# ARIZONA STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (SLRP)

### Addressing primary care workforce shortages in underserved communities through loan repayment

The State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) focuses on increasing the number of health care providers in areas of the state where there is a demonstrated need for health care services. Fully licensed providers can apply for the program which provides loan repayment assistance to qualifying student loans in exchange for service in designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) or Arizona Medically Underserved Areas (AZMUA).



#### Projected retention with SLRP based on average studen loan debt



### Long term retention for business / economic development:

Provider type	Retention 10 years post-obligation completion
Physicians	60%
Nurse Practitioners Nurse Midwives	59%
Physician Assistants	42%
Dentists / Dental Hygienists	48%
Mental Health Providers (LCSW, LFMT, LPC, PsychD, PNS)	61% (Retention 4 years post obligation completion)







Arizona Alliance FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS Primary Healthcare for All For more information please contact: Tara Plese, Chief of External Affairs Officer AACHC | 602.288.7547 | tarap@aachc.org

### IMPACT OF ARIZONA STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (SLRP)

### In 2015, new legislation broadened provider eligibility for the SLRP

#### This legislation:

- Allows behavioral health practitioners, geriatrics and pharmacists to be added to the list of eligible providers who can qualify. (Previously, only primary care providers in the fields of Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, OB/GYN and Pediatrics, Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse Midwives, Physician Assistants and Dentists were eligible).
- Increases the loan repayment incentives with priority and higher funding levels given to rural and high need areas of the state.
- Eliminates the service participation cap of four years, allowing qualified providers to continue to participate as long as providers have qualifying loans and provide service in an undeserved area of the state.

In FY 2016, the program had a 300% increase in the number of provider applications.

### Total need in Arizona's 400+ Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)

**422** Full-time primary care physicians



Each physician in Arizona supports 11.2 jobs & \$1.6 million in economic output annually. (ArMA's `14 economic impact study)

Providers in rural areas and in high need Health Professional Shortage Areas are prioritized for loan repayment.

ADHS

## In FY 2017, the program was only able to fund 20% of applicants.







### **204** Full-time psychiatrists



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In 2015, mental health providers were added to the list of eligible providers to serve the identified area of need.

ADHS

441

Dentists