

Chapter Comm 128

HEALTH CARE PROVIDER LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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Note: Chapter DOD 28 was renumbered chapter Comm 128 under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 1., Stats., and corrections made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 6. and 7., Stats., Register, June, 1997, No. 498.

Comm 128.01 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to establish the procedures under which health care providers may apply for assistance under this chapter and to establish priorities among eligible applicants in the event that the number of applicants exceeds available funding.

History: Cr Register, May, 1994, No. 461, eff. 6-1-94.

Comm 128.02 Definitions. (1) "Department" means the department of commerce.

(1m) "Educational loan" means a health education assistance loan, a plus loan, a national direct student loan, a stafford loan, a health professions student loan, a supplemental loan for students, a guaranteed student loan from a state education financial aid office, a university sponsored student loan, a trust fund loan, a scholastic loan, a foundation loan or any other loan that the department determines is exclusively for educational purposes, and that was obtained by the health care provider from a public or private lending institution for education related to the health care provider's field of practice.

(1n) "Eligible practice area" has the meaning contained in s. 560.184 (1) (am), Stats.

(2) "Health care provider" has the meaning contained in s. 560.184 (1) (b), Stats.

(3) "Nurse-midwife" means a person who practices nurse-midwifery in accordance with s. 441.15, Stats.

(4) "Nurse practitioner" means a person who meets the requirements of s. 632.895 (8) (a) 3., Stats., or who is licensed as a registered nurse under ch. 441 or the laws of another state and who satisfies any of the following:

(a) Is certified as a primary care nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist by the american nurses' credentialing center, the national certification corporation, the national certification board of pediatric nurse practitioners and nurses, the american academy of nurse practitioners, or by another certifying body approved by the american board of nursing specialties.

(b) Has completed an educational program approved by one of the certifying bodies listed in par. (a) and who is eligible, or who upon completion of the minimum time-in-practice requirement will be eligible, to take the professional certification examination as an advanced practice nurse.

(5) "Physician assistant" has the meaning contained in s. 448.01 (6) Stats.

(6) "Primary care" means basic health care services including general assessment, treatment, and management of common acute and chronic medical conditions, health promotion and disease prevention, and prenatal care and delivery services.

History: Cr Register, May, 1994, No. 461, eff. 6-1-94; am. (4), Register, December, 1994, No. 468, eff. 1-1-95; cr. (1m), Register, August, 1995, No. 476, eff. 9-1-95; cr. (1n), r. (7), Register, January, 1996, No. 481, 2-1-96.

Comm 128.03 Priorities among eligible applicants.

(1) Any health care provider who practices primarily in an eligible practice area and who provides primary care is eligible for educational loan repayment as provided in s. 560.184 (4), Stats.

(2) If the cost of repaying the educational loans of all eligible applicants, when added to the cost of educational loan repayments scheduled under existing agreements, exceeds the total amount in

the appropriation under s. 20.143 (1) (fc) and (jl), Stats., the department shall establish priorities among eligible applicants based upon the following considerations:

(a) *Extremely high need for medical care.* The degree to which there is an extremely high need for medical care in the eligible practice area in which the eligible applicant proposes to practice.

(b) *Health care provider retention.* The likelihood that an eligible applicant will remain in the eligible practice area in which he or she desires to practice after the loan repayment period.

(c) *Per capita income.* The per capita income of the eligible practice area in which an eligible applicant desires to practice.

(d) *Financial support for health care provider recruitment and retention.* The financial or other support for health care provider recruitment and retention provided by individuals, organizations or local governments in the eligible practice area in which an eligible applicant desires to practice.

(e) *Geographic distribution.* The geographical distribution of the health care providers who have entered into loan repayment agreements under this section and the geographical location of the eligible practice area in which an eligible applicant desires to practice.

(f) *Length of service.* The degree to which the medical service is new to the eligible practice area.

(g) *Educational loan balance.* The educational loan balance of the eligible applicant.

History: Cr Register, May, 1994, No. 461, eff. 6-1-94; am. (2) (intro.), (b), (e) and (g), Register, August, 1995, No. 476, eff. 9-1-95; am. (1) and (2) (a) to (f), Register, January, 1996, No. 481, eff. 2-1-96.

Comm 128.04 Application process. (1) Applications shall be in such form as the department may require and shall contain the following information:

(a) Evidence of health care professional educational program attendance.

(b) Evidence of licensure or certification as a nurse-midwife, nurse practitioner or physician assistant.

(c) Evidence of educational loan indebtedness and educational loan outstanding balance.

(d) The location of the applicant's current or proposed practice.

(e) Evidence that the provider practices or will practice primary care primarily in an eligible practice area.

(f) The length of time the health care provider has practiced in the eligible practice area.

(g) Information about the likelihood that the applicant will remain in the eligible practice area after the loan repayment period.

(h) Any other information the department may require to make a determination in accordance with the provisions of s. 560.184, Stats., and this chapter.

(2) The department shall prepare application materials that it may update as necessary.

Note: Application materials may be obtained from the Division of Community Development, Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 7970, Madison, Wisconsin 53707 or the University of Wisconsin Office of Rural Health, 740 WARF Building, 610 Walnut Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53705.

History: Cr Register, May, 1994, No. 461, eff. 6-1-94; am. (1) (c) and (g), Register, August, 1995, No. 476, eff. 9-1-95; am. (1) (e), (f) and (g), Register, January, 1996, No. 481, eff. 2-1-96.