

**283—31.3(261) Awarding and payment of funds.**

**31.3(1)** *Selection criteria.* New program agreements will be entered into with eligible applicants who are mental health professionals or agree to become mental health professionals.

**31.3(2)** *Priority for awards.* In the event that funding is insufficient to award all new eligible applicants, eligible applicants will be prioritized as follows:

*a.* Eligible applicants who are Iowa residents or eligible applicants who are members of the Iowa national guard, if requested by the adjutant general. Members of the Iowa national guard must have satisfactorily completed required guard training and must maintain satisfactory performance of guard duty. In the event that funding is insufficient to award all new eligible applicants who meet these criteria, selection of new eligible applicants will be further prioritized as follows:

(1) Eligible applicants who are students in their final year of the degree program that leads to their qualification as a mental health professional, according to the date the application was received by the commission.

(2) Eligible applicants completing the two-year post-degree clinical experience required to be a mental health professional, according to the date the application was received by the commission.

(3) All other eligible applicants based on the fiscal year in which the eligible applicant met the requirements of a mental health professional, with priority given to those meeting the requirements in the most recent fiscal year. In the event that funding is insufficient to award all new eligible applicants who met the requirements of a mental health professional within a given fiscal year, eligible applicants who met the criteria in that fiscal year will be prioritized according to the date the application was received by the commission.

*b.* Eligible applicants who are not Iowa residents and are not members of the Iowa national guard requested by the adjutant general. In the event that funding is insufficient to award all new eligible applicants who meet these criteria, selection of new eligible applicants will be further prioritized as follows:

(1) Eligible applicants who are students in their final year of the degree program that leads to their qualification as a mental health professional, according to the date the application was received by the commission.

(2) Eligible applicants completing the two-year post-degree clinical experience required to be a mental health professional, according to the date the application was received by the commission.

(3) Other eligible applicants based on the fiscal year in which the eligible applicant met the requirements of a mental health professional, with priority given to those meeting the requirements in the most recent fiscal year. In the event that funding is insufficient to award all new eligible applicants who met the requirements of a mental health professional within a given fiscal year, eligible applicants who met the criteria in that fiscal year will be prioritized according to the date the application was received by the commission.

**31.3(3)** *Mental health professional service requirement.* The service requirement for a full-time mental health professional is five years. The service requirement for a mental health professional who is granted a waiver for part-time practice will not exceed seven consecutive years. The mental health professional must annually verify, in a format acceptable to the commission, that the mental health professional provided mental health services in an eligible practice area or eligible practice areas on a full-time basis, or on a part-time basis if a waiver for part-time practice is granted, for each year of required service.

**31.3(4)** *Award amounts.* A mental health professional may receive up to \$40,000. The maximum award will be paid after the service requirement is completed.

**31.3(5)** *Award proration and disbursement.* An award will not exceed the outstanding balance of the mental health professional's eligible loans.

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