

20852; Telephone 301-443-5204. (This is not a toll-free number.)

A. General Program Purpose

These grants programs are intended to encourage American Indians and Alaska Natives to enter the health professions and to assure the availability of Indian health professionals to serve Indians.

B. Eligibility Requirements

1. The Health Professions Preparatory Scholarship awards are made to American Indians or Alaska Natives who meet the criteria in section 4(c) of the IHClA, as amended, who have successfully completed high school education or high school equivalency and who have been accepted for enrollment in a compensatory, pre-professional general education course or curriculum. Support is limited to 2 years for full-time students and the part-time equivalent of 2 years not to exceed 4 years for part-time students.

2. The Health Professions Pregraduate Scholarship awards are made to American Indians or Alaska Natives who meet the criteria in section 4(c) of the IHClA, as amended, who have successfully completed high school education or high school equivalency and who have been accepted for enrollment or are enrolled in an accredited pregraduate program leading to a baccalaureate degree in pre-medicine or pre-dentistry. Support is limited to 4 years for full-time students and the part-time equivalent of 4 years not to exceed 8 years for part-time students.

3. The Indian Health Scholarship (Professions) may be awarded only to an individual who is a member of a federally recognized tribe as provided by section 104, 4(c), and 4(d) of the IHClA. Membership in a Tribe recognized only recognized only by a state does not meet this statutory requirement. To receive an Indian Health Scholarship (Professions) an otherwise eligible individual must be enrolled in an appropriately accredited school and pursuing course of study in a health profession as defined by section 4(n) of the IHClA. Support is limited to 4 years for full-time students and the part-time equivalent of 4 years not to exceed 8 years for part-time students.

Awards for the Indian Health Scholarships (Professions) will be made in accordance with 42 CFR 36.330. Recipients shall incur a service obligation prescribed under section 338C of the Public Health Service Act (43 U.S.C. 244m) which shall be met by service:

(1) In Indian Health Service;

(2) In a program conducted under a contract or compact entered into under the Indian Self-Determination Act;

(3) In a program assisted under Title V of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (Pub. L. 94-437) and its amendments; and

(4) In private practice of his or her profession, if the practice (a) is situated in a health professional shortage area, designated in regulations promulgated by the Secretary and (b) addresses the health care needs of a substantial number of Indians as determined by the Secretary in accordance with guidelines of the Service;

Pursuant to the Indian Health Amendments of 1992 (Pub. L. 104-313), a recipient of an Indian Health Professions Scholarship may, at the election of the recipient, meet his/her active duty service obligation prescribed under section 338c of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254m) by a program specified in options (1)-(4) above that:

(i) Is located on the reservation of the Tribe in which the recipient is enrolled; or

(ii) Serves the Tribe in which the recipient is enrolled.

In summary, all recipients of the Indian Health Scholarship (Professions) are reminded that recipients of this scholarship incur a service obligation. Moreover, this obligation shall be served at a facility determined by the Director, IHS, consistent with IHClA, Pub. L. 94-437, as amended by Pub. L. 100-713, and Pub. L. 102-573.

C. Fund Availability

Both part-time and full-time scholarship awards will be made in accordance with regulations at 42 CFR part 36.320, incorporated in the application materials, for Health Professions Preparatory Scholarship Program for Indians and 42 CFR part 36.370, incorporated in the application materials, for Health Professions Pregraduate Scholarship Program for Indians. Approximately 200 awards, 100 of which are continuing, will be made under the Health Professions Preparatory and Pregraduate Scholarship Programs for Indians. The awards are for 10 months induration and the average award to a full-time student is approximately \$20,000. In FY 2004, approximately \$1,500,000 is available for continuation awards and approximately \$2,233,000 is available for new awards.

Approximately 340 awards, 179 of which are continuing, will be made under the Indian Health Scholarship (Professions) Program. Awards will be made to both full-time and part-time

students. The awards are for 12 months in duration and the average award to a full-time student is for approximately \$23,500. In FY 2004, approximately \$3,551,000 is available for continuation awards, and \$4,626,000 is available for new awards.

No more than 5% of available funds will be used for part-time scholarships this fiscal year. Students are considered part-time if they are enrolled for a minimum of 6 hours of instruction and are not considered in full-time status by their college/university. Documentation must be received from part-time applicants that their school and course curriculum allows less than full-time status.

D. Criteria for Evaluation

Applications will be evaluated against the following criteria:

1. Needs of the IHS. Applicants are considered for scholarship awards based on their desired career goals and how these goals relate to current Indian health manpower needs. Applications for each health career category are reviewed and ranked separately.

2. Academic Performance. Applicants are rated according to their academic performance as evidenced by transcripts and faculty evaluations. In cases where a particular applicant's school has a policy not to rank students academically, faculty members are asked to provide a personal judgement of the applicant's achievement. Health Professions applicants with a cumulative GPA below 2.0 are not eligible to apply.

3. Faculty/Employer Recommendations. Applicants are rated according to evaluations by faculty members and current and/or former employers regarding the applicant's potential in the chosen health related professions.

4. Stated Reasons for Asking for the Scholarship and Stated Career Goals. Applicants must provide a brief written explanation of reasons for asking for the scholarship and of career goals. The applicant's narrative will be judged on how well it is written and content.

5. Applicants who are closest to graduation or completion are awarded first. For example, senior and junior applicants under the Health Professions Pregraduate Scholarship receive funding before freshmen and sophomores.

E. Priority Categories

Regulations at 42 CFR part 36.304 provide that the IHS shall, from time to time, publish a list of health professions eligible for consideration for the award of Indian Health Professions Preparatory and Pregraduate Scholarships and