



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Health Professions Programs

Script: Health Careers Opportunity Program Conference Call

August 5, 2009

Good afternoon, and thank you for taking my call this afternoon. My name is Sara Rue. I am the program officer for the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP). The purpose of today's call is to provide you with some basic information about your opportunity to receive HCOP funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which we'll refer to as "ARRA" or "Recovery Act." On July 28, 2009 Secretary Sebelius announced the availability of nearly \$200 million to support grants, loans, loan repayments, and scholarships to expand the training of health care professionals. These funds are part of that announcement.

To let you know about the format for the call: We will spend approximately 30 minutes providing some basic information about ARRA, including important information on reporting requirements. This will be followed by specific information on next steps – what information we need from you, and when and how we will obtain that information. The remaining time will be open for you to ask questions. While we are talking, please write down your questions, as there should be time to go over them when we are done

Also on the phone with me today is Kathleen Kilbane to help answer your questions. I'd now like to turn this call over to Kathleen.

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Thank you, Sara. To begin, I'll start off by describing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The Recovery Act was signed into law on February 17, 2009, and provides \$500 million to address health professions workforce shortages. Of that amount, \$300 million supports the expansion of the National Health Service Corps. As Sara mentioned earlier, the remaining \$200 million supports grants, loans, loan repayments, and scholarships to expand the training of health care professionals. The funds target a variety of health professions training programs that will strengthen the health workforce. You can refer to our website at *BHPR-dot-HRSA-dot-Gov-backslash-recovery* for more specific information.

As you know, the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) provides assistance to individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to undertake

education to enter and graduate from a health or allied health professions program.

Approximately 2.98 million dollars in ARRA funds will be used this fiscal year to address health professions workforce shortages under the Health Careers Opportunity Program.

We are pleased to tell you that each of your institutions has the opportunity to receive ARRA funding under the ARRA-HCOP program this year. You might remember applying for a competitive grant last year, under funding opportunity HRSA-08-057. Although your application was reviewed favorably, it remained unfunded because there were insufficient funds available under the regular appropriation. However, we are now in a position to offer ARRA-HCOP funding to your institution. These funds will be provided under a new activity code and grant number.

Should you decide to accept ARRA-HCOP funding, your institution will receive a Notice of Grant Award announcing the funds awarded to your institution. We want to be sure, however, that your institution is interested, and will adhere to the additional reporting requirements stipulated by ARRA. Since you applied the early part of 2008, we also want to assure that there have been no major changes to your application since then.

ARRA-HCOP grantees will be required to comply with specific Recovery Act reporting. ARRA tracking and reporting must be separate to meet the reporting requirements of the Recovery Act, and grantees will be required to provide quarterly reports on programmatic progress on these grants. The first report for ARRA-HCOP will be due October 10, and will include reporting on the total amount of Recovery Act funds received and obligated, a detailed list and description of how funds were obligated and expended, and an estimate of the number of jobs created (students and/or graduates) and the number of jobs (students and /or graduates) retained by the project or activity. Additional information will be available on the Federal reporting-dot-gov website. We will provide more specific information after the awards have been made.

Regarding funding, we anticipate that the budget and project periods for the ARRA-HCOP awards will begin by September 1, and will be awarded for a 3-year budget and project period. These funds should be considered as one-time funding.

In addition to the standard terms and conditions of award, recipients receiving funds under Division A of ARRA must abide by the terms and conditions set out in the Act. They can be found on the *HHS-dot-gov-backslash-recovery* website. To summarize, the terms include the requirements to separately identify to sub-recipients that these are ARRA funds, that grantees must maintain records that adequately identify the source and application of Recovery Act funds, that

grantees must report quarterly on the use of the funds at *FederalReporting-dot-gov*, and that grantees must maintain a DUNS Number and current registration in the Central Contractor Registry.

Due to the unique nature of this funding opportunity, after award the Bureau of Health Professions will hold a Technical Assistance call for all ARRA-HCOP grantees, during which time we will go into much further detail regarding the Recovery Act reporting requirements.

As we said earlier, if you accept the ARRA funds you must comply with all reporting requirements. Prior to award we will be contacting each of you individually to ensure that your institution will adhere to the additional reporting requirements stipulated by ARRA. We also need to ensure that we have sufficient data to enable us to determine service numbers and how they relate to the health profession shortages. Tomorrow afternoon we will follow up with this conference call during which time the following questions will be discussed:

- (1) Whether or not your institution accepts ARRA-HCOP funding. If the answer is YES, then:
- (2) How many students will be trained in this grant using the ARRA-HCOP funds?
- (3) What percentage of disadvantaged students will be trained in this program?
- (4) What is the number or percentage of these students that you expect to enroll in a health or allied health school or program?
- (5) If you do not accept ARRA-HCOP funds please explain why?

At that time, we would also be interested in hearing of any particularly interesting or illustrative “success stories” your institution may have to demonstrate the importance of HCOP funding in addressing the health professions shortage.

Let me review those questions again, to ensure you have written them down, and are prepared to discuss them during tomorrow’s phone call:

- (1) Whether or not your institution accepts ARRA-HCOP funding. If the answer is YES, then
- (2) How many students will be trained in this grant using the ARRA-HCOP funds?
- (3) What percentage of disadvantaged students will be trained in this program?
- (4) What is the number or percentage of these students that you expect to enroll in a health or allied health school or program?
- (5) If you do not accept ARRA-HCOP funds please explain why?

As a reminder, we would also be interested in hearing of any particularly interesting or innovative “success stories” your institution may have to demonstrate the importance of HCOP funding in addressing the health professions shortage.

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We hope that this call has provided you with sufficient information with which to make a decision on whether or not your institution will accept ARRA funding. As a potential recipient of these additional funds, we are asking that your institution carefully decide whether you are willing to accept these funds, and inform us during tomorrow's phone call.

That concludes our presentation. Do you have any questions at this time?

----- QUESTIONS and ANSWERS -----

----- UPON CONCLUSION OF QUESTIONS and ANSWERS -----

Thank you. We realize that this may be a lot of information to review in a short period of time. We encourage you to visit the various Web sites we've given during this call to obtain more detailed information. We will also have Questions and Answers relating to ARRA-HCOP funding posted on the HRSA website shortly.

Thank you for your time today, for your interest in the ARRA funds, and, especially, for the good that you do every day!