

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:
 - (a) 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 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.
- (4) 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 breach of contract are dedicated credits to the program.
- (6) The department shall prepare an annual report on the revenues, expenditures, and outcomes of the program.

Amended by Chapter 97, 2009 General Session