# **94-457 FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE**

**Chapter 616: DOCTORS FOR MAINE’S FUTURE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

**Summary**: This rule implements P.L. 2009, c.410, “An Act to Encourage Maine Residents to Attend Medical School and Practice in Maine” by defining eligibility criteria for the Doctors for Maine’s Future Scholarship Program and establishing procedures for allocating scholarship funds to qualifying Maine-based medical school programs for award to eligible students.

**1. Definitions**

1. **Authority**. The “Authority” means the Finance Authority of Maine.
2. **Cost of Attendance**. “Cost of Attendance” means the tuition and fees applicable to an eligible student, together with an estimate of other expenses reasonably related to cost of attendance at a Medical School Program as determined by the Medical School Program and used in the awarding of Title IV aid.
3. **Chief Executive Officer**. “Chief Executive Officer” means the Authority's Chief Executive Officer or a person acting under the supervisory control of the Chief Executive Officer.
4. **Clerkship Experiences**. “Clerkship experiences” means primary health care clinical education in a health professional shortage area or in an area of the State defined as rural by the Authority.
5. **Clinical Education**. “Clinical education” means any on-location teaching environment ranging from a one-to-one training between a physician and a medical student to a training in a health clinic or hospital with or without a residency program.
6. **Fund**. “Fund” means the Doctors for Maine’s Future Scholarship Fund established pursuant to 20-A MRSA Section 12103-A(6).
7. **Good Academic Standing**. “Good academic standing” means the student is academically qualified to maintain enrollment according to the standards of the Medical School Program as set in accordance with applicable requirements of the Medical School Program.
8. **Health Professional Shortage Area**. “Heath professional shortage area” means an area in the State lacking in medical professionals, as defined by the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services.
9. **State**. “State” means the State of Maine.
10. **Medical School Program**. “Medical School Program” means a qualifying Maine-based medical school program that has entered into a Participation Agreement with the Authority.
11. **Primary Care or Primary Health Care**. “Primary care” or “primary health care” means general or family practice of medicine, general internal medicine, general pediatrics, and obstetrics and gynecology.
12. **Qualifying Maine-based medical school program**. A “Qualifying Maine-based medical school program” means an allopathic or osteopathic medical school program affiliated with a medical school accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education or its successor or the American Osteopathic Association or its successor in which (1) an educational or health care institution located in the State participates in curriculum development and the selection of students for admission; (2) no fewer than 10 students per class year are enrolled and in which these students are required to complete not less than one academic year of the medical school curriculum at facilities located in the State; (3) funds from philanthropic resources and the private sector are raised to match 100% of funds received from the State for scholarships pursuant to the Scholarship Program; and (4) the program curriculum includes required clerkship experiences in the State in and training and course completion in rural health care and primary care.
13. **Scholarship**. “Scholarship” means a scholarship pursuant to the Scholarship Program, whether funded from the Fund or from matching funds of the Medical School Program.
14. **Scholarship Program**. “Scholarship Program” means the Doctors for Maine’s Future Scholarship Program established by 20-A MRSA §12103-A.

**2. Student Eligibility**

1. The student is or will by the time of award of a scholarship be duly enrolled in a Medical School Program as set forth in Section 3 of this Rule;
2. The student has a substantial connection to the State of Maine as evidenced by factors such as prior education in Maine and parental or legal guardian residence in Maine;
3. The student has had at least one year of residence in Maine for other than education purposes; and
4. Priority must be given to a student who meets at least two of the following:
	1. The student has received a high school diploma, or its equivalent, in the State;
	2. The student has received a baccalaureate degree from a four­ year college or university in the State;
	3. The legal residence of the student’s parent or legal guardian is in the State.

 E. Students must be commencing professional medical education on or after July 1, 2009.

**3. Medical School Program Eligibility**

To be eligible to participate in the Scholarship Program, a Medical School Program must meet the following criteria, and shall enter into a Participation Agreement with the Authority in which the Medical School Program certifies that:

1. The Medical School Program is an allopathic or osteopathic medical school program accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education or the American Osteopathic Association, respectively, and the Medical School Program has provided the Authority with such evidence of its accreditation as the Authority may require;
2. An educational or healthcare institution located in Maine participates in curriculum development and the selection of students for admission into the Medical School Program, and the Medical School Program has provided the Authority with such evidence of its affiliation with such educational or healthcare institution, as applicable, as the Authority may require;
3. The Medical School Program enrolls no fewer than 10 students per class year;
4. The Medical School Program requires that all students complete not less than one academic year of the medical school curriculum at facilities located in Maine;
5. The Medical School Program has raised funds through philanthropic resources and the private sector to match 100% of the funds allocated to the Medical School Program from the Fund;
6. The Medical School Program’s curriculum includes required clerkship experiences in the State in and training and course completion in rural health care and primary care;
7. Matching funds will be used to provide scholarships at least equal to the number of scholarship awards allocated to the Medical School Program pursuant to Section 6 in a given academic year, in accordance with the same student eligibility and other criteria and requirements of the Scholarship Program.
8. The Medical School Program will only award scholarships funded by the Scholarship Program to eligible students in accordance with this Chapter 616, and will give priority to those students meeting the criteria of Section 2(C). The Medical School Program will provide such verification of the eligibility of students receiving scholarships as may be requested by the Authority from time to time.
9. The Medical School Program will provide such information relevant to the students receiving scholarships and relevant to the Medical School Program as may be requested by the Authority from time to time. At a minimum, for each of eight years after the graduation from the Medical School Program of a student receiving a scholarship pursuant to the Scholarship Program, the Medical School Program must report to the Authority, on such forms, or electronically, as may be required by the Authority, the location of the student’s medical residency, specialty and place of employment;
10. The Medical School Program has designated one person responsible for the Scholarship Program;
11. For a renewal scholarship, the Medical School Program must verify annually that the student scholarship recipients are in good academic standing within any applicable institutional standards and continue to meet the student eligibility criteria set forth in Section 2 and other criteria for subsequent Scholarship Program funds as set forth in Section 4;
12. The Medical School Program has established that appropriate internal auditing and control procedures have been utilized in the operation of the Scholarship Program.

**4. Length of Scholarship; period of study**

A scholarship shall be for a period not to exceed one academic year. A student may not receive more than four (4) successive scholarships. A scholarship recipient who remains eligible shall be considered in the succeeding award year only upon completion of and compliance with any and all requirements of the Medical School Program or the Authority, as applicable. A Medical School Program must give priority to funding renewal scholarships prior to funding new scholarships.

**5. Determination of Scholarship**

Scholarships to eligible students shall be determined by the Medical School Programs as follows:

A. A Medical School Program shall award the number of scholarships available to it in a given year to eligible students according to the procedures of the Medical School Program.

B. Scholarships will be the lesser of $25,000 per student or 50% of the student’s cost of attendance as determined by the Medical School Program.

C. If a recipient of a scholarship withdraws from the Medical School Program and the student is entitled to a refund of tuition, fees or other charges, the Medical School Program shall make a repayment of the recipient's scholarship directly to the Authority in accordance with the Medical School Program’s published refund policy. If, however, the Medical School Program notifies the Authority of another eligible student at the time of notice of repayment, the Authority may allow the Medical School Program to award the refund to such student and the Medical School Program will be required to provide documentation thereof to the Authority. The Authority shall apply any amounts received as refunds to the Fund for use in future award years.

**6. Allocation and Payment Procedures**

1. The Authority shall strive to ensure that the total number of scholarships available from the Fund over the projected life of the Scholarship Program be allocated equitably among Medical School Programs which have raised sufficient matching funds in order to allow the Authority to do so. As a result, the Authority may award different numbers of scholarships from the Fund to different Medical School Programs in a given year.
2. In determining the number of scholarships available to be allocated in any given year from the Fund, the Authority shall take into account the number of Medical School Programs, the current and projected demand for new and renewal scholarships, the scholarship amount, funds available and projected to become available in the Fund, matching funds raised by each Medical School Program, and such other factors as the Authority, in its discretion, deems advisable or necessary in order to fairly and effectively administer the Scholarship Program. The Authority shall advise each Medical School Program of the number of scholarships to be allocated to it for the upcoming academic year no later than February 28, annually.
3. No Medical School Program may be allocated more than the number of scholarships from the Fund for which it has raised matching funds as of January 1 immediately preceding the award year, except that in the year a Medical School Program first enters into a Participation Agreement with the Authority, no Medical School Program may be allocated more than the number of scholarships from the Fund for which it has raised matching funds as of the date of the Participation Agreement. Regardless of the amount of matching funds a Medical School Program has raised, the maximum number of scholarships it may receive in a given year from the Fund is within the discretion of the Authority, taking into account the factors in subsection B, above.
4. By such time annually as is determined by the Authority, each Medical School Program eligible for scholarship funds from the Fund for the upcoming academic year shall provide a certification on such form as is required by the Authority from its chief financial officer stating the amount of matching funds which the Medical School Program had available as of January 1 and that the required matching funds continue to be available for scholarships. Each Medical School Program must subsequently provide to the Authority a certification from its independent auditor regarding the amount of matching funds that were available on January 1 of the year and the number and amount of scholarships that were awarded to eligible students with matching funds and from funds provided to the Medical School Program from the Fund in the academic year following January 1.
5. The Authority will make Scholarship Program funds from the Fund available to Medical School Programs for award to eligible students on a semi-annual basis, with one disbursement in the fall semester and one disbursement in the spring semester.

**7. Program Review**

The Authority may conduct periodic program reviews of a Medical School Program’s operation of the Scholarship Program and compliance with the Participation Agreement, and may offer technical assistance to the Medical School Program. The Authority may require audited financial statements from a Medical School Program.

**8. Waiver of Rule**

The Chief Executive Officer may waive any requirement of this rule, except to the extent that the requirement is mandated by applicable law, in cases where deviation from the rule is insubstantial.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 20-A MRSA Section 12107; 10 MRSA Section 969-A(14)

EFFECTIVE DATE:

 June 30, 2009 – filing 2009-293 (EMERGENCY)

EFFECTIVE DATE:

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