

(3) EARN AN ASSOCIATE OR BACHELOR DEGREE IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT OR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION OR A VALID CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE CREDENTIAL FROM THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE CONSORTIUM; AND

(4) PERFORM THE SERVICE OBLIGATION.

(E) (1) FUNDS FOR THE TUITION ASSISTANCE GRANTS AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE AS PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE COMMISSION.

(2) FUNDS FOR THE TUITION ASSISTANCE GRANTS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT:

(I) BE USED TO SUPPLANT FUNDS OF ANY OTHER PROGRAM; OR

(II) EXCEED THE AMOUNT NECESSARY TO MAKE 100 AWARDS EACH YEAR.

18-706.

(A) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(1) "ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION" MEANS AN INSTITUTION, INCLUDING A LICENSED HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, ADULT DAY CARE CENTER, PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY, HOME HEALTH AGENCY, OR OTHER ORGANIZATION AUTHORIZED BY THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE.

(2) "ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION" MEANS AN INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION:

(I) APPROVED TO OPERATE BY THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION; AND

(II) THAT AWARDS NURSING DEGREES OR DIPLOMAS.

(3) "NURSING SHORTAGE AREA" MEANS A RECOGNIZED AREA OF NURSING SERVICE OR SPECIALIZATION DETERMINED BY THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE TO BE AN AREA WHERE THERE EXISTS A SHORTAGE OF QUALIFIED NURSES IN ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS.

(4) "NURSING STUDENT" MEANS A STUDENT ENROLLED IN A POSTSECONDARY NURSING EDUCATION DEGREE OR DIPLOMA PROGRAM AT AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.

(5) "SERVICE OBLIGATION" MEANS EMPLOYMENT AS A NURSE IN A NURSING SHORTAGE AREA IN AN ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION.