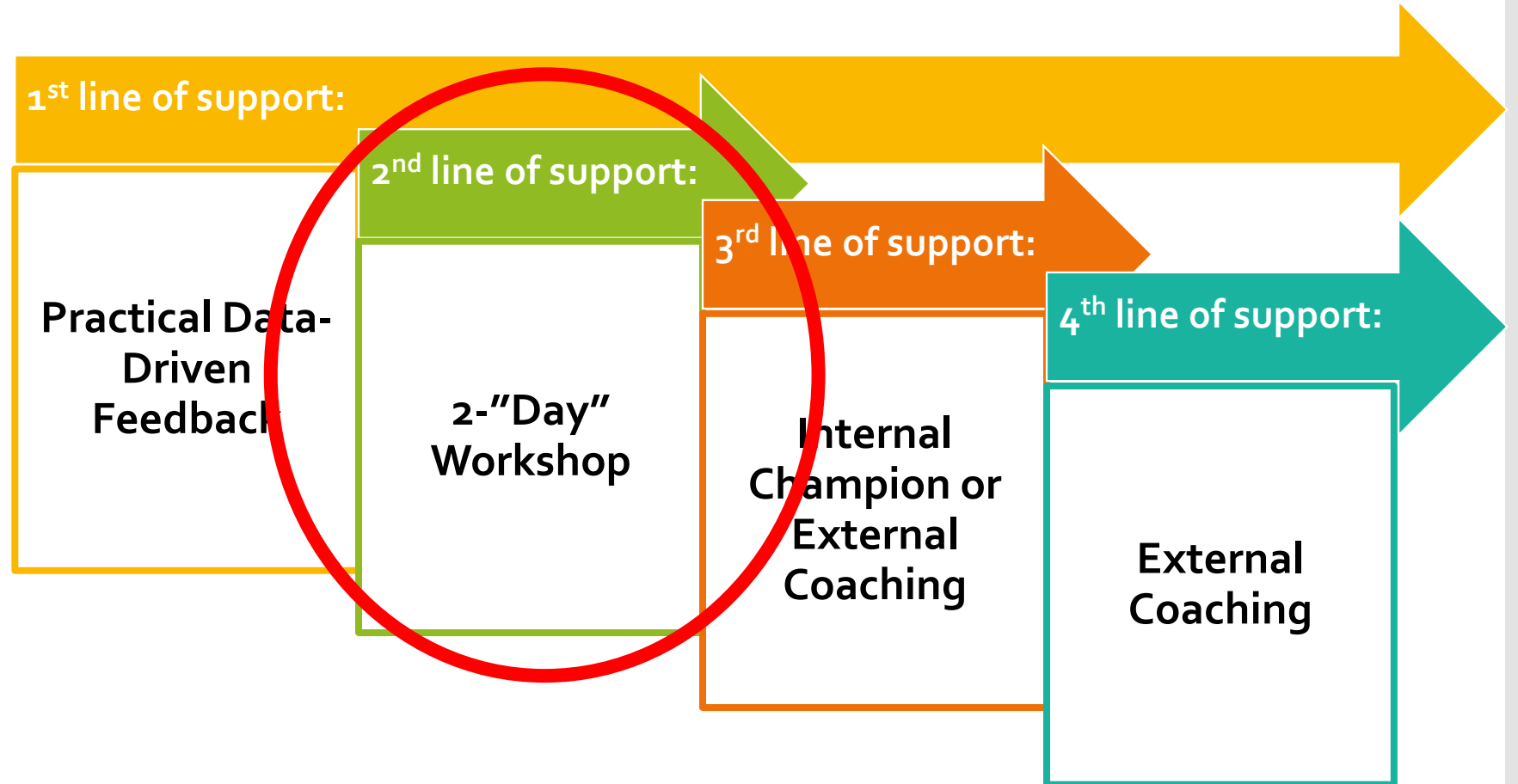
## Stage 1: Practical data-driven feedback

*"I think it's helpful to be able to see and watch the data grow as we do, adjust things, or switch some things up."*

- SITT-MAT collaborator



# Stage 2: SITT-MAT Academy



# Stage 2: SITT-MAT Academy

## Meet our speakers



Steve Delisi, MD  
Clinical Psychiatrist  
Hazelden Betty Ford Graduate School



Lora Jasman, MD  
Internal Medicine Physician  
Multicare



Lauren Whiteside, MD  
Emergency Medicine Physician  
Harborview Medical Center



Mark Duncan, MD  
Assistant Professor  
University of Washington



Mark McGovern, Ph.D.  
Professor  
Stanford University



Jay Ford, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
University of Wisconsin -Madison



Mark Zehner, M.S.  
Coach  
University of Wisconsin -Madison



Mat Roosa, LCSW  
Developer  
Quiet Coaching

# SITT-MAT Academy Day 1

Tuesday  
July 25, 2023  
12-3PM PT

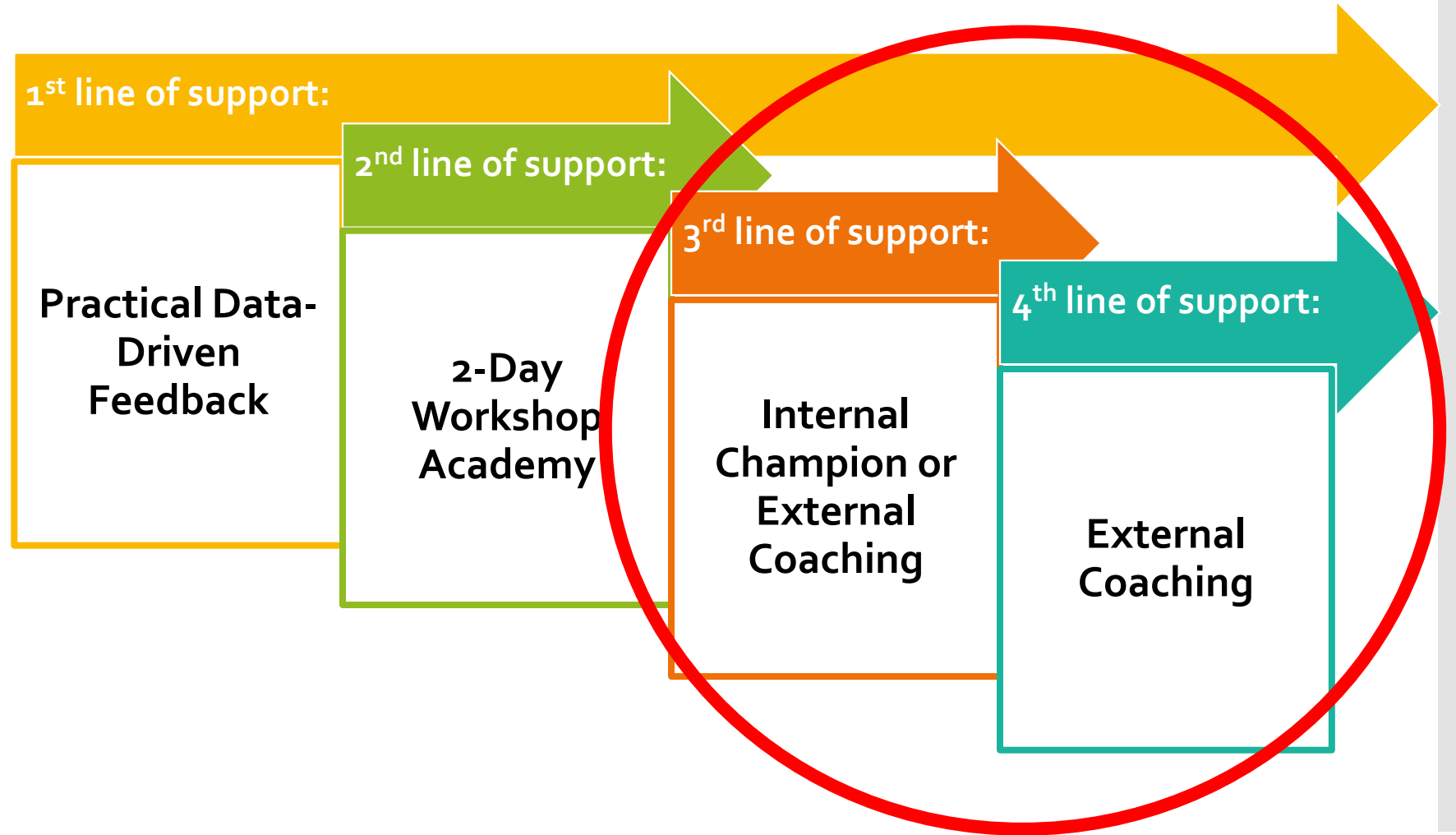
Time	Agenda	Speaker(s)/Lead(s)
12:00-12:05 (5 min)	<b>Welcome</b>	Mark McGovern Charissa Fotinos
12:06-12:15 (10 min)	<b>Introductions + Community building</b>	Kim Mount
12:16-13:00 (45 min)	<b>Medications for addiction: Stigma, attitudes and beliefs about treatment and people</b>	Steve Delisi
13:01-14:00 (60 min) Three 15-min presentations 15-min Q&A	-Low/hi barrier approaches to MOUD & care transitions -Starting/adjusting MOUD, team-based care -Improving MOUD engagement & retention	Lauren Whiteside Lora Jasman Mark Duncan
14:00-14:10 (10 min)	<b>Break</b>	All
14:11-14:25 (15 min)	<b>How to use the IMAT to understand and improve your MOUD services</b>	Mark McGovern Hannah Cheng
14:25-14:55 (30 min)	<b>Breakout: Interactive IMAT activity</b>	Medical experts & NIATx experts
14:55-15:00 (5 min)	<b>Closing</b>	Kim Mount

# SITT-MAT Academy Day 2

Wednesday  
July 26, 2023  
9-12PM PT

Time	Agenda	Speaker(s)/Lead(s)
9:00-9:05am (5 min)	<b>Welcome</b>	Jay Ford Keri Waterland
9:05-9:35 (30 min)	<b>Overview of NIATx principles and tools + case story of NIATx success</b>	Jay Ford
9:35-10:05 (30 min)	<b>Breakout: Interactive conversation about their experiences using the tools</b>	Jay Ford Mat Roosa Mark Zehner
10:05-10:30 (25 min)	<b>Presentation on how to develop Aim Statement + Interactive activity</b>	Mark Zehner
10:30-10:40 (10 min)	<b>Break</b>	All
10:40-11:40 (60 min)	-Presentation on PDSA and charter (15 min) -Breakouts: interactive activities (30 min) -Report out and Q&A (15 min)	Jay Ford Mat Roosa Mark Zehner
11:40-11:55 (15 min)	<b>Case story of a NIATx transition success</b>	Mat Roosa
11:55-12:00 (5 min)	<b>Closing</b>	Kim Mount

# Stages 3 and 4: Hands-on coaching



# SUPPORT

START HERE

YOU GET WHAT YOU NEED

AND ONLY AS MUCH AS YOU NEED

DATA

- MAKE DATA-DRIVEN DECISIONS
- CELEBRATE!

PROGRAM CHAMPION

- HOW TO LEAD FROM WITHIN THE ORG
- GUIDE THROUGH PROCESS OF CHANGE

2-DAY TRAINING

- HOW TO DO IT
- ATTITUDE + STIGMA
- NIATx PRINCIPLES

SUPPORTED BY EXPERTS

NIATx  
EXTERNAL COACHING

## SITT-MAT Journey At-A-Glance

Interested in  
joining us?



For any questions, please reach out to

**Kim Mount, Project Director**  
[Kimberley.mount@hca.wa.gov](mailto:Kimberley.mount@hca.wa.gov)

*or*

**Mark McGovern, Principal Investigator**  
[mpmcmcg@stanford.edu](mailto:mpmcmcg@stanford.edu)





# LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAMS & DIRECT RECRUITMENT RESOURCES

# Presenters

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**Sarah Alkurdi** (she, her, they, them)

*Program Manager*

Student Financial Assistance

**Claire Horton** (she/her)

*Primary Care Office Manager*

**Faith Johnson** (she/her)

*Workforce Advisor*



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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**Rural Health**

# Today's Agenda

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## **State Loan Repayment Program**

- Washington Health Corps



## **Federal Loan Repayment**

- National Health Service Corps



## **DOH Workforce Advisor**

- 3RNET



# WASHINGTON HEALTH CORPS

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Sarah Alkurdi (She/They)  
Program Manager

Washington Health Corps  
888-535-0747

[health@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:health@wsac.wa.gov)

<https://wsac.wa.gov/washington-health-corps>



WASHINGTON STUDENT  
ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL  
EDUCATION · OPPORTUNITY · RESULTS

- Established in 1989 to address health care workforce shortages.
- State Health Professional Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP, now known as SHP) and the Federal State Loan Repayment Program (FSLRP, now known as FHP).
- Washington Health Corps was established by the 2019 Legislature (SHP and established Behavioral Health Program (BHP))
- DOH Collaboration
- Planning Committee
- When program funding was reinstated in FY16, \$5,210,000. Now at a total of \$9,475,000 for FY22 and \$11,475,000 for FY23.



## Funding

Program	Funding Source	19-21 Biennium	21-23 Biennium
FHP	Federal Grant Funds	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
FHP	State Matching Funds	\$1,050,000	\$1,050,000
SHP	State Funds	\$7,650,000	\$7,650,000
BHP	State Funds	\$2,000,000	\$10,250,000
Nurse Educator	State Funds	-	\$3,000,000

## Washington Health Corps

**Washington Health Corps** helps the state attract and retain licensed health professionals to serve in critical shortage areas in Washington State by providing educational loan repayment assistance.

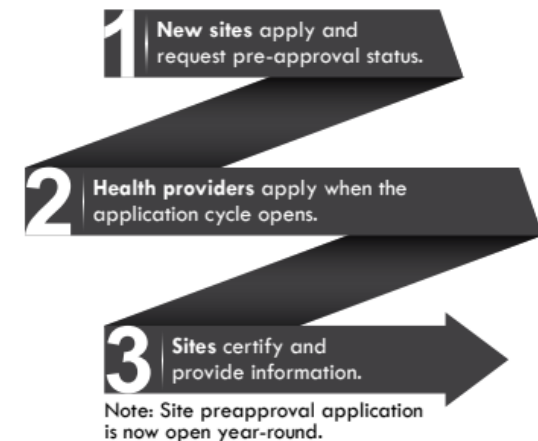
**Three programs—with different requirements—provide educational loan repayment assistance.**

Requirements	Federal Health Program (FHP)	State Health Program (SHP)	Behavioral Health Program (BHP)
Funding source	Federal funds matched with state dollars	State funds only	
Maximum award	\$70,000	\$75,000	
Minimum service obligation	2 years	3 years	
Minimum work week	40-hour work week	24-hour work week, service obligation is prorated	
Default penalty	(months NOT served x \$7,500) + interest Minimum \$31,000 payback	An amount equal to the unsatisfied portion of the service obligation, or the total amount paid by the program on participant's behalf, whichever is less.	
Days away from clinic	Approximately 35 days per contract year	40 days per contract year	
Eligible sites <i>See program reference guide for full details.</i>	Required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) designation.</li> <li>Nonprofit.</li> <li>Posted and implemented sliding fee schedule.</li> </ul>	Optional: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HPSA designation.</li> <li>Nonprofit.</li> <li>Posted and implemented sliding fee schedule.</li> </ul>	
Eligible providers	DDS or DMD, Registered Dental Hygienist, MD, DO, Physician Assistant, Nurse Practitioner, Registered Nurse, Pharmacist, Certified Nurse Midwife, Substance Use Disorder Professional, Licensed Clinical Psychologist*, Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker*, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist*, Licensed Mental Health Counselor*	All same eligible providers as FHP  PLUS Licensed Midwife, Naturopathic Doctor (ND), Licensed Practical Nurse, Chiropractor	ONLY Substance Use Disorder Professional, Nurse Practitioner specializing in mental health, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Licensed Mental Health Counselor

\*For FHP only, indicated provider types require a full independent license. Individuals with the associate level, restricted credential are not eligible.



### Three-Step Process



# Federal Health Program (FHP)

- Awards use federal funds matched with state dollars
- Maximum \$70,000 award
- Minimum two-year service obligation
- Minimum 40-hour work week
- Maximum 35.7 days per contract year allowed in leave away from site
- Default penalty: months not served x \$7,500 per month, plus interest (minimum of \$31,000 payback)



# State Health Program (SHP)

- Awards use state funds only
- Maximum \$75,000 award
- Minimum three-year service obligation
- Minimum 24-hour work week (service obligation period prorated to three-year, full-time equivalency)
- Maximum 40 days per contract year allowed in leave away from site
- Default penalty: amount equal to the unsatisfied portion of the service obligation, or the total amount paid by the program on their behalf, whichever is less

# Behavioral Health Program (BHP)

- Awards use state funds only
- Maximum \$75,000 award
- Minimum three-year service obligation
- Minimum 24-hour work week (service obligation period prorated to three-year, full-time equivalency)
- Maximum 40 days per contract year allowed in leave away from site
- Default penalty: amount equal to the unsatisfied portion of the service obligation, or the total amount paid by the program on their behalf, whichever is less



# PROVIDER ELIGIBILITY

# Eligibility

- Permanent employee of a preapproved, eligible site(s) and seeing patients at the time of the contract start date (July 1)
- Have and maintain a current, full, permanent, unrestricted and unencumbered health professions license in Washington State
- Be providing Comprehensive Primary Care

# Eligibility Continued

- Meet the minimum hours requirements

	<b>Minimum percentage of direct patient care hours per week</b>	<b>Maximum percentage of other hours per week</b>
For all professions, except those listed below	80%	20%
Obstetrics/gynecology (including family medicine physicians who practice obstetrics on a regular basis, certified nurse midwives, and licensed midwives), geriatrics, and pediatric dentists	52%	48% (with administrative activities not to exceed 20% of total weekly hours)

# FHP Eligible Disciplines

- Physician (Allopathic & Osteopathic)
- Physician Assistant
- Nurse Practitioner
- Certified Nurse Midwife
- Registered Nurse
- Pharmacist
- Dentist (DDS & DMD)
- Registered Dental Hygienist
- Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker
- Licensed Clinical Psychologist
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
- Licensed Mental Health Counselor

# SHP Eligible Disciplines

- Physician (Allopathic, Osteopathic & Naturopathic)
- Physician Assistant
- Nurse Practitioner
- Certified Nurse Midwife
- Licensed Midwife
- Registered Nurse
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Pharmacist
- Chiropractor
- Dentist (DDS & DMD)
- Registered Dental Hygienist
- Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker
- Licensed Clinical Psychologist
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
- Licensed Mental Health Counselor

# BHP Eligible Disciplines

- Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker
- Licensed Clinical Psychologist
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
- Licensed Mental Health Counselor
- Substance Use Disorder Professional
- MD, NP, Physician Assistant (BH)
- Associate level license accepted





SITE ELIGIBILITY

# Eligible Sites

- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs).
- Indian Health Service Facilities.
- Critical Access Hospitals.
- Correctional Facilities.
- Behavioral Health Facilities.
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Certified Rural Health Clinics (RHCs).

# Eligibility Criteria

- Provide Comprehensive Primary Care.
- One year of patient data.
- No wage reduction.
- Agree to accept assignment for Medicaid/Medicare beneficiaries.
- Not discriminate in the provision of services to an individual for any reason.
- For FHP: Be a public entity, a nonprofit private entity, or a for-profit health facility operated by a nonprofit organization.
- For FHP: HPSA Designation.

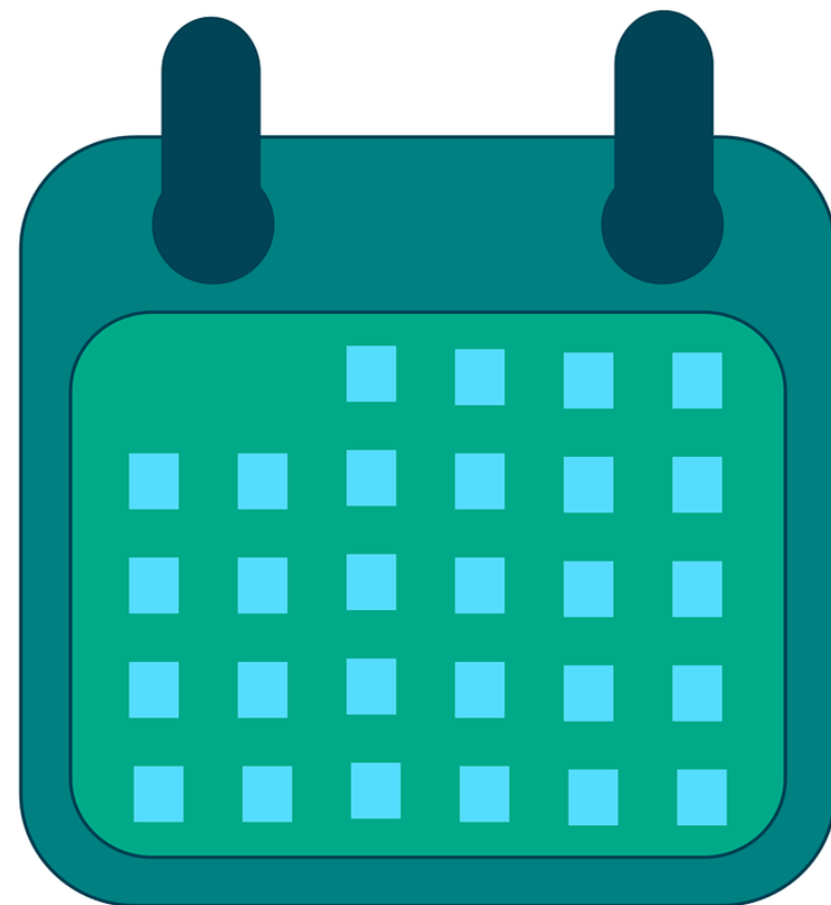


# APPLICATION PROCESS & TIMELINE

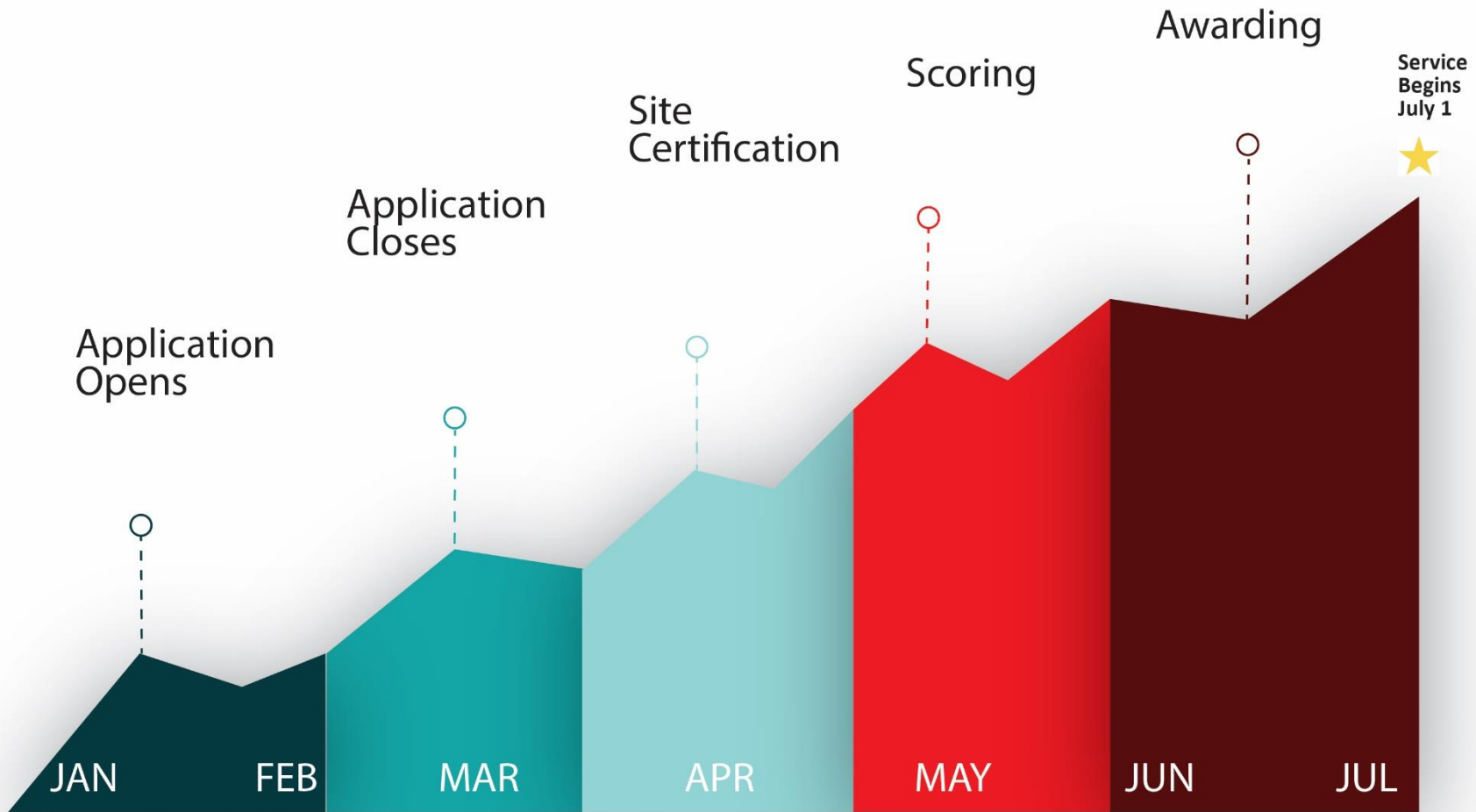


# APPLICATION DATES

- Application opens First week of January
- Application closes March 1
- Next cycle opens January 2024.
- Sites must apply before application cycle.

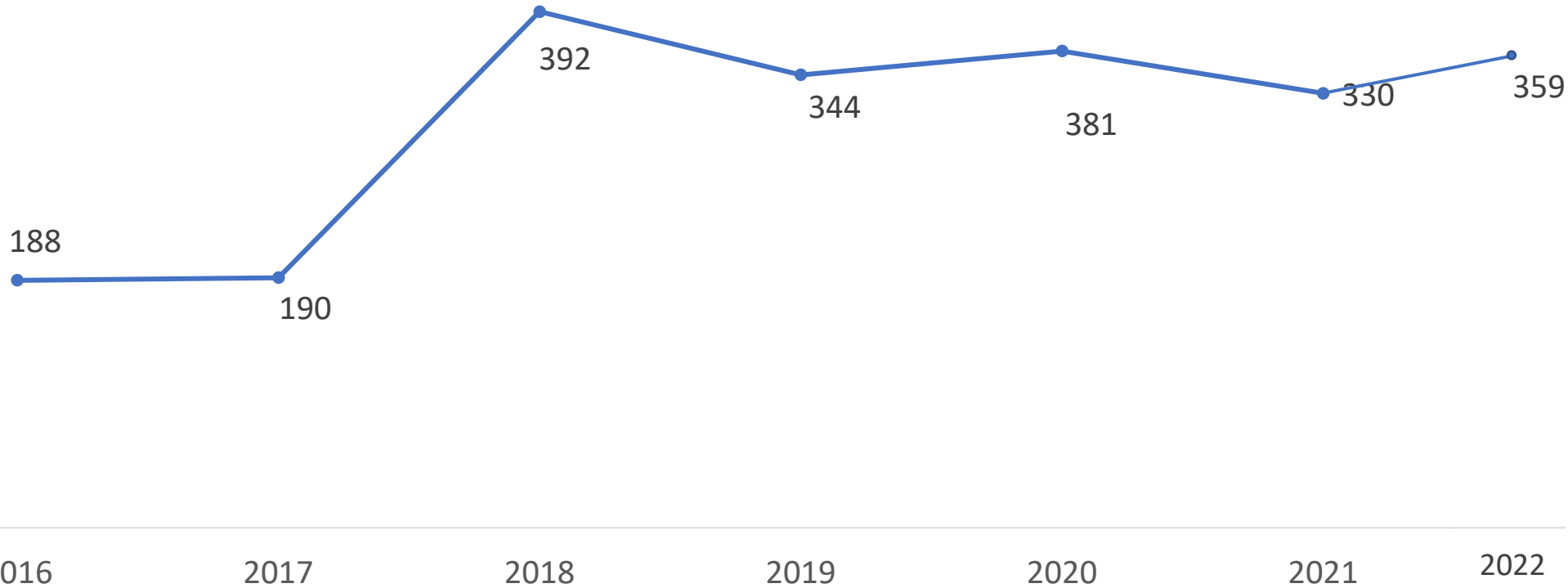


## WASHINGTON HEALTH CORPS PROVIDER APPLICATION TIMELINE



\* The Preapproved Site Application is open year round but needs to be completed and approved before a provider can apply from that site.

# Provider Applications Submitted 2016 to 2021



**Note:** Application numbers include all submitted applications. Applicants may apply for the Federal Health Program (FHP), the State Health Program (SHP) and the Behavioral Health Program (BHP) on the same application. Applications eligible for FHP funds are awarded first then SHP applicants and remaining eligible applicants are awarded with BHP funds.



# QUESTIONS?

Washington Health Corps  
888-535-0747

[health@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:health@wsac.wa.gov)

<https://wsac.wa.gov/washington-health-corps>



# Federal Loan Repayment

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## National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Programs



# NHSC Loan Repayment Program Benefits

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NHSC helps to remove financial barriers for providers, enabling them to provide care in high-need areas.

Benefits include:

- Loan Repayment for professionals;
- **Recruitment and retention tool for employers;**
- Increases access to care for communities served by NHSC providers

# WHICH ONE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

PROGRAM TYPE	NHSC Loan Repayment Program	NHSC SUD Workforce Loan Repayment Program	NHSC Rural Community Loan Repayment Program
DISCIPLINES ELIGIBLE FOR ALL PROGRAMS	Physicians (DO/MD) • Nurse Practitioners (NP) • Physician Assistants (PA) • Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM) Health Service Psychologists (HSP) • Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW) • Psychiatric Nurse Specialists (PNS) Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT) • Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC)		
DISCIPLINES ELIGIBLE FOR SPECIFIC PROGRAMS	<p>+</p> Dentists (DDS/DMD) Dental Hygienists (RDH)	<p>+</p> Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Counselors Pharmacists (PHARM) Registered Nurses (RN)	<p>+</p> Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Counselors Pharmacists (PHARM) Registered Nurses (RN) Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA)
AWARD AMOUNT	UP TO \$50K full-time / UP TO \$25K part-time	UP TO \$75K full-time / UP TO \$37.5K part-time	UP TO \$100K full-time / UP TO \$50K part-time
SERVICE COMMITMENT	2 YEARS	3 YEARS	
NHSC HEALTH CARE SITE	✓ Any NHSC-approved site	✓ Any NHSC-approved SUD site	✓ Any rural, NHSC-approved SUD site

All programs use one application, **but you can only apply to one program.**

# NHSC Approved Sites

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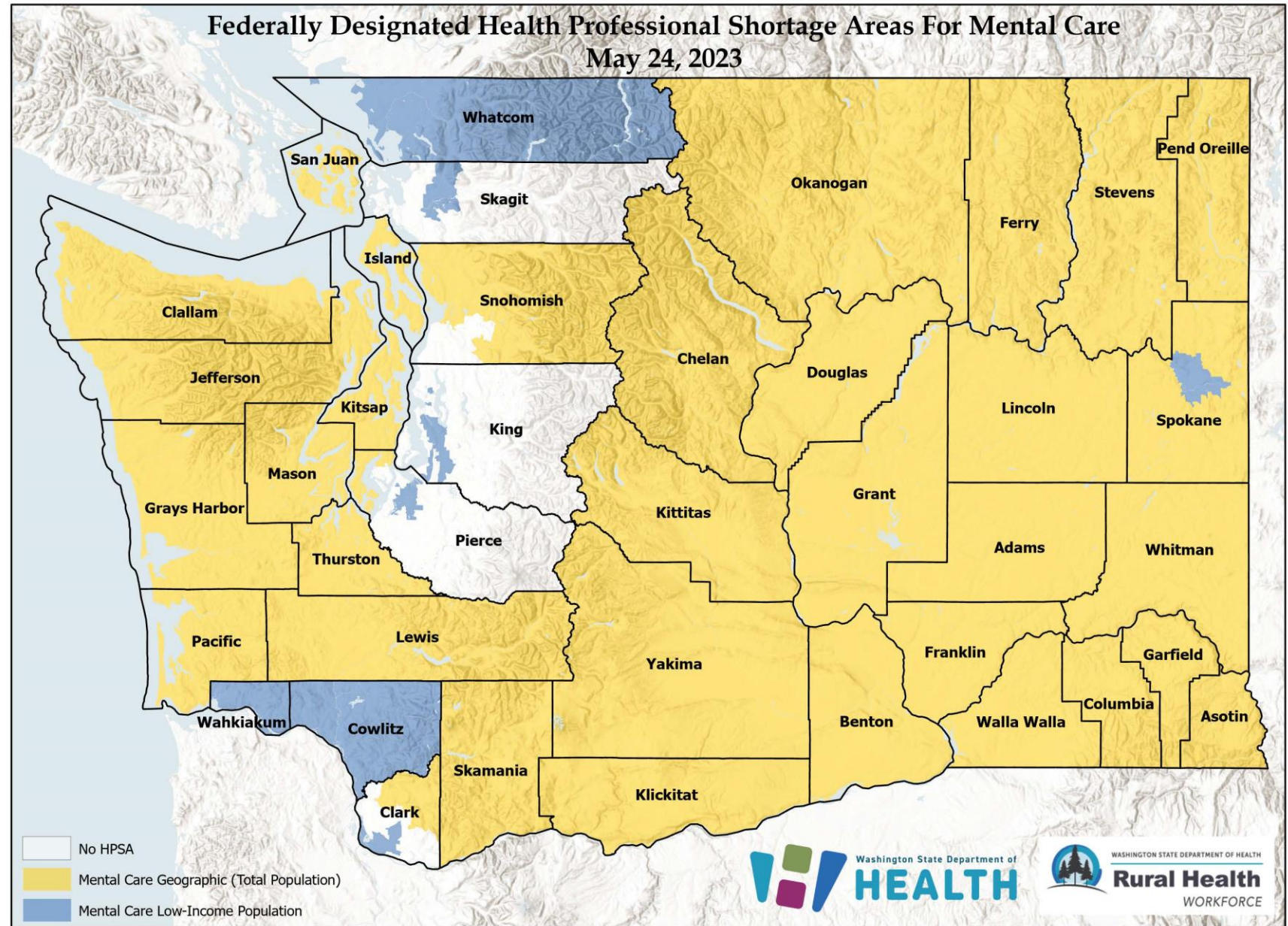
- NHSC-approved sites are outpatient facilities providing primary care medical, dental, and/or mental and behavioral health services.
- The facility can be located in a rural, urban or Tribal community.
- To become an NHSC site, the facility must meet program requirements.
  - Non-discrimination policy, including seeing all patients regardless of their ability to pay
  - Located in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)

## Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA)

Designations are for areas and populations

Certain types of facilities are also able to receive a HPSA

- Tribal Clinics, Rural Health Clinics, and Community Health Centers



# Look up HPSA Scores

Find Shortage Areas by Address:

<https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area/by-address>

- Use this tool to check the HPSA score of a specific address
- Look for the Mental Health HPSA score, and double check the status is “designated”



# DOH Role in NHSC

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## ➡ Technical Assistance

Eligibility questions, HPSA questions, Site application review, Liaison between sites, providers and HRSA

## ➡ Outreach

Student and Trainee Presentations, Promote program to rural and underserved employers

➡ [Claire.Horton@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Claire.Horton@doh.wa.gov)

## NHSC Reach & Trends

- Program growth but also the American Rescue Plan/Covid dollars are done so will probably balance out in future years
- Approximately 1/3 of awardees are behavioral health providers

Year	NHSC Providers in WA
2018	463
2019	546
2020	608
2021	656
2022	673 <i>45% increase since 2018</i>



Dental

117



Primary Care

329



Behavioral Health

227



# Support & Resources for Recruitment

## **Workforce Advisor Resource**

- The Rural Health office is committed to providing access to care to all rural and underserved communities in WA State. Helping to fill healthcare positions in these communities with medical professionals helps to address access.
- Direct Recruitment

3rnet.org



**3 R N E T**

The Nation's Most Trusted Resource for Health Professionals  
Seeking Careers in Rural and Underserved Communities.

Job Seeker



Network Coordinator



Employer

**Register today!**



- Receive email notifications for new jobs
- View full job details
- Access compensation information
- Save jobs to your profile
- Get contact information
- Obtain individualized help

# How I work with candidates:

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1

**Register on 3RNet.org**

I will reach out to you

2

**Think about your criteria**

- ✓ Region of the state
- ✓ Proximity to family
- ✓ Loan repayment site
- ✓ Work culture
- ✓ HPSA Score if applicable

3

**Update your CV/resume**

➔ [Faith.Johnson@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Faith.Johnson@doh.wa.gov)



Questions?

# Contact us

## Washington Health Corps (State Loan Repayment):

- Sarah Alkurdi at [health@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:health@wsac.wa.gov)

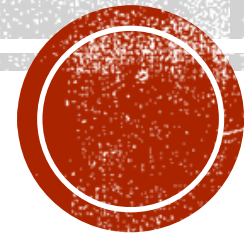
## Federal Loan Repayment Programs or HPSAs:

- Claire Horton, [claire.horton@doh.wa.gov](mailto:claire.horton@doh.wa.gov)

## Assistance with 3RNET or direct recruitment in rural or underserved areas:

- Faith Johnson, [faith.johnson@doh.wa.gov](mailto:faith.johnson@doh.wa.gov)

# PEER TRAININGS AND 2SSB 5555



# CONTINUED EDUCATION

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## Currently Available!

- Documenting Peer Support
- Ethics and Boundaries in Peer Support
- Power of Peer Support in Crisis Services
- Enhancing Your Cultural Intelligence
- Intersection of Behavioral Health and the Law
- Crisis Awareness and Communication in Peer Support

## Coming soon!

- Principles of WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan)
- Advanced Directives
- Supervisor Training





**CRISIS AWARENESS  
AND  
COMMUNICATION  
IN PEER SERVICES**

- This 40-hour course “Crisis Awareness and Communication in Peer Services”, was designed for Certified Peer Counselors who wish to increase their skills in working with individuals experiencing crisis.
- The course has 9 modules: Crisis and self care, trauma informed approaches in crisis, eight dimensions of wellness in crisis prevention, crisis systems in WA state, self advocacy in crisis, interventions, conflict in crisis, suicide prevention, prevention and support.



# Enhancing trainings and workforce diversity

- \$1,762,000 of the general fund—federal appropriation that was provided on a one-time basis solely for maintaining and increasing resources for peer support programs and for the authority to contract with an organization to assist with the recruitment of individuals to work as behavioral health peers with a specific focus on black, indigenous, and people of color communities.
- Provided seed funding for 25 organizations and tribes for 4 categories: Becoming a licensed community BH agency, recruitment and hiring of peer counselors, adding peer services to the organization's book of business and hosting a BIPOC peer run event for recruitment and engagement.
- Proviso funds were also utilized for listening sessions that were done in three underserved and underrepresented communities to gauge needs and shortages in behavioral health services. The purpose of the research and its analysis was to utilize the findings to help inform future policy and planning regarding peer services.
- Additional funding was utilized from the BIPOC Proviso to directly contract with two HCA approved training organizations in an attempt to increase the number of peers who identify as people who are underserved and underrepresented in Washington. 8 youth and Family trainings (SPARK) and 8 Standard CPC trainings (JCS).



# **2SSB 5555- CREATING THE PROFESSION OF CERTIFIED PEER SPECIALISTS**

- Beginning July 1, 2024, certified peer specialists and certified peer specialist trainees are established as new health professions that may engage in the practice of peer support services.
- The decision of a person practicing peer support services to become a certified peer specialist is voluntary, unless that person or the person's employer bills a health carrier or medical assistance for those services.
- A certificate is not required to practice peer support services but is required to use the title of certified peer specialist or certified peer specialist trainee.
- By July 1, 2024, HCA must contract for a program to link eligible persons in recovery from behavioral health challenges who are seeking employment as peers with potential employers. The contractor must create and maintain a statewide database that is accessible to eligible persons and employers.



**PATHWAYS TO EARN A  
CERTIFICATE TO ENGAGE  
IN THE PRACTICE OF  
PEER SUPPORT SERVICES  
(BEGINNING JULY 2025):**

Attests that the applicant self-identifies as a person with one or more years of recovery from a mental health condition, substance use disorder, or both; or, is the parent or legal guardian of a youth who is receiving or has received behavioral health services;

Completes the education course offered by the HCA;

Passes an oral and written examination issued by the HCA;

Completes an experience requirement of at least 1000 supervised hours as a peer specialist trainee;

and pays any DOH applicable fees

**AN APPROVED  
SUPERVISOR IS  
EITHER (UNTIL  
JULY 1, 2028):**

- A behavioral health provider with at least two years of experience working in a behavioral health practice that employs peer specialists in treatment teams;

Or

- A certified peer specialist with at least 1500 hours of work as a certified peer specialist, including at least 500 hours in the joint supervision of peers, and who has completed a peer supervisor training course developed by the Authority.



# **BY JANUARY 1, 2027, THE HCA WILL NEED TO DEVELOP AND PROVIDE THE CURRENT TRAININGS:**

- A course of instruction to become a certified peer specialist. The course must be at least 80 hours long (adding 40 hours to the current course) and based upon the curriculum offered by HCA in its peer counseling training, as well as the instruction of principles of recovery coaching and suicide prevention.
- A training course for peer specialists providing supervision to peer specialist trainees.
- A 40-hour specialized training course in peer crisis response services (done)
- A course on the benefits of incorporating certified peer specialists and certified peer specialist trainees into clinical staff.



# PEER RESOURCES

[Peer Support Page – HCA](#)

[Peer Support Monthly Blend](#)

[CPC Application](#)

OPS (Operationalizing Peer Support) page



# Contact information



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# Questions