



**Elevating The Safety Net**  
An L.A. Care Health Plan Initiative to  
Strengthen the Provider Safety Net in L.A. County



# Physician Loan Repayment Program

## REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)

**Note:** There is *no deadline* to apply. However, the number of awards is dependent on the number of eligible applications and availability of funding.

### **Program Administrator**

For additional information, please contact Uncommon Good  
Phone: (909)625-2248 or Email: [nmintie@uncommongood.org](mailto:nmintie@uncommongood.org)

## **I. PURPOSE**

A 2017 study by the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Healthforce Center found that California will need almost 9,000 additional primary care clinicians by 2030 to meet demand, and about 40% of those will be needed in Los Angeles, Orange, and the Inland Empire regions. For medical providers that serve a growing Medi-Cal population, this gap could be even more acute because safety net providers have fewer resources to recruit physicians.

In response to the looming physician shortage, L.A. Care Health Plan (L.A. Care), in partnership with Uncommon Good (Program Administrator), is pleased to release a Request for Applications (RFA) under the *Elevating the Safety Net Physician Loan Repayment Program*. *Elevating the Safety Net* is a long-term initiative to recruit high-quality physicians into the Los Angeles County safety net for the first time. The Physician Loan Repayment Program will provide loan repayments of up to \$5,000 per month for 36 months, with an opportunity to extend for an additional two years. Eligible primary care specialties include Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Obstetrics/Gynecology.

## **II. ABOUT L. A. CARE HEALTH PLAN AND UNCOMMON GOOD**

L.A. Care Health Plan (Local Initiative Health Authority of Los Angeles County) is a public entity and community-accountable health plan serving residents of Los Angeles County through a variety of programs including L.A. Care Covered™, Medi-Cal and L.A. Care Cal MediConnect Plan. L.A. Care is a leader in developing new programs and innovative partnerships designed to provide health coverage to vulnerable populations and to support the safety net. With more than two million members, L.A. Care is the nation's largest publicly operated health plan.

For more information, please visit: [www.lacare.org](http://www.lacare.org)

Uncommon Good is a nonprofit organization with the mission of breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty through programs in education, health, and environmental health. One of its programs is Medicine for the Economically Disadvantaged (MED) through which health practitioners received educational loan repayment assistance in return for serving low-income populations.

For more information on Uncommon Good, please visit <http://uncommongood.org/>



### III. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

#### Physician Criteria

To be eligible, a physician must:

- a. Be new to L.A. Care's Medi-Cal network, but does not have to be new to Los Angeles County.
- b. Be actively Board Certified MD/DO in a primary care specialty including Family Medicine, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Internal Medicine, or Pediatrics.
- c. Clear credentialing with L.A. Care and/or delegated entity.
- d. Be employed by a qualified practice site.
- e. Commit to practicing for at least 36 months in a qualified practice site.
- f. Provide at least 16 hours of direct patient care per week. 32 hours of direct patient care is the baseline for 100% award.
- g. Submit their application within 6 months of hire by a qualified practice site.
- h. Demonstrate financial need based on outstanding educational debt from a government or commercial lending institution.
- i. Demonstrate cultural and linguistic competency, but not required to speak a Medi-Cal threshold language.

#### Practice Site Criteria

The practice site must be a contracted provider in L.A. Care's Medi-Cal network (including independent private practices).

### IV. AWARD REQUIREMENTS

Awardees must:

- a. Complete application including personal information, educational background, confirmation of employment at qualified practice site, references, educational debt summary, personal statement and all required attachments.
- b. Submit annual report summarizing outstanding educational debt from an approved educational lending institution throughout their service commitment.
- c. Participate in post-program survey to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

### V. AWARD DISBURSEMENT

Award funds will be disbursed in the following manner:

- a. Program Administrator will approve awards based on L.A. Care's established eligibility criteria for physicians and qualified practice sites.
- b. Awardees will be required to sign promissory note with Program Administrator.
- c. Award funds will be disbursed to awardees on a monthly-basis. Awards are considered a loan repaid with service commitment in a qualified practice site.
- d. Awards will be suspended with any leave taken by the awardee and will be terminated if the awardee leaves a qualified practice site.



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**VI. PROVIDER RECRUITMENT PROGRAM**

Qualified practice sites may also wish to apply to L.A. Care’s *Elevating the Safety Net* **Provider Recruitment Program**. This program provides up to \$125,000 per entity for salary and benefits subsidies, sign-on bonuses, and/or relocation costs. Although the two programs are complementary, they have separate application processes. Acceptance to one program does not automatically qualify applicant for the other.

For further information about *Elevating the Safety Net* initiatives, please visit [www.lacare.org/elevateproviders](http://www.lacare.org/elevateproviders).

**VII. INFORMATIONAL CONFERENCE CALLS**

To assist prospective applicants and employers, L.A. Care and Uncommon Good will hold an informational conference call. During this informational call, presenters will provide an overview and answer any questions related to the Physician Loan Repayment Program RFA, application contents and timelines.

Prospective applicants should register online for the session noted below using the following link:

**Tuesday, September 18, 2018 from 11:00am - 12:00pm**  
 Registration site: <http://whoozin.com/ECK-TPD-X9WR>  
 Conference Call Dial-In: 844 907 7272 (Toll Free)  
 Access Code: 994 797 111

If you have any questions about registering for the **call**, please email Stephanie Vasquez at [svasquez@lacare.org](mailto:svasquez@lacare.org).

For any program related questions, please contact **Program Administrator**.

**VIII. APPLICATION SUBMISSION**

To download the application, please visit [www.lacare.org/elevateproviders](http://www.lacare.org/elevateproviders).

Submit completed application, board certifications, most recent tax return, and proof of loan balances via mail or e-mail to Program Administrator.

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| <p><b>Mail:</b> Uncommon Good<br/>         211 W. Foothill Blvd.<br/>         Claremont, CA 91711<br/> <i>Attention:</i> Nancy Mintie</p> | or | <p><b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:nmintie@uncommongood.org">nmintie@uncommongood.org</a><br/> <i>Subject Line:</i> Applicant’s Name,<br/>         Physician Loan Repayment Program<br/> <i>Attention:</i> Nancy Mintie</p> |
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**NOTE: All decisions are final. There is no appeal process.**