

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
**Health Resources and Services Administration**

*Bureau of Health Professions*

*Division of Health Careers Diversity and Development*

Ms. Andreina Stampone  
Program Analyst  
Telephone: 301-443-1701  
Fax: 301-443-0846

Authority: Public Law (P.L.) 105-392, Title VII Section Sec. 737 of the Public Health Service Act  
(42 U.S.C. 293a)

## **Funding Opportunity Description**

### **Purpose**

The Scholarship for Disadvantaged Students (SDS) program promotes diversity among health professions students and practitioners by providing scholarships for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Eligible health professions and nursing schools apply for grants to make scholarships to students from disadvantaged backgrounds that have financial need for scholarships and are enrolled, or accepted for enrollment, as full-time students at the schools.

### **Background**

The Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students Program was established by the Disadvantaged Minority Health Improvement Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-527) Section 737 of the Public Health (PHS) Act. The Health Professions Education Partnership Act of 1998 amended Section 737 of the PHS Act. The purpose of this program is to provide financial assistance to disadvantaged health professions and nursing students.

Institutions apply for SDS funds from the Department of Health and Human Services and are responsible for both selecting eligible recipients and determining their financial need. At least sixteen percent of total allocations go to schools that will direct SDS awards to nursing students.

SDS funds awarded to schools must be used to award full or partial scholarship to eligible students enrolled in health professions programs on a full time basis. Schools must give preference to students for whom the cost of attendance would constitute a severe financial hardship, and to former scholarship recipients of the Exceptional Financial Need (EFN) and the Financial Assistance for Disadvantaged Health Professions Students (FADHPS) Program. The amount may not exceed a recipient's cost of tuition expenses, other reasonable educational expenses and reasonable living incurred in the attendance at such school.

## **Award Information**

### **Type of Award**

Funding will be provided in the form of a one-year grant.

## **Eligibility Information**

### **Eligible Applicants**

The term eligible entities means an entity that (A) is a school of medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy, podiatric medicine, optometry, veterinary medicine, public health, chiropractic, or allied health, a school offering a graduate program in behavioral and mental health practice, or an entity providing programs for the training of physician assistants; and (B) is carrying out a program for recruiting and retaining students from disadvantaged backgrounds, including students who are members of racial and ethnic minority groups.

Any public or other nonprofit institution that offers degrees to full-time students in disciplines as specified below

- doctor of allopathic medicine
- doctor of osteopathic medicine
- doctor of dentistry
- doctor of optometry
- doctor of podiatric medicine
- doctor of veterinary medicine
- doctor of chiropractic medicine
- bachelor or graduate degree in pharmacy
- graduate degree in public health
- baccalaureate and graduate degree in allied health (dental hygiene, medical laboratory technology, medical laboratory technology, radiologic technology, audiology, speech pathology and registered dieticians)
- graduate degree in occupational therapy
- graduate degree in physical therapy
- graduate degree in clinical psychology
- graduate degree in clinical social works
- graduate degree in marriage and family therapy
- graduate degree in gerontological counseling
- graduate degree in mental health counseling
- graduate degree in rehabilitation counseling
- associate, diploma, baccalaureate or graduate degree in nursing
- physician assistant training

Both health professions and nursing schools that are accredited by a recognized body approved for such purpose by the Secretary of Education, as well as each program (i.e., pharmacy, baccalaureate nursing, dentistry, etc.) must be accredited by the specialized accrediting body approved for the health discipline applying for program participation.

The approved accrediting bodies for health professions and nursing schools are as follows:

- allopathic medicine: Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the American Medical Association, and the Association of American Medical Colleges
- osteopathic medicine: American Osteopathic Association
- dentistry: Commission on Dental Accreditation
- veterinary medicine: American Veterinary Medical Association
- optometry: Council on Optometric Education of the American Optometric Association
- podiatric medicine: Council on Education of the American Podiatric Association
- chiropractic: Council on Chiropractic Education
- pharmacy: American Council on Pharmaceutical Education
- public health: Council on Education for Public Health
- allied health: American Medical Association Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation
- behavioral & mental health: as appropriate for the discipline
- physician assistants: Committee on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs
- nursing: National League for Nursing, or the regional higher education accrediting associations

A school must meet all of the criteria listed below to be eligible to be considered for SDS funds for FY 2008. All requirements refer to full-time students (using the school's requirements for full-time):

- **Full-time students from** disadvantaged backgrounds must comprise the following:
  - 1) At least 10 percent of the total enrollment (full-time enrolled) of your program during Academic Year (AY) 2006-2007 (7/1/06-6/30/07), **and**

2) At least 10 percent of the total graduates (who were full-time students) of your program during AY 2006-2007.

- Secondly, in order to receive any SDS funding, a school must have full-time economically disadvantaged students enrolled **and** graduated during AY 2006-2007.

A newly established school/program is eligible to apply as long as your school/program has students enrolled for the reporting year of the SDS Application (for Application AY 2008-2009 the period of 7/1/06-6/30/07)

**Program Requirements:**

The term “eligible individual” means an individual who (A) is from disadvantaged background; (b) has a financial need for a scholarship; and (C) is enrolled (or accepted for enrollment) at an eligible health professions or nursing school as a full-time enrollment in a program leading to a degree in a health profession or nursing.

A student applicant must be a citizen or national of the United States, or a lawful permanent resident of the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa or the Trust Territory of the Pacific. A student who remains in this country on a student or visitor's visa is not eligible.

**Disadvantaged Definitions:**

An individual from a disadvantaged background is defined as someone who:

[Part I - educational/environmental] comes from an environment that has inhibited the individual from obtaining the knowledge, skill, and abilities required to enroll in and graduate from a school; or,

[Part II - economic] comes from a family with an annual income below a level based on low-income thresholds according to family size published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, adjusted annually for changes in the Consumer Price Index, and adjusted by the Secretary of Health and Human Services for adaptation to this program.

**Application**

Applicants for this funding opportunity must apply electronically through Grants.gov. All applicants **must** submit in this manner unless the applicant is granted a written exemption from this requirement in advance by the Director of HRSA’s Division of Grants Policy.

For more program information concerning the SDS program requirements, refer to the "Student Financial Aid Guidelines." To see the Guidelines, use the following address: <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/dsa/>, select Student Financial Aid Guidelines, then select Health Professions Programs or Nursing Programs, whichever is appropriate, then select SDS.

OMB No. 0915-0149  
Exp. Date

## Academic Year 2007-2008

### PUBLIC REPORTING BURDEN STATEMENT

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control number for this project is 0915-0149. Public reporting burden for the applicant for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 hours per response for the application and 1 hour for the report, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to HRSA Reports Clearance Officer, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 10-33, Rockville, Maryland, 20857.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

To be eligible to participate in the SDS program, the application must be submitted through Grants.gov by January 3, 2008, and supplemental information must be submitted in the EHBs by January 17, 2008. If your school receives SDS funding, you will be required annually to provide to the Division of Health Careers Diversity and Development program and fiscal data using the Financial Status Report and SDS Performance Report.

Your submission of the SDS Application represents an agreement between the applicant school and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for the management and administration of the SDS Program, and is binding on all parties participating in the program.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:** A school must meet all of the criteria listed below to be eligible to be considered for SDS funds for FY 2008. All requirements refer to full-time students (using the school's requirements for full-time):

- **Full-time students from** disadvantaged backgrounds must comprise the following:
  - 1) At least 10 percent of the total enrollment (full-time enrolled) of your program during Academic Year (AY) 2006-2007 (7/1/06-6/30/07), **and**
  - 2) At least 10 percent of the total graduates (who were full-time students) of your program during AY 2006-2007.
- Secondly, in order to receive any SDS funding, a school must have full-time economically disadvantaged students enrolled **and** graduated during AY 2006-2007.

A newly established school/program is eligible to apply as long as your school/program has students enrolled for the reporting year of the SDS Application (for Application AY 2008-2009 the period of 7/1/06-6/30/07)

## Program Application Instructions

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

#### FULL-TIME STUDENTS IN YOUR PROGRAM

You must include all full-time students (using your school's requirements for full-time) enrolled in your program. Complete this table showing the enrollment and racial/ethnic background of full-time students enrolled in the program for which your school is applying for SDS funds (i.e. baccalaureate nursing, public health, clinical psychology, etc.) during Academic Year 2006-07.

If you do not provide the complete data requested, your school will not be considered for the funding priority based on the "underrepresented minority enrollment".

Select the category of racial/ethnic background using the following definitions:

American Indian or Alaska Native: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America, and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.

Asian: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand and Vietnam.

Asian Underrepresented: Any Asian (see above definition) *other than* Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Asian Indian or Thai.

Black or African American: A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.

Hispanic or Latino: A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

More Than One Race: A person identifying with more than one racial category.

White: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North America, the Middle East or North Africa.

TOTAL FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT AND FULL-TIME DISADVANTAGED ENROLLMENT BY CLASS YEAR FOR STUDENTS IN YOUR PROGRAM FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2006-2007 (7/1/06-6/30/07)  
CLASS YEAR - Enter full-time enrollment by class year (using the school's requirements for full time). Space on the application is available for programs up to six years in length. Enter only Class Year data that is appropriate for the length of your program. For example, if your program is four years in length, the Fifth and Sixth years on the application would be left blank.

For graduate degree programs with more than one type of degree (e.g. masters and doctorate, or pharmacy baccalaureate and graduate), all students who are in the last year of their program should be included in the same year. For example, if a school has a one year program and a two year program, the students in the one year program would be included in the same year as the students in the second year of the two year program.

DISADVANTAGED ENROLLMENT - Complete the table, showing full-time student enrollment from disadvantaged backgrounds (using your school's requirements for full time) by class year.

Enter Class Year data that is applicable for the length of your program.

An individual from a disadvantaged background is defined as someone who:  
[Part I - educational/environmental] comes from an environment that has inhibited the individual from obtaining the knowledge, skill, and abilities required to enroll in and graduate from a school;

or

[Part II - economic] comes from a family with an annual income below a level based on low-income thresholds according to family size published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, adjusted annually for changes in the Consumer Price Index, and adjusted by the Secretary of Health and Human Services for adaptation to this program.

For income levels that determine what constitutes a low income family for determining economically disadvantaged students enrolled/graduated during AY 2006-07 for the Academic Year 2006-2007 SDS Application, see Table "Low Income Levels".

For examples of disadvantaged status under the "educational/environmental" definition, go to the following website <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/dsa/>, and select "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQ) page.

Of the Total Full-Time Disadvantaged, enter the number of students who qualify as disadvantaged under the economic (Part II) definition.

Please NOTE: When identifying students from disadvantaged backgrounds, minority status in itself is NOT a factor for determining disadvantaged status.

TOTAL NUMBER OF FULL-TIME STUDENTS GRADUATED AND NUMBER OF FULL-TIME DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS GRADUATED FROM YOUR PROGRAM FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2006-2007 (7/1/06-6/30/07).

Enter the Total Full-time Students (using your school's requirements for full time) Graduated and Total Full-time Disadvantaged Students Graduated for the academic year 2006-2007 (7/1/06-6/30/07).

For newly established schools or programs that had full-time students enrolled in AY 2006-2007, but had not been in existence long enough to have had a graduating class in AY 2006-2007, provide the data from the table in Section B. that represents the first graduating class, in place of graduate data. For example, if a four year program had students enrolled in the first, second and third years during AY 2006-2007, the school would provide data on the third year full-time students in place of the graduate data requested.

Of the Total Full-Time Disadvantaged, enter the number of students who qualify as disadvantaged under the economic (Part II) definition.

GRADUATES FROM YOUR PROGRAM SERVING IN PRIMARY CARE AND/OR MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

#### 1. Primary Care

Primary Care fields are limited to Allopathic Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine, Dentistry, Graduate Nursing, and Physician Assistants. Disciplines other than listed above are not eligible for providing Primary Care data.

Of the total number of full-time graduates serving in primary care, enter the number that received SDS. Following are the Definitions of Primary Care.

#### Medicine/Osteopathic Medicine

Family Medicine

General Internal Medicine

General Pediatrics

Preventive Medicine

Osteopathic General Practice

Please note that OB/GYN is an unacceptable primary care residency/practice for this program.

#### Dentistry:

General Dentistry

Dental Public Health

Pediatric Dentistry



Graduate Nursing:

Midwifery

Nurse Practitioner

Physician Assistants:

Non-Specialized Practice

If the graduated student is in Primary Care as well as working in Medically Underserved Communities, include this graduate in both categories.

2. Medically Underserved Communities (MUC)

For schools of Medicine and Osteopathic medicine, enter the total number of full-time students graduated in academic year 2002-2003 (7/1/02-6/30/03). Enter the total number of full-time students graduated in academic year 2002-2003 who were serving (residency included) during 2006-2007 in Medically Underserved Communities.

For disciplines other than Medicine and Osteopathic medicine, enter the total number of full-time students graduated in academic year 2005-2006 (7/1/05-6/30/06). Enter the total number of full-time students graduated in academic year 2005-2006 who were serving in Medical Underserved Communities (residency included) during 2006-2007.

Of the total number of full-time graduates serving in MUCs, enter the number that received SDS.

"Medically Underserved Communities" means any geographic area and/or population served by any of the following practice sites:

- Community Health Centers (section 330)
- Migrant Health Centers (section 329)
- Health Care for the Homeless Grantees (section 340)
- Public Housing Primary care Grantees (section 340A)
- Rural Health Clinics, federally designated (section 1861(aa)(2) of the Social Security Act)
- National Health Service Corps Sites, freestanding (section 333)
- Indian Health Service Sites (Pub. L. 93-638 for tribal operated sites and Pub.L. 94-437 for IHS operated sites)
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (section 1905(a) and (1) of the Social Security Act)
- Primary Medical Care, Mental Health, and Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) (designated under section 332)
- State or Local Health Departments (regardless of sponsor - for example, local health departments who are funded by the State would qualify)
- Ambulatory practice sites designated by State Governors as serving medically underserved communities
- Practices or facilities in which 50 percent or more of the patients are uninsured or Medicaid recipients.

NOTE: Information on Health Professional Shortage Areas can be obtained at <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/databases/newhpsa/newhpsa.cfm>. Information on Medically Underserved Communities and Medically Underserved Populations can be found at <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/databases/newmua>. Both sites use census tract information to identify underserved areas. Translation of address to census tract can be obtained at <http://www.ffiiec.gov/Geocode/default.htm>.

## ACCREDITATION

Health professions and nursing schools that are interested in participating in the SDS program must be accredited by a recognized body approved for such purpose by the Secretary of Education.

Each program/discipline must be accredited by the specialized accrediting body approved for the health discipline applying for program participation.

Enter the Name of Accrediting Body (American Osteopathic Association, Commission on Dental Accreditation, Council on Education of the American Podiatric Association, National League for Nursing, etc.) that your discipline (Osteopathic Medicine, Dentistry, Podiatric Medicine, Graduate Nursing, etc.) is accredited by and accreditation expiration date, mm/yy.

Program Administrator: The person responsible for the day-to-day administration of this Program.

Entering the Name, Phone Number and E-mail address of the program administrator certifies that the applicant institution is in compliance with the requirements outlined in the SFAG.

Certification and Acceptance: By supplying the name, phone number and e-mail address of the authorizing official, the applicant institution accepts, as to any Federal funds allocated and paid as a result of this application, the obligation to comply with the applicable provisions of the Public Health Service Act as amended, regulations, and with the Public Health Service policies in effect at the time of such allocation and payment.

Authorizing Official: The person legally responsible and accountable for the use and disposition of any funds awarded on the basis of this application. Please enter Name, Telephone Number, and E-mail address.

**Important**: After submission of the application, the email is sent to the Authorizing Official, Project Direct, Creator of Application, Business Official and the Point of Contact for the application. When the face page is received and uploaded, the email goes to Authorizing Official, Project Direct, Business Official and the Point of Contact for the application.

## Low Income Levels

### Low Income levels for AY 2008-2009 Awards

The **Low-Income Level**, which is based on 200 percent of the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines](#), is used to determine what constitutes a low-income family for purposes of the SDS, and LDS programs for the **Academic Year 2008-2009**.

To determine if a student comes from an economically disadvantaged background, a school must use the student's parents' income (regardless of the student's age, independent/dependent or marital status).

	<u>Size of Parent's Family *</u>		<u>Income Level **</u>	Alaska	Hawaii
	1		\$19,600	\$24,500	\$22,540
	2		\$26,400	\$33,000	\$30,360
	3		\$33,200	\$41,500	\$38,180
	4		\$40,000	\$50,000	\$46,000
	5		\$46,800	\$58,500	\$53,820
	6		\$53,600	\$67,000	\$61,640
	7		\$60,400	\$75,500	\$69,460
	8		\$67,200	\$84,000	\$77,280
	For each additional person add:		\$6,800	\$ 8,500	\$7,820

\* means number of exemptions listed on parent's Federal income tax forms (e.g. family size of 4 might include two parents and two dependents).

\*\* Adjusted gross income for calendar year 2005.