

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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## **Colorado health care providers can apply for up to \$50,000 in student loan forgiveness for working in underserved areas**

Health care providers who practice in medically underserved areas of Colorado may qualify for up to \$50,000 over two years in student loan forgiveness through the Colorado Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program.

The Colorado Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program encourages medical personnel to practice in Federally Designated Shortage Areas. Designated shortage areas include communities with too few primary care providers, high infant mortality rates, high poverty and/or a high elderly population.

The program is funded by the State of Colorado, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and CollegenInvest, which is a division of the Colorado Department of Higher Education.

“Health care professionals tend to graduate with extraordinary student loan debt– which means more and more providers are choosing specialty fields with higher paying salaries” said Janet Gullickson, chief Outreach/client relations officer at CollegenInvest. “The Colorado Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program creates greater opportunities for students who wish to pursue their passion for primary care, but who would be unable to do so otherwise because of student debt.”

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 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 CollegenInvest. Applicants with other loans may be eligible if CollegenInvest is able to acquire their loans.

For specific program guidelines and instructions to apply please visit [www.collegeninvest.org/HealthcareRepayment](http://www.collegeninvest.org/HealthcareRepayment).

### **About CollegenInvest**

CollegenInvest is a not-for-profit division of the Colorado Department of Higher Education. Since 1979, CollegenInvest 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.collegeninvest.org](http://www.collegeninvest.org) or call 1-800-448-2424 or contact your financial advisor.

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