

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, 2016, then you should submit a renewal application during the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 application cycle. VMLRP application cycles typically open in April and close in late May or early June.

The VMLRP Request for Applications (RFA) will describe what years are eligible for a renewal award. Typically, one grace year is allowed. For example in FY2016 those with contracts ending in 2015 or 2016 were eligible to renew.

What shortage situation do I use for a renewal award?

Renewal awards are based on your current shortage situation. Therefore, the shortage situation does not need to be on the designated shortage situation map for the current application year. If the area you are serving is designated for the current application year, you should still use the five-character shortage identification code for your original award. Be sure to enter the shortage situation code for the shortage area you are currently serving where requested on the VMLRP application forms.

You can find your shortage identification code on any of your service verification forms or if awarded in 2016 or later your VMLRP contract. Additionally, shortage situations awarded in 2013 or later can be found at www.nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp-map and filtering for the state and fiscal year (FY) applied.

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 and plans for continued progress in relieving the shortage situation. 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](#)