

**New York State Department of Health
Office of Primary Care and Health Systems Management
Center for Health Care Policy and Resource Development
Division of Workforce Transformation**

Solicitation of Interest

***Doctors Across New York
Physician Loan Repayment and
Physician Practice Support Programs
Cycle IX***

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Questions below were received by the deadline announced in the SOI. The NYSDOH is not responsible for any errors or misinterpretation of any questions received.

The responses to questions included herein are the official responses by the State to questions posted by potential bidders and are hereby incorporated into the SOI # **20270**. In the event of any conflict between the SOI and these responses, the requirements or information contained in these responses will prevail.

WHO MAY APPLY

Question 1: Are physicians of all specialties eligible to apply? For example, Emergency Medicine, Pulmonology, General Surgery, and Infection Prevention.

Answer 1: Both primary care doctors and specialists who are either a Doctor of Medicine (MD) or a Doctor of Osteopathy (DO) may qualify for this grant.

Question 2A: Are fellows eligible for this loan forgiveness?

Question 2B: Are residents eligible for this award? I am in a 3-year program from July 2022 to July 2025. I will continue with fellowship after this date but there is no contract for this yet.

Answer 2(A-B): Only a Doctor of Medicine (MD) or a Doctor of Osteopathy (DO) may qualify for this opportunity. Per the SOI Section II Minimum Qualifications, the physician must be licensed to practice medicine in New York State by the time the three-year DANY service obligation begins (July 1, 2023) and have an employment contract in place no later than July 1, 2023.

Question 3: I'm currently a pediatrician at XYZ Medical Center. I'm interested in applying to the DANY program. I've been working there since 2020 (graduated from residency in 2020), would I still be eligible for the DANY program?

Answer 3: Per the SOI section II. Minimum Qualifications A. Eligible Physician Applicants page 4 #13 of the SOI, *"The date on which the physician's employment contract or business plan begins must be no later than July 1, 2023."*

Question 4A: Would I be able to qualify if I have been awarded a DANY grant in the past? I am still working in the same underserved area/hospital.

Question 4B: I am interested in applying for this grant to open a primary care medical practice. Before I complete the application, will you please clarify whether I am eligible? I applied for and received a DANY Grant for the cycle 12/31/2013 - 12/30/2015 for a primary care practice I owned and worked in from September 2013 until December 2019, at which time I closed my practice to become Director of XYZ Facility.

I recently left the hospital owned practice (in August 2022) and plan to open a primary care private practice, similar to the practice I operated from 2013-2019. I will be starting over since my former practice was dissolved and the assets, furniture, equipment, etc. were absorbed by XYZ Medial Associates. Because I am opening a brand-new practice from scratch in an underserved area where there is a great need for primary care, might I be eligible to apply for the DANY grant for the 2023- 2026 cycle?

Answer 4(A-B): As stated in Minimum Qualifications on page 3 #8 of the SOI, "The physician must not have previously received DANY PLR or PPS funding."

Question 5: I work at a hospital and clinic in an underserved area. I was wondering if it was better for me to apply for the practice support option or to have the facility apply for me for retention/enhanced compensation?

Answer 5: You may apply as an individual physician applicant, or the health care facility may apply for the grant and name you as the designated physician. If you apply as an individual physician, you will be the grantee, and may take the grant with you to a new qualifying job if you choose to make a change during the DANY obligation period. Your options are to apply for 1) Repaying qualified educational debt; or 2) Supporting the cost of establishing or joining a medical practice. An individual physician may apply for practice support only if they are the owner of the facility where they work.

If the health care facility applies, they are the grantee, and you cannot take the grant with you if you change employment during the DANY obligation period. The options for health care facility applicants are to apply for 1) sign-on, productivity or retention bonus; 2) repayment of outstanding qualified educational debt; 3) enhanced compensation; or 4) or any combination thereof. In all cases, 100 percent of funding provided under the award must go to the physician.

One type of applicant does not have a clear advantage over the other when the Department makes awards. Awards are primarily made in order of the date and time of receipt of initial application until funding is exhausted for that region or provider category.

Question 6: Are surgery and emergency medicine departments eligible for this round?

Answer 6: If the health care facility is the applicant, it must be one of the applicant types defined in Section II of the SOI on page 5. The type of Department is irrelevant as long as it is located in an underserved area as defined in Attachment 6.

Question 7: I understand that a doctor's contract with the hospital cannot be prior to March 22, 2022. If they were employed for years at another hospital, but their contract with our facility is after March 22nd, are they eligible?

Answer 7: As stated in Minimum Qualifications on page 4 of the SOI, "The date on which the physician's employment contract or business plan begins must be no later than July 1, 2023. However, any physician that was named in any Cycle VIII application that was either wait listed and not given an award or disapproved, may be submitted in a new application for consideration in Cycle IX provided that the employment contract or business plan began no later than March 1, 2022 (i.e., the eligibility dates of Cycle VIII)."

Question 8: I am a family medicine physician employed at XYZ Student Health in Ithaca, NY. Are you able to verify if my office qualifies under Section II. A. 10.?

Answer 8: Section II A #10 on page 3 of the SOI defines the eligible types of health care facilities where a physician may work. If your employer is one of these types of facilities, and if it qualifies as being in an underserved area, you may qualify for this grant.

Question 9: I am trying to find out if I am eligible for and can apply for this loan forgiveness program via DANY. I am a neurologist who recently started working in an underserved area in Riverhead, NY. The website is not clear to me with instructions.

Answer 9: If you are an individual physician applicant, in order to be eligible for the DANY grant you must meet all the mandatory requirements listed in Section II A (#1-#16) of the SOI.

Question 10: I am following up to my initial question with a second question in hopes you can help me with both. The second question is relative to an article I read that stated to be eligible, physicians no longer needed to be new to the underserved area. I have a physician who applied back in 2019, however because was employed during the previous cycle and hadn't applied then, he could apply in 2019. With this change in eligibility, I am wondering if he would be eligible to apply now in Cycle IX.

Answer 10: As stated in Minimum Qualifications on page 4 of the SOI, the date on which the physician's employment contract or business plan begins must be no later than July 1, 2023. If the physician has not previously received DANY PLR or PPS funding, they may qualify for this grant.

EDUCATION LOANS

Question 11: Are refinanced private student loans eligible for DANY? What information is required to submit from the loan providers?

Answer 11: Refinanced loans are eligible if they are marketed as educational loans and must be from lending institutions subject to governmental regulation. The loans must be in your name and not combined or consolidated with another individual.

Question 12: Are the funds given to the physician, to be then used to pay off their monthly loans, or do the funds get sent directly to the Student Loan company to pay off the principle?

Answer 12: Grant fund payments are made to the individual or health care facility that holds the contract. If a hospital applied for loan repayment funds for a physician, the payment is made to the hospital with expectation that 100% of the funds be passed along to the physician named in the contract. If an individual physician applied for loan repayment, the payment is made to the physician. Either way, it is the physician's

responsibility to pass those funds along to the approved educational loan for payment. Documentation of such will be required.

USE OF FUNDS

Question 13: Define/provide examples regarding what qualifies as “enhanced compensation” to the physician.

Answer 13: Enhanced compensation means additional funding over and above what would have been provided to the physician prior to a DANY award being granted. For example, if the physician salary had been set at \$X, you could give the physician a bonus (on top of the \$X salary) with funds from the grant. However, you could not use the funds to pay a portion of \$X since doing so would be considered a salary offset. Money should be used to provide added support to the physician.

IMPORTANT DATES

Question 14: What is the due date for the DANY application? 2/1 or 3/1?

Answer 14: The original due date for the Cycle IX DANY Application was March 5, 2023. An Addendum was then issued changing the due date to March 8, 2023, prior to 4:00 PM.

Question 15: On page 6, #5. The date on which the physician’s employment contract or business plan begins must be no later than July 1, 2023. Does this mean the physician employment start date is any time before July 1, 2023? When would the earliest physician employment start date be?

Answer 15: For this SOI, the physician employment start date can be any time before July 1, 2023.

Question 16: I have a physician who we have signed an Employment Contract with in which he will start practice July of 2024. Would he not qualify for this current cycle? Based on the dates, I am thinking he would have to apply for the next cycle, but because he already signed the employment contract, I wanted to check. I don’t want him to become disqualified because I assumed he would be the next cycle, but in fact,

should have applied for the current cycle.

Answer 16: As stated in minimum qualifications on page 4 of the SOI, the start date of the physician's DANY service obligation under this contract will be July 1, 2023.

Question 17: I have been employed at my current hospital in the Emergency Department since 7/1/22. If I submit my application for this cycle, will the previous 6-7 months that I've been employed here count towards the 3 years? or will it start when I get accepted?

Answer 17: Per the SOI Section II page 4 # 14, the start date of the physician's DANY service obligation under this contract will begin July 1, 2023.

Question 18: Confirming that the application Due Date is 3/5/23.

Answer 18: Per the Addendum published on 2/01/23, the due date for this application has been extended to March 8, 2023, prior to 4:00 PM.

AWARD AMOUNTS / LIMITS

Question 19: Can the total allocated award be more than the current loan amount? For example, if the current outstanding debt is \$115,000 can an applicant apply for the maximum \$120,000 (assuming that over the three-year award, the interest will cause the total to increase above \$120,000)?

Answer 19: If an individual physician applicant is applying to repay qualified educational debt, the amount requested for the DANY award cannot exceed the total amount of all outstanding educational loans. Future accumulation of interest cannot be considered. Proof of loan statements must be provided at the time of application.

ATTACHMENTS / UPLOADS

Attachment 1 – Minimum Eligibility Requirements (mandatory)

Question 20A: We are two hospitalists working in NYC and had a few questions regarding the application. Attachment 1 question 13-16: Our contracts don't specifically state that they cover the titles under the Social Security Act. Do you accept alternative forms of documentation from the employer stating compliance with the titles?

Question 20B: My office is located in an underserved area, and we care for all patients regardless of ability to pay, including Medicare, Medicaid, and uninsured patients. However, my contract does not state explicitly that we see these patients as outlined in Questions 13, 14, 15, and 16 in the Minimum Eligibility Requirements. What documentation can I provide to prove this? Could a document submitted by a representative of my employer suffice?

Question 20C: There are a few items in the minimum eligibility requirements listed in Attachment 1, which ask for specific things to be documented in the employment contract (specifically in reference to items 8, and 13-16). I am currently in a 2 year contract, but it is both my and the practice's intention to continue employment after that time, though my current contract does not extend for the duration of the DANY grant period. We do provide services to all patients in our area including uninsured and Medicaid patients. I believe all requirements are met by the practice, but not necessarily detailed in the employment contract.

You do make the allowance for contracts being standard documents, not often customizable and have the addendum letter included, which addresses some of these items, but not all. Is there any other documentation that can/should be written/supplied by my employer on my behalf to fulfill these requirements separate from your provided addendum to allow me to apply?

Answer 20(A-C): As stated in Attachment 1: *"The Physician who is completing the DANY service obligation is eligible to participate in this program only if the Applicant can answer "Yes" to questions (1-16) pertaining to the Physician. Applicants are instructed to upload the completed document as Attachment 1 of the application."*

Furthermore, by completing Attachment 8, you are certifying that all the information contained in the application (including all attachments) is accurate, true, and complete in all material respects.

Question 21: Under the Applicant Name on Attachment 1, should we enter our business name, XYZ Pediatrics PLLC? Or the individual physician working under us?

Answer 21: If you are applying for the grant as a health care facility applicant, then you would list the business name. If the physician is applying for the grant as an individual physician, then you should enter the physician's name.

Attachment 2 – Program Specific Questions

Question 22: For Attachment 2, how do I determine if I am a healthcare facility applicant vs individual? I will be working under contract with XYZ Hospital does that mean I am a healthcare facility applicant?

Answer 22: You may apply either way, one type of applicant does not have a clear advantage over the other when the Department makes awards. If you apply as an individual physician, you will be the grantee, and may take the grant with you to a new qualifying job if you choose to make a change during the DANY obligation period. Your options are to apply for 1) Repaying qualified educational debt; or 2) Supporting the cost of establishing or joining a medical practice. An individual physician may apply for practice support only if they are the owner of the facility where they work.

If the health care facility applies, they are the grantee, and you cannot take the grant with you if you change employment during the DANY obligation period. The options for health care facility applicants are to apply for 1) sign-on, productivity or retention bonus; 2) repayment of outstanding qualified educational debt; 3) enhanced compensation; or 4) or any combination thereof. In all cases, 100 percent of funding provided under the award must go to the physician.

Question 23: I am a pulmonary critical care fellow graduating June 30, 2023 and starting full time as an attending at XYZ Hospital in the Bronx July 1, 2023. For Attachment 2:

- Part 1: Is the Applicant myself or the hospital that I am working for?
- Part 5: Is the physician a resident? I am now but will be an attending July 1, 2023. Should I answer yes to this question?

Answer 23: You may apply either way, one type of applicant does not have a clear advantage over the other when the Department makes awards. See detailed explanation in Answer 22. If you are a resident at the time of application, provide the status on Attachment 2, Question 5B.

Question 24: Is the NYS DOH, OASAS or OHM operating certificate # or Department of state identification # the same as the EIN number?

Answer 24: No. An Employer Identification Number (EIN) number is a unique identifier used by the Internal Revenue Service for the purpose of reporting taxes. The NYS DOH, OASAS or OHM operating certificate number or Department of state identification number pertains to a category of license issued by the state allowing a business to provide a particular type of service for a limited period of time.

Question 25: If I am not mistaken (like with CLIA) each of our locations has its own ID despite being under one main tax id, so each office should have a different operating certificate ID. Do you know where I can confirm this? A database?

Answer 25: This number can be obtained from your employers Administrative Office.

Attachment 5 – Employment Contract or Business Plan

Question 26A: DANY requires employment contracts to be written for 3-years (excluding the 3-year service obligation period beginning on July 1, 2023). My job contract does not list a specific time frame that I am hired to work. It only has my start date, but I intend on staying at my current practice for longer than 3 years. What documentation can I provide to show that I will be staying at my practice to be eligible for DANY Cycle 9?

Question 26B: I have a quick question regarding Attachment 5 of the application: I am employed at XYZ Hospital, and they do yearly contracts which are usually only released later in the year. Is there a chance I could provide the contract for which I am currently employed under and have an addendum with the information listed in the attachment?

Question 26C: I have a 3-year contract that started on May 4, 2022. Beyond May 4, 2025, my employment is open ended. Do I need to document an employment period that will extend through the entire DANY service obligation period, which is 2 months beyond my current contract? Or will the contract addendum (attachment 5) suffice?

Question 26D: I am a pediatrician currently working in a federally qualified health center, with a yearly contract that began on 08/2022. In regard to the "Addendum" for my contract, would I need to lengthen my original contract to include all the factors of the addendum, or is it sufficient to fill out the Addendum attachments individually and

have them signed by the appropriate individuals and upload them?

Answer 26(A-D): All applicants must complete Attachment 5 for DANY grant consideration. This includes both a copy of the current Employment Contract and an Addendum Letter. You do not need to submit a revised contract to state that you will fulfill the DANY service obligation (which is three years). Instead, when completing the required Addendum Letter, the first bullet will sufficiently address the issue.

Question 27A: I want to clarify what activities fall under “clinical hours” as I see a minimum of 32 are required. A large portion of my time is spent as the Associate Hospital Epidemiologist at XYZ Hospital where my services include working to reduce hospital-acquired infections, outbreaks, and health promotion/infection control. I do this in addition to seeing patients on certain days in clinic and in the hospital but wasn't sure if I qualified.

Question 27B: What qualifies as "clinical practice"? Does that only pertain to seeing patients or would working in Hospital Epidemiology/Infection Control also qualify, which involves implementing changes to prevent and decrease hospital-acquired infections to improve clinical care.

Question 27C: I am being considered for a role where I would be a preceptor and assistant residency program director for family medicine resident physicians in a clinic setting located in a MUA/P area. Would my supervising the delivery of care through resident physicians as the attending of record also qualify for DANY grant? If you can answer this; it will help my contracting move forward for the appropriate role for effective date of July 1, 2023.

Question 27D: I'm one of the assistant program directors at XYZ Hospital so technically that is 0.2 of my time. I'm full time so 0.8 of my time is clinical, would I still be eligible for the DANY program?

Question 27E: I work full time at a FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Center) and I am interested in applying for the DANY Cycle. I wanted to clarify if the 32 hours per week has to be in direct patient-care? For example, I see patients in clinic part of the week, but I also have administrative roles where I supervise and lead clinical quality improvement projects related to the FQHC patients to improve access to and quality of care. Would this qualify? Or could I qualify for a portion of the DANY award based on my clinical time?

Answer 27(A-E): Per the SOI, Section II page 4 #12, the services that the physician will provide under the employment contract or business plan must constitute full time clinical practice. This is the equivalence of 40 hours of service (with a minimum of 32 clinical

hours) per week for at least 45 weeks per year. The calculation of full time may also be based on working a minimum of 150 hours of service per month when the individual is working in an Emergency Department setting and/or as a Hospitalist. The hours of service may not include time spent in “on-call” status except to the extent that the physician is regularly scheduled and providing patient care at the site(s) identified in Attachment 6. A portion of the physician’s time may be spent providing telehealth services that are in compliance with applicable NYS regulations. However, telehealth services must be a component of the physician’s traditional practice and may not account for more than 40% of their overall clinical work hours per week.

***The 32 Clinical hours per week should be in direct patient care and therefore does not include time spent conducting teaching or research.**

Question 28A: My office's medical director contains the authority to represent the employer when signing the addendum to the contract (Attachment 5). He is not the CEO, COO, or director of HR. Is that permissible?

Question 28B: Regarding Attachment 5 – Who is qualified to co-sign the addendum along with the physician? Can it be someone other than the Human Resources Director, CEO, or COO? Can the Division Chief of Hospital Medicine who I report to sign?

Answer 28(A-B): The SOI states The Addendum Letter must be signed by the physician and an employee with the authority to represent the employer with respect to human resources matters, including Human Resources Director, the Chief Executive Officer or the Chief Operating Officer. A Medical Director is acceptable if they maintain this type of authority for your employer.

Question 29A: My question was regarding the contract addendum. Do I still need to send out the original contract or will this addendum enough to fulfill DANY's requirement?

Question 29B: My employer was generous enough to addendum the contract to fulfill the DANY application requirement. I have attached it in this email. Will it be enough? Do I still need to send the original contract along with it?

Answer 29(A-B): As described in Attachment 5, applicants are instructed to provide both a copy of (1) A fully executed Employment Contract or Business plan and (2) An Addendum Letter.

The Department does not pre-screen materials prior to submission of an application. However, once the application has been received, the Department will notify an Applicant by e-mail if the application is complete or incomplete. If the application is complete, no further action by the Applicant is needed. If the application is incomplete, the Department will provide the Applicant a list of outstanding items. The Applicant will have one opportunity to supply the missing information within 10 business days of being notified by the Department via email. All missing information must be emailed to: DANY2018@health.ny.gov. If the Applicant fails to respond to the missing information request within this time period, the application will not be processed any further and will not be funded.

Question 30: Regarding Section II.A. (15-16) – my current contract is a standard one. It does not specifically reflect the highlighted areas below about providing services regardless of ability to pay, but we do take care of whoever comes through the door by default (including Medicare, Medicaid, and uninsured patients). Do I have to add that specific language into my existing contract?

15. The employment contract or business plan, as applicable, must reflect that the physician will provide health services to individuals in the area without discriminating against them:
 - a. Because of their inability to pay for those services; or
 - b. Because of their enrollment in or utilization of insurance provided under Part A “Medicaid” or Part B “State Children’s Health Insurance Program” of Title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395).
16. The employment contract or business plan, as applicable, must reflect that the physician:
 - a. Shall accept assignment under section 1842(b)(3)(B)(ii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. section 1395u(b)(3)(B)(ii)) for all services for which payment is made under Part B of Title XVIII of such act; and
 - b. Shall enter into an appropriate agreement with the State agency which administers the State plan for medical assistance under Titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide services to individuals entitled to medical assistance under the plan if no current agreement exists with the employing facility.

Answer 30: If your contract does not contain such statements, we recommend that your employer add those statements to the Addendum Letter that is required.

Question 31: Can an applicant apply if they work at 2 approved locations as part time with hours adding up to the 32-hour minimum of FT. Just split at 2 different hospitals in the same capacity?

Answer 31: It is not required that a physician’s full-time employment hours be solely at one institution. If the applicant works at more than one institution, their cumulative

contract hours must equate to a full-time schedule (as defined in Section II. Who May Apply). The applicant would need to provide contracts and addendum letters from each employer. Full-time means at least 40 hours of service (with a minimum of 32 clinical hours) per week for at least 45 weeks per year. The calculation of full time may also be based on working a minimum of 150 hours of service per month when the individual is working in an Emergency Department setting and/or as a Hospitalist. Furthermore, the applicant must be able to determine that all work locations are an underserved area using either Option A, Option B, or Option C in Attachment 6.

Attachment 6 – Tool to Identify an Underserved Area

Question 32: Is there a list of practices which DANY program recognize. I work in Rochester NY in an underserved clinic (XYZ clinic) and wondering if I would qualify to apply for DANY program as I work in this clinic? I have been working with underserved population since 2006 in this practice.

Answer 32: **The Department does not maintain a list of eligible practice sites.** The SOI requires that applicants utilize Attachment 6 of the SOI to demonstrate that a work location can be identified as being in an underserved area.

Question 33: For Attachment 6, I am an Emergency Medicine doctor - I'm not sure if I can answer questions 07, 09-14 because they pertain to outpatient services. Is this something that I need to get data on from hospital administration? If so, is there a specific format that this data must be printed in?

Answer 33: Question #7 is asking for information on the indigent care percentage for the overall facility (it does not pertain to only outpatient services). The directions states to "obtain facility specific visit data from your employer for the last 12-month period". There is no specific format that must be used. Questions #9-#12 ask for information on primary care services; however, these questions may be applicable if a patient cannot easily obtain these outpatient services and ultimately walks into the emergency room department seeking care. Question #14 may be applicable if the next closest emergency department is at a distance that (a) exceeds 5 miles in NYC, or (b) exceeds 20 miles in the Rest of the State.

Question 34: I am a specialist physician employed at XYZ Hospital and I wanted to know if this is a qualified healthcare facility for me to be able to apply for the grant. I definitely serve an underserved area but am not able to find if my employer (XYZ Hospital) is an eligible facility.

Answer 34: First each applicant must determine if their facility is one of the approved types of facilities identified in the SOI under Section II, Minimum Qualifications. Second, refer to Attachment 6 of the SOI to determine if the facility is located in an underserved area. Specialist physicians must use Option C to determine that the work location is an underserved area. Applicants must be able to answer “yes” to any (6) questions and provide the necessary support documentation for those six questions.

Question 35: We are two hospitalists working in NYC and had a few questions regarding the application. Attachment 6: We are applying under option C. We are confused as to how many of the questions 7-17 we are expected to respond to and provide identification for given that we are hospitalists. For example, question 8 and 14 appear to be for rural providers, 9-12 for primary care providers. Are we expected to answer yes/no to these questions and if we do answer no, does that disqualify us?

Answer 35: For Option C, to identify if the site where the physician is working is an underserved area, applicants must be able to answer “yes” to any (6) questions and provide the necessary support documentation for those six questions. Not all questions will be relevant for all applicants.

Question 36: I have an interested provider who would like to apply but we have doubts on what option we should be choosing under “Tool to Identify an Underserved Area”. The provider’s primary site does fall under a HPSA but it is also a hospital. I assume he should choose OPTION A. Since it falls under a HPSA.

Answer 36: Refer to Attachment 6 of the SOI. Options A is for providers practicing in General Internal Medicine, Family Practice, General Pediatrics, Geriatrics, OB/GYN or Adult/Child Psychiatry AND the site is located in a HPSA, Option C is for all providers that cannot use option A or B to determine that the work location is an underserved area. Furthermore, if the physician is working at multiple sites, each site must be able to be identified as an underserved area separately.

Question 37: I am working closely with my hospital administration to complete the DANY application. I have a question regarding the following DANY application questions:

10. Average waiting time for established patients for routine preventative or follow up appointments with a primary care physician is more than (7) days from the initial patient request. Yes or No?
11. Average waiting time for new patients for routine preventative appointments with a primary care physician is more than (14) days from the initial patient request. Yes or No?
12. Average waiting time is greater than (48) hours for patients with urgent appointments or greater than (72) hours for patients with non-urgent "sick visit" appointments related to the specialty requested. Yes or No?

I spoke with my hospital administration and was informed that we do not keep track of this data. How do you recommend I answer these questions?

Answer 37: For Option C, to identify if the site where the physician is working is an underserved area, applicants must be able to answer "yes" to any (6) questions and provide the necessary support documentation for those six questions.

Question 38: Regarding Attachment 6 (copied below), to qualify do I need to be able to answer "YES" to 6 of the questions 1-17? Questions 9-13 of Attachment 6 – this data will likely come from our hospital electronic hospital records (Epic). Will this Epic data qualify as "supporting documentation?" Since I am a Hospitalist, are questions 14-17 relevant to my application?

Answer 38: Not all questions will be relevant for all applicants. For questions #9-12, information from EPIC will suffice as support documentation. Question #14 is applicable if the next closest facility (i.e. emergency department) is at a distance that (a) exceeds 5 miles in NYC, or (b) exceeds 20 miles in the Rest of the State.

Question 39: Questions from attachment 6 under the 'Proposed site'.

1. Do I fill out this section (proposed site) or my employer does?
2. When I requested my employer to provide with number of Medicaid patient is being cared at Buffalo Primary Care offices, he sent me a chart which I attached with this email. Will it be enough?
3. Does question number 9 apply to private primary Care office? Does my employer have to provide data to prove that no more than 25% went to hospital

for non-urgent care.

4. Can you clarify question number 13 (from page 5 of 6) please. Practice that I will start working full-time in a few months have been looking for primary Care physician for some time now.

Answer 39: (1) All Attachments should be filled out by the Applicant. (2) The Department cannot pre-screen materials prior to submission. (3) Question #9 requires four full months of ED data from the facility as backup documentation. This question is for all types of primary care services (public or private). (4) If the position has gone unfilled for 12 or more months, then this question may be applicable.

Attachment 12 – Employment Contract Addendum#2, and Exhibit 1

Question 40A: Is Attachment 12 necessary if the Applicant is the Physician?

Question 40B: I am applying as a physician application - for Attachment 12, under the "Faculty Signature", who should I asked to sign? My department Chair is on vacation until February 06 but I can get the residency's Program director and my direct boss for Resident Education to sign it, or anyone else that you can recommend.

Answer 40(A-B): As stated on page 10 of the SOI, Attachment 12 is mandatory for health care facility applicants only. If you are an individual physician applicant, you do not need to fill out these forms.

Question 41: Attachment 12 Exhibit 1: states employment contact between "Facility" and "Nurse"... is the nurse supposed to say physician instead? If so, can I cross that out and correct it?

Answer 41: See Addendum #2 of the SOI (posted in the Contract Reporter and on the DANY website) that provides an updated Attachment 12 Exhibit 1.

DEFAULT PROVISIONS

Question 42: If an applicant were to leave his or her position prior to the first annual payment being made, would there be any penalty due for default? According to the formula on Attachment 9, it would seem that 'Phi', and thus 'A', would be 0 in this case. Is that correct?

Answer 42: All applicants should enter into the contract with the intent to fulfill the full 3-year contract obligation. If default should occur, the Department will provide individualized calculations on the amounts owed at the time of default.

CONTRACT MODIFICATIONS

Question 43A: If I am selected for the DANY grant, and I change hospitals (to another qualifying hospital) before or during the contracted period would this impact my eligibility?

Question 43B: I noticed that you have to be approved to work at a specific site. While I only work at one site, and my contract only mentions one site, I work for a network and I am credentialed to work at all their sites. Technically, they could ask, or I could request, to work at a different site. If this were to arise during the DANY period, could approval be gained to work at a different site, pending that the new site qualifies still for the DANY? I have no plans of changing sites at the moment, just a hypothetical question.

Answer 43(A-B): If the DANY grant contract is held by an individual physician, that physician can request a change in employment (or location) during the DANY service obligation period. For a request to be considered, the Department must receive the request in writing prior to any action being taken to change employment (or location). The new location must meet all the requirements under the SOI to be approved. The decision to permit a change of location will be solely at the discretion of the Department. If the physician makes an unapproved change, the grant may fall into default.

If the DANY grant contract is held by a health care facility, a change in location to another site owned by the health care facility is allowed. A change in site to a new or different health care facility is not allowed.

Question 44(A): Regarding item 10 under the minimum eligibility requirements. How is this requirement affected (or is it affected) by something like maternity leave? It is paid and protected time, but what would it mean if there is a period of weeks where an individual would be working less than the requirements specified in your grant application.

Question 44(B): I am due with my first baby in June of this year, would I still be eligible to apply for the program for this year (planning to take about 3 months of maternity leave)?

Answer 44(A-B): It is the sole discretion of the Department to approve the deferment of a physician's service obligation. For a request to be considered, the Department must receive the request in writing prior to any action being taken to change the service obligation. Examples of reasonable cause may include (but are not limited to) maternity or paternity leave, personal or family illness, military services, etc.

SCHOLARSHIPS & LOAN FORGIVENESS

Question 45: I plan to apply to DANY Cycle IX with an obligation period beginning July 1, 2023. I will be completing a Regents Loan forgiveness period Aug 2023. There is an overlap of only one month. I would like to ask if this overlap precludes me applying to DANY? Alternatively, if I voluntarily forfeit the remaining month of support from Regents so that I am no longer in my obligation period when the DANY cycle begins, would that permit me to apply to DANY?

I ask genuinely as I have very significant educational debt and want to be financially able to remain at my current underserved hospital. I understand that Regents and DANY used to be in sync, however this one-month difference might make me completely ineligible.

Answer 45: A physician participating in DANY cannot be fulfilling a public or private obligation under any local, state, or federal government loan repayment program (except the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program) where the obligation period would overlap or coincide with the DANY obligation period. The DANY Cycle IX service obligation period starts on July 1, 2023.

Question 46A: I am currently enrolled in PSLF (Public Service Loan Forgiveness), would I have to de-enroll in it to be a part of this program?

Question 46B: I was curious about a couple of loan forgiveness options I am a part of right now and if they would disqualify me from being able to apply for the DANY Program. I am currently a family physician for a practice owned by the XYZ Health System and through XYZ Health System am receiving funds once yearly for loan forgiveness over a four-year period from 2022 - 2025. I am also receiving a NYS Regents Loan Forgiveness Award for years of 2022 and 2023. Would either or both of these disqualify me from being able to apply for the DANY program?

Answer 46(A-B): Attachment 2 of the SOI states “A physician participating in DANY cannot be fulfilling a public or private obligation under any local, state, or federal government loan repayment program (except the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program) where the obligation period would overlap or coincide with the DANY obligation period.” See chart below of some examples, this list is not exhaustive:

PROGRAM	Can it Coincide/Overlap With DANY?
Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)	Yes
Employer Sponsored Loan Repayment	Yes
Regents Physician Loan Forgiveness	No
National Health Service Corps	No

Question 47: Part 6 refers to "other scholarships, loan forgiveness, etc." With my current employer, as part of my contract, they have agreed to pay me 60 thousand over 4 years which is intended for my student loans. I am unsure of whether I would say yes to question 6e or not which states, "Has the physician received any other loan repayment program funds other than listed above? If yes, please specify the name of the program and dates of service obligation." It's not really a loan repayment program to which I applied for or anything of that nature. My employer just agreed to pay that money to me over 4 years to go towards my student loans. I am hoping this would not disqualify me from the DANY.

Answer 47: Question #6e is for any loan repayment being received, including the amount and the dates.

MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS

Question 48: I have received the email about the application being released. Do we need to submit all information and attachments all within one email? To clarify, it says to submit the application via email, is it alright to fill out the application electronically and send as a whole pdf as downloaded from the website? I would then submit attachments individually.

Answer 48: Per the SOI Section IV page 9, it is the Applicant's responsibility to ensure that all materials included in the application have been properly prepared and submitted. The application consists of the completed Attachments (1-12) listed below. You must submit ONE EMAIL with each required Attachment as its own pdf file attachment. Make sure to name each document accordingly (i.e., Attachment 1, Attachment 2). Applications must be submitted via email to DANY2018@health.ny.gov no later than 4:00 pm ET on the date and time posted on the cover of this SOI. Again, all application documents should be submitted together as attachments in ONE EMAIL.

Question 49: I am an employee of a private group which is contracted out by a hospital. Since my contract is with the group, should I have someone from the group sign for facility in Attachment 12 or should it be someone from the hospital itself? Please let me know.

Answer 49: Attachment 12: Employment Contract Addendum #2 and Exhibit 1 is mandatory for health care facility applicants only. It should be completed and signed by the health care facility that is employing the physician (i.e., the facility named in the Employment Contract and the Addendum).

Question 50: I graduated from residency June 2022, so I was not eligible for cycle 8. I see that cycle 9 contract period begins July 1, 2023. Is it possible for the time that I spent since graduating from residency working at a qualifying hospital could count towards the 3-year requirement?

Answer 50: As stated in the Minimum Qualifications on page 4 of this SOI, the start date of the physician's DANY service obligation under this contract will be July 1, 2023. The full contract term for all grantees is July 1, 2023, to June 20, 2026.

Question 51: If a physician has \$70,000 in loans left to pay and is awarded DANY funding, would the loan repayment award be split between the 3 years?

Answer 51: The payout schedule is spread over the three-year obligation period of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026.

Question 52: Are the awards given out on a first-come first-serve basis? And outside of eligibility, what other criteria are viewed when granting awards?

Answer 52: Per pages 10-11 of the SOI, the pool of complete and eligible applications will be awarded in order of the date and time of receipt of initial application according to the funding allocations established in the paragraph below until available funding is exhausted for that region or provider category. When funding has been depleted to a level such that an Applicant's total requested funding amount cannot be met, the Applicant will be offered a reduced award amount. If the Applicant accepts that amount, no further awards will be made. If the Applicant declines that amount, the next eligible Applicant will be offered an award until funds are completely exhausted. The Department reserves the right to allocate funding in ways to best serve the interests of the State.

As required by PHL § 2807-m, one-third of funding awarded under this SOI must be allocated to facilities and Individual Physician Applicants in New York City with the remaining two-thirds to facilities and Individual Physician Applicants located in the rest of the state. No less than fifty percent of available funds must be allocated to physicians working in general hospitals.

Question 53: Are DANY loan payments only made annually or can they be made monthly? (Trying to determine if monthly IBR (Income Based Repayment) payments, which are required on a monthly basis, must still be made by the applicant or if DANY monthly payments could meet that requirement).

Answer 53: The DANY program dispenses funds to grantees generally every six months. However, the Department has the discretion to make changes to payment schedules as it deems necessary. Grant fund payments are made to the individual or health care facility that holds the contract. If a hospital applied for loan repayment funds for a physician, the payment is made to the hospital with expectation that 100% of the funds be passed along to the physician named in the contract. If an individual physician applied for loan repayment, the payment is made to the physician. Either way, it is the physician's responsibility to pass those funds along to the approved educational loan for payment. Documentation of such will be required.

Question 54: Do I just fill out Attachments 1-12 and email it back and is there another form to fill out on:

- DANY: https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/doctors/graduate_medical_education/doctors_across_ny/
- New York State Contract Reporter: <https://www.nyscr.ny.gov>

Answer 54: Attachments (1-12) include both reference materials and items that must be completed and submitted as the DANY application for this SOI. If you cannot complete Attachment 1 successfully, do not continue any further, you are not an eligible applicant for the DANY program. All mandatory attachments must be completed (and relevant support documentation provided) to have your application be reviewed for a DANY award.