Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Applicants should review Addendum #1, dated July 23, 2015, available at:
https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/doctors/graduate_medical_education/doctors_across_ny/docs/2015-7-23_gme_dany_addendum_1.pdf, for changes to the 2015 application.

1. Will the New York State Department of Health (DOH) extend the submission period beyond the August 31, 2015 due date?

No, the submission deadline will not be extended for any applicant. All applications must be received by 11:59 pm on Monday, August 31, 2015. (Please note that this date was initially listed as July 31, 2015 in the application and application instructions but, as noted in Addendum #1, was changed to August 31, 2015.)

2. Am I eligible for a Doctors Across New York (DANY) award if I have worked in an underserved area prior to March 30, 2013?

No, an applicant is ineligible if the identified physician worked in an underserved area prior to March 30, 2013. There is an exemption for residents (see Question 6). (Please note that this date was initially listed as July 1, 2013 in the application and application instructions but, as noted in Addendum #1, was changed to March 30, 2013.)
3. Am I eligible for a DANY award if my start date in an underserved area is after August 1, 2016?

No. The physician may begin employment anytime between March 30, 2013 and August 1, 2016, but the service obligation period for the DANY award must begin no earlier than January 1, 2016 and no later than August 1, 2016. (Please note that the end date was initially listed as April 1, 2016 in the application and application instructions but, as noted in Addendum #1, was changed to August 1, 2016.)

4. How do I know if the facility where I work is in an underserved area?

Carefully review Sections D and E of the application and instructions. You may also contact your facility administration or DOH to determine if the facility meets the requirements.

5. Are residents eligible to apply?

Yes, provided the resident is: (1) licensed to practice in New York State by the time the service obligation begins; (2) has a signed employment contract with an employer or submits a business plan; (3) begins the service obligation period for the DANY award no earlier than January 1, 2016 and no later than August 1, 2016; and (4) and meets all the other requirements of the program.

6. Am I eligible to apply if I completed my residency in an underserved area or facility prior to March 30, 2013?

Yes, a physician is eligible for a DANY award even if he/she was a resident in any underserved area or facility prior to March 30, 2013. This differs from the response to Question #2 as this
response focuses on residency as opposed to practicing physicians.

7. **Are these programs limited to primary care specialties?**

No, any specialty may qualify, provided the specialty is located in an area where it is in short supply. Please review Section D and E of the DANY application. The applicant must complete Section E; 6 of the 18 criteria must be checked and supporting documentation must be provided to demonstrate that the area needs the identified physician.

8. **Are part time physicians eligible to apply?**

No, all eligible physicians must complete at least 40 hours per week, which must include at least 32 clinical hours.

9. **What is the difference between Physician Loan Repayment and Physician Practice Support?**

**Physician Loan Repayment** - provides up to $150,000 for a 5-year commitment in an underserved area to repay qualified educational debt.

**Physician Practice Support** - provides up to $100,000 for a 2-year commitment in an underserved area. Funds are available to physicians or facilities for a variety of purposes, including income guarantee; relocation reimbursement; qualified educational debt; etc.

10. **If a hospital, practice, or a facility is applying for Physician Practice Support on behalf of a physician, can multiple physicians be included in the application?**
No, only one physician may be included per Physician Practice Support application.

11. **Where can I find my FEIN or DOH Operating Certificate Number?**

Please contact your finance department or hospital administrative office.

12. **Is an electronic signature for Section A, #6 acceptable?**

Yes.

13. **Do I have to submit my employment contract in its entirety?**

Yes, but applicants may redact any personal information irrelevant to the DANY application.

At a minimum, the following information must be included in an employment contract, addendum or other document signed by both the employer and physician (on official letterhead):

- Name of the physician, title and specialty
- Name of employer and full address of work site(s)
- An employment period of at least two or five years that includes the duration of the DANY service obligation (two years for a Physician Practice Support award and five years for a Physician Loan Repayment award)
- Number of total and clinical hours the physician will work at the site(s) per week (eligible physicians must complete at least 40 hours per week, which must include at least 32 clinical hours)
- Number of weeks the physician will work at the site per year (eligible physicians must work at least 45 weeks per year)
- Percentage of time the physician will work at each site
- Physician’s base salary

**Can my two or five-year commitment to an underserved area be contingent upon receiving a DANY award?**

Yes, but a clause must be included in the employment contract or addendum stating that the service obligation commitment is contingent upon receiving and accepting a Doctors Across New York (Physician Loan Repayment or Physician Practice Support) award.

**14. Are funds received from DANY taxable?**

Loan repayment funds under the Physician Loan Repayment and Physician Practice Support programs are exempt from federal and state taxes. Funds used for purposes other than loan repayment in the Physician Practice Support program may not be tax exempt. Please consult your tax professional for more information about your specific tax situation.

**15. Do funds go directly to the physician or does DOH directly pay off student loan creditors?**

Under the Physician Loan Repayment program, funds are disbursed directly to the physician. Under the Physician Practice Support program, funds may be disbursed to the physician or facility but not to a creditor.
16. What is the payment schedule?

**DANY Physician Loan Repayment** – Obligated physicians may receive up to $150,000 over 5 years, payable upon contract execution and submission and verification of the physician’s employment contract, educational debt levels, and semi-annual employment verification reports. Payments will be made in increments of 10 payments each of one-half the annual award.

**DANY Physician Practice Support** – Awardees may receive up to $100,000 over 2 years payable upon execution and submission and verification of the expenditures, physician’s service commitment, and education debt (if funds were received for loan repayment). The first payment will be made upon contract execution and subsequent payments will be made by DOH when funds are expended to the physician by the facility when proof of expenditures or educational debts are provided to DOH.

For more detailed information, please see “Payment Issues” at [https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/doctors/graduate_medical_education/doctors_across_ny/background.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/doctors/graduate_medical_education/doctors_across_ny/background.htm).

17. Can awards be applied retroactively?

No, contracts can begin no earlier than January 1, 2016.

18. Does a physician need to remain in the same underserved area for all 5 years?

Obligated physicians are permitted to change their service location(s) provided that: (1) the physician notifies DOH in writing prior to the change; (2) the new service location is eligible for a DANY obligated service; (3) an employment contract is submitted to DOH (if the remainder of the service
obligation is with a different employer); and (4) DOH approves the change.

19. **What other loan repayment options for physicians exist?**

**The Regents Physician Loan Forgiveness Award Program**

**Amount/Service Period:** up to $10,000 per year for two years

**Basic Eligibility Criteria:**
A. Applicants must be licensed to practice medicine in New York State.
B. Applicants must have completed a professional residency program within the five years immediately preceding the period for which the first award would be granted or will complete training in 2013 in an accredited residency program in family practice, pediatrics, internal medicine, emergency medicine or obstetrics. Psychiatry is also considered primary care in certain State facilities.
C. Applicants must be residents of New York State.
D. Applicants must also be:
   a. citizens of the United States, or
   b. aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States, or
   c. individuals of a class of refugees paroled by the Attorney General of the United States under the parole authority pertaining to the admission of aliens to the United States.
E. Applicants cannot currently be a recipient of any of the Federal Loan Physician Repayment Award programs.

**For More Info:**

**National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program**
**Amount/Service Period**: up to $50,000 for 2-year commitment

**Basic Eligibility Criteria**:

A. Be a U.S. citizen (either U.S. born or naturalized) or U.S. National;
B. Be eligible for, or hold, an appointment as a commissioned officer in the Regular or Ready Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service or be eligible for selection for civilian service in the NHSC;
D. Participate or be eligible to participate as a provider in the Medicare, Medicaid, and Children’s Health Insurance Programs, as appropriate; and
E. Have a current, full, permanent, unencumbered, unrestricted health professional license, certificate or registration in the discipline in which he/she is applying to serve.