

1 **HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**
2 **PROGRAM AMENDMENTS**

3 2020 GENERAL SESSION

4 STATE OF UTAH

5 **Chief Sponsor: Raymond P. Ward**

6 Senate Sponsor: _____

8 **LONG TITLE**

9 **General Description:**

10 This bill amends provisions relating to the Health Care Workforce Financial Assistance
11 Program.

12 **Highlighted Provisions:**

13 This bill:

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

18 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

19 This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2021:

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

23 **Other Special Clauses:**

24 None

25 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

26 AMENDS:

27 **26-46-101**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 97



28 [26-46-102](#), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 97



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

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

32 **26-46-101. Definitions.**

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

35 [~~(1)~~] (2) "Geriatric professional" means a person who:

36 (a) is a licensed:

37 (i) health care professional;

38 (ii) social worker;

39 (iii) occupational therapist;

40 (iv) pharmacist;

41 (v) physical therapist; or

42 (vi) psychologist; and

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

46 [~~(2)~~] (3) "Health care professional" means:

47 (a) a licensed:

48 (i) physician;

49 (ii) physician assistant;

50 (iii) nurse;

51 (iv) dentist; or

52 (v) mental health therapist; or

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

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

56 [~~(3)~~] (5) "Underserved area" means an area designated by the department as
57 underserved by health care professionals, based upon the results of a needs assessment
58 developed by the department in consultation with the Utah Health Care Workforce Financial

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

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

61 **26-46-102. Creation of program -- Duties of department.**

62 (1) There is created within the department the Utah Health Care Workforce Financial
63 Assistance Program to provide, within funding appropriated by the Legislature for [~~this~~
64 purpose] the following purposes:

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

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

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

72 (a) application procedures;

73 (b) eligibility criteria;

74 (c) selection criteria;

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

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

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

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

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

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

88 (b) submits a written commitment from the health care facility employing the eligible
89 professional that the health care facility will provide education loan repayment assistance to the

90 eligible professional in an amount equal to 20% of the total award amount provided to the
91 eligible professional.

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

95 ~~[(4)]~~ (5) Funding for the program:

96 (a) shall be a line item within the appropriations act;

97 (b) shall be nonlapsing unless designated otherwise by the Legislature; and

98 (c) may be used to cover administrative costs of the program, including reimbursement
99 expenses of the Utah Health Care Workforce Financial Assistance Program Advisory

100 Committee created under Section 26-46-103.

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

102 (6) Refunds for loan repayment assistance, penalties for breach of contract, and other
103 payments to the program are dedicated credits to the program.

104 ~~[(6)]~~ (7) The department shall prepare an annual report on the revenues, expenditures,
105 and outcomes of the program.

106 Section 3. **Appropriation.**

107 The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
108 2020, and ending June 30, 2021. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for
109 fiscal year 2021. Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures
110 Act, the Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts
111 indicated for the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.

112 ITEM 1

113 To Department of Health - Primary Care Workforce Financial Assistance

114 From General Fund \$300,000

115 Schedule of Programs:

116 Primary Care Workforce Financial Assistance \$300,000