

Subpart C—Private Startup Loans

PART 24—SENIOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH SERVICE

§ 23.41 What conditions are applicable to loans under this subpart?

The regulations set out in subpart B of this part are fully applicable to loans awarded under section 338C(e)(1) of the Public Health Service Act, except as noted below;

(a) *Eligibility.* (1) In lieu of § 23.23(a), the following applies to loans made under this subpart:

(i) Eligibility for loans is limited to NHSC scholarship recipients who plan to enter private practice and have not begun fulfilling their scholarship service obligation or are currently fulfilling their scholarship service obligation under section 338B of the Act and have completed less than 2 years of this obligation.

(2) In lieu of § 23.23(c), the following applies to loans made under this subpart:

(i) NHSC scholarship recipients who have received loans under either this subpart or subpart B of this part are ineligible for loans under this subpart.

(b) *Loan amounts.* (1) In lieu of § 23.24, the following applies to loans made under this subpart:

(i) The Secretary may make loans in the amount of \$12,500 if the recipient agrees to practice in accordance with the loan agreement for a period of at least 1 year but less than 2 years or the remaining period of the borrower's NHSC scholarship service obligation, whichever is shorter.

(ii) The Secretary may make loans in the amount of \$25,000 if the recipient agrees to practice in accordance with the loan agreement for a period of at least 2 years or the remaining period of the borrower's NHSC scholarship service obligation, whichever is shorter.

(c) *Use of funds.* (1) In lieu of § 23.32(a), the following applies to loans made under this subpart:

(i) The borrower must use the total amount of the loan only to purchase or lease, or both, the equipment and supplies needed for providing health services in his or her private practice. Equipment and supplies purchased and/or leased shall be limited to the items requested in the loan application and approved by the Secretary.

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AUTHORITY: Section 228(g) of the Public Health Service Act; 5 U.S.C. 301.

SOURCE: 61 FR 6557, Feb. 21, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

§ 24.1 Establishment.

There is established in the Public Health Service (PHS) a Senior Biomedical Research Service (SBRs) consisting of members the maximum number of which is prescribed by law.

§ 24.2 Allocation.

(a) The Secretary, within the number authorized in the PHS Act, shall determine the number of SBRs slots to be allocated to each participating Operating Division.

(b) The SBRs Policy Board may advise the Secretary to make adjustments to the allocation at any time.

(c) The majority of the SBRs allocation is to be reserved for recruitment. The remaining SBRs allocation may be used for the retention of current employees.

(d) SBRs slots will be used judiciously, resulting in SBRs appointments only where other senior-level appointing authorities are not sufficient to recruit or retain scientific talent.

(e) The Secretary will ensure that SBRs slots are used in support of high priority programs authorized by Congress and which directly support the research goals and priorities of the Department.

§ 24.3 Policy Board.

The Secretary or his/her designee shall establish an SBRs Policy Board to serve in an advisory capacity, recommending SBRs allocations among the participating Operating Divisions,

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reviewing the operations of the SBRS and ensuring consistent application of regulations, policies, and procedural guidelines, and recommending changes to the Secretary as necessary. Membership, to the extent possible, will include SBRS eligibles nominated by their respective Operating Divisions, will be weighted in proportion to Operating Divisions' SBRS allocations, and will include representation from the Office of the Secretary. The Secretary or his/her designee will select the board membership and the Chair.

§ 24.4 Eligibility.

To be eligible for appointment to the Service an individual must have a doctoral-level degree in biomedicine or a related field and must meet the qualification standards prescribed by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management for appointment to a position at GS-15 of the General Schedule. In addition, the individual must be outstanding in the field of biomedical research or clinical research evaluation. Appointment to the Service will be made only to individuals actively engaged in either biomedical research or clinical research evaluation.

(a) Outstanding in the field of biomedical research means an individual who is actively engaged in peer-reviewed original biomedical research and whose work in this area is considered by his or her peers to be outstanding. In order to meet the eligibility criteria, an individual must have conducted original peer-reviewed biomedical research resulting in major accomplishments reflected by a steady and current record of highly cited publications in peer-reviewed journals of high stature. In addition, the individual should be the recipient of major prizes and awards (such as visiting professorships and named lectureships) in recognition of original contributions to research.

(b) Outstanding in the field of clinical research evaluation means that an individual is actively engaged in clinical research evaluation and is considered by his or her peers to be outstanding. In order to meet the eligibility criteria, an individual, by force of his or her own technical expertise, must be in a position to shape the

course of drug or device evaluation or exert a similar influence on the PHS handling of other agents that may affect the public health. The individual would normally have dealt with complex, precedent-setting evaluation issues that involved significant scientific controversy, had far reaching implications for clinical research or resulted in a widespread economic effect in the health-care delivery system. In addition, the individual should have been involved in the development of scientific or regulatory guidelines for clinical research and been the recipient of invitations to speak at or to chair major national or international meetings and symposia.

§ 24.5 Peer review.

An individual may not be considered for appointment into the SBRS unless his/her qualifications have been reviewed by a PHS peer review committee and the committee has recommended appointment to the Service.

§ 24.6 Pay and compensation.

The SBRS is an ungraded system, with a single, flexible pay range to include all members.

(a) Pay of the members of the Service shall be determined by the Secretary or his/her designee.

(b) The pay of a member of the Service shall be not less than the minimum rate payable for GS-15 of the General Schedule and shall not exceed:

(1) The rate payable for level I of the Executive Schedule unless a higher rate of pay is expressly approved on an individual basis by the President, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5377(d)(2), or

(2) The rate payable for level II of the Executive Schedule unless a higher rate of pay is expressly approved on an individual basis by the Secretary.

(c) While the full pay range will be used, individual pay at the higher end of the range will be used only as needed to recognize individual scientific value and as necessary to recruit or retain an exceptionally well-qualified scientist.

(d) The following factors will be used in establishing appropriate pay rates for individual members:

(1) Impact of the individual on the scientific field;