

HB1588

HUMAN SERVICES PROFESSIONAL LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

FACT SHEET

Fund Human Service Loan Repayment

THE PROBLEM

The General Assembly appropriated \$5.25 M in FY25 to address the human service workforce crisis that directly impacts children, adults, and families in Illinois. Since then, close to 500 applicants have applied for this loan repayment and **53% are Black, Latinx and people of color. However, we estimate that fewer than 500 applicants will receive repayment due to funding limitations.** The human service workforce is straining financially due to wage inequity, state contracts that don't reflect the true cost of delivering services, and high student loan debt burdens. **Without this support, human service providers in our state are unable to effectively recruit and retain workers.**

There are more than 300,000 human services workers in Illinois and more want to enter the workforce, but they won't if their student loan debt-to-income gap remains high. Investing in human services work means expanding this program!*

Description	The Human Services Professional Loan Repayment Program provides loan repayment assistance to qualified human service workers at community-based human services organizations to aid in the retention and recruitment of the workforce.
Eligibility + Service Commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a resident of Illinois, and US citizen or eligible non-citizen; • Have an outstanding balance on educational loans and have not defaulted; and • Must have worked 2 consecutive years at a human services organization that currently has or once had a contract with, or funding from an IL State Agency. • Must remain a full-time employee at the same community-based human services organization for at least 12 months after receiving this repayment assistance. • <i>Priority is given to applicants with the greatest financial burden</i> based on income and student loan amount.
Maximum Repayment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$15,000 per year for a master's degree or higher from a qualified program; • \$10,000 per year for a bachelor's degree from a qualified program; • \$2,000 per year for an associates degree from a qualified program; and • \$5,000 per year add-on if applicant is independently licensed as an LCSW, LCPC, practitioner of the healing arts, marriage and family therapist, board-certified behavioral analyst, or a registered behavior technician.

THE SOLUTION

The General Assembly should appropriate \$7,500,000 to sustain and expand the Human Services Professional Loan Repayment Program.

*Based on estimates from [Bureau of Labor Statistics \(BLS\)](#) data.

For more information contact

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