

283—26.4(261) Awarding of funds.

26.4(1) Selection criteria. All completed applications received on or before the published deadline will be considered for funding. To the extent possible, an equal number of new advanced registered nurse practitioners, nurse educators, physician assistants, and registered nurses will be offered awards based on the availability of appropriated funds. In the event that funding is insufficient to award all eligible applicants within an occupation category, criteria for selection of eligible applicants within each occupation category will be prioritized as follows:

a. Renewal status. Recipients of awards through the registered nurse and nurse educator loan forgiveness program during the 2018 state fiscal year will be eligible for funding under the health care loan repayment program if the eligible applicants meet the eligibility criteria of the health care loan repayment program. Under this provision, no recipient will receive more than five consecutive awards between the registered nurse and nurse educator loan forgiveness program and the health care loan repayment program;

b. Iowa residency status;

c. Members of the Iowa national guard, if requested by the adjutant general.

(1) Members of the Iowa national guard are exempt from the service commitment area requirement, and

(2) Members of the Iowa national guard must have satisfactorily completed required guard training and must maintain satisfactory performance of guard duty;

d. Date of application.

26.4(2) Annual award. The maximum annual award shall be the lesser of:

a. \$6,000, or

b. Twenty percent of the eligible applicant's total outstanding qualified student loan.

26.4(3) Extent of repayment. Eligible applicants may receive loan repayment for no more than five consecutive years. Eligible applicants who fail to receive loan repayment awards in consecutive years will not be considered for subsequent years of loan repayment.

26.4(4) Disbursement of loan repayment funds.

a. Loan repayment awards will be disbursed upon completion of the year for which the award was approved and upon certification from the employer that the advanced registered nurse practitioner, nurse educator, physician assistant, or registered nurse was employed full-time, as defined by the employer, during the entire year and completed the year in good standing.

b. Loan repayment awards will be distributed to the eligible applicant's student loan holder and applied directly to qualified student loans.

[ARC 4186C, IAB 12/19/18, effective 1/23/19]