

§ 595.105

5 CFR Ch. I (1-1-03 Edition)

part only if the four following conditions are met with respect to the category:

(a) Such evidence as vacant positions, an unacceptably high turnover rate, or other positive evidence indicates that the agency is unable to recruit and retain physicians for the category;

(b) The qualification requirements being used as a basis for considering candidates for the vacant positions in the category do not exceed the qualifications that are actually necessary for successful performance of the work of the positions in the category;

(c) The agency has made efforts to recruit qualified candidates for any vacant positions in the category and to retain physicians presently employed in positions in the category; and

(d) A sufficient number of qualified candidates is not available to fill the existing vacancies in the category at the rate of pay the agency may offer if no comparability allowance is paid.

§ 595.105 Determination of amount of comparability allowance.

(a) The amount of the comparability allowance payable for each category of physician position established under § 595.103 of this part must be the minimum amount necessary to deal with the recruitment and retention problem identified under § 595.104 of this part for that category of position. In determining this amount, the agency head shall consider the relative earnings, responsibilities, expenses, workload, working conditions, conditions of employment, and personnel benefits for physicians in each category and for comparable physicians inside and outside the Federal Government.

(b) A physician with 24 months or less of service as a Government physician may not be paid a physicians' comparability allowance in excess of \$14,000 per annum. A physician with more than 24 months of service as a Government physician may not be paid a physicians' comparability allowance in excess of \$30,000 per annum.

(c) In determining length of service as a Government physician, agencies must exclude periods of leave without pay. However, agencies may credit any

prior service as a Government physician, including—

(1) Prior service as a physician under sections 7401 and 7405 of title 38, United States Code; and

(2) Prior active service as a medical officer in the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service under title II of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. chapter 6A).

(d) Under subsection (b)(1) of 5 U.S.C. 5948, a physician who is employed on less than a half-time or intermittent basis is excluded from the physicians' comparability allowance program altogether. A physician who is employed on a regularly scheduled part-time basis of half-time or more is eligible to receive an allowance in accordance with this part, but any such allowance shall be prorated according to the proportion of the physicians' work schedule to full-time employment.

(e) A physician who is serving with the Government under a loan repayment program shall have the amount of loan being repaid deducted from any allowance for which he or she is eligible in accordance with this part, and may receive only that portion of such allowance which exceeds the amount of loan being repaid by service during the period in question.

[44 FR 40876, July 13, 1979, as amended at 53 FR 8141, Mar. 14, 1988, and 53 FR 24011, June 27, 1988; 64 FR 72458, Dec. 28, 1999]

§ 595.106 Termination of service agreement.

(a) Under subsection (f) of 5 U.S.C. 5948, each service agreement entered into by an agency and a physician under the comparability allowance program may prescribe the terms under which the agreement may be terminated and the amount of allowance, if any, required to be refunded by the physician for each reason for termination. In the case of each service agreement covering a period of service of more than one year, the service agreement must include a provision that, if the physician completes more than one year of service pursuant to the agreement, but fails to complete the full period of service specified in the agreement either voluntarily or because of misconduct by the physician,