

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Deadline for health care providers to apply for student loan help from Colorado's CollegeInvest is Jan. 14

The deadline for health care providers to apply for the new student loan repayment program is Jan. 14.

The Colorado Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program, designed to encourage medical personnel to practice in underserved parts of Colorado, was launched in November by Colorado's CollegeInvest and the State of Colorado.

Eligible health care providers may receive student loan repayment assistance of up to \$25,000 a year by committing to work in a designated shortage area for at least two years.

The program was authorized by state legislation signed into law by Gov. Bill Ritter in June of 2007 and is funded by the State of Colorado, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and CollegeInvest, which is a not-for-profit division of the Colorado Department of Higher Education.

"Many health care providers graduate with high amounts of student loan debt," said Jennifer Robinson of CollegeInvest. "The Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program is a great way to help out the deserving professionals in the field while increasing access to medical care across Colorado."

Senator Chris Romer and Representative Tom Massey sponsored Senate Bill 232, which created the program.

To participate in the program, health care providers must:

- Be licensed to practice in Colorado in one of the following professional specialties: family medicine, general internist, general physician, general pediatrician, obstetrics-gynecology, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, certified nurse-midwife, or licensed mental health practitioner.
- Be currently employed full-time in a Federally Designated Health Professional Shortage Area in Colorado as identified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at <http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov>.
- Have student loans through CollegeInvest. Applicants with other loans may be eligible if CollegeInvest is able to acquire their loans through consolidation or by purchasing the loans.

For specific program guidelines and instructions to apply please visit www.collegeinvest.org/HealthcareRepayment.

About CollegeInvest

CollegeInvest is a not-for-profit division of the Colorado Department of Higher Education. Since 1979, CollegeInvest has helped more than half a million families break down the financial barriers to college by providing expert information, simple planning tools, scholarships, college savings plans, and low-cost student and parent loans. For more information, visit www.collegeinvest.org or call 1-800-448-2424 or contact your financial advisor.

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