

(iv) A private practitioner who is providing obligated service under the provisions of section 338D of the Act.

(f) The minimum length of obligated service is two years, or such longer period as the Program participant may agree to. The maximum length of obligated service is four years. If a Program participant agrees to an original contract of two or three years, such contract may be extended, subject to the availability of appropriated funding, for one year or two years (up to the four-year maximum). A one-year extension will not reactivate the statutory minimum requirement of two years of service.

(Information collection requirements contained in paragraph (b)(2) were approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 0915-0131)

§ 62.27 What will happen if an individual does not comply with the terms and conditions of participation in the Loan Repayment Program?

Program participants who default on their Loan Repayment Program Contracts will be subject to the applicable monetary payment provisions set forth at section 338E of the Act. Payment of any amount owed under section 338E of the Act shall be made within one year of the date the participant breached his or her Loan Repayment Contract, as determined by the Secretary.

§ 62.28 Under what circumstances can the service or payment obligation be canceled, waived or suspended?

A service or payment obligation under the Loan Repayment Program will be canceled or may be waived or suspended as provided in § 62.12 of this part of the regulations.

§ 62.29 Under what circumstances can the Loan Repayment Program obligation be discharged in bankruptcy?

Any payment obligation incurred under § 62.27 of this subpart may be released by a discharge 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 was required, and only if the bankruptcy court finds that nondis-

charge of the obligation would be unconscionable.

§ 62.30 What other regulations and statutes apply?

Other regulations and statutes which apply to this subpart include but are not limited to:

Debt Collection Act of 1982, Pub. L. 97-365 (5 U.S.C. 5514) including Section 4, Requirement that Applicant Furnish Taxpayer Identifying Number;

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

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

Section 215(a) of the Public Health Service Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 216(a)), for PHS commissioned officers, and 5 U.S.C. 3301 for civil service employees both of which authorize verification of an individual's suitability for employment;

Privacy Act of 1974; Alteration of System of Records, 52 FR 21622-21627, June 8, 1987, regarding the collection, maintenance and allowable use of personal information requested from program applicants.

Subpart C—Grants for State Loan Repayment Programs

AUTHORITY: Sec. 215 of the Public Health Service Act, 58 Stat. 690 as amended, 63 Stat. 35 (42 U.S.C. 216); sec. 338H of the Public Health Service Act, 101 Stat. 999 (42 U.S.C. 254q-1).

SOURCE: 54 FR 13464, Apr. 3, 1989, unless otherwise noted.

§ 62.51 What is the scope and purpose of the State Loan Repayment Program?

The regulations of this subpart apply to the award of grants authorized by section 338H of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254q-1) to support the establishment of State programs similar to the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program authorized by section 338B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 2541-1). The purpose of this program is to improve the delivery of health services in medically underserved areas.

§ 62.52 Definitions.

In addition to the definitions in § 62.2 of this part, the following definitions will apply for purposes of this subpart:

The definitions of *Qualifying loans*, *Commercial loans*, *Government loans*,

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Educational expenses, and *Living expenses* as contained in § 62.22 of this part will apply for purposes of this subpart.

Medically underserved area means *health manpower shortage area* or an area which has been designated by a State pursuant to standards described in § 62.54(b)(1) of this subpart which the Secretary has deemed acceptable.

State Loan Repayment Program or *program* means a State loan repayment program authorized under section 338H (42 U.S.C. 254q-1) of the Act.

§ 62.53 Who is eligible for this program?

Any State is eligible to apply for a grant under this subpart.

§ 62.54 What must applications for the State Loan Repayment Program contain?

(a) An application for a grant under this subpart shall be submitted to the Secretary at such time and in such form and manner as the Secretary requires.

(b) The application shall contain a budget and narrative statement describing the manner in which the applicant intends to conduct the project and carry out the requirements of this subpart. In addition, applications must include:

(1) A description of the State's standards for the designation of medically underserved areas, except that no description of designation standards will be required if the State elects to use health manpower shortage areas designated by the Secretary;

(2) An assessment of the need and demand in medically underserved areas within the State for health professions manpower with special emphasis on individuals whose training is in a health profession or specialty identified by the Secretary pursuant to § 62.23(b) of this part. This assessment should include such demographic indicators of the need as the economic accessibility of health care services in the State as measured by poverty levels, the percentage of the service area population without health insurance, and the health status of the population as measured by the rates of infant mor-

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tality, low birth weight, geographic barriers and other indicators;

(3) A proposal for the placement of the health profession providers in medically underserved areas with the greatest need and demand in accordance with the need/demand assessment completed in compliance with paragraph (b)(2) of this section;

(4) Adequate assurances that sufficient current year State funds are available to cover the non-Federal share of State Loan Repayment Program costs;

(5) A description of how the program would meet the requirements of § 62.55 to demonstrate its similarity to the NHSC Loan Repayment program;

(6) A description of the source of, and plans for the use of, State matching funds;

(7) A description of how the program would be coordinated with Federal, State and other organized activities within the State which relate to health manpower services and resources;

(8) Identification of the State entity and key personnel who would administer the grant and a description of the qualifications and experience of that entity and its personnel concerning the State's health service delivery system and health manpower needs;

(9) A description of the State's plans for administration of the State's Loan Repayment Program which may include such provisions as annual levels of loan repayment to be made under the program, the number of health professionals to be funded, the frequency and timing of the loan repayments, program incentives for longer periods of service, procedures for monitoring the service of program participants and placing professionals in default for failure to complete their service obligation, penalties for default, provisions for waivers and suspensions, and a description of the contract/obligation process to be used by the State to obligate individuals receiving State loan repayments;

(10) A description of the State's need for Federal assistance in obtaining health professions resources and demonstrated inability to obtain such resources without Federal assistance;

(11) A description of how the State will accord special consideration to