

- 1 (4) Any other information requested by the Office of Rural Health as necessary
2 for evaluating the success of the Community Health Grant Program.
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4 **FUNDS FOR NC DENTAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION'S MISSIONS OF MERCY**
5 **DENTAL CLINICS**

6 **SECTION 9B.3.** Funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Health and
7 Human Services, Division of Central Management and Support, Office of Rural Health, and
8 allocated as a directed grant to the NC Dental Society Foundation for its Missions of Mercy
9 dental clinics shall not be spent for any purpose other than to provide direct services to patients
10 and to purchase necessary dental supplies. None of these directed grant funds may be spent for
11 administrative purposes.
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13 **EXPANSION OF THE NC LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM/INCENTIVES FOR THE**
14 **RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF HEALTH PROVIDERS IN OUTPATIENT**
15 **PRIMARY CARE SETTINGS IN RURAL, UNDERSERVED AREAS**

16 **SECTION 9B.4.(a)** Of the funds appropriated in this act from the ARPA Temporary
17 Savings Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Central Management
18 and Support, Office of Rural Health (ORH), the sum of twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000)
19 in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and the sum of twenty-five million dollars
20 (\$25,000,000) for the 2024-2025 fiscal year shall be allocated to the North Carolina Loan
21 Repayment Program (NC LRP) to be used as follows:

- 22 (1) Expansion of current program. – The sum of nine million dollars (\$9,000,000)
23 in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and the sum of nine
24 million dollars (\$9,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal
25 year shall be allocated to support expansion of the current NC LRP.
- 26 (2) Primary care physicians initiative. – The sum of five million dollars
27 (\$5,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and the sum
28 of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2024-2025
29 fiscal year shall be allocated to establish within the NC LRP a new primary
30 care physicians initiative. The purpose of this initiative is to target the
31 recruitment and retention of additional licensed allopathic or osteopathic
32 primary care physicians in rural, underserved areas of the State who specialize
33 in Family Medicine, General Internal Medicine, General Surgery (within
34 critical access hospitals only), General Pediatrics, Obstetrics/Gynecology, or
35 Psychiatry. For each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, at least two
36 million dollars (\$2,000,000) of these allocated funds shall be used to target
37 the recruitment and retention of at least an additional 15 licensed allopathic or
38 osteopathic primary care physicians specializing in Family Medicine, General
39 Pediatrics, or Psychiatry.
- 40 (3) Behavioral health providers initiative. – The sum of ten million dollars
41 (\$10,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and the sum
42 of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2024-2025
43 fiscal year shall be allocated to establish within the NC LRP a new behavioral
44 health providers initiative targeting the recruitment and retention of additional
45 licensed behavioral health providers in rural, medically underserved areas of
46 the State to provide outpatient primary care services. For the purpose of this
47 initiative, "licensed behavioral health providers" means any of the following
48 providers specializing in mental or behavioral health, or both:
- 49 a. Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialists
50 b. Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors (formerly known as
51 Licensed Professional Counselors)

- c. Licensed Clinical Social Workers
 - d. Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists
 - e. Licensed Psychologists
 - f. Licensed Psychological Associates
- (4) Nurse initiative. – The sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year shall be allocated for expansion of the NC LRP to include registered nurses and clinical nurse specialists providing outpatient primary care services in rural, medically underserved areas of the State.

SECTION 9B.4.(b) With respect to the new initiatives authorized by subdivisions (a)(2) through (a)(4) of this section:

- (1) For eligible providers with educational loan debt, the total amount of loan repayment incentives awarded shall not exceed the maximum amounts otherwise allowed under the current NC LRP.
- (2) Eligible providers without educational loan debt may not participate in any of these initiatives but may continue to apply for and participate in the current NC LRP.
- (3) Independent private practices located in rural, medically underserved areas of the State are deemed automatically eligible practice sites; provided, however, that such independent private practices meet all of the following criteria:
 - a. Are wholly owned and operated by physicians rather than by a hospital, health system, or other entity.
 - b. Have at least one provider enrolled in the North Carolina Medicaid program and accept patients who are Medicaid recipients.

SECTION 9B.4.(c) For each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, the ORH may use up to five percent (5%) of the total amount of funds allocated by this section for the following purposes:

- (1) For administrative costs related to the NC LRP, including costs related to establishing and administering the new initiatives authorized by subdivisions (a)(2) through (a)(4) of this section.
- (2) To enter into a contract with the North Carolina Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program for the development and implementation of a plan to (i) target, recruit, and enroll additional NC LRP participants, as authorized by subsection (a) this section, and (ii) retain these providers in rural or medically underserved areas of the State following completion of their service commitments.

SECTION 9B.4.(d) The ORH shall collect and maintain data on the length of time each NC LRP participant remains employed within the same county as the practice site selected for his or her service commitment or in a county adjacent to the practice site selected for his or her service commitment.

SECTION 9B.4.(e) By January 15, 2025, and January 15, 2026, the ORH shall report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division on the use of funds allocated by subsection (a) of this section. The report shall include at least all of the following:

- (1) A list of expenditures funded by State appropriations.
- (2) The total number of additional licensed providers enrolled in the current NC LRP that received incentives funded by subdivision (a)(1) of this section, broken down by provider category, practice site, development tier designation of the county where the practice site is located, and the type and amount of incentive provided to each provider category.

- 1 (3) The total number of additional licensed providers enrolled in the NC LRP that
2 received incentives funded by subdivision (a)(2) through (a)(4) of this section,
3 broken down by provider category, practice site, development tier designation
4 of the county where the practice site is located, and the type and amount of
5 incentive provided to each provider category.
- 6 (4) The length of time each NC LRP participant remains employed at a practice
7 site in a rural or medically underserved area.
- 8 (5) Recommendations for improving recruitment and retention efforts under the
9 NC LRP.

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11 **EXPANSION OF THE MEDICAL ASSISTANT APPRENTICESHIP INITIATIVE**
12 **PILOT PROGRAM**

13 **SECTION 9B.5.(a)** Of the funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Health
14 and Human Services, Division of Central Management and Support, Office of Rural Health, the
15 sum of one million seven hundred three thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$1,703,250) in
16 nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and the sum of one million seven hundred three
17 thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$1,703,250) in nonrecurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal
18 year is allocated as a directed grant to the North Carolina Community Health Center Association
19 (NCCHCA), a nonprofit organization, to fund expansion of its Medical Assistant Apprenticeship
20 Initiative (MAAI) pilot program through the addition of a combined total of at least 50 new
21 apprentice placements at the following sites:

- 22 (1) Rural Health Group, Inc., a community health center and nonprofit
23 organization with existing MAAI pilot program sites located in Edgecombe,
24 Granville, Halifax, Northampton, Vance, and Warren Counties.
- 25 (2) OIC Family Medical Center, a federally qualified health center that is a
26 division of the nonprofit organization known as Opportunities
27 Industrialization Center (OIC), Inc., which has existing MAAI pilot program
28 sites located in Edgecombe and Nash Counties.
- 29 (3) New MAAI pilot program sites at additional community health centers,
30 including each of the following community health centers:
 - 31 a. Cabarrus Rowan Community Health Centers, Inc., located in Cabarrus
32 County and Rowan County.
 - 33 b. Kintegra Health located in Davidson County.
 - 34 c. United Health Centers located in Forsyth County.

35 **SECTION 9B.5.(b)** The NCCHCA shall include the following information in the
36 two reports required under Section 9B.1 of this act:

- 37 (1) An itemized list of program expenditures funded by the grant, including the
38 number and location of all apprentice placements and the number and location
39 of all new pilot program sites.
- 40 (2) The number of medical assistant apprentices who successfully complete the
41 program and attain certification.
- 42 (3) A description of any benefits derived by community health centers as a result
43 of their participation in the MAAI pilot program.
- 44 (4) Any other information the NCCHCA deems relevant to evaluating the success
45 of the MAAI pilot program.

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47 **TRANSFER OF POSITIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**
48 **FOR THE CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF GOVERNOR MOREHEAD SCHOOL**
49 **FOR THE BLIND**

50 **SECTION 9B.6.** As part of the certification of the budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal
51 year, the Department of Health and Human Services shall transfer to the Department of Public