

baccalaureate level training programs of the applicant allied health school; and

2. The applicant allied health school:

a. Accepts for enrollment in the first-year class of one of the specified baccalaureate level training programs of the applicant allied health school under entry into the preprofessional phase, members of the cohort who complete the program, or assures enrollment, at the election of the student at another health professions school; and

b. Provides members of the cohort and other disadvantaged enrollees with retention services including a 6 to 8 week prematriculation summer program to ease the transition into the specified allied health professions school curriculum.

Review Criteria: The review of applications will take into consideration the following:

(a) The degree to which the proposed project adequately provides for the requirements in the program regulations;

(b) The number and types of individuals who can be expected to benefit from the project;

(c) The administrative and management ability of the applicant to carry out the proposed project in a cost effective manner;

(d) The adequacy of the staff and faculty;

(e) The soundness of the budget;

(f) The potential of the project to continue without further support under this program.

Statutory Funding Priority: Public Law 102-408 requires the Secretary to give priority in funding to the following schools:

1. A school which previously received an HCOP grant and increased its first-year enrollment of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds by at least 20 percent over that enrollment in the base year 1987 (for which the applicant must supply data) by the end of 3 years from the date of the award of the HCOP grant; and

2. A school which had not previously received an HCOP grant that increased its first-year enrollment of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds by at least 20 percent over that enrollment in the base year 1987 (for which the applicant must supply data) over any period of time (3 consecutive years).

Established Funding Priority: The following funding priority was established in fiscal year 1990 after public comment at 55 FR 11264, dated March 27, 1990, and is being continued in FY 1996, with the exception that wording related to alternative means of documenting enrollment in terms of increases and retention rates for

disadvantaged students has been deleted. Progress in these areas is considered as a part of the merit review process for this program and applicants will be informed of relevant benchmarks in application materials.

A funding priority will be given to HCOP applications from health professions schools that have a disadvantaged student enrollment of 35 percent or more. Traditionally, disadvantaged students have been disproportionately underrepresented in the health profession schools and the health professions. A funding priority will also be given to schools of allied health offering baccalaureate or higher level programs in physical therapy, physician assistant, respiratory therapy, medical technology or occupational therapy that have a disadvantaged student enrollment of 35 percent or more among those programs.

Funding Preference: The following preference was established following public comment at 57 FR 61914, dated December 29, 1992 and will be applied in FY 1996. Preference be given to competing continuation applications (renewals) for postbaccalaureate programs funded under the fiscal year 1990 HCOP Funding Preference (as defined in the Federal Register notice of March 27, 1990, 55 FR 11264) which score at or above the 50th percentile of all applications which are recommended for approval, and which can evidence the following: (1) disadvantaged students were recruited into the postbaccalaureate program at a level at least equal to the number of students originally projected in FY 1990, and (2) the cohort of first year disadvantaged students entering the health or allied health professions school in September 1996 exceeds the number of disadvantaged students enrolled in the first year class in September 1995 by a number equal to 50 percent of the postbaccalaureate participants projected for enrollment in 1996.

In addition, consideration will be given to an equitable geographic distribution of projects, and the assurance that a combination of all funded projects represents a reasonable proportion of the health professions specified in the legislation.

Funding: The statute requires that, of the amount appropriated for any fiscal year, 20 percent must be obligated for stipends to disadvantaged individuals of exceptional financial need who are students at schools of allopathic medicine, osteopathic medicine, or dentistry.

Grants for the Minority Faculty Fellowship Program (MFFP)

Purpose: The purpose of the MFFP is to increase the number of underrepresented minority faculty members in health professions schools, i.e., 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.

Specifically, these grant awards are intended to allow institutions an opportunity to provide a fellowship to individuals who have the potential for teaching, administering programs, or conducting research as faculty members. Institutions must demonstrate a commitment and ability to identify, recruit, and select underrepresented minorities in health professions. The institutions' training programs provide the fellows with the techniques and skills needed to secure an academic career including competence in: pedagogical skills, research methodology, development of research grant proposals, writing and publication skills, and the ability to work with minority populations and provide health services to medically underserved communities. In addition, the fellows must work under the direct supervision of a senior level faculty member engaged in the disciplines mentioned above, and upon successful completion of the program would be assured a teaching position at the institution.

Section 738(b) authorizes the Secretary to provide a one-year fellowship award to an eligible health professions school which includes a stipend in an amount not exceeding 50 percent of the regular salary of a similar faculty member, or \$30,000, whichever is less. Grant funds are available to support fellow costs *only* and are limited to stipend, tuition and fees, and travel. Stipends must be paid by the grantee institution in accordance with its usual institutional payment policy, schedule and procedures. Stipend funds may be supplemented through other resources. Direct financial assistance to fellows may not be received concurrently with any other Federal education award (fellowship, traineeship, etc.), except for educational assistance under the Veterans Readjustment Benefits Act ("GI Bill"). Loans from Federal funds are not considered Federal awards. Any fellow who continues to receive full institutional salary is not eligible for stipend support from these grant funds.