

the statutory requirements listed above. Guidance for presenting the information will be provided in the FY 1995 application materials. Schools that received funds for academic year 1994-95 will be funded based on the information provided in last year's application, and do not need to reapply.

Student Eligibility

As required by statute, to qualify for the SDS program, a student must:

(1) be a citizen, a U.S. national, an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residency in the U.S., or a citizen of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a citizen of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, a citizen of the Republic of Palau, or a citizen of the Republic of the Marshall Islands or the Federated States of Micronesia;

(2) meet the definition of an "individual from a disadvantaged background" as defined above; and
(3)(a) be enrolled in or accepted by an eligible school for enrollment as a full-time student; or

(b) be an undergraduate student who has demonstrated a commitment to pursuing a career in health professions, including nursing.

Statutory Preference

The law requires that in providing SDS scholarships, the school give preference to students who are from disadvantaged backgrounds and for whom the cost of attending an SDS school would constitute a severe financial hardship. Severe financial hardship will be determined by the school in accordance with standard need analysis procedures prescribed by the Department of Education for its Federal student aid programs.

The following Criteria for Undergraduate Students, Definitions, Methodology for Implementing the Statutory Special Consideration, the Nonstatutory Special Consideration for Baccalaureate Nursing Programs, and the Procedures for Calculating Scholarship Awards were established in FY 1991 after public comment (at 57 FR 49779) on October 1, 1991, and are being extended in FY 1995. The Funding Preference and Priority were established in FY 1994 after public comment (at 59 FR 44740) on August 30, 1994, and are being extended in FY 1995.

Criteria for Undergraduate Students

In the instance of (3)(b) above, it has been established that the undergraduate students eligible for scholarships must be at feeder schools and have signed statements that they are interested in health professions or nursing careers.

Definitions

"Black" means a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.

"Hispanic" means a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

"American Indian or Alaskan Native" means a person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America, and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.

Definitions listed above are contained in Directive No. 15 of Office of Management and Budget Circular No. A-46, dated May 3, 1974.

"Native American" as defined in Pub. L. 101-527, means American Indian, Alaskan Native, Aleut, or Native Hawaiian.

"Minority" with respect to faculty, refers to Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans, Filipinos, Koreans, Pacific Islanders, and Southeast Asians whose percentage among the total supply of practitioners in the applicable health profession is below that group's percentage in the total population.

Methodology for Implementing the Statutory Special Consideration

In accordance with the statute, in making awards under section 737(a), the Secretary shall give special consideration to eligible schools that have enrollments of underrepresented minorities above the national average for its particular discipline.

For purposes of determining eligibility of a school, Asians will not be included in the definition of underrepresented minorities for the school. Although certain Asian subgroups (i.e., Filipinos, Koreans, Pacific Islanders, and Southeast Asians) are considered to be underrepresented in the health professions and are included as minorities for purposes of program requirements relating to faculty recruitment and retention (see above), national data on these subgroups are not available as a basis for establishing national average enrollment of underrepresented minorities.

For purposes of the FY 1995 award cycle, the national average enrollments of Blacks, Hispanics, and Native Americans (in combination) are: for medicine 13.3 percent; osteopathic medicine 7.7 percent; nursing (RN only) 12.2 percent; dentistry 13.4 percent; pharmacy 10.6 percent; optometry 9.4 percent; podiatric medicine 17.9 percent; veterinary medicine 5.9 percent; public health 15.7 percent; allied health 17.3 percent; and clinical psychology 13 percent.

Nonstatutory Special Consideration for Baccalaureate Nursing Programs

Among schools of nursing, additional special consideration will be given to baccalaureate programs. One of the distinguishing features of baccalaureate education is the substantial focus on preparation for community health practice. Training nurses for community health practice is an integral component of the Department's access strategy.

It is not required that new applicants request consideration for a funding factor. Applications from new schools which do not request consideration for funding factors will be reviewed and given full consideration for funding.

Procedures for Calculating Awards

Awards to eligible schools will be calculated by comparing the enrollment of disadvantaged students in each eligible school with the total enrollment of the disadvantaged students in all eligible schools.

A school with an enrollment of underrepresented minority students which is above the national average (for each discipline) will be given double credit (i.e., its enrollment of disadvantaged students would be doubled for awarding purposes). A baccalaureate nursing school will be given double credit. A baccalaureate nursing school with an underrepresented minority enrollment above the national average will be given quadruple credit (i.e., its enrollment of disadvantaged students will be multiplied by four for awarding purposes).

Other Considerations

Other funding factors may be applied in determining the funding of eligible schools.

A funding preference is defined as the funding of a specific category or group of eligible schools ahead of other categories or groups of eligible schools.

A funding priority is defined as the favorable adjustment of aggregate review scores of individual approved applications when applications meet specified criteria.

It is not required that new applicants request consideration for a funding factor. Applications from new schools which do not request consideration for funding factors will be reviewed and given full consideration for funding.

Funding Preference and Priority

For fiscal year 1995, among allied health schools or programs, preference will be given to the following baccalaureate and graduate programs: dental hygiene, medical laboratory technology, occupational therapy,