

§ 68c.11

§ 68c.11 How does an individual receive loan repayments beyond the initial two-year contract?

An individual may apply for and the Secretary may grant extension contracts for one-year periods, if there is sufficient debt remaining to be repaid and the individual is engaged in research on infertility or contraceptive development at an NICHD intramural laboratory or eligible NICHD-supported extramural site.

§ 68c.12 What will happen if an individual does not comply with the terms and conditions of participation in the CIR-LRP?

(a) Absent withdrawal (see § 68c.2) or termination under paragraph (d) of this section, any participant who fails to begin or complete the minimum two-year service obligation required under the Program contract, will be considered to have breached the contract and will be subject to assessment of monetary damages and penalties as follows:

(1) Participants who leave during the first year of the initial contract are liable for amounts already paid by the CIR-LRP on behalf of the participant plus an amount equal to \$1,000 multiplied by the number of months of the original two-year service obligation.

(2) Participants who leave during the second year of the contract are liable for amounts already paid by the NICHD on behalf of the participant plus \$1,000 for each unserved month.

(b) Participants who sign a continuation contract for any year beyond the initial two-year period and fail to complete the one-year period specified are liable for the pro rata amount of any benefits advanced beyond the period of completed service plus an amount equal to the number of months of obligated service that were not completed by the participant multiplied by \$1,000.

(c) Payments of any amount owed under paragraph (a) or (b) of this section shall be made within one year of the participant's breach (or such longer period as determined by the Secretary).

(d) Terminations will not be considered a breach of contract in cases where such terminations are beyond the control of the participant as follows:

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(1) Terminations for cause or for convenience of the Government that are not based upon a breach or default of the participant will not be considered a breach of contract and monetary damages will not be assessed.

(2) The participant transfers to another NICHD intramural laboratory or eligible NICHD-supported extramural site, in which case the participant remains bound to any and all obligations of the contract.

(3) The participant transfers to a site other than an NICHD intramural laboratory or eligible NICHD-supported extramural site, in which case the participant may not be assessed monetary penalties if, in the judgement of the CIR-LRP Panel, the participant continues to engage in contraception and/or infertility research for any remaining period of obligated service as set forth in the contract.

§ 68c.13 Under what circumstances can the service or payment obligation be canceled, waived, or suspended?

(a) Any obligation of a participant for service or payment to the Federal Government under this part will be canceled upon the death of the participant.

(b)(1) The Secretary may waive or suspend any service or payment obligation incurred by the participant upon request whenever compliance by the participant:

- (i) Is impossible;
- (ii) Would involve extreme hardship to the participant; or
- (iii) If enforcement of the service or payment obligation would be against equity and good conscience.

(2) The Secretary may approve a request for a suspension of the service or payment obligations for a period of 1 year. A renewal of this suspension may also be granted.

(c) Compliance by a participant with a service or payment obligation will be considered impossible if the Secretary determines, on the basis of information and documentation as may be required, that the participant suffers from a physical or mental disability resulting in the permanent inability of the participant to perform the service or other

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activities which would be necessary to comply with the obligation.

(d) In determining whether to waive or suspend any or all of the service or payment obligations of a participant as imposing an undue hardship and being against equity and good conscience, the Secretary, on the basis of information and documentation as may be required, will consider:

(1) The participant's present financial resources and obligations;

(2) The participant's estimated future financial resources and obligations; and

(3) The extent to which the participant has problems of a personal nature, such as a physical or mental disability or terminal illness in the immediate family, which so intrude on the participant's present and future ability to perform as to raise a presumption that the individual will be unable to perform the obligation incurred.

§ 68c.14 When can a CIR-LRP payment obligation be discharged in bankruptcy?

Any payment obligation incurred under § 68c.12 may be discharged in

bankruptcy under Title 11 of the United States Code only if such discharge is granted after the expiration of the five-year period beginning on the first date that payment is required and only if the bankruptcy court finds that a nondischarge of the obligation would be unconscionable.

§ 68c.15 Additional conditions.

In order to protect or conserve Federal funds or to carry out the purposes of section 487B of the Act, or of this subpart, the Secretary may impose additional conditions as a condition of any approval, waiver or suspension authorized by this subpart.

§ 68c.16 What other regulations and statutes apply?

Several other regulations and statutes apply to this part. These include, but are not necessarily limited to:

Debt Collection Act of 1982, Public Law 97-365 (5 U.S.C. 5514);

Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681 *et seq.*);

Federal Debt Collection Procedures Act of 1990, Public Law 101-647 (28 U.S.C. 1); and

Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a).