

§ 68c.3

standard student budget for educational and living expenses for the degree program and for the year(s) during which the participant was enrolled in school. If there is no standard budget available from the school or if the participant requests repayment for educational and living expenses which exceed the standard student budget, reasonableness of educational and living expenses incurred must be substantiated by additional contemporaneous documentation, as determined by the Secretary.

Research on infertility or contraceptive development means activities which qualify for participation in the CIR-LRP as determined by the Program Panel.

School means undergraduate, graduate, and health professions schools which are accredited by a body or bodies recognized for accreditation purposes by the Secretary of Education.

Secretary means the Secretary of Health and Human Services and any other officer or employee of the Department of Health and Human Services to whom the authority involved has been delegated.

Service means the Public Health Service.

State means one of the fifty States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau).

Withdrawal means an individual's cessation of participation in the Program pursuant to a request by that participant that is implemented by the Secretary prior to the Program making payments on the participant's behalf. A withdrawal is without penalty to the participant and without obligation to the Program.

§ 68c.3 Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible to apply to the CIR-LRP, an individual must be a qualified health or allied health professional who is at the time of application, or will be at the time of inception into the CIR-LRP, engaged in employment/training at an NICHD intramural lab-

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oratory or an eligible NICHD-supported extramural site.

§ 68c.4 Who is eligible to participate?

To be eligible to participate in the CIR-LRP, the applicant must have institutional assurance of employment/affiliation with the NICHD intramural laboratory or eligible NICHD-supported extramural site and approval of the CIR-LRP Panel, must meet the criteria specified in § 68c.3, and not be ineligible to participate under § 68c.5.

§ 68c.5 Who is ineligible to participate?

The following individuals are ineligible for CIR-LRP participation:

(a) Persons who are not eligible applicants as specified under § 68c.3;

(b) Persons who owe an obligation of health professional service to the Federal Government, a State, or other entity. The following are examples of programs which have a service obligation: Physicians Shortage Area Scholarship Program, National Research Service Award Program, Public Health Service Scholarship, National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program, Armed Forces (Army, Navy, or Air Force) Professions Scholarship Program, Indian Health Service Scholarship Program, National Health Service Corp Loan Repayment Program, and NIH loan repayment programs.

§ 68c.6 How do individuals apply to participate in the CIR-LRP?

An application for participation in the CIR-LRP shall be submitted to the Center for Population Research, NICHD, NIH, which is responsible for the Program's administration, in such form and manner as the Secretary may prescribe.

§ 68c.7 How are applicants selected to participate in the CIR-LRP?

To be selected for participation in the CIR-LRP, applicants must satisfy the following requirements:

(a) Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements specified in § 68c.3 and § 68c.4.

(b) Applicants must not be ineligible for participation as specified in § 68c.5.

(c) Applicants must propose repayment of a loan that meets the requirements of § 68c.9.

(d) Applicants must be selected for approval by the CIR-LRP Panel based upon a review of their applications.

§ 68c.8 What does the CIR-LRP provide to participants?

(a) *Loan repayments.* Upon receipt of an individual's written commitment to serve a minimum initial period of two years of obligated service in accordance with this part, the Secretary may pay up to \$35,000 per year of a participant's repayable debt for each year the individual serves.

(b) Under paragraph (a) of this section, the Secretary will make payments in the discharge of debt to the extent appropriated funds are available for that purpose. When a shortage of funds exists, participants may be funded partially, as determined by the Secretary. However, once a CIR-LRP contract has been signed by both parties, the Secretary will obligate such funds as necessary to ensure that sufficient funds will be available to pay benefits for the duration of the period of obligated service unless otherwise specified by mutual written agreement between the Secretary and the applicant. Benefits will be paid on a quarterly basis after each service period unless otherwise specified by mutual written agreement between the Secretary and the applicant.

§ 68c.9 What loans qualify for repayment?

(a) The CIR-LRP will repay participants' lenders the principal, interest, and related expenses of qualified Government and commercial educational loans obtained by participants for the following:

(1) Undergraduate, graduate, and health professional school tuition expenses;

(2) Other reasonable educational expenses required by the school(s) attended, including fees, books, supplies, educational equipment and materials, and laboratory expenses; and

(3) Reasonable living expenses, including the cost of room and board, transportation and commuting costs, and other living expenses as determined by the Secretary.

(b) The following educational loans are ineligible for repayment under the CIR-LRP:

(1) Loans obtained from other than a government entity or commercial lending institution;

(2) Loans for which contemporaneous documentation is not available;

(3) Loans or portions of loans obtained for educational or living expenses which exceed the standard of reasonableness as determined by the participant's standard school budget for the year in which the loan was made, and are not determined by the Secretary to be reasonable based on additional documentation provided by the individual;

(4) Loans, financial debts, or service obligations incurred under the following programs: Physicians Shortage Area Scholarship Program (Federal or State), National Research Service Award Program, Public Health and National Health Service Corps Scholarship Training Program, National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program, Armed Forces (Army, Navy, or Air Force) Health Professions Scholarship Program, Indian Health Service Program, and similar programs, upon determination by the Secretary, which provide loans, scholarships, loan repayments, or other awards in exchange for a future service obligation;

(5) Any loan in default or not in a current payment status;

(6) Loan amounts which participants have paid or were due for payment prior to inception into the CIR-LRP; and

(7) Loans for which promissory notes have been signed after the individual's acceptance into the CIR-LRP.

§ 68c.10 What does an individual have to do in return for loan repayments received under the CIR-LRP?

Individuals must make a written commitment in accordance with this part to conduct, and must actually conduct research with respect to contraception and/or infertility at an NICHD intramural laboratory or an eligible NICHD-supported extramural site for a minimum initial period of two years.