

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program
Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2019

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FY 2019 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 FY 2019 was approximately \$7.2 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 11, 2018. Out of 190 nominations submitted by SAHOs across the country, the review panel recommended 190 nominations to be designated as shortage situations. There were 77 new nominations and 113 were unfilled nominations from FY2018 that were carried over with no changes.

NIFA rolled out its Request for Applications (RFA) for the VMLRP on March 4, 2019. The application period remained open until the April 12, 2019 deadline. VMLRP received 139 applications; of these, 130 were eligible for review. NIFA issued 74 loan repayment offers. Agreements were executed with 62 (including 8 renewals) veterinarians for a total of \$5,913,824 awarded. The award recipients had an average eligible debt of \$155,451.96. A total of 48.4 percent of executed awards went to veterinarians who obtained their DVM degrees within the last three years (2017-2019). Twenty-seven states had at least one shortage area filled through the VMLRP.

Table 1. VMLRP program highlights: FY 2019

NUMBER	HIGHLIGHT
130	Applications reviewed
74	Award offers made
62	Agreements executed
27	States with at least one shortage area filled
\$5,913,824	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 (award offers/applications) for each application type.

Application Type	Applications	Award Offers	Success Rate (%)
New	122	66	54.1
Renewal	8	8	100.00
Total	130	74	56.9

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

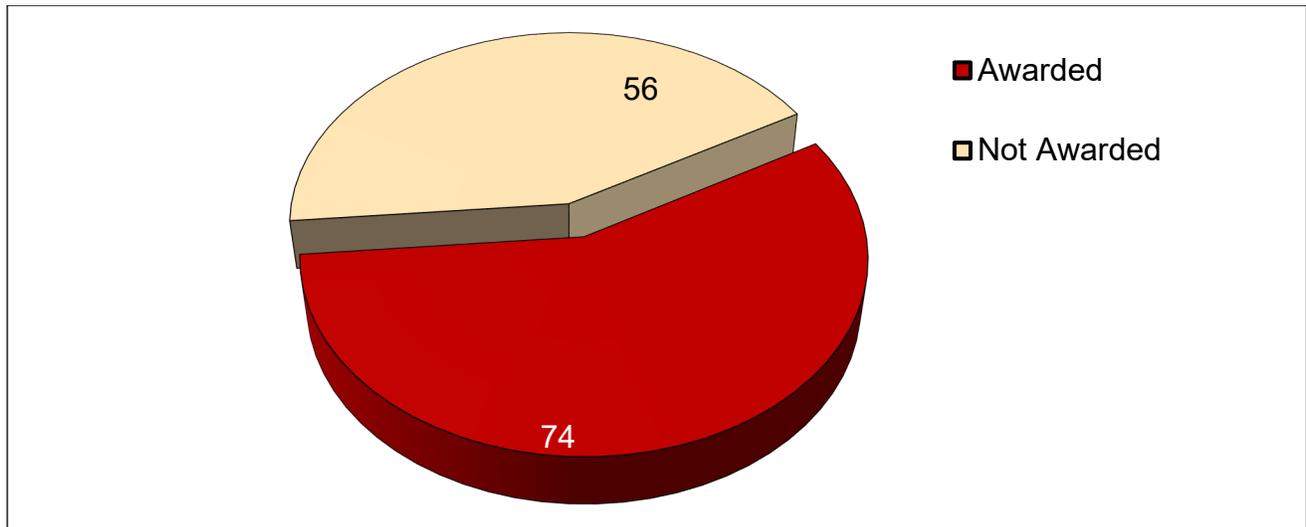


Table 3. Number of VMLRP applications, award offers and the success rate (award offers/applications) for race and ethnicity. Applicants could identify more than one race/ethnicity and total number may not equal total number of applications and awards.

Race/Ethnicity	Applications	Award Offers	Success Rate (%)
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1	1	100.0
Asian	0	0	0.0
Black or African American	2	1	50.0
Hispanic or Latino ²	3	3	100.0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0.0
White	88	46	52.3
Did Not Answer	40	27	67.5

² Applicants were provided the ability to identify as multiple races/ethnicities. 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 (award offers/applications) for gender.

Gender	Applications	Award Offers	Success Rate (%)
Female	62	35	56.5
Male	34	16	47.1
Did Not Respond	34	23	67.6
Total	130	74	56.9

Figure 2. Distribution of VMLRP Award Offers by Gender

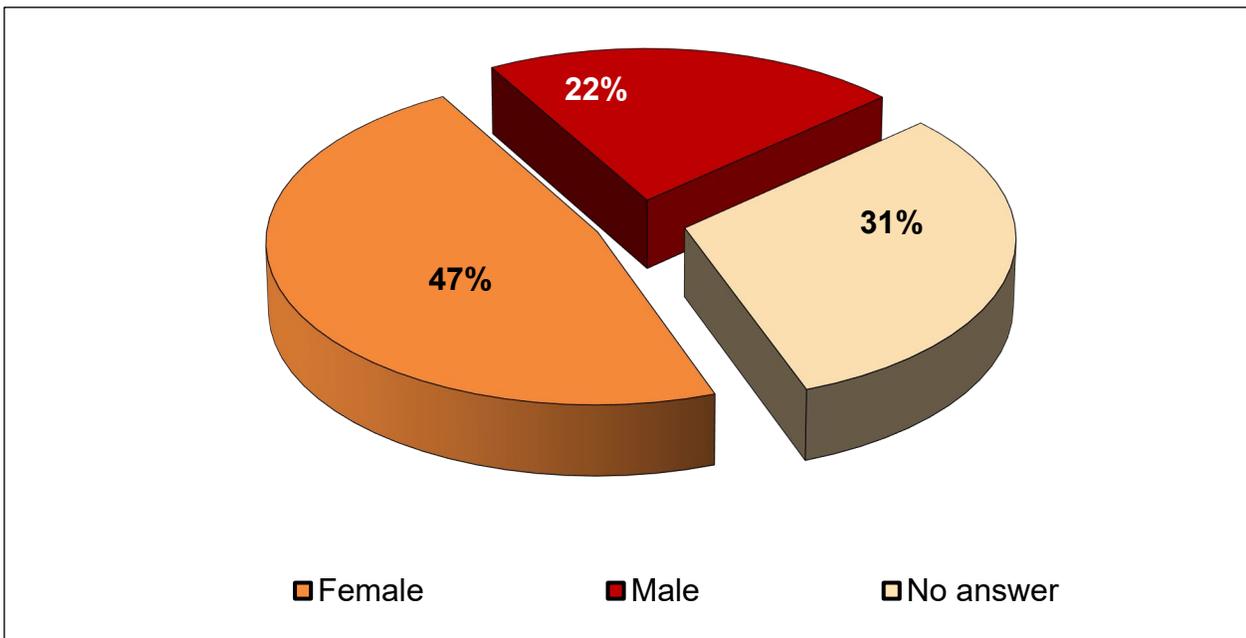


Table 5. Number of VMLRP applications, award offers and the success rate (award offers/applications) by years post-DVM.

Years Post-DVM	Applications	Award Offers	Success Rate (%)
Less than 1	22	9	40.9
1 to 3	50	31	62
4 to 6	31	23	74.2
7 to 9	15	7	46.7
Over 10	12	4	33.3

The average number of years post-DVM for applicants is 4.1 (range: 1994-2019 years) while the average for those offered an award is 3.8 years (range: 2001-2009 years). For those offered an award the average number of years post-DVM for new awards was 3.3 years (range: 2001-2009) for new applicants and 7.5 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	0
Arizona	1	1
Arkansas	1	0
California	1	1
Colorado	8	5
Connecticut	1	0
Florida	2	2
Georgia	1	1
Idaho	2	1
Illinois	2	1
Indiana	5	3
Iowa	21	7 ¹
Kansas	5	5 ¹
Kentucky	9	4 ²
Louisiana	1	1
Michigan	2	1
Minnesota	5	1
Missouri	3	2
Montana	2	2
Nebraska	8	5
Nevada	2	1
New Jersey	1	1
New Mexico	2	2 ¹
New York	3	2
North Carolina	2	1
Ohio	1	0
Oklahoma	5	1
Oregon	1	1
Pennsylvania	2	0
South Carolina	2	2 ¹
South Dakota	2	2
Tennessee	1	1
Texas	5	4
Utah	2	1
Virginia	4	3 ¹
Washington	1	1
West Virginia	4	3 ¹
Wisconsin	7	3
Wyoming	2	2
TOTAL	130	74⁸

³ States that had zero applicants are Alabama, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Insular Areas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Federal Lands.

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	6	3 ¹
Colorado State University	10	8 ¹
Cornell University	2	1
Iowa State University	28	13 ¹
Kansas State University	7	4
Lincoln Memorial University	2	1
Louisiana State University	1	1
Mississippi State University	3	1
North Carolina State University	4	2
Ohio State University	3	1
Oklahoma State University	6	3 ¹
Oregon State University	2	1
Purdue University	2	1
Ross University	3	1
St. George's University	1	0
Texas A&M University	3	2
Tufts University	2	2
Tuskegee University	3	3 ²
University of Florida	2	2
University of Georgia	1	0
University of Illinois	3	1
University of Melbourne	1	1
University of Minnesota	4	1
University of Missouri-Columbia	5	3
University of Pennsylvania	2	0
University of Tennessee	4	3
University of Wisconsin-Madison	5	3
Virginia Tech	6	5 ²
Washington State University	7	6
Western University of Health Sciences	2	1
TOTAL	130	74⁸

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 \$139,759.52 and \$122,893.50 for renewal awards.

Figure 3. Distribution of new awardee recipients' debt.

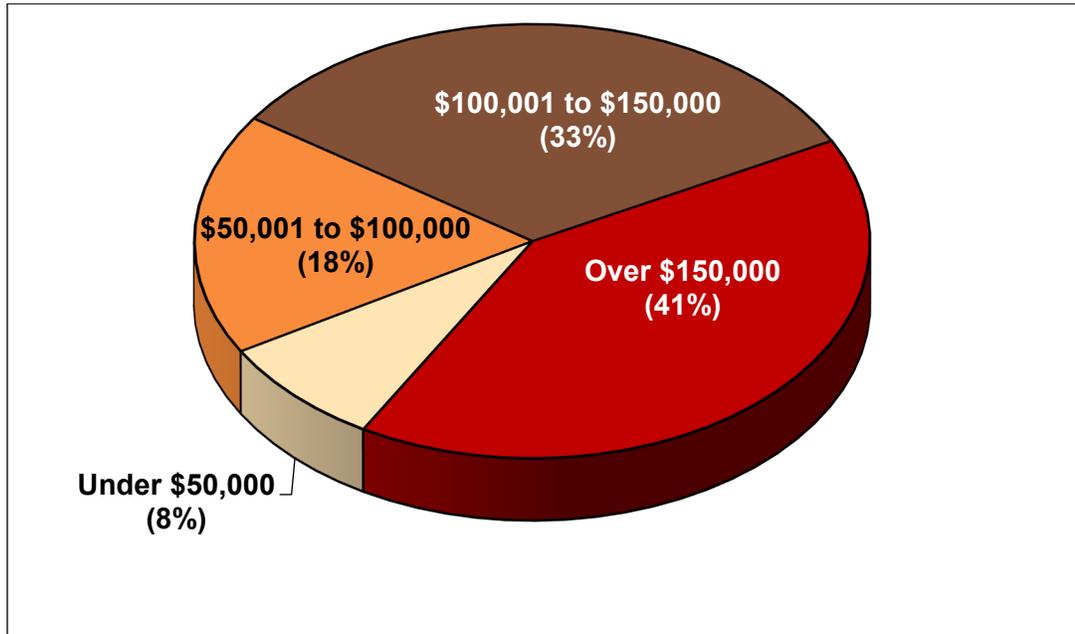
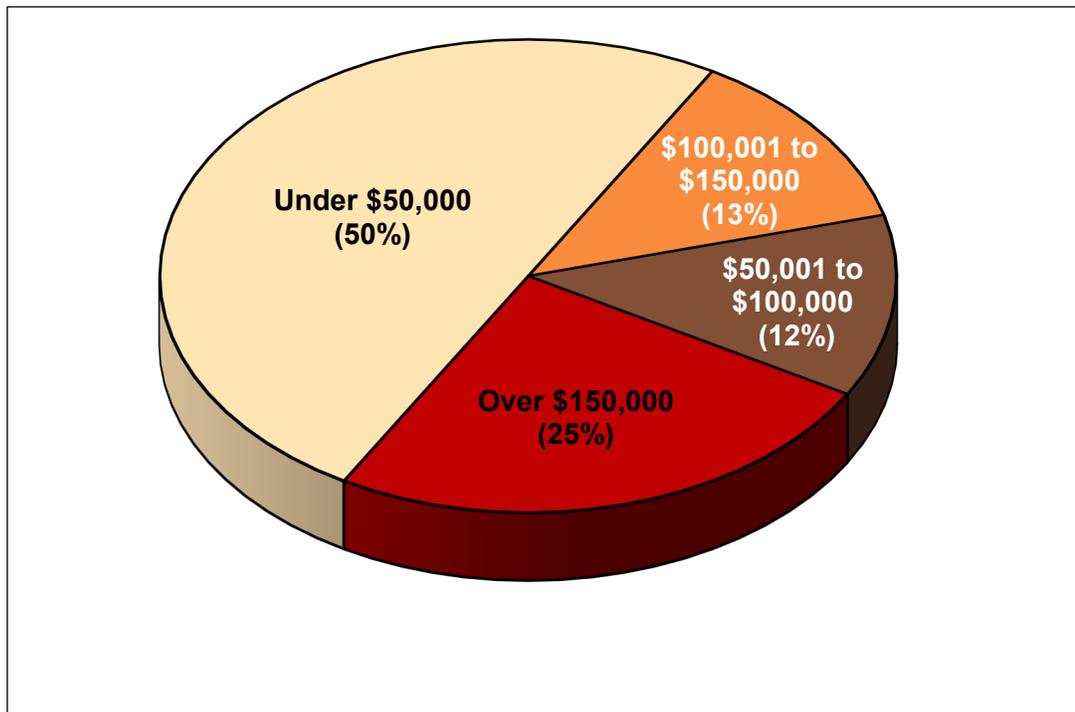


Figure 4. Distribution of renewal awardee recipients' debt.



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 11, 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 2019

NUMBER	HIGHLIGHT
190	Shortage area nominations received
190	Number of shortage areas designated
44	States with at least one designated shortage area
62	Veterinary shortage areas filled
27	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 VMLRP allocations, designations and new awards by state.

State	Allocations	Designations	New Award Offers
Alabama	5	0	0
Alaska	5	3	0
Arizona	6	4	1
Arkansas	6	5	0
California	8	5	1
Colorado	8	8	5
Connecticut	2	1	0
Delaware	3	2	0
Florida	4	4	2
Georgia	7	7	1
Hawaii	2	0	0
Idaho	7	3	1
Illinois	6	5	1
Indiana	5	5	3
Iowa	7	7	6
Kansas	7	7	4
Kentucky	5	5	2
Louisiana	4	4	1
Maine	2	1	0
Maryland	3	0	0
Massachusetts	2	0	0
Michigan	6	2	1
Minnesota	7	7	1
Mississippi	5	5	0
Missouri	6	4	2
Montana	6	7	2
Nebraska	7	7	5
Nevada	5	1	1
New Hampshire	2	0	0
New Jersey	2	2	1
New Mexico	6	2	1
New York	5	3	2
North Carolina	6	5	1
North Dakota	5	3	0
Ohio	5	3	0
Oklahoma	7	7	1

Oregon	6	2	1
Pennsylvania	6	6	0
Rhode Island	2	0	0
South Carolina	3	3	1
South Dakota	6	6	2
Tennessee	4	4	1
Texas	8	8	4
Utah	6	6	1
Vermont	2	0	0
Virginia	5	5	2
Washington	6	1	1
West Virginia	2	2	2
Wisconsin	7	5	3
Wyoming	6	4	2
Federal Lands	4	4	0
TOTAL	257⁵	190	66

Table 10. Number of renewal awards by state

State	Renewals
Iowa	1
Kansas	1
Kentucky	2
New Mexico	1
South Carolina	1
Virginia	1
West Virginia	1

⁵ The total number of allocations includes states not listed due to not having a designation this fiscal year. There is a possible reason a shortage is not designated: (1) the jurisdiction did not submit a shortage situation nomination.

Veterinary Shortage Area Types

Description of Shortage 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 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 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 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 2019 and filled with new awardees by shortage type.

Type	Designated	Filled	% of Designated Areas Filled
I	24	9	37.5
II	133	38	28.6
III	33	7	21.2
Total	190	54	28.4

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

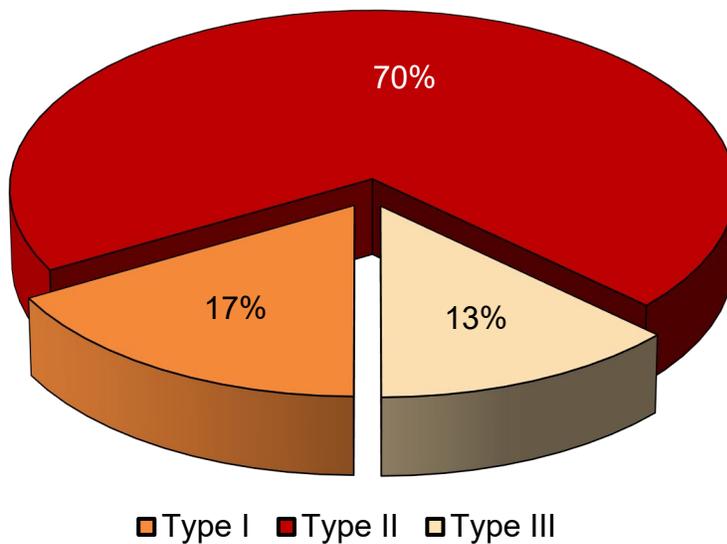
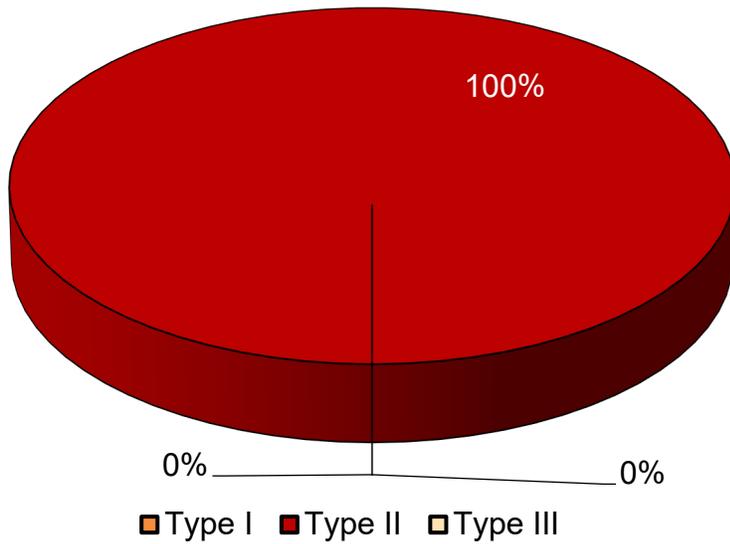


Table 12. Veterinary shortage areas filled with renewal awardees by shortage type.

Type	Filled	Total Awards (%)
I	0	0.0
II	8	15.1
III	0	0.0
Total	8	15.1

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



VMLRP Directory

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