

641—110.16(135) Purpose. A primary care provider community scholarship program is established to recruit and to provide scholarships to train primary health care practitioners in federally designated health professional shortage areas of the state. If sufficient state funds are available, applications will be considered for scholarship placement in communities not located in federally designated shortage areas. Under the program, scholarships may be awarded to a recipient for educational expenses incurred while completing an accredited health education program directly related to obtaining the credentials necessary to practice the recipient's health profession. Notice of the availability of these public funds shall be published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin in accordance with 641—Chapter 176.

110.16(1) Student eligibility. The following requirements must be met by students in order to be eligible for the program:

a. The status of the student's citizenship must meet requirements of the National Health Service Corps scholarship program.

b. The student must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a student in an accredited primary care health professions program, and meet eligibility requirements of Section 338A of the Public Health Service Act as amended November 16, 1990, by Public Law 101-597.

c. The student must agree, while enrolled in a health professional school, to maintain an acceptable level of academic standing as determined by the school.

d. The student must agree to meet educational and licensure requirements necessary to become a licensed primary care health professional in the state.

e. The student must agree to provide full-time primary health care services in a designated shortage area in the state for the minimum number of years required by federal programs providing funding support for the program.

f. The student must agree not to discriminate on the basis of the ability of the individual to pay for such care or on the basis that payment for such care will be made pursuant to the program established in Title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act, or pursuant to the program established in Title XIX (Medicaid) of such Act.

g. The student must agree to accept assignment under Section 1842(b)(3)(B)(ii) of the Social Security Act for all services for which payment may be made under Part B of Title XVIII and agree to enter into an appropriate agreement with the state agency that administers the state plan for medical assistance under Title XIX of such Act to provide service to individuals entitled to medical assistance under the plan.

h. The student must complete an application form provided by the Iowa department of public health.

110.16(2) Site eligibility. The following requirements must be met, in order for a site to be eligible for placement of PRIMECARRE scholars:

a. The site must be located in a designated health professional shortage area in the state.

b. The site must agree to accept Medicare/Medicaid assignment.

c. The site must have a sliding fee schedule in place that is based upon the ability to pay.

d. The site must have completed a community health services assessment and adopted a long-term developmental plan.

e. The site must be part of a system of care. For the purpose of receiving federal assistance, a system of care is defined as a service continuum that includes comprehensive primary care for all regardless of ability to pay, and appropriate arrangements for secondary and tertiary care, including a referral system and arrangements for call coverage.

f. The site must complete an application form provided by the department.

g. The site must agree to report to the department those health professionals unable to fulfill the contract.

h. The site must meet matching funds requirements consistent with current federal requirements.

110.16(3) Federal grant requirements. Use of federal grant dollars for scholarships requires that eligibility be determined as authorized by federal grant requirements.

110.16(4) *Funding limitations.* Scholarships awarded under this program shall be determined annually, based upon the legislative appropriation for the PRIMECARRE initiative and other sources of funds.

110.16(5) *Other sources of funds.* The department of public health shall seek participation in federal programs supporting scholarships for health care providers and shall accept gifts, grants, and other aid or amounts from any person, association, foundation, trust, corporation, governmental agency, or other entity for the purposes of the program.

110.16(6) *Review process.* The department of public health shall establish a review committee which will review all community applications and make recommendations for scholarship awards. The department shall provide the review committee with a methodology for prioritization of federal shortage areas and eligible nonfederal shortage areas to be utilized in the application review process. The department of public health shall provide the review committee with the criteria and scoring methodology to be used in reviewing the applications, in accordance with 641—Chapter 176.

110.16(7) *Contract oversight and administration.* The department of public health shall establish and enforce the terms of the contract, including implementation of any methods, including legal action, that may be necessary to recoup scholarship funds in the event of failure on the part of an individual scholarship recipient to fulfill the terms and conditions of the contract. The department shall take into consideration mitigating circumstances which may prohibit a recipient from fulfilling the recipient's contractual obligation or for whom fulfilling the obligation would cause undue hardship. The department of public health shall also provide for cancellation of contracts for reasonable cause to be determined by the department.

110.16(8) *Appeals.* A community with a denied request for funding may appeal the decision of scholarship awards. The appeal shall be made in writing to the director, Iowa department of public health, within 10 days of the notification date of the grant awards decision. The appeal shall be mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, or delivered by personal service. The decision of the director of public health becomes the department's final action and shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, or delivered by personal service within 14 days of the receipt of the appeal.