



## Texas Animal Health Commission

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# 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 May 19, 2017.

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&fy%5Bvalue%5D%5Byear%5D=2017>; and
4. Provide certifications and verifications in accordance with 7 CFR 3431 Section 16.

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture is offering a webinar for interested veterinarians to provide an in-depth explanation of the VMLRP process on Monday, April 17, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. EDT, visit <https://nifa.usda.gov/webinar-vmlrp-applicants> for more information.

For more information about the FY 2017 VMLRP application process, visit <https://nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp-applicants> or contact [vmlrp@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:vmlrp@nifa.usda.gov). While the TAHC does not administer this program, comments or questions related to the shortage areas may be directed to [comments@tahc.state.tx.us](mailto:comments@tahc.state.tx.us).

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