

Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS)

DIVISION OF HEALTH CAREERS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Bureau of Health Workforce

Department of Health and Human Services
Health Resources and Services Administration
Bureau of Health Workforce
Division of Health Careers and Financial Support
Health Careers Loans and Scholarship Branch



Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students Purpose

To increase diversity in the health professions and nursing workforce by providing awards to eligible health professions schools for use in awarding scholarships to students from disadvantaged backgrounds who have financial need, including students who are members of racial and ethnic minority groups.

SDS Program Goals

- Increase the number of graduates practicing in primary care.
- Increase the enrollment and retention of full-time students from disadvantaged backgrounds including students who are members of racial and ethnic minority groups.
- Increase the number of graduates working in medically underserved communities (MUC).

New AY 2016 SDS Program Changes

- Scholarship maximum is now \$30,000 per student/per year.
- Approximately 16 percent of SDS funding will be designated for schools of nursing as required by the Public Health Service Act Section 740(a).
- Approximately 25 percent of SDS funding will be designated for graduate programs in behavioral and mental health practice.
- In making awards, geographic regions will be taken into consideration. We anticipate funding at least two grant awards in each of the 10 HHS regions.
- Application page limit may not exceed 65 pages.
- A maximum of three applications per institution may be funded.

SDS Program Facts

- Competitive grant.
- Use a peer review process.
- The project period is 4 years.
- Scholarships must be at least half the cost of the annual tuition (up to \$30,000 per student/per year). Scholarships may include tuition, reasonable educational and reasonable living expenses.
- SDS recipients must be enrolled full-time only.

Eligible SDS Disciplines

- Health Professions
- Nursing (Associate, Diploma, Baccalaureate and Graduate – including doctoral) degrees
- Allied Health
- Public Health
- Behavioral and Mental Health
- Physician Assistant (Graduate)
- Health Professions and nursing schools must be accredited by a relevant accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education. Please refer to pages 5-6 of the FOA for more specific information.

SDS Performance-based Eligibility Criteria

Schools are eligible if they can demonstrate:

- At least 20% of the total enrollment (full-time enrolled) of the eligible health professions program during the Academic Year 2014-2015 must be students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

And

- At least 20% of the total graduates (who were full-time students) of the eligible health professions program during Academic Year 2014-2015 must have been from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Eligibility Criteria (continued)

- Also to be eligible, your program must have in place recruitment and retention activities for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, including students who are members of racial and ethnic minority groups.

And

- Students who receive an SDS award must be linked to retention services.

Application Information

- Submitted electronically through grants.gov using the SF-424 Application Guide
- Content of Application Submission
 - Project Abstract
 - Project Narrative
 - Budget
 - Budget Justification
 - Program Specific Forms
 - Attachments
- A separate application for each health profession discipline

Narrative Section – Peer Review Criteria – maximum of 100 points

- Purpose and Need – 30 points
- Response to Program Purpose – 30 points
 - Work Plan
 - Methodology/Approach
 - Resolution of Challenges
- Impact – 30 points
 - Evaluation and Technical Support
 - Project Sustainability
- Organizational Information, Resources and Capabilities – 5 points
- Budget and Budget Narrative – 5 points

SDS Funding Priorities

The SDS program gives funding priority to health professions and nursing schools that have at least:

- 15 percent of underrepresented minorities (URM) enrolled full-time for the discipline for which the school is applying.
- 15 percent of their graduates practicing in primary care.
- 10 percent of their graduates working in MUCs.

Priority Points – Maximum 11 points

Range of points for percentage of full-time enrollment of racial and ethnic minorities in their student population. (URMs)

- 2 points for 15-29.99 percent
- 3 points for 30-49.99 percent
- 4 points for 50 percent or more

Range of points for percentage of graduates in primary care.

- 2 points for 15-29.99 percent
- 3 points for 30-49.99 percent
- 4 points for 50 percent or more

Priority Points - continued

Range of points for percentage of graduates working in MUCs.

- 1 point for 10-29.99 percent
- 2 points for 30-49.99 percent
- 3 points for 50 percent or more

Primary Care Definition

The SDS program will use the definition of primary care provided by the Institute of Medicine: the provision of integrated, accessible health care services by clinicians who are accountable for addressing a large majority of personal health care needs, developing a sustained partnership with patients, and practicing in the context of family and community.

Disadvantaged Background Definitions

Disadvantaged Background means an individual comes from an educationally/environmentally or economically disadvantaged background.

Educationally/environmentally disadvantaged means an individual comes from an environment that has inhibited the individual from obtaining the knowledge, skills, 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.

Economically disadvantaged means an individual comes from a family with an annual income below a level based on low-income thresholds according to family size established by the U.S. Census Bureau, adjusted by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for use in all health profession programs.

Educationally/Environmentally Disadvantaged Examples

- The individual comes from a family that receives public assistance (e.g., Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program, Medicaid, and/or public housing).
- The individual is the first generation in his or her family to attend college.
- The individual graduated from (or last attended) a high school with low SAT scores, based on most recent annual data available.
- The individual graduated from (or last attended) a high school that—based on the most recent annual data available— had either a:
 - low percentage of seniors receiving a high school diploma; or
 - low percentage of graduates who go to college during the first year after graduation.
- The individual graduated from (or last attended) a high school with low per capita funding.
- The individual graduated from (or last attended) a high school where—based on the most recent annual data available— many of the enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches.

2015 HRSA Poverty Guidelines (200 percent of HHS Poverty Guidelines)

2015 HRSA Poverty Guidelines (200 percent of HHS Poverty Guidelines)

Size of parents' family*	Income Level**		
	48 Contiguous States and D.C.	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$23,540	\$29,440	\$27,100
2	31,860	39,840	36,660
3	40,180	50,240	46,220
4	48,500	60,640	55,780
5	56,820	71,040	65,340
6	65,140	81,440	74,900
7	73,460	91,840	84,460
8	81,780	102,240	94,020
For each additional person, add	\$8,320	\$10,400	\$9,560

Calculating Financial Need

A student must have a financial need for a scholarship in accordance with a need analysis procedure approved by the Department of Education (P. L. 105-244, Part F, The Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended.)

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/next-steps/how-calculated>

SDS Awards

- Proposed range of awards to schools are approximately \$30,000 to \$650,000 per program/discipline.
- Awards are based on cost of attendance, unmet need and number of eligible students. Do not inflate this cost.
- Money can only be used for the specific discipline funded. (For example, if awarded funds for BSN program cannot be used to fund MSN, etc.)
- Requested ceiling amount of \$650,000 per year/per applicant.

Required Reporting

- Progress Report – The awardee must submit a Progress Report to HRSA on an annual basis.
 - Demonstrates awardee progress on program-specific goals
 - Collects information providing a comprehensive overview of awardee's overall progress in meeting the approved and funded objectives of the project as well as plans for the continuation of the project.
- Performance Report – The awardee must submit a Performance Report to HRSA via the Electronic Handbook system (EHBs) on an annual basis.
 - BHW awardees are required to collect and report performance data so that HRSA can meet its obligations under the Government Performance and Results Modernization Act of 2010.

Required Reporting -continued

- Final Report – The awardee must submit a Final Report to HRSA through the EHBs within 90 days after the project period ends.
- Federal Financial Report – The Federal Financial Report is required according to the schedule in the SF-424 Application Guide. The report is an accounting of expenditures under the project that year.

Contact Information

- For business, administrative or fiscal issues:
 - Kim Ross, Grants Management Specialist
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- For program issues:
 - Denise Sorrell, Acting Project Officer, SDS
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 - Scott Turnbull, Public Health Analyst
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- For application submission issues:
 - Grants.gov Contact Center
 - 1-800-518-4726
 - support@grants.gov

Thank you!
