

1 **HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

2 **AMENDMENTS**

3 2020 GENERAL SESSION

4 STATE OF UTAH

5

6 **LONG TITLE**

7 **General Description:**

8 This bill amends provisions relating to the Health Care Workforce Financial Assistance
9 Program.

10 **Highlighted Provisions:**

11 This bill:

- 12 ▶ defines terms;
- 13 ▶ permits the department to provide education loan repayment assistance to geriatric
14 or health care professionals under certain circumstances; and
- 15 ▶ makes technical changes.

16 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

17 This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2021:

- 18 ▶ to the Department of Health -- Primary Care Workforce Financial Assistance --
19 Primary Care Workforce Financial Assistance, as an ongoing appropriation:
 - 20 • from the General Fund, \$300,000.

21 **Other Special Clauses:**

22 None

23 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

24 AMENDS:

25 **26-46-101**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 97

26 **26-46-102**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 97

27

28 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

29 Section 1. Section **26-46-101** is amended to read:

30 **26-46-101. Definitions.**

31 (1) "Eligible professional" means a geriatric professional or a health care professional

32 who is eligible to participate in the program.

33 [~~(1)~~] (2) "Geriatric professional" means a person who:

34 (a) is a licensed:

35 (i) health care professional;

36 (ii) social worker;

37 (iii) occupational therapist;

38 (iv) pharmacist;

39 (v) physical therapist; or

40 (vi) psychologist; and

41 (b) is determined by the department to have adequate advanced training in geriatrics to

42 prepare the person to provide specialized geriatric care within the scope of the person's

43 profession.

44 [~~(2)~~] (3) "Health care professional" means:

45 (a) a licensed:

46 (i) physician;

47 (ii) physician assistant;

48 (iii) nurse;

49 (iv) dentist; or

50 (v) mental health therapist; or

51 (b) another licensed health care professional designated by the department by rule.

52 (4) "Program" means the Utah Health Care Workforce Financial Assistance Program

53 created in Section 26-46-102.

54 [~~(3)~~] (5) "Underserved area" means an area designated by the department as

55 underserved by health care professionals, based upon the results of a needs assessment

56 developed by the department in consultation with the Utah Health Care Workforce Financial

57 Assistance Program Advisory Committee created under Section 26-46-103.

58 Section 2. Section **26-46-102** is amended to read:

59 **26-46-102. Creation of program -- Duties of department.**

60 (1) There is created within the department the Utah Health Care Workforce Financial

61 Assistance Program to provide, within funding appropriated by the Legislature for [~~this~~

62 ~~purpose~~] the following purposes:

63 (a) professional education scholarships and loan repayment assistance to health care
64 professionals who locate or continue to practice in underserved areas; and

65 (b) loan repayment assistance to geriatric professionals who locate or continue to
66 practice in underserved areas.

67 (2) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
68 department shall make rules governing the administration of the program, including rules that
69 address:

70 (a) application procedures;

71 (b) eligibility criteria;

72 (c) selection criteria;

73 (d) service conditions, which at a minimum shall include professional service in an
74 underserved area for a minimum period of time by any person receiving a scholarship or loan
75 repayment assistance;

76 (e) penalties for failure to comply with service conditions or other terms of a
77 scholarship or loan repayment contract;

78 (f) criteria for modifying or waiving service conditions or penalties in case of extreme
79 hardship or other good cause; and

80 (g) administration of contracts entered into before the effective date of this act,
81 between the department and scholarship or loan repayment recipients, as authorized by law.

82 (3) The department may provide education loan repayment assistance to an eligible
83 professional if the eligible professional:

84 (a) agrees to practice in an underserved area for the duration of the eligible
85 professional's participation in the program; and

86 (b) submits a written commitment from the health care facility employing the eligible
87 professional that the health care facility will provide education loan repayment assistance to the
88 eligible professional in an amount equal to 20% of the total award amount provided to the
89 eligible professional.

90 [~~3~~] (4) The department shall seek and consider the recommendations of the Utah
91 Health Care Workforce Financial Assistance Program Advisory Committee created under
92 Section 26-46-103 as it develops and modifies rules to administer the program.

93 [~~4~~] (5) Funding for the program:

- 94 (a) shall be a line item within the appropriations act;
- 95 (b) shall be nonlapsing unless designated otherwise by the Legislature; and
- 96 (c) may be used to cover administrative costs of the program, including reimbursement
- 97 expenses of the Utah Health Care Workforce Financial Assistance Program Advisory
- 98 Committee created under Section 26-46-103.

99 ~~[(5) Loan repayments and payments resulting from]~~

100 (6) Refunds for loan repayment assistance, penalties for breach of contract, and other

101 payments to the program are dedicated credits to the program.

102 ~~[(6)] (7)~~ The department shall prepare an annual report on the revenues, expenditures,

103 and outcomes of the program.

104 **Section 3. Appropriation.**

105 The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,

106 2020, and ending June 30, 2021. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for

107 fiscal year 2021. Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures

108 Act, the Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts

109 indicated for the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.

110 ITEM 1

111 To Department of Health - Primary Care Workforce Financial Assistance

112 From General Fund \$300,000

113 Schedule of Programs:

114 Primary Care Workforce Financial Assistance \$300,000