

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Frequently Asked Questions

Renewal Applications and Awards

When do I submit a renewal application?

If you have sufficient eligible debt and continue to meet the eligibility criteria at the end of your current VMLRP award, you should submit an application for a renewal award during the application cycle that immediately precedes the last day of your current service agreement. For example, if your service agreement is scheduled to end on December 31, 2013, then you should submit a renewal application during the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 application cycle. VMLRP application cycles typically open in April and close in late May or early June.

If you are a VMLRP award recipient with a service agreement that ends in December 2013, you should keep an eye out for the FY 2013 VMLRP Request for Applications (RFA) announcement.

I am currently serving a shortage area through a VMLRP award, but this shortage area is no longer on the map of designated veterinary shortage areas for the VMLRP. Can I still apply for a renewal award?

Yes, you can still apply for a renewal award. Be sure to enter the five-character shortage identification code for the shortage area you are currently serving where requested on the VMLRP application forms.

You can find your shortage identification code by visiting the Reports and Statistics page (found in the General Information section) on the VMLRP website and look for the fiscal year in which you received your initial VMLRP award. Renewal applicants in FY 2013 can expect to find their shortage identification code in the FY 2010 map. The Reports and Statistics page is located at: www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/animals/in_focus/an_health_if_vmlrp_repts_stats.html.

How will my renewal application be evaluated?

Renewal applications will be evaluated with the same criteria as new applications, but added attention will be placed on the progress you made during your VMLRP service agreement. Be sure to review the Evaluation Criteria section under **Part V—APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS** of the RFA.

If I receive a renewal award, how is the length of the award determined?

The VMLRP will repay up to \$25,000 per year for each year of service, thus if you have less than \$25,000 remaining eligible debt then you can expect to receive a one-year renewal award if your renewal application is approved for funding. If you have more than \$25,000 and less than \$50,000 remaining eligible debt, then you will be eligible to receive a two-year renewal award. If you have more than \$50,000 remaining eligible debt, then you are eligible for a three-year renewal award. However, NIFA reserves the right to decide the length of renewals based on its budget and funding priorities.

If I receive a renewal award, how is the award amount determined?

As was the case for your initial VMLRP award, the VMLRP will repay your qualified DVM educational debt up to a maximum of \$25,000 per year. Payments will continue to be made on a quarterly basis during the VMLRP contract period. For a renewal award, the original qualified DVM education debt balance from the start of the initial VMLRP contract will be used and \$75,000 will be subtracted from this amount. For example, if your qualified DVM education debt at the start of your first VMLRP award was \$90,000, your renewal award amount will be \$15,000 (\$90,000 less the \$75,000 paid during your initial three-year VMLRP award). The \$15,000 award would be distributed into four equal quarterly payments of \$3,750 each.

Please visit the following page for additional examples: [Renewal Award Examples](#)