

retention program for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.”

As explained in the most recent Notice of Funding Opportunity (HRSA–16–069), published on November 25, 2015, HRSA determined at least 20 percent of a school’s enrollees and graduates must be disadvantaged individuals. For the purposes of the SDS program, an individual from a disadvantaged background is defined as one who: (1) comes from an environment that has inhibited the individual from obtaining the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to enroll in and graduate from a health profession or nursing school, or from a program providing education or training in allied health professions; or (2) comes from a family with an annual income below the established Census Bureau low-income thresholds, adjusted by the Secretary of HHS for health professions and nursing programs eligibility.

As explained in the most recent Notice of Funding Opportunity, (HRSA–16–069), scholarship awards equal an amount no less than 50 percent of the student’s annual tuition costs, up to a maximum amount of \$30,000 to cover the cost of attendance. Scholarships may be expended only for a recipient’s cost of tuition expenses, other reasonable educational expenses, and reasonable living expenses incurred by attendance at the participant’s school of enrollment, as described in Section 737(a) of the PHS Act. The project period for this program may be altered within the range of one to five years. HRSA will announce any future changes to the project period for the SDS program through the relevant Notice of Funding Opportunity.

#### **Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students Program in FY 2020—Proposal for Public Comment**

HRSA is seeking comments from interested parties, including current and former grant recipients and former applicants to the program, on the following proposed changes. In your comments, please address one or more of the following proposals. Please reference the section number in your comments.

1. In an effort to combat workforce shortages, HRSA will distribute SDS funding to award recipients consistent with promoting health professions careers projected to experience the most severe shortages as determined by the National Center for Health Workforce Analysis. Section 740(a) of the PHS Act requires HRSA to distribute at least 16 percent of the SDS funding to nursing schools. Precise distributions for each competition will be announced in the

relevant Notice of Funding Opportunity. This adjustment of funding would allow HRSA to strategically target SDS funding for the health professions with a current or projected workforce shortage.

2. At least 20 percent of the school’s full-time enrolled students and graduates must be from a disadvantaged background. Institutions are required to provide 1 year of data to demonstrate this eligibility requirement. The proposal is to require schools to provide the average for the most recent 3-year period to demonstrate their eligibility. A 3-year average is a more accurate portrayal of school enrollment patterns than 1 year. This change would allow SDS to support the grantees who have demonstrated a commitment over time to serving students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Any future changes to the disadvantaged student percentage or data collection period will be announced through the SDS Notice of Funding Opportunity for the relevant grant funding cycle.

3. HRSA has analyzed SDS award data, compared it with performance measures, and discovered providing amounts to students to cover a substantial portion of their education costs positively correlates with better graduation rates, consistent with the statutory aims. Data suggests the availability of scholarships, especially for disadvantaged students, continues to limit educational opportunities for students. SDS last increased its scholarship amount in 2016. Without sufficient financial support, disadvantaged students are much more likely to be unable to successfully complete their education. Based on this understanding and the steady increase in tuition nationally, HRSA proposes to increase the maximum scholarship award to \$40,000 per student, to ensure the SDS program will continue to impact students who receive the awards and ensure their success in completing the program. HRSA also reserves the right to adjust the scholarship award amount as necessary to accommodate any rise in tuition and will announce any such changes in the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the relevant funding cycle.

HRSA will announce any future administrative changes to the SDS program through the relevant Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Dated: May 16, 2019.

**George Sigounas,**  
*Administrator.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

### **Establishment of the Interdepartmental Substance Use Disorders Coordinating Committee and Solicitation of Nominations for Committee Members; Correction**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health.

**ACTION:** Notice; correction.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published a document in the **Federal Register** of May 15, 2019, concerning the establishment of the Interdepartmental Substance Use Disorders Coordinating Committee and Solicitation of Nominations for Committee Members. The document contained an inadvertent omission of the following membership category from the list of non-federal members that the Secretary of HHS will appoint to the committee: Public safety officer with extensive experience in interacting with adults with a substance use disorder.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Roula K. Sweis, Psy.D., M.A., Chief, Operations and Management, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Telephone: 202–260–6619; Fax: 202–690–4631; Email address: [SUDCommittee@hhs.gov](mailto:SUDCommittee@hhs.gov).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### *Correction*

In the **Federal Register** of May 15, 2019, in FR Doc. 2019–09969, on page 21793 under the header Membership and Designation the following category was inadvertently omitted from the list of non-federal members that the Secretary of HHS will appoint to the committee: “at least one such member will be a public safety officer with extensive experience in interacting with adults with a substance use disorder.”

Dated: May 16, 2019.

**Roula K. Sweis,**

*Designated Federal Official.*

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