

scholarship covers the payment of tuition and required fees to the school (on behalf of the student), the payment of a monthly stipend for living expenses, and an annual payment for books, equipment, and supplies. In return, for each year of support received, students commit to providing primary health care services in a federally designated underserved community in the U.S. The minimum service commitment is two years; the maximum is four. Additional information on the NHSC may be found at <http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov.htm>. Application kits may be obtained by calling 1-800-221-9393.

Eligibility: Applicants must: Be accepted for enrollment or enrolled full-time in an accredited school in the U.S.; be pursuing one of the health professions programs set forth above; be a U.S. citizen or national; be eligible to hold an appointment as a commissioned officer in the Regular or Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service or eligible for a Federal civil service appointment; be free of Federal judgment liens; have no delinquent Federal debt; have no conflicting service obligation; and submit an application, a signed scholarship contract and an authorization to release school enrollment information.

Review Criteria: Final review criteria are included in the application kit.

Funding Priorities: In accordance with Section 338A(d) of the Public Health Service Act, priority will be given (A) first, to applicants who are former recipients of NHSC scholarship support and to former recipients of the Federal Scholarship Program for Students of Exceptional Financial Need; (B) second, to applicants who have characteristics that increase the probability of their continuing to practice in HPSAs after they have completed service; and (C) third, subject to subparagraph (B), to applicants from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Estimated Amount of This

Competition: \$32,600,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 345.

Estimated Project Period: 2 to 4 years.

National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program (NHSC)

Application Availability Date:
November 30, 2003.

Application Deadline: March 26,
2004.

Projected Award Date: September 1,
2004.

Program Contact Person: Ellen Volpe.
Program Contact Phone: 301-594-
4376.

Program Contact E-Mail:
evolpe@hrsa.gov.

Nursing Scholarship Program (NSP)

CFDA: 93.908.

Legislative Authority: Public Health Service Act, Title VIII, Section 846(d), 42 U.S.C. 297n(d).

Purpose: The Nursing Scholarship Program authorizes scholarships to individuals for attendance at schools of nursing in exchange for service for a period of not less than two years at a health care facility with a critical shortage of nurses. Additional information may be found at: <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/nursing/scholarship.htm>.

Eligibility: An "eligible individual" is a U.S. citizen or national who is enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a professional program as a full-time or part-time student in an accredited school of nursing. A "school of nursing" is a collegiate, associate degree, or diploma school of nursing in a State. Other eligibility criteria are outlined in the application kit.

Review Criteria: Final review criteria are included in the application kit.

Funding Preferences: Section 846(e) of the Public Health Service Act provides that a funding preference shall be given to qualified applicants with the greatest financial need. To evaluate financial need, the HRSA will use the Department of Education's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) determination. The EFC measures a student's family's financial strength and is used to determine eligibility for federal student aid. First funding preference will be given to qualified applicants who have a zero EFC, have agreed to complete their nursing program as a full-time student, and are enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an undergraduate nursing program.

Second funding preference will be given to the remaining qualified applicants who have a zero EFC. Third, qualified applicants who have an EFC that exceeds zero will be grouped according to their EFC in increments of \$500 from highest to lowest need (*i.e.*, applicants with EFC of \$1-\$500, applicants with EFC of \$501-\$1,000, etc.), and these groups will be funded, to the extent monies remain available, in order of decreasing need. Within each group, applicants who have agreed to complete their nursing program as a full-time student and are enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an undergraduate nursing program will be funded first, and then the remaining qualified applicants within that group will be funded. If there are insufficient funds to award a contract to all qualified applicants who meet a given funding preference, applicants will be randomly

selected within that preference level until all funds are expended.

Estimated Amount of This

Competition: \$6,000,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 120.

Estimated Project Period: 1 to 4 years.

Nursing Scholarship Program (NSP)

Application Availability Date: April
16, 2004.

Application Deadline: May 31, 2004.

Projected Award Date: July 30, 2004.

Program Contact Person: Bruce

Baggett.

Program Contact Phone: 301-443-
5395.

Program Contact E-Mail:
bbaggett@hrsa.gov.

Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program (NELRP)

CFDA: 93.908.

Legislative Authority: Public Health Service Act, Title VIII, Section 846, 42 U.S.C. 297n.

Purpose: Under the Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program (NELRP), registered nurses are offered the opportunity to enter into a contractual agreement with the Secretary to receive loan repayment for up to 85 percent of their qualifying loan balance as follows—30 percent each year for the first two years and 25 percent for the third year. In exchange, nurses agree to serve for a minimum of two years in a critical shortage facility (CSF). Application kits may be obtained by calling 1-866-813-3753.

Eligibility: An individual is eligible to apply for NELRP if the individual: (1) Has received a baccalaureate or associate degree in nursing, a diploma in nursing, or a graduate degree in nursing; (2) has obtained one or more nursing student loans authorized under section 835(a) of the PHS Act, as amended, or any other educational loan for nurse training costs; (3) enters into an agreement to serve as a full-time registered nurse for a period of not less than two years in a CSF, which is defined as (a) an Indian Health Service health center, (b) a Native Hawaiian health center, (c) a hospital, (d) a federally-qualified community health center or look-alike, migrant health center or look-alike, health care for the homeless center or look-alike, (e) a rural health clinic, (f) a nursing home, (g) a home health agency, (h) a hospice program, (i) a State or local public health department including a public health clinic within the department, (j) a skilled nursing facility, and (k) an ambulatory surgical center; and (4) is a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or a permanent legal resident of the United States.