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# OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

## St. Clair County Health Department

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TO: St. Clair County Providers, Hospital ICPs, Emergency Departments, ED Physicians, Walk-in Clinics

FROM: Chris Czubachowski RN, BS  
SCCHD C.D. Coordinator  
P: 810- 987-5300 F: 810-985-4340

### **MDHHS OFFERS STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT TO MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS WHO TREAT OPIOID USE DISORDER**

As part of its multifaceted plan to address the opioid epidemic, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is making medical providers eligible for student loan repayment if they offer medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder.

The goal of the program is to increase availability of high-quality treatment across the state, especially in areas where treatment is difficult to access. Medical professionals working in a broad range of settings will be eligible for \$15,000 to \$30,000 in loan repayment if they begin providing medication-assisted treatment or expand the number of patients they currently see. Providers can also receive a \$5,000 bonus if they operate in a county that has no medication-assisted treatment providers.

The program is available to medical doctors and osteopathic medicine doctors, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and substance use disorder counselors who have the training needed to offer buprenorphine under the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000. To be eligible, providers must begin offering opioid treatment, increase the number of patients they currently see, or increase the number of patients they are permitted to see. Providers who work in a variety of settings are eligible to apply, including primary care, family medicine, Opioid Treatment Programs, emergency medicine, hospital-based settings, jails, and prisons.

Applications can be filed through Nov. 30. MDHHS will prioritize applications based on the number of patients to be served and the need for additional treatment capacity in the county.

Applications and additional information can be found at [www.michigan.gov/miota](http://www.michigan.gov/miota), the webpage for the Michigan Opioid Treatment Access Loan Repayment Program. Health care providers are encouraged to review the materials and submit applications when the cycle begins. They can contact Megan Linton at 517-335-6713 for more information.