

(4) The immediacy of an individual's availability for service. Individuals who have a degree, have completed all necessary postgraduate training in their professions and specialties (i.e., in the case of physicians, are certified or eligible to sit for the certifying examinations of a specialty board, and in the case of other health professions, are certified in their specialty), and have a current and unrestricted license to practice their profession in a State, will receive highest consideration.

(5) The academic standing, prior professional experience in a HPSA, board certification, residency achievements, peer recommendations, and other criteria related to professional competence or conduct will also be considered.

In providing contracts under the NHSC LRP, priority will be given to an applicant:

- Whose health profession or specialty is most needed by the NHSC;
- Who has and whose spouse, if any, has characteristics that increase the probability of continuing to serve in a HPSA upon completion of his or her service obligation;
- Who is from a disadvantaged background, subject to the preceding paragraph.

Eligible Participants: To be eligible to participate in the NHSC LRP, an individual must:

- (1) (a) Have a degree in allopathic or osteopathic medicine, dentistry, or other health profession, or be certified as a nurse midwife, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant. Other health professions include clinical psychology, clinical social work, and dental hygiene.
- (b) Be enrolled in an approved graduate training program in allopathic or osteopathic medicine, dentistry, or other health profession; or
- (c) Be enrolled as a full-time student at an accredited school in a State and in the final year of a course of study or program leading to a degree in allopathic or osteopathic medicine, dentistry, or other health profession;
- (2) Be eligible for appointment as a commissioned officer in the Regular or Reserve Corps of the PHS or be eligible for selection for civilian service in the NHSC; and
- (3) Submit an application for a contract to participate in the NHSC LRP which contract describes the repayment of educational loans in return for the individual serving for an obligated period.

Any individual who previously incurred an obligation for health professional service to the Federal Government, a State Government, or other entity is ineligible to participate in the NHSC LRP unless such obligation will be completely satisfied prior to the beginning of service under this Program. Any individual who has breached an obligation for health professional service to the Federal Government, a State Government or other entity is

ineligible to participate in the NHSC LRP. Any individual who has a judgment lien against his or her property for a debt to the United States is ineligible to participate in the NHSC LRP until the judgment is paid in full or otherwise satisfied.

No loan repayments will be made for any professional practice performed prior to the effective date of the NHSC LRP contract. All individuals must have a current and unrestricted license to practice their profession in a State prior to beginning service under this Program.

Professions and Specialties Needed by the NHSC

At this time, the Secretary has determined, based on community demand, that priority will be given to the following health professionals: physicians (M.D.s and D.O.s) who are certified or eligible to sit for the certifying examination in the specialty boards of family practice, obstetrics/gynecology, internal medicine, and pediatrics.

Other Award Information

This program is not subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, since Executive Order 12372 does not cover payments to individuals. In addition, this program is not subject to the Public Health System Reporting Requirements, since the requirements do not cover payment to individuals.

The OMB *Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance* number for this program is 93.162.

Part B—Grants for State Loan Repayment Programs

ADDRESSES: Application materials for State Loan Repayment Programs may be obtained from: Alice H. Thomas, Grants Management Officer, HRSA/BPHC/GMB, 4350 East-West Highway, Room 11-1C3, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, (301) 594-4260, FAX (301) 594-4073. Completed new and competing applications must be returned to: Bureau of Primary Health Care, Grants Management Officer, c/o Houston Associates, Inc., 1010 Wayne Avenue, Suite 240, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. Completed applications for budget period renewals (i.e., non-competing continuations) must be returned to: Alice H. Thomas, Grants Management Officer, HRSA/BPHC/GMB, 4350 East-West Highway, Room 11-1C3, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, (301) 594-4260 and FAX (301) 594-4073. The Grants Management staff is available to provide assistance on business management issues.

Application for these grants will be made on PHS Form 5161-1 (revised in July 1992) with revised face sheet DHHS Form 424, as approved by the OMB under control number 0937-0189. Specific instructions for completing the application form for this program will be sent to any State requesting an application package.

DATES: Applications are due April 1, 1995. Applications will be considered to have met the deadline if they are: (1) Received on or before the deadline date; or (2) postmarked on or before the 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 the U.S. Postal Service. Private metered postmarks will not be accepted as proof of timely mailing. Late applications will not be considered for funding and will be returned to the applicant, except to the extent the BPHC Office of Grants Management may authorize acceptance of a late application. Please contact Beth Rosenfeld at (301) 594-4235 if you have a question regarding receipt of applications.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general program information and technical assistance, please contact Clarke E. Gordon, Chief, Loan Repayment Programs Branch, HRSA/BPHC/DSL, 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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 338I of the PHS Act (42 U.S.C. 254q-1) authorizes the Secretary, acting through the Administrator, HRSA, to make grants to States for the purpose of assisting the States in operating programs as described in this notice for the repayment of educational loans of health professionals in return for their practice in federally designated health professional shortage areas (HPSAs) to increase the availability of primary health services in federally designated HPSAs.

Eligibility Requirements

State Loan Repayment Programs (LRPs) eligible for funding under this announcement must meet the following requirements:

- (1) direct administration by a State agency;
- (2) payment of all or part of the qualifying educational loans (including principal, interest, and related educational loan expenses) of health professionals agreeing to provide primary health services in federally designated HPSAs. "Qualifying educational