HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

AMENDMENTS

2020 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

LONG TITLE

General Description:
This bill amends provisions relating to the Health Care Workforce Financial Assistance Program.

Highlighted Provisions:
This bill:

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

Money Appropriated in this Bill:
This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2021:

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

Other Special Clauses:
None

Utah Code Sections Affected:
AMENDS:

- 26-46-101, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 97
- 26-46-102, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 97

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

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


(1) "Eligible professional" means a geriatric professional or a health care professional
who is eligible to participate in the program.

(2) "Geriatric professional" means a person who:

(a) is a licensed:

(i) health care professional;
(ii) social worker;
(iii) occupational therapist;
(iv) pharmacist;
(v) physical therapist; or
(vi) psychologist; and

(b) is determined by the department to have adequate advanced training in geriatrics to prepare the person to provide specialized geriatric care within the scope of the person's profession.

(3) "Health care professional" means:

(a) a licensed:

(i) physician;
(ii) physician assistant;
(iii) nurse;
(iv) dentist; or
(v) mental health therapist; or

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

(4) "Program" means the Utah Health Care Workforce Financial Assistance Program created in Section 26-46-102.

(5) "Underserved area" means an area designated by the department as underserved by health care professionals, based upon the results of a needs assessment developed by the department in consultation with the Utah Health Care Workforce Financial Assistance Program Advisory Committee created under Section 26-46-103.

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

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

(1) There is created within the department the Utah Health Care Workforce Financial Assistance Program to provide, within funding appropriated by the Legislature for [this purpose] the following purposes:
professional education scholarships and loan repayment assistance to health care professionals who locate or continue to practice in underserved areas; and

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

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

(a) application procedures;
(b) eligibility criteria;
(c) selection criteria;
(d) service conditions, which at a minimum shall include professional service in an underserved area for a minimum period of time by any person receiving a scholarship or loan repayment assistance;
(e) penalties for failure to comply with service conditions or other terms of a scholarship or loan repayment contract;
(f) criteria for modifying or waiving service conditions or penalties in case of extreme hardship or other good cause; and
(g) administration of contracts entered into before the effective date of this act, between the department and scholarship or loan repayment recipients, as authorized by law.

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

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

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

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

(5) Funding for the program:
(a) shall be a line item within the appropriations act;
(b) shall be nonlapsing unless designated otherwise by the Legislature; and
(c) may be used to cover administrative costs of the program, including reimbursement
expenses of the Utah Health Care Workforce Financial Assistance Program Advisory
Committee created under Section 26-46-103.
[(5) Loan repayments and payments resulting from]
(6) Refunds for loan repayment assistance, penalties for breach of contract, and other
payments to the program are dedicated credits to the program.
[(6) (7) The department shall prepare an annual report on the revenues, expenditures,
and outcomes of the program.
Section 3. Appropriation.
The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
2020, and ending June 30, 2021. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for
fiscal year 2021. Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures
Act, the Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts
indicated for the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.
ITEM 1
To Department of Health - Primary Care Workforce Financial Assistance
From General Fund $300,000
Schedule of Programs:
Primary Care Workforce Financial Assistance $300,000