

§ 57.1803

an allied health discipline and which meets all the criteria in section 799(4) of the Act.

Secretary means the Secretary of Health and Human Services and any other officer or employee of the Department of Health and Human Services to whom the authority involved has been delegated.

State means, in addition to the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia.

[45 FR 73052, Nov. 4, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 54438, Dec. 3, 1982; 56 FR 40564, Aug. 15, 1991; 57 FR 45740, Oct. 5, 1992; 61 FR 6125, Feb. 16, 1996]

§ 57.1803 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

(a) Health professions schools, schools of allied health, and public or private nonprofit health or educational entities which are located in a State and provide health or educational programs as one of their major functions may apply for a grant under this subpart. Each eligible applicant desiring a grant under this subpart shall submit an application in the form and at such time as the Secretary may prescribe.

(b) Applicants which offer degree programs in the allied health professions must meet relevant standards and guidelines established by appropriate:

- (1) Accrediting bodies recognized by the Secretary of Education, or
- (2) Federal or State agencies.

[45 FR 73052, Nov. 4, 1980, as amended at 56 FR 40565, Aug. 15, 1991; 57 FR 45740, Oct. 5, 1992]

§ 57.1804 Who is eligible for educational assistance?

To be eligible for educational assistance under this program, an individual must:

- (a) Be a resident of the United States and either a citizen or national of the United States, an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States, a citizen of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a citizen of the Republic of

Palau, a citizen of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia;

(b) Have completed at least the junior year of high school (or its equivalent), except in the case of Model Demonstration programs; and

(c) Come from a disadvantaged background. For this program, an individual from a disadvantaged background is one who:

(1) Comes from an environment that has inhibited the individual from obtaining the knowledge, skill, and abilities required to enroll in and graduate from a health professions school, or from a program providing education or training in an allied health profession; or

(2) Comes from a family with an annual income below a level based on low income thresholds according to family size published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, adjusted annually for changes in the Consumer Price Index, and adjusted by the Secretary for use in all health professions programs. The Secretary will periodically publish these income levels in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

[45 FR 73052, Nov. 4, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 54438, Dec. 3, 1982; 56 FR 40565, Aug. 15, 1991; 61 FR 6126, Feb. 16, 1996]

§ 57.1805 Program requirements.

(a) The Secretary will award grants to meet the cost of carrying out one or more of the following five purposes:

(1) To identify individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds for education in the health or allied health professions through the development and application of criteria for this purpose, and to recruit these individuals through motivational activities which may involve dissemination of information, exposure to role models and health facilities, and counseling.

(2) To provide individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, for a period prior to their entry into a regular course of education of such a school, preliminary education designed to assist them to complete successfully such regular course of education in a health professions school or school of allied health, or to refer them to institutions

which provide it. Preliminary education in this context is education designed to expand the academic ability of disadvantaged students during their preprofessional training. It may not include classes already taught as part of the regular course of education leading to a high school diploma or undergraduate degree. It may not be offered to students before they complete the junior year of high school.

(3) To provide information to individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds about financial aid available to students in health professions schools, or schools of allied health, or schools and entities which provide training necessary to qualify for enrollment in health professions schools or schools of allied health.

(4) To facilitate the entry of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds into health professions schools or schools of allied health by engaging in activities which assist them to compete for admission, such as instruction designed to improve their performance on admission tests, and by assisting admission committees with the evaluation of disadvantaged applicants.

(5) To provide counseling or other retention services, such as tutorial assistance and assistance in adjusting to the environment of the school, which are designed to help individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who are enrolled in health professions schools or schools of allied health to complete this education.

(b) The grantee must carry out at least two of the five purposes, even if grant funds are requested or awarded for only one of them.

(c) The grantee must evaluate its program based on the plan provided in the grant application.

(d) Grantees which: (1) Are schools of medicine, osteopathic medicine, public health, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, pharmacy, allied health, chiropractic, podiatric medicine, and public and private nonprofit schools that offer graduate programs in clinical psychology; and

(2) Have a proportionate enrollment of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds that is less than 200 percent of the national average percentage of such individuals in all schools of

each health professions discipline must assure the Secretary that during a period of 3 years, commencing on the date of the award of the grant, they will increase their first-year enrollment of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds by at least 20 percent over enrollments in the base year of 1987.

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§ 57.1806 How will applications be evaluated?

(a) As required by section 798(a) of the Act, each application for a grant under this subpart shall be submitted to a peer review group, composed principally of non-Federal experts, for an evaluation of the merits of the proposals made in the application. The Secretary may not approve such an application unless a peer review group has recommended the application for approval. The Secretary will decide which applications to approve by considering, among other factors:

(1) The degree to which the proposed project adequately provides for the requirements in § 57.1805;

(2) The number and types of individuals who can be expected to benefit from the project;

(3) The administrative and management ability of the applicant to carry out the proposed project in a cost-effective manner;

(4) The adequacy of the staff and faculty;

(5) The soundness of the budget; and

(6) The potential of the project to continue without further support under this program.

(b) Within the limits of funds available, the Secretary will award grants to approved applicants with projects that will best promote the purposes of section 740 of the Act. Of the amounts appropriated under this section for any fiscal year, 10 percent shall be obligated for community-based programs and 70 percent shall be obligated for grants to institutions of higher education and not more than 5 percent of such funds may be obligated for grants having the primary purpose of informing individuals about the existence and