



## NC Forgivable Loans for Service (FELS) Program 2024-2025 Annual Report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee December 1, 2025

The North Carolina General Assembly created the Forgivable Education Loans for Service (FELS) program ([G.S. 116-209.45, et. seq.](#)) to provide financial assistance in the form of forgivable loans to qualified students who are committed to working in North Carolina in order to respond to critical employment shortages. The FELS program also includes a separate loan fund entitled the Primary Care Medicine and Psychiatry Targeted Assistance Program for qualified students who commit to practice in eligible counties.

### State Funded FELS Program

The annual appropriation for the 2024-25 year was \$16,594,166. A total of \$20,690,630 was loaned to 1,960 students under the FELS program. Most borrowers repay their forgivable loan in service to North Carolina. However, some do not. New loans are funded by the annual appropriation plus receipts from borrowers who are repaying in cash.

#### 2024-25 Student Count and Funds by Category

Field	Students	Amount
Allied Health	742	\$8,323,606
Medical	419	\$5,730,667
Nursing	648	\$5,558,857
Education	151	\$1,077,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,960</b>	<b>\$20,690,630</b>

#### 2024-25 Student Count and Funds by Field of Study

Field	Students	Amount
Allied Health-Audiology	16	\$189,000
Allied Health-Clinical Laboratory Sciences	5	\$28,000
Allied Health-Dental Hygiene	2	\$3,750
Allied Health-Emergency Medical Science	7	\$28,750
Allied Health-Imaging	1	\$1,750
Allied Health-Marriage and Family Therapy	3	\$30,000

Field	Students	Amount
Allied Health-Occupational Therapy	95	\$1,034,000
Allied Health-Occupational Therapy Assistant	5	\$13,500
Allied Health-Optometry	52	\$727,356
Allied Health-Pharmacy	113	\$1,561,000
Allied Health-Physical Therapy	193	\$2,583,000
Allied Health-Physical Therapy Assistant	2	\$3,000
Allied Health-Physician Assistant	99	\$945,000
Allied Health-Radiology	2	\$10,500
Allied Health-Radiography	5	\$11,750
Allied Health-Social Work	45	\$378,500
Allied Health-Sonography	3	\$3,750
Allied Health-Speech Language Pathology	36	\$334,500
Allied Health-Clinical Mental Health Counseling	49	\$360,500
Allied Health-Rehabilitation and Career Counseling	5	\$45,000
Allied Health-Respiratory Care Therapy	3	\$17,000
Education (Teaching)-Elementary (Grades K-6)	57	\$369,000
Education (Teaching)-Elementary Birth through Kindergarten	4	\$16,750
Education (Teaching)-Elementary English as a Second Language	2	\$15,000
Education (Teaching)-Elementary Reading (Grades K-6)	5	\$27,500
Education (Teaching)-Elementary Exceptional Children Adaptive Curriculum	1	\$10,000
Education (Teaching)-Elementary Exceptional Children General Curriculum	1	\$10,000
Education (Teaching)-Middle Grades English as a Second Language	1	\$10,000
Education (Teaching)-Middle Grades-Math	7	\$48,000
Education (Teaching)-Middle Grades-Science	3	\$22,000
Education (Teaching)-Secondary Comprehensive Science	2	\$21,000
Education (Teaching)-Secondary Biology	1	\$5,000
Education (Teaching)-Secondary Foreign Language	1	\$5,000
Education (Teaching)-Secondary Math	5	\$30,500
Education (Teaching)-Special Education	18	\$88,250
Education (Teaching)-School Psychology	43	\$399,500
Medical-Chiropractic Care	19	\$231,000
Medical-Dentistry (DDS)	54	\$756,000
Medical-Dentistry (DMD)	150	\$2,090,667
Medical-Medical Doctor (MD)	181	\$2,457,000

Field	Students	Amount
Medical-Osteopathy (DO)	12	\$168,000
Medical-Psychology (PhD)	4	\$42,000
Nursing-Clinical Nurse Specialist	8	\$61,500
Nursing-Nurse	373	\$2,463,621
Nursing-Nurse Anesthesia	122	\$1,697,500
Nursing-Nurse Education	30	\$226,500
Nursing-Nurse Practitioner	113	\$1,099,736
Nursing-Nurse Midwifery	2	\$10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,960</b>	<b>\$20,690,630</b>

### Primary Care Medicine and Psychiatry Targeted Assistance Program

In 2023, Section 8A.14 of Session Law 2023-234 created the Primary Care Medicine and Psychiatry Targeted Assistance Program as a part of the FELS program. This program was established to address the critical demand for physicians practicing primary care medicine and psychiatry in a North Carolina county designated as a development tier one or development tier two area in the North Carolina Department of Commerce's annual ranking. In order to fund these loans, \$8,000,000 in non-recurring funds were appropriated for 2023-24 and an additional \$8,000,000 in non-recurring funds in 2024-25 from the federal American Rescue Savings Plan Act (ARPA) Temporary Savings Fund. These funds are separate from the annual state-funded FELS appropriation and can only be used for this Program.

Field	Students	Amount
Primary Care Medicine	19	\$438,729
Psychiatry	4	\$93,750
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>\$532,479</b>