Maryland Department of Health Student Research Project

Analysis of the Maryland Loan Repayment Programs Impact-Applicants & Awardees

Focus Areas:
Public Health, Data Analysis, Workforce Development

SUMMER 2026
May 26 – July 31

This project is being offered through the **University of Maryland Strategic Partnership: MPowering the State** (http://mpower.maryland.edu) – a formal collaboration between the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP). The University of Maryland Strategic Partnership – "MPower" – provides funding for the program.

MDH MISSION
The mission of the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is to work together to promote and improve the health and safety of all Marylanders through disease prevention, access to care, quality management, and community engagement.

PROJECT OVERVIEW
This project is a part of the Office of Health Care Access and Workforce Development. The Office facilitates an ever-expanding portfolio of program monitoring and evaluation activities to include analysis of program applicants, awardees, and the impact of program participants on healthcare access throughout the state, among other areas of interest.

The Maryland Loan Repayment Programs, including the federally-funded State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) and State-funded Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Programs (MLARP), provide educational loan repayment to practitioners in exchange for service in healthcare provider shortage areas. The selected student will provide support to MLARP.

ABOUT THE PROJECT
The selected student will provide support to MLRP by working toward the following goals:
- Standardize and analyze available data for the 2026 application and award cycle;

- Further develop and populate drafted report templates for current and future years;
- Determine, analyze and document repayment trends from 2020 to 2026; and
- Present report findings, as requested, to internal and external partners.

The UM Scholar will work to utilize and improve upon existing program evaluation planning and protocols to clean, analyze, and report out with narrative and graphics, a profile of the 2026 cohort of program applicants and awardees, developing content regarding trends and insights from prior years' cohort data/analysis. In addition, the UM Scholar will have the opportunity to meet program staff and participate in team meetings. The UM Scholar will also work with the workforce team to develop internal and external presentations of work.

The UM Scholar should possess strong independent work habits and excellent data analysis skills. The selected student will gain knowledge of health workforce policy, the operational functions of the MDH, and will utilize data to illustrate the MLRP's impact and analysis on Maryland and its health workforce.

IDEAL CANDIDATE
This project is appropriate for detail-oriented and independent students with skills in writing, research, and analytics. The ideal candidate should have an understanding of, and experience with, evaluation planning and implementation, hold a general knowledge of public health, be proficient in Microsoft Excel, and have the capacity to utilize Google applications (e.g. Google Docs) and other data analysis software.

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS
Students may come from UMCP's College of Behavioral & Social Sciences, School of Public Policy, or School of Public Health and UMB's School of Medicine, School of Graduate Studies.

PROJECT LOCATION
This project delivery may be remote, in-person, or hybrid. When in person, this is the address that the student will report to:

MDH State Center
201 W. Preston Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Mentor and student should discuss delivery details during the interview, including method (in-person, hybrid, or remote), expectations, location, and meeting frequency. Flexibilities to complete the 10 weeks of research may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

PROJECT LEAD/PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
Bridget Henderson, MS, Healthcare Workforce Incentives Program Administrator

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PROJECT REQUIREMENTS:
- 10 weeks/400-hour student research project conducted with schedule mutually defined and agreed upon by the student and mentor.
- The project is funded by the University of Maryland Strategic Partnership: *MPowering the State* (MPower) and is a part of the UM Scholars program.
- The selected student will receive a stipend for their work, to be paid in multiple installments over the 10 weeks.
  - **$5,500** for undergraduate students
  - **$6,500** for graduate students
- Work is expected to occur during typical business hours; Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm.
- To be eligible, the student must be enrolled in the Fall 2026 semester.
- Travel to and parking at MDH is the responsibility of the student and costs are included in the stipend.

APPLY HERE