

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

*Funding Preferences:* As provided in section 846(e) of the PHS Act, as amended, a funding preference will be given to eligible applicants with the greatest financial need. Applicants whose total qualifying loans are 40% or greater than their annualized salary, will meet the greatest financial funding preference. Applicants are ranked based on their debt to salary ratio. Awards are made to applicants within each preference described below by decreasing debt to salary ratio until funds are expended.

Among qualified applicants, contracts will be awarded according to the following preferences:

First preference for funding will be given to NELRP applicants with greatest financial need working in a Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) for Medicare and Medicaid, nursing home, or State or local public health department including a public health clinic within these departments.

Second preference for funding will be given to applicants with greatest financial need working in a community health center; migrant health center; health care for the homeless health center, rural health clinic, Indian Health Service health center, Native Hawaiian health center, or non-Federal non-DSH for Medicare and Medicaid. Second preference will also be given to qualified applicants with greatest financial need working in the following types of CSFs located in geographic areas identified as Nursing Shortage Counties: ambulatory surgical center, home health agency, hospice program, skilled nursing facility or Federal hospital.

Third preference for funding will be given to applicants with greatest financial need working in the following types of CSFs regardless of geographic location: ambulatory surgical center, home health agency, hospice program, skilled nursing facility, federally qualified health center look-alike, or Federal hospital.

Fourth preference for funding will be given to applicants without greatest financial need working in a DSH for Medicare and Medicaid, nursing home, or State or local public health department including a public health clinic within the department.

Fifth preference for funding will be given to applicants without greatest financial need working a community health center, migrant health center, health care for the homeless health center, rural health clinic, Indian Health Service health center, Native Hawaiian health center, or non-Federal non-DSH

for Medicare and Medicaid. Fifth preference will also be given to qualified applicants without greatest financial need working in the following types of CSFs located in geographic areas identified as Nursing Shortage Counties: ambulatory surgical center, home health agency, hospice program, skilled nursing facility, or Federal hospital.

Sixth preference for funding will be given to applicants without greatest financial need working in the following types of CSFs regardless of geographic location: ambulatory surgical center, home health agency, hospice program, skilled nursing facility, federally qualified health center look-alike; or Federal hospital.

*Estimated Amount of This*

*Competition:* \$15,460,000.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 900.

*Estimated Project Period:* 2 years.

#### *Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program (NELRP)*

*Application Availability Date:* December 1, 2003.

*Application Deadline:* February 18, 2004.

*Projected Award Date:* September 15, 2004.

*Program Contact Person:* Jacqueline Brown.

*Program Contact Phone:* 301-443-3332.

*Program Contact E-Mail:* jbrown1@hrsa.gov.

#### *Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students Program (SDS)*

*CFDA:* 93.925.

*Legislative Authority:* Public Health Service Act, Title VII, Section 737, U.S.C. 293a.

*Purpose:* The Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS) program promotes diversity among health professions students and practitioners by providing scholarships for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Eligible health professions and nursing schools apply for grants to make scholarships to students from disadvantaged backgrounds who have financial need for scholarships and are enrolled, or accepted for enrollment, as full-time students at the schools.

*Eligibility:* Eligible entities must have a program for recruiting and retaining students from disadvantaged backgrounds and be a school of allopathic medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, optometry, pharmacy, podiatric medicine, veterinary medicine, public health, nursing, chiropractic, or allied health, graduate program in behavioral and mental health practice, or an entity

providing programs for the training of physician assistants.

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

*Funding Priorities:* In accordance with section 737(c) of the Public Health Service Act, health professions and nursing schools are eligible to receive a funding priority based on the proportion of graduating students going into primary care, the proportion of underrepresented minority students, and the proportion of graduates working in medically underserved communities.

*Estimated Amount of This*

*Competition:* \$9,900,000.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 411.

*Estimated Project Period:* 1 year.

#### *Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students Program (SDS)*

*Application Availability Date:* November 1, 2003.

*Application Deadline:* December 17, 2003.

*Projected Award Date:* March 31, 2004.

*Program Contact Person:* Andrea Castle.

*Program Contact Phone:* 301-443-1701.

*Program Contact e-mail:* dpolicy@hrsa.gov.

#### *Faculty Loan Repayment Program (FLRP)\**

*CFDA:* 93.923.

*Legislative Authority:* Public Health Service Act, Title VII, section 738a, 42 U.S.C. 293b.

*Purpose:* The Faculty Loan Repayment Program (FLRP) is a loan repayment program for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who serve as faculty at eligible health professions schools for a minimum of two years. In return, the Federal Government agrees to pay up to \$20,000 of the outstanding principal and interest on the individual's education loans for each year of service.

This program is designed to increase the number of faculty from disadvantaged backgrounds who act as role models and mentors for students from similar backgrounds. Hence, faculty, as used in this section, means a position that is primarily teach, rather than administrative or research. The employing school must also make payments of principal and interest to the faculty member in an amount equal to the amount of such quarterly payments made by the HHS Secretary for each year in which the recipient serves as a faculty member under contract with HHS. In addition, the school must pay the usual salary to the faculty member. The Secretary may