



MARYLAND STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAMS (MLRP)

PART IV – Cultural Competency Requirements

Applicant Deadline: April 15, 2024

Employer Deadline: May 1, 2024

Healthcare provider shortage programs serve culturally and linguistically diverse communities, embracing a broad definition of culture to include race, ethnicity, language, gender, socio-economic status, sexual orientation and gender identity, physical and mental capacity, age, religion, housing status, and regional differences. The U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) are committed to improving access to quality healthcare for all. Quality care means access to services, information, and materials delivered by competent providers in a manner which factors in the language needs, cultural richness, and diversity of the populations served. Quality also means that, where appropriate, data collection instruments should adhere to culturally competent and linguistically appropriate norms. For additional information and guidance, refer to the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health Care (CLAS) published by HHS and available online at:

<https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/cultural-and-linguistic-competency>.

To fulfill this cultural competency requirement, MLRP Participants and Practice Sites are required to participate in some fundamental cultural competency activities.

MLRP Applicants: MLRP participants are required to complete 6 hours and submit proof of continuing education credit in cultural, linguistic, and health literacy competency as part of the annual conditions of award.

Practice Sites: Sites will complete an organizational assessment tool to evaluate their current integration of National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health Care (CLAS), issued by HHS. MDH will assist Sites in identifying technical assistance resources to help advance the Sites' implementation of the CLAS standards, as identified.

Applicant: If awarded I agree to fulfill these cultural competency requirements:

Applicant Name	Applicant Signature	Date
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Practice Site: We agree to fulfill these cultural competency requirements if I have a staff person who is awarded loan payment:

Site Administrator Name	Site Administrator Signature	Date
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