

Respondents: 7,000; Total Annual Responses: 7,000; Total Annual Hours Requested: 8,818,577.

To request copies of the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections should be sent within 2 working days of this notice directly to the OMB Desk Officer designated at the following address: OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, Attention: Allison Eydt, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, D.C. 20503.

Dated: January 25, 1996.

Kathleen B. Larson,

Director, Management Planning and Analysis Staff, Office of Financial and Human Resources, Health Care Financing Administration.

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Health Resources and Services Administration

Program Announcement for Contracts for the Disadvantaged Health Professions Faculty Loan Repayment Program for Fiscal Year 1996

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announces that applications for contracts for fiscal year (FY) 1996, for the Disadvantaged Health Professions Faculty Loan Repayment Program (FLRP) are now being accepted under section 738(a) of the Public Health Service Act (The Act).

This program announcement is subject to reauthorization of the legislative authority and to the appropriation of funds. Applicants are advised that this program announcement is a contingency action being taken to assure that should authority and funds become available for this purpose, they can be awarded in a timely fashion consistent with the needs of the program as well as to provide for even distribution of funds throughout the fiscal year. At this time, given a continuing resolution and the absence of FY 1996 appropriations for title VII programs, the amount of available funding for this program cannot be estimated.

Purpose

The purpose of the Disadvantaged Health Professions Faculty Loan Repayment Program (FLRP), authorized by section 738(a), is to attract disadvantaged health professionals into faculty positions in accredited health professions schools. The program

provides a financial incentive for degree-trained health professions personnel from disadvantaged backgrounds who will serve as members of the faculties of those schools. The FLRP is directed at those individuals available to serve immediately or within a short time as "new" full-time faculty members. Loan repayment may be provided only for an individual who has *not* been a member of the faculty of any school at any time during the 18-month period preceding the date on which the Secretary receives the request of the individual for a repayment contract (i.e., "new" faculty).

Section 738(b) makes available grants and contracts with schools of medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, podiatric medicine, pharmacy, public health, health administration, clinical psychology and other public or private nonprofit health or educational entities to assist in increasing the number of underrepresented minority faculty. Section 738(b) will be implemented as a separate program.

Eligible Individuals

Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds are eligible to compete for participation in the FLRP if they:

1. Have degrees in medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy, podiatric medicine, optometry, veterinary medicine, public health or clinical psychology; or
2. Are enrolled in an approved graduate training program in one of the health professions listed above; or
3. Are enrolled as full-time students in the final year of health professions training, leading to a degree from an eligible school.

Established faculty members are not eligible to apply for funds under the FLRP. Only individuals that have not taught in the last 18 (eighteen) months prior to application to the program will be considered.

Statutory Requirements

Prior to submitting an application for a contract for loan repayment, individuals must sign a contract with an eligible school, as prescribed by the Secretary, setting forth the terms and conditions of the FLRP. This contract with the school must require the individual to serve as a full-time member of the faculty, as determined by the school, for not less than 2 years, whereby the school agrees to pay, for each year, a sum (in addition to faculty salary) equal to that paid by the Secretary towards the repayment of principal due on the applicant's health professions educational loans.

Additionally, the individual involved may not have been a member of the faculty of any school at any time during the last 18 months prior to application to the program.

Eligible Schools

Eligible schools are public or nonprofit private accredited schools of medicine, nursing, as defined in section 853 of the Act, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, podiatric medicine, optometry, veterinary medicine or public health, or schools that offer graduate programs in clinical psychology and which are located in States as provided in section 799 of the Act.

Provisions of the Loan Repayment Program

Section 738(a) authorizes repayment, for each year of service, as much as 20 percent of the outstanding principal and interest on the individuals educational loans, not to exceed \$20,000 for any given year. The school pays an equal amount, unless the Secretary determines that the repayment will impose an undue financial hardship on the school in which case, the Secretary may pay up to the entire 20 percent.

The school is required, for each such year, to make payments of principal and interest in an amount equal to the amount of payment made by the Secretary for that year. These payments must be in addition to the faculty salary the participant otherwise would receive.

Allowable educational loan repayment expenses include the following:

1. Tuition expenses;
2. All other reasonable educational expenses such as fees, books, supplies, educational equipment and materials required by the school, and incurred by the applicant;
3. Reasonable living expenses, as determined by the Secretary; and
4. Partial payments of the increased Federal income tax liability caused by the FLRP's payments and considered to be "other income," if the recipient requests such assistance.

Prior to entering into a contract for repayment of loans, the Secretary requires satisfactory evidence of the existence and reasonableness of the individual's educational loans, including a copy of the original written loan agreement establishing the outstanding educational loan.

Waiver Provision

In the event of undue financial hardship to a school, the school may obtain from the Secretary a waiver of its share of payments while the participant

is serving under the terms of the contract. For purposes of this program, "undue financial hardship", as seen by the Secretary, is based on a school's particular financial status as influenced by such circumstances as budget cutbacks. Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis, and must be supported by the school's documentation of comparative yearly financial allocation of funds; or the most current certified public accounting audit, including the Balance Sheet and Statement of Income and Expenses for the past several years.

If the Secretary waives the school's payment requirement, the amount of the Federal loan repayment may be up to the full 20 percent described above (regardless of the "equal amount" provision described above), but cannot exceed the \$20,000 repayment limit. The participant must pay that portion of loan payment due which is not covered.

The following Definitions, Program Requirements, Review Criteria and Funding Preference were established in FY 1991 after public comment dated October 2, 1991, at 56 FR 49896, and the Secretary is extending them in FY 1996.

Definitions

For purposes of the FLRP in FY 1996, an "Individual from a Disadvantaged Background" is defined as in 42 CFR 57.1804, as one who:

1. Comes from an environment that has inhibited the individual from obtaining the knowledge, skill, and abilities required to enroll in and graduate from a health professions school, or from a program providing education or training in an allied health profession; or

2. Comes from a family with an annual income below a level based on low income thresholds according to a family size published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, adjusted annually for changes in the Consumer Price Index, and adjusted by the Secretary for use in health professions and nursing programs. The Secretary will periodically publish these income levels in the Federal Register. The following income figures determine what constitutes a low income family for purposes of the Faculty Loan Repayment Program for FY 1996.

Size of parents' family ¹	Income level ²
1	\$10,000
2	12,900
3	15,400
4	19,700
5	23,200

Size of parents' family ¹	Income level ²
6 or more	26,100

¹ Includes only dependents listed on Federal income tax forms.

² Adjusted gross income for calendar year 1994 rounded to \$100.

The term "Living expenses" means the costs of room and board, transportation and commuting costs, and other costs incurred during an individual's attendance at a health professions school, as estimated each year by the school as part of the school's standard student budget. (National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, 42 CFR part 62.22)

The term "Reasonable educational expenses and living expenses" means the costs of those educational and living expenses which are equal to or less than the sum of the school's estimated standard student budgets for educational and living expenses for the degree program and for the year(s) during which the Program participant is/was enrolled in the school. (National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, 42 CFR part 62.22)

The term "Unserviced Obligation Penalty" means the amount equal to the number of months of obligated service that were not completed by an individual, multiplied by \$1,000, except that in any case in which the individual fails to serve 1 year, the unserviced obligation penalty shall be equal to the full period of obligated service multiplied by \$1,000. (Section 338E of the Act) See "Breach of Contract" section below.

Program Requirements

The following requirements will be applied to the applicant and to the school.

The Applicant

The applicant will be required to do the following:

1. Submit a completed application, including the applicant's contract with an eligible school to serve as a full-time faculty member for not less than 2 years;
2. Provide evidence that the applicant has completely satisfied any other obligation for health professional service which is owed under an agreement with the Federal Government, State Government, or other entity prior to beginning the period of service under this program;
3. Certify that the United States does not hold a judgment against the applicant; and
4. Provide documentation to evidence the educational loans and to verify their status.

The School

The school will be required to do the following:

1. Enter into a contractual agreement with the applicant whereby the school is required, for each year for which the participant serves as a faculty member, to make payments of principal and interest in an amount equal to the amount of such quarterly payments made by the Secretary. These payments must be in addition to the faculty salary the participant otherwise would receive.

2. Verify the participant's continuous employment at intervals as prescribed by the Secretary.

The Secretary will pay participants in equal quarterly payments during the period of service.

Effective Date of Contract

After an applicant has been approved for participation in the FLRP, the Director, Division of Disadvantaged Assistance (DDA), will send the applicant a contract with the Secretary. The effective date is either the date work begins at the school as a faculty member or the date the Director, DDA, signs the FLRP contract, whichever is later. Service should begin no later than September 30, 1996.

Breach of Contract

The following areas under Breach of Contract are addressed in the appended contract:

1. If the participant fails to serve his or her period of obligated faculty service (minimum of 2 years) as contracted with the school, he/she is then in breach of contract, and neither the Secretary nor the school is obligated to continue loan repayments as stated in the contract. The participant must then reimburse the Secretary and the participating school for all sums of principal and interest paid on his/her behalf as stated in the contract in addition to any income tax assistance he/she may have received.

2. Regardless of the length of the agreed period of obligated service (2, 3, or more years), a participant who serves less than the time period specified in his/her contract is liable for monetary damages to the United States amounting to the sum of the total of the amounts the Program paid him/her, plus an "unserviced obligation penalty" of \$1,000 for each month unserved.

3. Any amount which the United States is entitled to recover because of a breach of the FLRP contract must be paid within 1 year from the day the Secretary determines that the participant is in breach of contract. If payment is not received by the payment date, additional interest, penalties and

administrative charges will be assessed in accordance with Federal Law (45 CFR 30.13).

Review Criteria

The HRSA will review fiscal year 1996 applications taking into consideration the following criteria:

1. The extent to which the applicant meets the requirements of section 738(a) of the Act;

2. The completeness, accuracy, and validity of the applicant's responses to application requirements;

3. The submission of the signed contract with the school;

4. An applicant's earliest available date to begin service as a faculty member provided funding is available for that year; and

5. An applicant's availability to enter into a service contract for a longer period than the mandatory 2-year minimum.

Factors to assure equitable distribution (e.g. geographic, discipline) will be considered in determining the funding of completed applications.

National Health Objectives for the Year 2000

The Public Health Service (PHS) is committed to achieving the health promotion and disease prevention objectives of Healthy People 2000, a PHS-led national activity for setting priority areas. The Disadvantaged Health Professions Faculty Loan Repayment Program is related to the priority area of Educational and Community-Based Programs. Potential applicants may obtain a copy of *Healthy People 2000* (Full Report; Stock No. 017-001-00474-0) or *Healthy People 2000* (Summary Report; Stock No. 017-001-00473-1) through the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402-9325 (Telephone (202) 783-3238).

Education and Service Linkage

As part of its long-range planning, HRSA will be targeting its efforts to strengthening linkages between U.S. Public Health Service education programs and programs which provide comprehensive primary care services to the underserved.

Smoke-Free Workplace

The Public Health Service strongly encourages all grant recipients to provide a smoke-free workplace and promote the nonuse of all tobacco products, and Public Law 103-227, the Pro-Children Act of 1994, prohibits smoking in certain facilities that receive Federal funds in which education,

library, day care, health care, and early childhood development services are provided to children.

Application Requests

Requests for application materials and questions regarding program information and business should be directed to: Lafayette Gilchrist, Division of Disadvantaged Assistance, Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 8A-09, Rockville, Maryland 20857, Telephone: (301) 443-3680, FAX: (301) 443-5242.

Completed applications should be returned to the address listed above. The application deadline date is June 30, 1996. Applications shall be considered to be "on time" if they are either:

(1) *Received on or before* the established deadline date, or

(2) *Sent on or before* the established deadline date and received in time for orderly processing. (Applicants should request a legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark or obtain a legibly dated receipt from a commercial carrier or U.S. Postal Service. Private metered postmarks shall not be acceptable as proof of timely mailing.)

Late applications not accepted for processing will be returned to the applicant.

The application form and instructions for this program have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act. The OMB clearance number is 0915-0150.

The Disadvantaged Health Professions Faculty Loan Repayment Program is listed at 93.923 in the *Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance*. It is not subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs (as implemented through 45 CFR part 100).

This program is not subject to the Public Health System Reporting Requirements.

Dated: January 25, 1996.

Ciro V. Sumaya,
Administrator.

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National Institutes of Health

Division of Research Grants; Notice of Closed Meetings

Pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following Division

of Research Grants Special Emphasis Panel (SEP) Meetings:

Purpose/Agenda: To review Small Business Innovation Research.

Name of SEP: Multidisciplinary Sciences.

Date: February 8-9, 1996.

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Marriott Hotel, Newport Beach, California.

Contact Person: Dr. Lee Rosen, Scientific Review Administrator, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5116, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 435-1171.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the partial shutdown of the Federal Government and the urgent need to meet timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

Name of SEP: Multidisciplinary Sciences.

Date: April 1-3, 1996.

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Bethesda Marriott Hotel, Bethesda, Maryland.

Contact Person: Dr. Nabeeh Mourad, Scientific Review Administrator, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5110, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 435-1168.

Purpose/Agenda: To review individual grant applications.

Name of SEP: Multidisciplinary Sciences.

Date: February 12-14, 1996.

Time: 8:30 p.m.

Place: Sheraton Boston Hotel and Towers, Boston, MA.

Contact Person: Dr. Marjam Behar, Scientific Review Administrator, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5218, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 435-1180.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the partial shutdown of the Federal Government and the urgent need to meet timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

Name of SEP: Clinical Sciences.

Date: February 26-28, 1996.

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Place: Ramada Inn, Bethesda, Maryland.

Contact Person: Dr. Ronald Suddendorf, Scientific Review Administrator, 6000 Executive Blvd., Room 409, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 443-2932.

Name of SEP: Clinical Sciences.

Date: February 26-28, 1996.

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Place: Ramada Inn, Bethesda, Maryland.

Contact Person: Dr. Jules Selden, Scientific Review Administrator, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4108, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 435-1785.

Name of SEP: Clinical Sciences.

Date: February 26-28, 1996.

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Place: Ramada Inn, Bethesda, Maryland.

Contact Person: Dr. Antonio Noronha, Scientific Review Administrator, 6000 Executive Blvd., Room 409, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 443-9419.

Name of SEP: Multidisciplinary Sciences.

Date: February 28-March 1, 1996.

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: University Inn, Champaign, Illinois.

Contact Person: Dr. Harish Chopra, Scientific Review Administrator, 6701