ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS
POLICY MANUAL

4-501 Arizona Veterinary Loan Assistance Program

Revision Dates

10/1/2026, 4/21/2023 (adopted)

A. As provided in A.R.S. § 15-1650.06, the board delegates its power to the executive director or their designee to administer the Arizona Veterinary Loan Assistance Program (AVLAP) and the Arizona Veterinary Loan Assistance Fund (Fund).

1. The board's executive director or designee shall distribute monies from the Arizona Veterinary Loan Assistance Fund on a first-come, first-served basis and subject to the availability of monies and legislative appropriation.

2. The board's executive director or designee may retain up to three percent of the monies deposited into the Fund for costs associated with administering the program.

B. Definitions

1. "Award Amount" means an amount equal to the lesser of the Veterinarian's outstanding Educational Loan Balance or $200,000.00.

2. "Educational Loan" means any veterinary college loan that is either:

   a. Made, insured, or guaranteed under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), or

   b. A private education loan issued expressly for veterinary educational expenses to a borrower and that does not include an extension of credit under an open-end consumer credit plan, a reverse mortgage transaction, a residential mortgage transaction, or any other loan that is secured by personal or real property or a dwelling.

3. "Educational Loan Balance" means the balance of the principal, interest and related expenses of the Educational Loan.

4. "Eligible Applicant" means a person who obtains a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from a Veterinary College after January 1, 2023, and who satisfactorily passes the licensing examination required pursuant to Title 32, Chapter 21, Article 2.

5. "Full-time" is based on a 40-hour full time equivalent (FTE) work week, not the participant's actual work hours.

    a. For Veterinarians in "a nonprofit, county, or municipal animal shelter" "Full-time" means a 100% FTE.

    b. For Veterinarians in an agricultural practice in an area designated by the United States Department of Agriculture as having a shortage, it is understood that not all food animal species require the same level of services year-round, and a Veterinarian may need the flexibility to provide services to other species during the "off season" to meet their percent FTE. Thus, while the Veterinarian must work a forty-hour week, they may care for other species as well. The board's executive director or designee will review documentation provided by the Veterinarian to ensure they are working in an area that addresses a shortage covered by this program.

6. "Postsecondary Educational Expenses" means any of the expenses that are included as part of the cost of attendance of a student, as defined under Section 472 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087 ll).

7. "Veterinarian" has the same meaning prescribed in A.R.S. § 32-2201.

8. "Veterinary College" has the same meaning prescribed in A.R.S. § 32-2201.

C. Application:

1. The board's executive director or designee will create an application process.

2. A Veterinarian must complete and submit an application to participate in the AVLAP that includes documentation of the following:

    a. That the Veterinarian obtained a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree from a Veterinary College after January 1, 2023; and

    b. That the Veterinarian satisfactorily passed the licensing examination required pursuant to A.R.S. Title 32, Chapter 21, Article 2 and obtained a current veterinary license in Arizona; and

c. The Veterinarian's current Educational Loan Balance and promissory notes or other documents indicating terms of repayment and/or current status.

D. The board's executive director or designee will review the application and available funding in the Arizona Veterinary Loan Assistance Fund.

1. The executive director or designee will determine if the Veterinarian is an Eligible Applicant. If there is available, unencumbered funding in the Arizona Veterinary Loan Assistance Fund, then the Eligible Applicant will enter into an Agreement that specifies the Award Amount and provides that:

a. The veterinarian will remain and work as a Full-time Veterinarian in Arizona for four calendar years after signing the agreement.

b. The veterinarian will work in one of the following practice areas for at least two complete years (24 months) of the four years:

1. An agricultural practice in an area designated by the United States Department of Agriculture as having a shortage, or

2. A nonprofit, county, or municipal animal shelter.

c. The veterinarian will not be eligible for funding for years three and four unless the veterinarian has completed or is completing the obligation in the areas specified in subsection (D)(1)(b) of this policy.

d. Ensure that the Educational Loans do not become delinquent or in default.

2. If there is insufficient money in the Arizona Veterinary Loan Assistance Fund, the board's executive director or designee will place the Veterinarian on a waitlist for an AVLAP Agreement if additional funding is appropriated by the Legislature or otherwise becomes available.

a. The board's executive director or designee will select Veterinarians from the waitlist on a first come, first served basis, and notice will be provided to their last known email and mailing address. Such notified Veterinarians will have 30 days after the notice is mailed to enter into an Agreement under section (D)(1)

of this policy. The board's executive director or designee may move to the next person on the waitlist after 30 days.

b. Veterinarians may request removal from the wait list in writing.

E. The board's executive director or designee shall monitor the Veterinarian's progress toward meeting their obligations under their Agreement and this policy.

1. By June 30, of each year under the Agreement or as required by the board's executive director or designee, the Veterinarian will provide documentation that they are fulfilling the terms of the Agreement.

2. If sufficient documentation is not timely provided, then the Agreement as referenced under section (D)(1) of this policy may be terminated and the Eligible Applicant will be ineligible for further payments.

a. The board's executive director or designee shall have the sole discretion in determining whether the Veterinarian has provided sufficient documentation in a timely manner.

b. After termination of the Agreement, the Board will no longer have any obligation to make any payment towards the Educational Loans of the Veterinarian, and the Veterinarian will be removed from the AVLAP.

c. The board's executive director or designee will notify the Veterinarian of the termination of the Agreement and their removal from the AVLAP at their last address of record.

F. For each year in which the Veterinarian claims to have fulfilled the terms of the Agreement, the Veterinarian will provide sufficient documentation to the board's executive director or designee of the following:

1. Evidence that the Veterinarian remained and worked a complete year in Arizona pursuant to the terms of the Agreement.

2. Evidence of the Educational Loan Balance and that the Educational Loans are not delinquent or in default.

3. Any other documentation requested by the board's executive director or designee.

G. The board delegates to the executive director or designee to determine whether the Veterinarian has satisfied the terms of the Agreement. If the board executive director or designee, in their sole discretion, determines that the Veterinarian has satisfied the terms of the Agreement for the year, then the board's executive director or designee shall distribute, subject to the availability of monies and legislative appropriation, an amount equal to one fourth of the Award Amount.

1. In determining whether the Veterinarian satisfied the terms of the Agreement in section (D)(1) of this policy, board's executive director or designee will consider any relevant, objective evidence provided by the Veterinarian. The board's executive director or designee shall be the sole judge of the authenticity or truthfulness of any material or statements submitted as evidence.

2. A Veterinarian's failure to fulfill the terms of the Agreement referenced in section (D)(1) of this policy or to provide sufficient documentation as required by this policy may result in termination of the Agreement and in the Veterinarian's removal from the AVLAP.

3. The Veterinarian is responsible for any tax liability and/or prepayment penalty or any other charges related to an AVLAP payment to an Educational Loan lender or servicer.

4. Each year of documented service satisfies one year of the total four-year service obligation.

H. Deferment of the Agreement's Obligation

1. The board's executive director or designee, upon written request of a Veterinarian, may grant a deferment of time to complete the terms of the Agreement referenced in section (D)(1) of this policy, if the Veterinarian:

   a. Is temporarily unable to work and/or disabled for a period not to exceed 1 year, as established by written documentation from a health care provider, or

   b. Is called to active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States.

2. In each case, the Veterinarian must provide complete and verifiable documentation to support the request and provide any information requested by the board's executive director or designee during the deferment.

Policy History

4/21/2023 Approved by the Board on second reading.

10/1/2026 Policy revision approved by the Board on first reading with immediate implementation.

Related Information