



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Health Professions Programs

Script: Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students Conference Call

August 6, 2009

Good afternoon, and thank you for joining us on the call this afternoon. My name is Andreina Stampone. I am the Project Officer for the Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students Program. The purpose of today's call is to provide you with some basic information about your opportunity to receive additional SDS funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which we'll refer to as "ARRA" or "Recovery Act." On Tuesday, July 28th 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.

This call is being recorded, and will be available for replay using a toll-free number until September 6th. The phone numbers to access the recording are 888-482-2240 or 402-998-1365.

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. The operator will prompt you when you can begin asking questions.

Also on the phone with me today are Marcia Green, Project Officer for the ARRA-SDS and Jim Essel, Acting Branch Chief, for the Campus Based Branch to help answer your questions. I'd now like to turn this call over to Marcia.

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Thank you, Andreina. 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 Andreina 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 Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students program (SDS) provides Federal support to increase diversity in the health professions workforce. This is accomplished by schools awarding scholarships to students from disadvantaged backgrounds with financial need, many of whom are underrepresented minorities. The health disciplines funded include allopathic medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, podiatry, pharmacy, chiropractic, behavioral and mental health, public health, nursing, allied health and physician assistant. Eligible schools receive additional funding based upon three funding priorities: underrepresented minorities enrollment above the national average, graduates practicing in primary care, and graduates working in medically underserved communities.

Approximately 20 million dollars in ARRA funds will be used this fiscal year to address students from disadvantaged backgrounds, providing them the opportunity to pursue their interests and passion of helping others by entering the healthcare field.

We are pleased to tell you that each of your institutions has the opportunity to receive ARRA funding under the SDS program this year. You might remember applying for a competitive grant earlier this year, under funding opportunity HRSA-09-127. Although you may not have received the total amount of funding you needed through that competition, we are now in a position to offer ARRA-SDS funding to your institution. These funds will be provided under a new activity code and grant number, and must be used to support different students than your non-ARRA funds.

Should you decide to accept ARRA-SDS funding, your institution will receive a Notice of Grant Award announcing the funds awarded to your institution by discipline. We want to be sure, however, that your institution is interested, and will adhere to the additional reporting requirements stipulated by ARRA.

ARRA-SDS 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-SDS 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 and the number of jobs 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 SDS awards will begin in the next few weeks. These funds should be considered as one-time funding. Both ARRA and non-ARRA funding will be available through competition in FY 2010.

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-SDS grantees, during which time we will discuss the segregation of these funds from your non-ARRA funds, and 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 how the information collected relates to diversity in the healthcare workforce. Shortly, we will be following this conference call with individual telephone calls, during which time the following questions will be discussed:

- (1) Whether or not your institution accepts ARRA-SDS funding. ** If the answer is YES, then
- (2) When do you expect being able to make awards with these funds by discipline?
- (3) How many scholarships will you be able to make using the ARRA-SDS funds by discipline?
- (4) How many students did you, or do you expect to, fund with regularly Appropriated funds for FY 2009 by discipline?
- (5) Do you have any SDS success stories?

** IF you do not accept ARRA-SDS funds, what is the reason?

Let me review those questions again, to ensure everyone has written them down, and is prepared to discuss them during next weeks' phone calls:

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- (1) Whether or not your institution accepts ARRA-SDS If the answer is YES, then
- (2) When do you expect being able to make scholarships awards with these funds by discipline?
- (3) How many scholarships will you be able to make using the ARRA-SDS funds by discipline?
- (4) How many students did you, or do you expect to, fund with regularly Appropriated funds for FY 2009 by discipline?
- (5) Do you have any SDS success stories?

** IF you do not accept ARRA-SDS funds, what is the reason?

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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 next week's phone call.

That concludes our presentation. Operator, we can now open up the call so that people can ask questions.

----- 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-SDS funding posted on the HRSA website shortly.

As was mentioned at the beginning of this call, this call has been recorded and can be replayed until September 6. To access the recording, please dial 1-888-482-2240 or (402) 998-1365.

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