

CHAPTER 10. OKLAHOMA RURAL MEDICAL EDUCATION LOAN AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND

540:10-1-1. Purpose

The ~~Physician Manpower~~Health Care Workforce Training Commission shall be authorized and empowered to grant scholarships to qualified students who are bona fide residents of the State of Oklahoma and who would not otherwise have funds necessary to finance the cost of a program of study leading to the Degree of Doctor of Medicine, or to the Degree of Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, to be granted by an accredited and recognized college of medicine or college of osteopathic medicine. [70:625.2]

540:10-1-2. Statutory administration of fund

The Oklahoma Rural Medical Education Loan and Scholarship Fund shall be administered by the ~~Physician Manpower~~Health Care Workforce Training Commission under the provisions of Section 625.9 of 70. O.S. 1981.

540:10-1-3. Terms and conditions of scholarships

(a) *The terms and conditions governing the scholarship shall be as prescribed and formulated by the ~~Physician Manpower~~Health Care Workforce Training Commission, but shall include the condition that each recipient, upon completion of his course of study, shall repay his scholarship by practicing ~~his~~the recipient's profession in a rural community in Oklahoma having a population of seven thousand five hundred (7,500)~~7,500~~ persons or less according to the last preceding United States Decennial Census and having a need therefore, as determined by the Commission, for one (1) year for each one (1) year the scholarship is financed; provided, however, that the recipient will be given no credit for payment and reduction of said obligation by serving in the defined rural communities for a period less than two years.*

(b) *The terms of this subsection shall apply to recipients who accept assistance on or after July 1, 1993. The contract shall provide that in the event the recipient breaches the terms of the contract by not serving the designated community for the specified period of time, the Commission shall be entitled to recover an amount equal to three times the principal disbursed, pursuant to the contract, plus interest. Interest on all amounts paid to or on behalf of the participant shall be computed at the current prime rate plus one percent (1%) with said interest to accrue from the date each payment is made, pursuant to the contract. The amount the Commission is entitled to recover shall be paid within ninety (90) days of the date the recipient becomes liable as determined by the Commission. [70:625.3]*

540:10-1-5. Procedures for administering scholarships

The Commission shall promulgate and adopt procedures as may be necessary to carry out the administration of the scholarship program. The Commission shall delineate the following procedures:

- (1) **Promulgation of information concerning scholarships.** Each medical and osteopathic student being trained in the State of Oklahoma shall, by March first of each school year, be notified concerning the availability of scholarships.
- (2) **Applications.** All interested students shall file an application with the ~~Physician Manpower~~Health Care Workforce Training Commission. The

deadline for submitting applications shall be March 30 of each year. Applications shall be reviewed by a Screening Committee appointed by the Chairperson of the Commission. The criteria to be used by the Screening Committee are delineated in 540:10-1-4(a). (A copy of the application is available in the office of the ~~Physician Manpower~~Health Care Workforce Training Commission).

(3) **Approval of scholarships by the Commission.** The Scholarship Screening Committee shall recommend those scholarship applicants selected for funding to the ~~Physician Manpower~~Health Care Workforce Training Commission at one of its meetings prior to June 30. A student not selected by the Screening Committee may appeal to the Commission for a hearing at any scheduled Commission meeting. If approved, funding for each scholarship shall become effective on July 1 of that particular year.

(4) **Renewal of contracts.** The original scholarship shall be guaranteed for the initial year. Renewal contracts will be mailed to each student by May 1 of each year to be signed and returned no later than June 30 of that same year. See 540:10-1-4(d) for additional information concerning renewals.

540:10-1-6. Repayment of scholarship loans

Monies received by the Commission in repayment of scholarships granted from appropriated funds shall be deposited with the State Treasurer who shall place the same to the credit of the Commission in a depository fund. All monies so collected and deposited in the State Treasury as aforesaid shall constitute a continuing fund, shall not be subject to fiscal limitations, and the unexpended balance shall at all times be available for expenditures for the purpose and in the manner and form provided by this act. All funds and property, and income therefrom, received by the Commission through the acceptance of gifts, grants, bequests or devise shall be held by the Commission in trust, and may be sold, transferred, invested and reinvested by the Commission in accordance with the provisions of the Oklahoma Trust Act, and all such funds and property, and income therefrom, shall be used by the Commission in fulfilling and accomplishing the conditions and purposes of the ~~Physician Manpower~~Health Care Workforce Training Commission. [70:625.4]

540:10-1-8. Applicant contracts

~~Each applicant, before being granted a scholarship, shall enter into a contract with the Commission agreeing to the terms and conditions upon which the scholarship shall be granted to him. Said contract shall include such terms and provisions as will carry out the full purpose and intent of the Oklahoma Rural Medical Education Loan and Scholarship Fund; the form thereof shall be prepared and approved by the Attorney General. Said contracts shall be signed by the Executive Director on behalf of the Commission and by the applicants. The Commission, under Section 625.6 of 70 O.S. 1981, is hereby vested with full and complete authority and power to sue in its own name any applicant for any balance due the Commission on any contract. The Commission shall have authority to cancel any contract made between it and any recipient of a scholarship upon cause deemed sufficient by the Commission. [70:625.6Copies of the Oklahoma Rural Medical Education Loan and Scholarship Fund contracts are available in the office of the Physician Manpower Training Commission. Before being granted a scholarship, each applicant shall enter into a contract with the Commission and agree to the terms and conditions of the scholarship, in accordance with the Oklahoma Rural Medical Education Loan and Scholarship Fund Act. The form of~~

the contract shall be prepared and approved by the Attorney General. Contracts shall be signed by the applicant and by the Executive Director on behalf of the Commission, and copies of the contracts shall be available in the Commission's office. Pursuant to 70 O.S., § 625.6, the Commission is authorized to sue a scholarship recipient for the balance due on his or her contract, and may cancel any contract upon cause deemed sufficient by the Commission.

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