283—31.2(256) Awarding of funds.

31.2(1) *Selection criteria.* All eligible applicants will be considered for an award.

31.2(2) *Extent of award and maximum award.* Eligible applicants may receive up to $40,000 upon completion of the obligation. The loan repayment award will not exceed the outstanding balance of the eligible applicant's eligible loans. An eligible applicant selected for an award under a priority category will continue to meet the provisions of that category to maintain eligibility.

31.2(3) *Priority for awards.* New awards will be made in the order of the following priority categories if funding is insufficient to award all eligible applicants.

a. Eligible applicants who are Iowa residents or who are members of the Iowa national guard if requested by the adjutant general. Members of the Iowa national guard will have satisfactorily completed required guard training and will maintain satisfactory performance of guard duty. If all eligible applicants cannot be funded, awards will be made first to eligible applicants who are in their final year of the degree program that leads to their qualification as a mental health professional, by application date; then to eligible applicants completing the two-year post-master's degree clinical experience, by application date; and finally to practicing mental health professionals, with priority to those meeting the definition of mental health professional in the most recent fiscal year.

b. Eligible applicants who are not Iowa residents and are not members of the Iowa national guard requested by the adjutant general. If all eligible applicants cannot be funded, awards will be made first to eligible applicants who are in their final year of the degree program that leads to their qualification as a mental health professional, by application date; then to eligible applicants completing the two-year post-master's degree clinical experience, by application date; and finally to practicing mental health professionals, with priority to those meeting the definition of mental health professional in the most recent fiscal year.

31.2(4) *Awarding process.* The commission will:

a. Provide notice of the eligibility criteria and application process annually.

b. Designate eligible applicants for awards and notify applicants of their eligibility.

c. Track eligible applicants selected to receive awards through completion of their obligation. An obligation is satisfied if it aligns with Iowa Code section 256.225(4).

d. Send the award to the holder of the selected eligible applicant's eligible loans upon verifying completion of the obligation with the eligible applicant's employer.

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