

(b) Subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, the Office of Student Financial Assistance shall assist in the repayment of the amount of any higher education loan owed by an individual who:

(1) (I) Receives a graduate, professional, or undergraduate degree from:

[(i)] 1. A college or university in the State of Maryland;

[(ii)] 2. A school of medicine; or

[(iii)] 3. A school of law; OR

(II) RECEIVES A RESIDENT TEACHER CERTIFICATE (RTC) FROM THE DEPARTMENT AFTER COMPLETING ~~A RESIDENT TEACHER CERTIFICATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM AS DEFINED IN § 18-708(A) OF THIS TITLE; OR~~

~~(III) HAS TAKEN COURSE WORK TOWARDS OBTAINING A TEACHING CERTIFICATE WHILE BEING EMPLOYED BY A COUNTY BOARD IN A PARAPROFESSIONAL POSITION AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHING PREPARATION PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT;~~

(2) Obtains eligible employment;

(3) Receives an income that is less than the maximum eligible total income levels established by the Office, including any additional sources of income; and

(4) Satisfies any other criteria established by the Office.

(c) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, the Office shall assist in the repayment of the amount of any higher education loan owed by a physician who engages in primary care in the State or by a medical resident specializing in primary care who agrees to practice for at least 2 years as a primary care physician in a geographic area of the State that has been designated by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene as being medically underserved with the funds transferred to the Office by the Comptroller under § 14-207(c)(2)(i) of the Health Occupations Article.

(2) A physician who engages in primary care is not precluded from receiving assistance from the Office under subsection (b) of this section.

(3) Any unspent portions of the money that is transferred to the Office for use under this section from the Board of Physicians Fund may not be transferred to or revert to the General Fund of the State, but shall remain in the Fund maintained by the Office to administer these programs to assist physicians engaged in primary care as specified in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(d) An applicant for assistance in the repayment of a commercial loan shall demonstrate to the Office that the commercial loan was used for tuition, educational expenses, or living expenses for graduate or undergraduate study.