

**283—27.2(261) Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

*“Eligible loan”* means the veterinarian’s total subsidized, unsubsidized, and consolidated Federal Stafford Loan amount under the Federal Family Education Loan Program, Federal Direct Loan Program, or federal Graduate PLUS Loan, including principal and interest. Only the outstanding portion of a federal consolidation loan that was used to repay an eligible subsidized or unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan qualifies for loan repayment.

*“Eligible university”* means a college or university that offers a veterinary medicine degree program; is eligible to participate in federal student aid programs authorized under Title IV of the federal Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended; and is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education.

*“Food supply veterinary medicine”* means corporate and private practices devoted to food animal medicine, mixed animal medicine, food safety, epidemiology, public health, animal health, and other public and private practices that contribute to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply.

*“Maximum award”* means the maximum amount of loan repayments that the veterinarian can receive after completing all obligations under the rural veterinarian loan repayment program, not to exceed a total of \$60,000. The maximum award can be applied only to eligible loans; thus, payments cannot exceed the outstanding eligible loan balance at the time of payment.

*“Service commitment area”* means an Iowa city with a population of less than 26,000 that is located more than 20 miles from a city with a population of 50,000 or more. If a veterinarian is not working in a veterinary shortage area but is working in a service commitment area, the veterinarian must contract with the service commitment area to ensure the service commitment area provides a nonrefundable contribution equivalent to 12.5 percent of the veterinarian’s eligible loan balance for deposit in the rural veterinarian trust fund. The veterinarian’s eligible loan balance will be calculated after the program agreement is signed. Payment of the nonrefundable contribution to the trust fund can be made by, but is not limited to, the following organizations: community agencies, medical groups, municipalities, community foundations, local government entities, or other community entities. Locations and distances between cities will be consistently measured and verified by calculating the shortest travel distance on paved roads.

*“Veterinarian”* means an individual who holds a practitioner’s license pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 169 and is engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine in a service commitment area or a veterinary shortage area in Iowa.

*“Veterinary shortage area”* means a designated veterinary service shortage in Iowa recommended for designation in accordance with the federal National Veterinary Medical Service Act and published by the United States Department of Agriculture. Data from the most recent year for which data is available will be used to award funds to new eligible applicants. In addition to the veterinary shortage areas published by the United States Department of Agriculture, the state veterinarian may designate additional veterinary shortage areas in Iowa. All veterinary shortage areas designated in a given year will be published by the commission prior to soliciting applications from eligible applicants.

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