

I have two new staff who are very interested in the SHARP program. I told them how wonderful it is, and wanted to pass along your information to them, so they can get started with the application process.

-Clinic Manager

Robert, thank you very much! ... I'm so glad to hear you anticipate the program being available for folks in the future. I continue to be so very grateful for it, and hope that others who work in mental health can too.

-SHARP Clinician

Robert Sewell has been such a refreshing, enlightening aspect of this program. He has maintained effortless, timely communication throughout. I have not felt like I had to take these steps alone, He took time to listen, as well as to provide encouragement and understanding about how challenging it can be to be a relatively new clinician in a new area.

-SHARP Clinician

I am excited to continue my healthcare practice at YKHC and in Alaska. The SHARP program is a wonderful incentive to stay in Alaska and I am sincerely grateful.

-SHARP Clinician

I have recommended the SHARP program to other clinicians as well. It is very difficult for community mental health agencies to provide education benefits. We lose clinicians so frequently, and have to pay moving costs to entice folks to make the trip to Alaska. Providing this educational support under contract encourages motivated, enthusiastic, adventuresome folks to move here and, more importantly, to stay here. This provides a greater continuity of care to all the clients we serve. Thank you for creating and maintaining a program that so openly states to the public that Alaska sees value in it's people, and wants to support their health and well-being by facilitating and encouraging quality health care through effective, long-term service providers.

-SHARP Clinician

Congratulations on the expanded SHARP. Now Alaska is becoming the national model for using loan repayment and direct incentives to build a well-balanced clinician workforce.

-National Expert

Good morning health workforce stakeholders. I am happy to attach the latest update with regard to Alaska's SHARP program. The Council is extremely proud of this program and the work being done by our participants and employers. And remember, SHARP is working and we are making progress.

-SHARP Advisory Council
Member

Thank you for all the work you do for us, our patients, and the state. I am very proud of Alaska's ability to offer this program, and I continue to HIGHLY SHARP as a recruiting tool. I can't believe the difference it has made.

-Dental Director

Thank you for easing my mind! Great. And I'm so grateful Alaska will have me! It's such a wonderful place to be and work.

-Clinician Applicant

Thank you for the level of patience and effort dedicated to directing all of the applicants through to the deadline - I can only imagine how stressful it can become and I really appreciate it.

-Clinician Applicant

Thank you for your kind words, encouragement and information regarding my SHARP program. ...Again, thank you for everything you have done and for making this process as simple, easy, and pleasant as it can be.

-SHARP Clinician

Thank you so much for this opportunity. I am so grateful for SHARP's commitment. SHARP has played an enormous role in my decision to serve rural Alaska. I am looking forward to another two years working with the people of Norton Sound Region. Your support is much appreciated!

-SHARP Clinician

The SHARP program has taken off so much financial stress, which improves every area of my life. In short, I am a better therapist, and more able to concentrate on my work, because I know my own needs are taken care of. My student loan payment was \$775 per month before I entered the SHARP program. Just stop and think for a minute how many bills you could pay with \$775 every month. I became a therapist because I wanted to be able to give back- I am so grateful for the gift of the SHARP program for me.

-SHARP Clinician

I must say it is a wonderful feeling to be finished with loans. A weight has been lifted. My parents were immigrants from Haiti with no ability to pay for college let alone medical school. I took out loans, participated in work study, & applied for scholarships to fund my education. Thank you so much for all that you and your our work in Bethel which is why so many people stay even though their service is complete. Thank you again.

-SHARP Clinician

I would also like to thank you for working with me on this decision. I am honored to be a part of the SHARP program, I was recalling the day you called to tell me I had received the award, that was one of the few times I have been so astonished and excited about something that I actually was searching for words, the remark you made to me was something to the effect of "D__, this is good news." I look forward to continuing to work together with you during my remaining time in the program.

-SHARP Clinician

If possible, shake everyone's hand for me who is involved in any part of the SHARP program. I am very happy and grateful that I have been provided an opportunity to serve and assist in an area where I am needed while giving me my life back. My school debt is now completed, but I

choose to continue going where I can make a difference to those that need it the most. ... Once again. Thank You!

-SHARP Clinician

Thank you so much for this opportunity. I am so grateful for SHARP's commitment. SHARP has played an enormous role in my decision to serve rural Alaska. I am looking forward to another two years working with the people of Norton Sound Region. Your support is much appreciated!

-SHARP Clinician

I wanted to thank-you for the opportunity to participate in the SHARP program. Although I have remaining student loan debt I feel that SHARP's help in reducing it allowed me to explore more creative employment options than I would have if I had large debts hanging over me. Interestingly that led to me accepting this position in Naknek (split between Naknek and Anchorage) which will allow me to continue to serve rural residents. So even beyond the SHARP enrollment period I'd argue that SHARP benefits rural residents and our state as a whole.... Thanks for your efforts for our state and underserved populations and for me personally.

-SHARP Clinician

If possible, shake everyone's hand for me who is involved in any part of the SHARP program. I am very happy and grateful that I have been provided an opportunity to serve and assist in an area where I am needed while giving me my life back. My school debt is now completed, but I choose to continue going where I can make a difference to those that need it the most. ...

-SHARP Clinician

I have recommended the SHARP program to other clinicians as well. It is very difficult for community mental health agencies to provide education benefits. We lose clinicians so frequently, and have to pay moving costs to entice folks to make the trip to Alaska. Providing this educational support under contract encourages motivated, enthusiastic, adventuresome folks to move here and, more importantly, to stay here. This provides a greater continuity of care to all the clients we serve. Thank you for creating and maintaining a program that so openly states to the public that Alaska sees value in it's people, and wants to support their health and well-being by facilitating and encouraging quality health care through effective, long-term service providers.

-Licensed Professional
Counselor

As the State of Alaska continues to pursue a model of quality and cost effective healthcare for its residents, the need for providers who can effectively deliver this care will continue to increase. The SHARP II program will draw providers like me to fill this need and keep delivery of this excellent model of care possible for many years to come.

-Nurse Practitioner

This program has indeed solved a huge problem for me and has indeed been a wonderful incentive to continue to serve in Alaska. I strongly believe it must be preserved to help attract future medical service talent to the state. Alaska, due to its small population simply cannot/does

not provide medical, dental and advanced nurse practice training within the borders. Therefore, they are dependent upon motivating people to move here. That is no small challenge for the recruiters and those of us who choose to move. ... I am sincerely grateful for all that you, your staff and this program have done for me.

-Nurse Practitioner, Remote
Hospital

I did want to give you a positive update. I'm on track to pay off my student loan immediately after my last SHARP-II payment after my service ends (Date). Two-thirds of the way through and I'm still very grateful for the opportunity. It will be SO great to be student loan debt-free while continuing to serve the population I really adore!

-Social Worker, Rural
Behavioral Health Clinic

The SHARP program has taken off so much financial stress, which improves every area of my life. In short, I am a better therapist, and more able to concentrate on my work, because I know my own needs are taken care of. ... I became a therapist because I wanted to be able to give back- I am so grateful for the gift of the SHARP program for me.

-Counselor, Rural Tribal
Clinic