



NEWS RELEASE

Texas Animal Health Commission

“Serving Texas Animal Agriculture Since 1893”

Andy Schwartz, DVM • Executive Director

P.O. Box 12966 • Austin, Texas 78711 • (800) 550-8242 <http://www.tahc.texas.gov>

For more information contact the Public Information Office at 512-719-0750 or public_info@tahc.texas.gov

February 8, 2018

Apply for the USDA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program

AUSTIN - The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has started accepting Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) applications for the eight Texas areas experiencing veterinary shortages. Applications may be submitted through March 16, 2018.

The VMLRP is authorized by the National Veterinary Medical Services Act (NVMSA) and helps qualified veterinarians offset a significant portion of debt incurred while pursuing their veterinary medicine degrees in return for at least three years of service in a designated veterinary shortage area.

Eligible veterinarians are encouraged to apply for the VMLRP. The criteria are listed below:

1. Have a degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), or the equivalent, from a college of veterinary medicine accredited by the AVMA Council on Education;
2. Have qualifying educational loan debt as defined in 7 CFR 3431 Section 3;
3. Secure an offer of employment or establish and/or maintain a practice in a designated veterinary shortage area. To view the Texas shortage areas, visit https://nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp-map?state=222&field_status_value=All&field_vsgp_status_value=All&fy%5Bvalue%5D%5Byear%5D=2018; and
4. Provide certifications and verifications in accordance with 7 CFR 3431 Section 16.

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture will be offering a webinar for interested veterinarians to provide an in-depth explanation of the VMLRP. Visit <https://nifa.usda.gov/webinar-vmlrp-applicants> for more information.

Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) will also offer a webinar for interested Texas veterinary applicants. Information for the webinar will be posted on TAHCs website, <http://www.tahc.texas.gov/vets/resources.html>, and emailed out.

For more information about the FY 2018 VMLRP application process, visit <https://nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp-applicants> or contact vmlrp@nifa.usda.gov. While the TAHC does not administer this program, comments or questions related to the shortage areas may be directed to susan.culp@tahc.texas.gov.

###

