

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



January 12, 2009

Priority deadline for health care providers to apply for student loan help from Colorado's CollegeInvest is NOW

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. Priority consideration will be given to those applications postmarked by January 13, 2009.

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 CollegeInvest, which is a not-for-profit division of the Colorado Department of Higher Education.

"This is a great opportunity for health care providers serving in high-need areas to get help with their student loan debt," said Janet Gullickson of CollegeInvest. "Providers interested in the program should act soon; the deadline for priority consideration is this week.. We encourage applications after the priority date but funding may be limited."

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.

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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