

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program
Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2018

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FY 2018 Program Highlights

The USDA’s Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP), authorized by the National Veterinary Medical Services Act (NVMSA), helps qualified veterinarians offset a significant portion of the debt incurred in pursuit of their veterinary medicine degrees in return for their service in certain high-priority veterinary shortage areas. The amount available for loan repayments in FY2018 was approximately \$7.1 million. The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) may repay up to \$25,000 of a veterinarian’s debt per year. Loan repayment benefits are limited to payments of the principal and interest on government and commercial loans received for attendance at an American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)-accredited college of veterinary medicine resulting in a degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) or the equivalent. A veterinarian who receives a VMLRP award must agree to provide veterinary services in a specific veterinary shortage area for at least three years.

NIFA solicited veterinary shortage area nominations from State¹ Animal Health Officials (SAHO) with a deadline of November 22, 2018. Out of 187 nominations submitted by SAHOs across the country, the review panel recommended 187 nominations to be designated as shortage situations. There were 106 new nominations and 79 unfilled FY2017 nominations that were carried-over with no changes.

NIFA rolled out its Request for Applications (RFA) for the VMLRP on February 1, 2018. The application period remained open until the March 16, 2018 deadline. VMLRP received 154 applications; of these, 147 were eligible for review. NIFA issued 74 loan repayment offers and agreements were executed with 74 (including 10 renewals) veterinarians for a total of \$6,792,005 awarded. The award recipients had an average eligible debt of \$141,494.05. 52.7 percent of executed awards went to veterinarians who obtained their DVM degrees within the last three years (2016-2018). 27 states had at least one shortage area filled through the VMLRP.

Table 1. VMLRP program highlights: FY 2018.

NUMBER	HIGHLIGHT
147	Applications reviewed
74	Award offers made
74	Agreements executed
27	States with at least one shortage area filled
\$6,792,005	Total funding awarded

¹ State means any one of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and the insular areas of the United States. Also included are total “Federal Lands”, defined for convenience as a single entity.

VMLRP Applications and Awards

Demographics

Table 2. Number of VMLRP applications, award offers and the success rate for each application type.

Application Type	Applications	Award Offers	Success Rate (%)
New	134	64	47.8
Renewal	13	10	76.9
Total	147	74	50.3

Figure 1. Number of applicants offered an awarded versus applicants not offered an awarded.

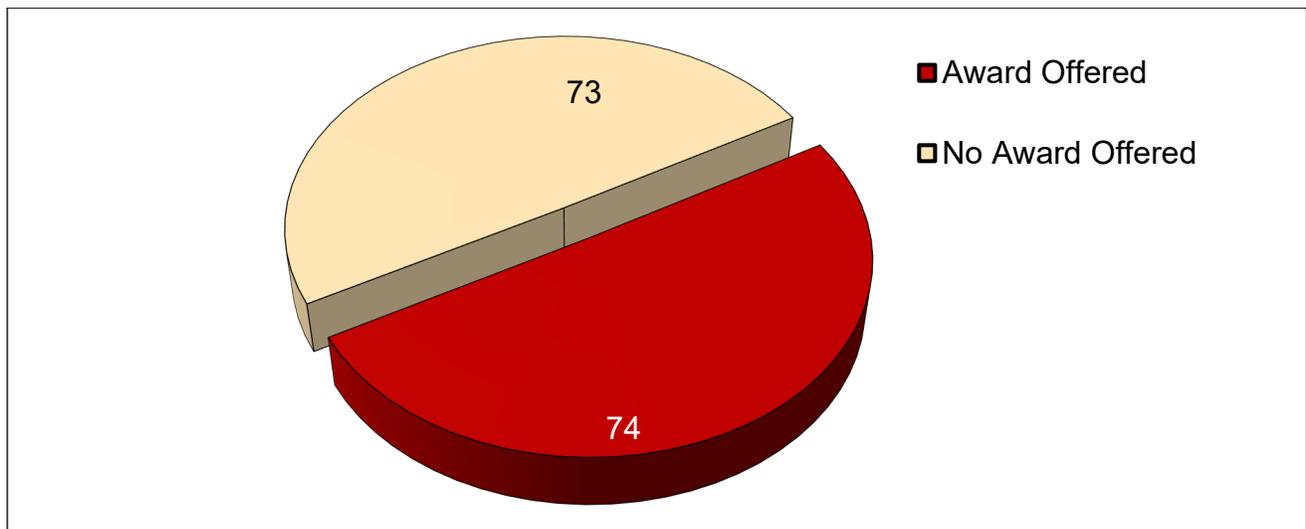


Table 3. Number of VMLRP applications, award offers and the success rate for race and ethnicity.

Race/Ethnicity	Applications	Award Offers	Success Rate (%)
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0	0.0
Asian	1	0	0.0
Black or African American	0	0	0.0
Hispanic or Latino ²	2	1	50.0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0.0
White	133	68	51.1
Did Not Answer	13	6	46.2

² Hispanic or Latino” was collected as a separate metric, independently from the rest of the table. This may cause the total values in the table to not match totals listed above.

Table 4. Number of VMLRP applications, award offers and the success rate for gender.

Gender	Applications	Award Offers	Success Rate (%)
Female	87	43	49.4
Male	55	30	54.5
Did Not Respond	5	1	20
Total	147	74	50.3

Figure 2. Distribution of VMLRP Award Offers by Gender

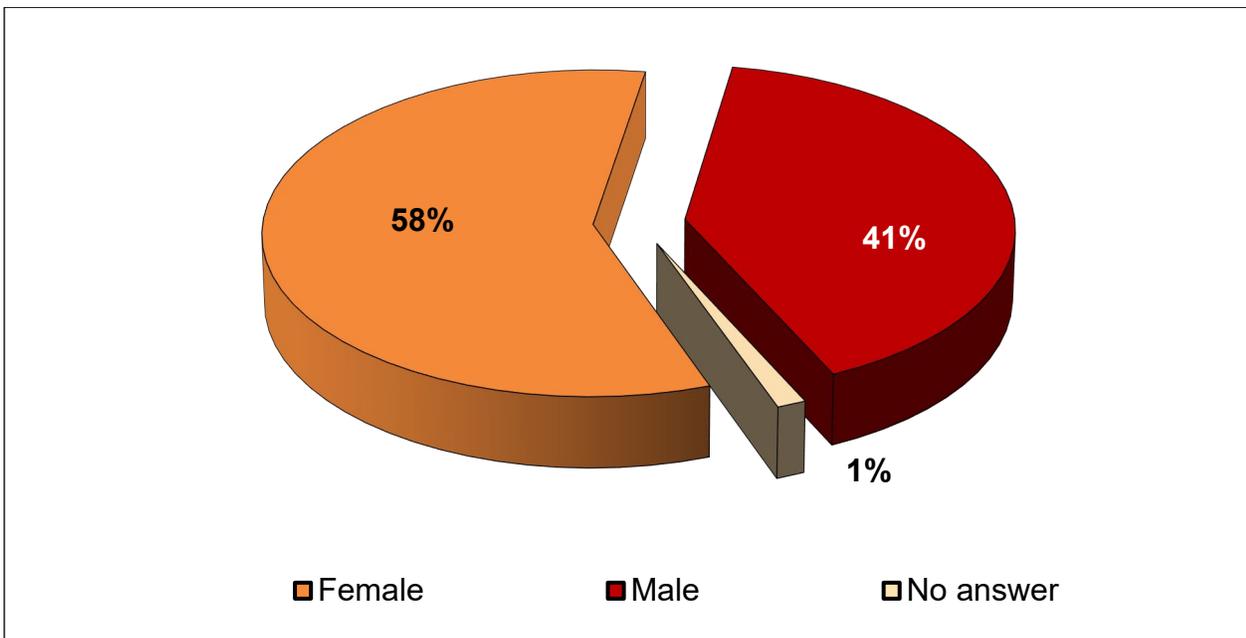


Table 5. Number of VMLRP applications, award offers and the success rate by years post-DVM.

Years Post-DVM	Applications	Award Offers	Success Rate (%)
Less than 1	31	12	38.7
1 to 3	49	27	55.1
4 to 6	30	16	53.3
7 to 9	19	13	68.4
Over 10	18	6	33.3

The average number of years post-DVM for applicants was 4.3 years (range: 1996-2018 years) while the average for those offered an award was 4.4 years (range: 1996-2018 years). For those offered an award the average number of years post-DVM for new awards was 4.1 years (range: 1996-2018) and 6.2 years (range: 2006-2015 years) for renewals.

Table 6. Number of VMLRP applications and award offers by state. (Superscript denotes the number of renewal awards included. States not listed had zero applicants³.)

State	Applications	Awards
Alaska	1	1
Arizona	2	1
Arkansas	2	1
California	2	2
Colorado	9	4
Connecticut	1	0
Florida	3	1
Georgia	5	2 ¹
Idaho	5	3
Illinois	1	1
Indiana	9	4
Iowa	20	7 ¹
Kansas	7	5 ¹
Kentucky	4	2
Louisiana	1	0
Michigan	1	1
Minnesota	3	3
Missouri	4	2
Montana	5	3
Nebraska	12	8 ²
New Jersey	2	0
New Mexico	1	0
North Carolina	2	1
North Dakota	2	1 ¹
Ohio	4	2
Oklahoma	5	5
Pennsylvania	3	1 ¹
South Carolina	1	0
South Dakota	5	3 ¹
Tennessee	2	0
Texas	8	3 ¹
Utah	1	1
Virginia	4	1
Washington	1	1
Wisconsin	7	3
Wyoming	1	1 ¹
Federal Lands	1	0
TOTAL	147	74¹⁰

³ States that had zero applicants are Alabama, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Insular Areas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia.

Table 7. Number of applications and award offers by veterinary school attended. (Superscripts denote the number of renewal awards included. Schools not listed did not have any graduates apply.)

School	Applications	Awards
Auburn University	3	1
Colorado State University	10	7 ²
Cornell University	1	0
Iowa State University	34	18 ⁴
Kansas State University	10	7 ¹
Lincoln Memorial University	5	2
Louisiana State University	1	1
Michigan State University	2	2
Mississippi State University	1	0
North Carolina State University	1	0
Ohio State University	6	3
Oklahoma State University	11	5
Purdue University	6	3
Ross University	5	2
St. George's University	1	0
Texas A&M University	3	1
Tuskegee University	2	0
UC Davis	1	1
University of Florida	2	1
University of Georgia	3	3 ¹
University of Illinois	3	2
University of London	1	0
University of Minnesota	5	4
University of Missouri	7	2 ¹
University of Pennsylvania	2	1 ¹
TOTAL	147	74¹⁰

For a complete list of veterinary medicine schools accredited by AVMA please visit:

<https://www.avma.org/education/accredited-veterinary-colleges>

Awardee Debt

Debt information is only tabulated for executed VMLRP awards. The average debt for new awardees was \$ \$133,717.73 and \$49,768.40 for renewal awardees.

Figure 3. Distribution of new awardee recipients' debt.

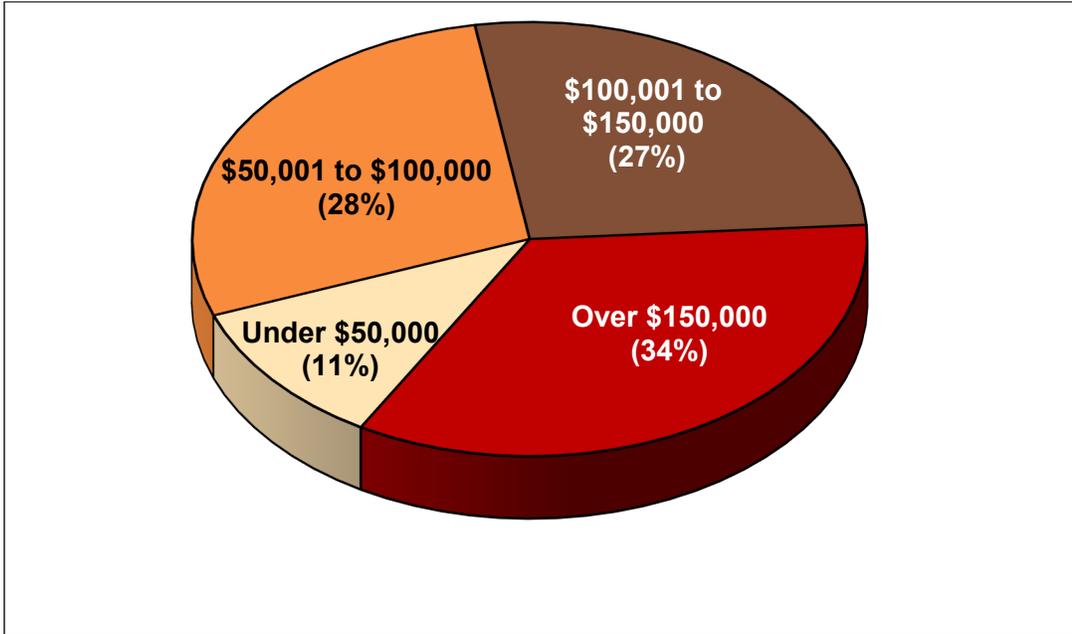
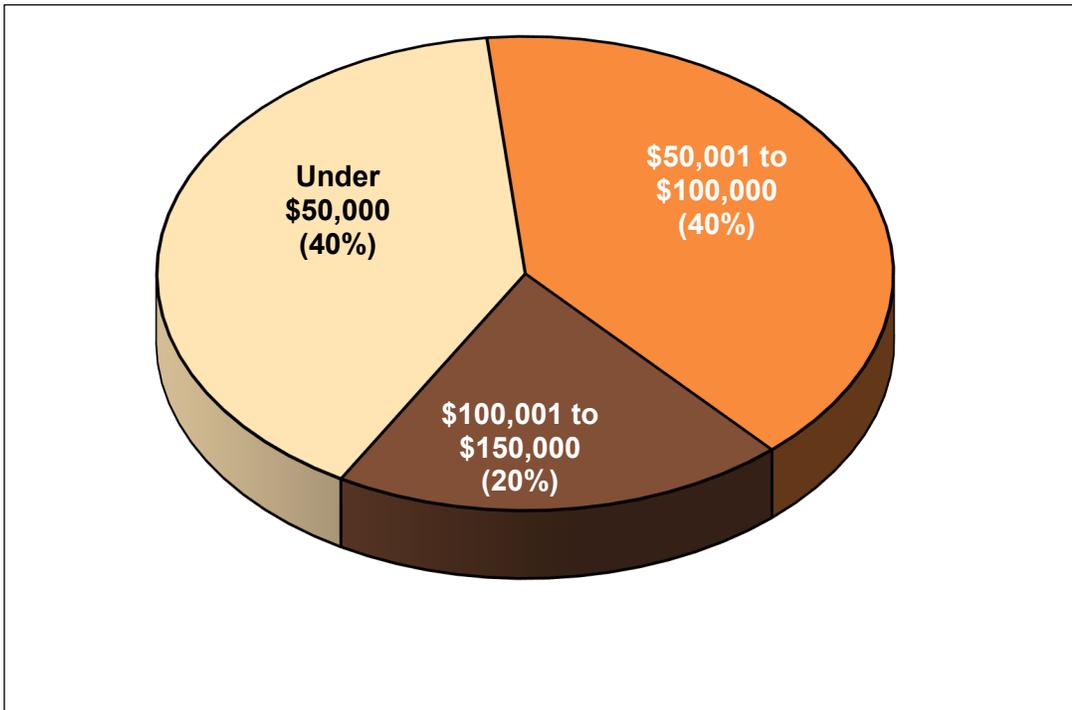


Figure 4. Distribution of renewal awardee recipients' debt.



Veterinary Shortage Areas

Nomination and Designation Process

In the interest of creating an objective and transparent process, as well as minimizing the administrative burden on the states, NIFA capped the numbers of nominations. The nomination allocation for each state⁴ was determined by quartile ranks in two variables broadly correlated with demand for food supply veterinary services: “Livestock and Livestock Products Total Sales (\$)” and “Land Area (acres)”. States were ranked from least to greatest value for each of these two variables. The ranked lists were then divided into quartiles with Quartile 1 containing the lowest values and Quartile 4 containing the highest values. Each state then received an allocation of shortage situation nominations corresponding to the number of the quartile in which the state falls, thereby giving states a range of 2 to 8 shortage situation nominations, contingent upon each state’s quartile ranking for the two variables. States that report less than \$1,000,000 in annual Livestock and Livestock Products Total Sales (LLPTS), process less than 500,000 acres of Land Area (LA), and/or do not report data were allocated 1 shortage nomination each.

All States, the District of Columbia, U.S. Insular Areas, and the Federal Government were invited to submit nominations. Nominations received by the deadline (November 22, 2018) were reviewed by an external panel of veterinary experts. Care was taken to ensure broad and diverse representation on the panels, and to avoid conflicts of interest. The panels either recommended to “approve designation” or “disapprove designation” of each submitted nomination.

NIFA emphasizes that shortage nomination allocation is intended to balance the number of designated shortage situations across states. No state is given a preference for placement of awardees. Awards are made based strictly on the match between the merit of an application and the attributes of the specific shortage situation applied for.

Table 8. Veterinary Shortage Areas: FY 2018.

NUMBER	HIGHLIGHT
187	Shortage area nominations received
187	Number of shortage areas designated
27	States with at least one designated shortage area
74	Veterinary shortage areas filled
23	States with at least one <u>new</u> shortage area filled

⁴ State means any one of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and the insular areas of the United States. Also included are total “Federal Lands”, defined for convenience as a single entity.

Shortage Area Designations and Awards

Table 9. The number of VMLRP allocations, designations and new awards by state.

State	Allocations	Designations	New Awards
Alaska	5	3	1
Arizona	6	4	1
Arkansas	6	6	1
California	8	5	2
Colorado	8	8	4
Connecticut	2	1	0
Delaware	3	2	0
Florida	4	4	1
Georgia	7	7	1
Idaho	7	3	3
Illinois	6	3	1
Indiana	5	5	4
Iowa	7	7	6
Kansas	7	7	4
Kentucky	5	5	2
Louisiana	4	4	0
Maine	2	1	0
Maryland	3	3	0
Michigan	6	2	1
Minnesota	7	7	3
Mississippi	5	5	0
Missouri	6	6	2
Montana	6	6	3
Nebraska	7	7	6
New Jersey	2	2	0
New Mexico	6	1	0
New York	5	2	0
North Carolina	6	4	1
North Dakota	5	3	0
Ohio	5	5	2
Oklahoma	7	7	5
Pennsylvania	6	6	0
South Carolina	3	3	0
South Dakota	6	6	2
Tennessee	4	2	0
Texas	8	8	2
Utah	6	6	1
Virginia	5	5	1
Washington	6	1	1
Wisconsin	7	7	3
Wyoming	6	4	0
Federal Lands	4	4	0
Totals	268⁵	187	64

⁵The total number of allocations includes states not listed due to not having a designation this fiscal year. There are two possible reasons shortages are not designated: (1) the jurisdiction did not submit a shortage situation nomination, or (2) the jurisdiction submitted a shortage situation nomination, but it did not receive designation.

Table 10. Number of renewal awardees by state.

State	Renewals
Georgia	1
Iowa	1
Kansas	1
North Dakota	1
Nevada	2
Pennsylvania	1
South Dakota	1

Veterinary Shortage Area Types

Description of Shortage Types are classified based on percent Full Time Equivalent (FTE), based on a 40-hour work week, and practice type.

Type I Shortage – 80 Percent or Greater FTE Private Practice Food Supply Veterinary Medicine

The Type I shortage situation must entail at least an 80 percent (32 hours per week) time commitment to private practice food supply veterinary medicine. The shortage situation may be located anywhere (rural or non-rural) so long as the veterinary service shortages to be mitigated are consistent with the definition of “practice of food supply veterinary medicine.”

Type II Shortage – 30 Percent or Greater FTE Private Practice Food Supply Veterinary Medicine in a Rural Area

The shortage situation must be in an area satisfying the definition of “rural.” The minimum 30 percent (12 hours per week) time commitment of an award recipient to serve in a rural shortage situation is in recognition of the fact that there may be some remote or economically depressed rural areas in need of food animal veterinary services that are unable to support a practitioner predominately serving the food animal sector, yet the need for food animal veterinary services for an existing, relatively small, proportion of available food animal business is great.

Type III Shortage – 49 Percent or Greater FTE Public Practice

This is a broad nomination category comprising many types of specialized veterinary training and employment areas relating to food supply and public health veterinary workforce capacity and capability. The minimum 49 percent (19.6 hours per week) commitment recognizes that some public practice employment opportunities are part-time. These positions are typically located in city, county, State and Federal Government, and institutions of higher education. Examples of positions within the public practice sector include university faculty and staff, veterinary laboratory diagnostician, County Public Health Officer, State Veterinarian, State

Public Health Veterinarian, State Epidemiologist, FSIS meat inspector, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC), and Federal Veterinary Medical Officer (VMO).

Shortage Area Types Designations and Awards

Table 11. Veterinary shortage areas designated in 2018 and filled with new awardees by shortage type.

Type	Designated	Filled	Success Rate (%)
I	25	11	44.0
II	129	46	35.7
III	33	7	21.2
Total	187	64	34.2

Figure 5. Distribution of each shortage type filled by new awardees.

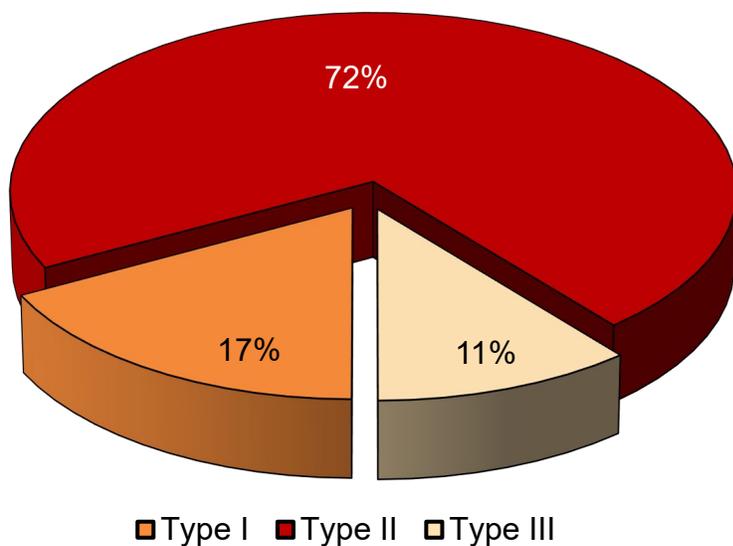
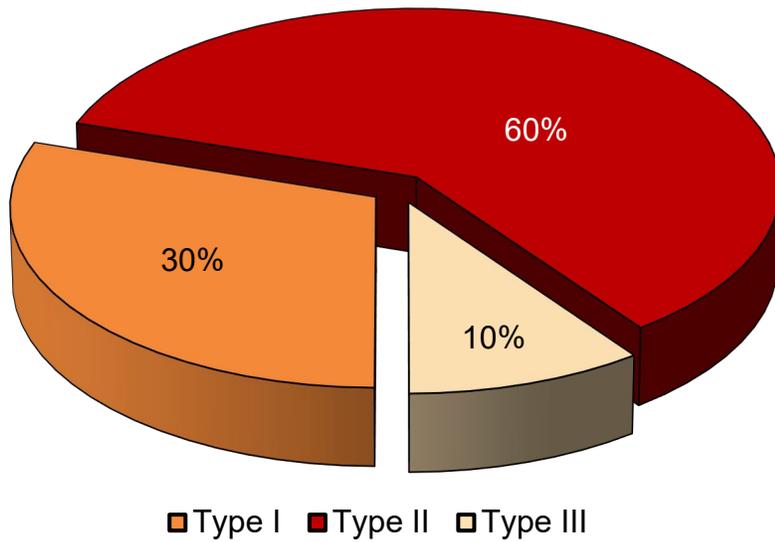


Table 12. Veterinary shortage areas: renewal awardees by shortage type.

Type	Filled	Total Awards (%)
I	3	4.1
II	6	8.1
III	1	1.3
Total	10	13.5

Figure 6. Distribution of each shortage type filled by renewal awardees.



VMLRP Directory

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