

THE ACADEMIC LOAN PROGRAM

West River Health Services Foundation, in cooperation with West River Health Services, is pleased to sponsor the ACADEMIC LOAN PROGRAM FOR ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND MID-LEVEL PRACTITIONERS.

The board of directors, administration, medical staff and employees have worked hard for the growth and development of this medical complex. As a result of this commitment, one of the most progressive and complete health care systems in a three-state area is centered in Hettinger, North Dakota.

To preserve the standard of care for which it has been recognized nationwide, West River Health Services strives to maintain the highest level of professional staffing. As part of the long-term strategy for continual staffing, West River Health Services Foundation has established the ACADEMIC LOAN PROGRAM FOR ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND MID-LEVEL PRACTITIONERS.

The ACADEMIC LOAN PROGRAM FOR ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND MID-LEVEL PRACTITIONERS is designed to help offset a substantial portion of education costs in exchange for a commitment of professional practice in the West River Health Services system.

ELIGIBILITY

- ❑ Allied health professionals include nursing, respiratory therapy, occupational therapy, pharmacy, radiology technology, medical technology, etc.
- ❑ A mid-level practitioner is defined as a physician's assistant, nurse practitioner, or nurse midwife.
- ❑ Applicants must be admitted or accepted into the college and/or course of study of their health care profession.
- ❑ Applicants are eligible for loan funding no earlier than the final two years of education.
- ❑ Students must be considered "full-time" status as determined by their institution of higher learning. This criteria applies to traditional and non-traditional students.
- ❑ Students must maintain a grade point average of 3.0, or higher if required by the college/university for acceptance into the student's professional program.
- ❑ West River Health Services Foundation will be authorized to monitor the enrollment status and academic standing of loan recipients on an ongoing basis.
- ❑ Applicants are encouraged to make a site visit to the West River Health Services system.

INELIGIBLE PERSONS

- ❑ Students obligated through another loan program for professional practice after academic training.
- ❑ Students currently delinquent on any debt to the federal government (e.g. public health service, U. S. guaranteed student loan, G. I. Bill education benefits).

PROCEDURE

- ❑ A completed application and a current transcript of grades from the college/university in which you are enrolled must be submitted to West River Health Services Foundation.
- ❑ Students may be eligible to borrow up to \$3000 in each of the final two years of education, based on tuition costs, books, fees and other applicable expenses.
- ❑ Loan applications are reviewed by the Academic Loan Committee and approved by the West River Health Services Board of Directors. Loans are made on the basis of an applicant's eligibility, availability of funds, and the determination of need for a student's profession in this facility following his/her graduation.
- ❑ Upon approval, loan agreement papers are drafted and signed by the applicant and West River Health Services Foundation. Students are required to sign a letter of intent

to practice in the West River Health Services system. This letter of intent must designate the student's intended specialty and projected date of graduation.

❑ Dispersal of annual funding is in two equal installments. The first installment is made just prior to the beginning of the school term and the second installment is made following the first semester.

EMPLOYMENT/LOAN REPAYMENT

❑ Loan forgiveness commences with the applicant's full-time employment in the West River Health Services system. Loan principal, plus accrued interest, is forgiven at the rate of \$300 per month.

❑ Loan recipients are subject to the same employment policies, procedures, standards and compensation as other employees.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
CONTACT:
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