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## Health Resources and Services Administration

## Availability of Funds for the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program and Grants for State Loan Repayment Programs

AGENCY: Health Resources and Services Administration, PHS. ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announces that approximately \$42.4 million will be available in fiscal year (FY) 1995 for: (1) Awards for educational loan repayment under the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Program (LRP) (Section 338B of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act) and (2) grants to States to operate loan repayment programs (Section 338I of the PHS Act).

The HRSA, through this notice, invites health professionals to apply for participation in the NHSC LRP and invites States to apply for grants to operate State Loan Repayment Programs (LRPs). The HRSA estimates that approximately 550 NHSC Loan Repayment awards totaling \$35.4 million will be made to health professionals providing primary health services. Approximately \$7 million in discretionary grants will be available to States to operate LRPs. Approximately \$3 million will be available to support 10 competing continuation grants and 3 to 5 new starts. The range for these grants is approximately \$20,000 to \$1 million. Approximately \$4 million is available for 19 noncompeting continuation grants. Awards will be made for a 1-year budget period and for up to a 5-year project period.

The PHS is committed to achieving the health promotion and disease prevention objectives of Healthy People 2000, a PHS-led national activity for setting health priority areas. These programs will contribute to the Healthy People 2000 objectives by improving access to primary health care services through coordinated systems of care for medically underserved populations in both rural and urban areas. Potential applicants may obtain a copy of Healthy People 2000 (Full Report, Stock No. 017-001-00474-01) or Healthy People 2000 (Summary Report; Stock No. 017-001-00473-1) through the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office,

Washington, DC 20402–9325 (telephone 202–783–3238).

The Public Health Service strongly encourages all grant recipients to provide a smoke-free workplace and promote the non-use of all tobacco products. This is consistent with the PHS mission to protect and advance the physical and mental health of the American people.

Part A of this notice contains specific information concerning the NHSC LRP, and Part B contains specific information concerning grants for State LRPs.

## Part A—NHSC Loan Repayment Program

ADDRESSES: Application materials may be obtained by calling or writing to: National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, 8201 Greensboro Drive, Suite 600, McLean, Virginia 22102, 1-800-221-9393 or (703) 734-6855. Completed applications must be returned to: Loan Repayment Programs Branch, Division of Scholarships and Loan Repayments, Bureau of Primary Health Care, HRSA, 4350 East-West Highway, 10th Floor, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, (301) 594-4400. The 24-hour toll-free phone number is 1-800–435–6464, and the FAX number is 301-594-4981. Applicants for the NHSC LRP will use HRSA Form 873 approved under Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Number 0915-0127.

**DATES:** To receive consideration for funding, health professionals must submit their applications by August 1, 1995. To assure early processing of the application and approval for site matching, individuals are encouraged to submit applications well ahead of the August 1 deadline.

Applications will be considered to be on time if they are either: (1) Received on or before the deadline date; or (2) postmarked 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 are not acceptable as proof of timely mailing. Applications received after the announced closing date will not be considered for funding. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further program information and technical assistance, please contact the Loan Repayment Programs Branch at the above address, phone or FAX number. SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section

338B of the PHS Act (42 U.S.C. 254l–1) authorizes the Secretary to establish the NHSC LRP to help in assuring, with respect to the provision of primary health services, an adequate supply of trained primary care health professionals for the NHSC. The NHSC is used by the Secretary to provide primary health services in federally designated health professional shortage areas (HPSAs). Primary health services are services regarding family medicine, general internal medicine, general pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, dentistry, or mental health, that are provided by physicians or other health professionals.

Under the NHSC LRP, the Secretary will repay graduate and undergraduate educational loans incurred by primary care health professionals. For the first 2 years of full-time service at an approved site in a designated HPSA, the Secretary will repay up to \$25,000 per year of the educational loans of such individual. (There is a minimum 2-year service obligation.) For subsequent years of fulltime service, if the NHSC LRP contract is extended, the Secretary will repay up to \$35,000 per year. Payments may be made to participants on an advanced quarterly basis (one quarter in advance of service for the entire service obligation), on an advanced annual basis (one year in advance of service for each year of service) or on an advanced biennial basis (2 years in advance of service but only for the first 2 years of a contract). The Secretary shall, in addition to such payments, make payments to the individual in an amount equal to 39 percent of the total amount of loan repayments made for the taxable year involved. In addition to these amounts, NHSC LRP participants will receive a salary from a private nonprofit or public entity or, in some cases, the Federal Government during the term of their service.

The Secretary will identify and make available annually a list of those HPSA sites which will be available for service repayment under the NHSC LRP. The Secretary will select applicants for consideration for participation in the NHSC LRP according to the following criteria:

(1) The extent to which an individual's training in a health profession or specialty is determined by the Secretary to be needed by the NHSC in providing primary health services. From time to time, the Secretary will publish a notice detailing the professions and specialties most needed by the NHSC. Current professional and specialty priorities are outlined in this notice at the end of Part A.

(2) The extent to which an individual is determined by the Secretary to be committed to serve in a HPSA.

(3) The extent of an individual's demonstrated interest in providing primary health services.