

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To establish a scholarship program for high-need health care careers to be administered by the Mayor; to establish eligibility requirements for applicants to the program; to require commitments for program participant; to establish eligibility and selection criteria for participating training programs and schools; to allow the Mayor rule making authority to implement this program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “High Need Healthcare Career Scholarship and Supports Program Emergency Act of 2022”.

Sec. 2. Authorization of a high-need healthcare careers scholarships and support program.

(a) The Mayor may establish a program to increase the number of healthcare workers in high-need healthcare careers in the District by providing supports and services to individuals that agree to serve as such workers in the District. As part of the program, the Mayor may pay for expenses incurred by program participants to obtain credentials to serve as healthcare workers in high-need healthcare careers, including the costs of education, training, and examinations, and may pay approved schools and training programs for providing education and training to program participants.

(b) Eligibility requirements and selection criteria for program participants.

To be eligible to participate in the program authorized by this act, an individual must:

(1) Be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States;

35 (2) Submit a completed application, in such form and with such information and  
36 documentation as may be required by the Mayor; and

37 (3) Be selected for participation by the Mayor based upon:

38 (A) Relevant experience of the individual;

39 (B) Indicators of the individual's ability to successfully complete the  
40 necessary education, training, examination, and licensing, certification, or registration  
41 requirements to serve as a healthcare worker in a high-need healthcare career in the District;

42 (C) Indicators of the individual's ability to serve successfully as a  
43 healthcare worker in a high-need healthcare career;

44 (D) The individual's commitment to serve as a healthcare worker in a high-  
45 need healthcare career in the District for at least 2 years; and

46 (E) Such other factors as the Mayor may establish, which may include  
47 preferential consideration for:

48 (1) Residents of the District;

49 (2) Applicants committing to enroll in a school or training program  
50 located in the District;

51 (3) Residents of a health professional shortage area or medically underserved area  
52 within the District, as such terms are defined in section 2(4) and 2(5) of the District of Columbia  
53 Health Professional Recruitment Program Act of 2005, effective March 8, 2006 (D.C. Law 16-  
54 71; D.C. Official Code § 7-751.01(4) and (5));

55 (4) Applicants that are immediately eligible and available for education or  
56 training;

57 (5) Applicants that commit to longer periods of service as a healthcare worker in a  
58 high-need healthcare career in the District;

59 (6) Applicants who are fluent in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, or  
60 Amharic; and

61 (7) Applicants demonstrating a desire to reside within the District.

62 Sec. 3. Required commitments of program participants.

63 As a condition of participation in the program authorized by this act, each individual  
64 selected for participation in the program shall enter into a contract with the Mayor agreeing to  
65 complete the necessary education, training, and examinations, serve a minimum of 2 years as a  
66 healthcare worker in a high-need healthcare career in the District, and provide such information  
67 and reports on the individual's participation in the program as may be required by the  
68 District. The contract may provide the District with specific remedies for an individual's breach  
69 of the contract, and the District shall have the general right to enforce the contract in law or  
70 equity.

71 Sec. 4. Eligibility requirement and selection criteria for participating schools and training  
72 programs.

73 (a) To be eligible to participate in the program authorized by this act, a school or training  
74 program must be licensed to operate and in good standing in the District or another state.

75 (b) Eligible schools and training programs shall be competitively reviewed and selected by  
76 the Mayor for participation in the program based upon:

77 (1) The number of years during which the school or training program has  
78 successfully provided education or training in the healthcare sector and in high-need healthcare  
79 careers;

80 (2) The quality of the education or training provided by the school or training  
81 program;

82 (3) The school or training program's commitment to train individuals for high-need  
83 healthcare careers; and

84 (4) Such other relevant factors as the Mayor may establish by rule.

85 (c) Preferential consideration for participation in the program shall be given to eligible  
86 schools and training programs located in the District.

87 Sec. 5. Required commitments of participating schools and training programs.

88 As a condition of participation in the program authorized by this act, each school or  
89 training program selected to participate in the program shall enter into a contract with the District  
90 agreeing to educate or train individuals participating in the program, assist the individuals to take  
91 and pass required examinations, pay fees of the individual for examinations necessary for the  
92 individual's licensure, registration, or certification in a high-need health care career, assist the  
93 individuals to submit applications for licensure, registration, or certification in a high-need health  
94 care career, and to submit such reports and information regarding the school or training  
95 program's participation in the program authorized by this section as the District may  
96 require. The contract may provide the District with specific remedies for a school or training  
97 program's breach of the contract, and the District shall have the general right to enforce the  
98 contract in law or equity.

99 Sec. 6. Tax implications.

100

101

102

103

104

An award provided under this act to a program participant or to a participating school or  
training program on the program participant's behalf shall be excluded from the computation of  
the District gross income of the program participant pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 47-  
1803.02(a)(2)(SS).

105           Sec. 7. Rulemaking authority.

106           The Mayor may issue rules to implement this act.

107  
108           Sec. 8. Fiscal impact statement.

109           The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement of the Budget Director as the fiscal impact  
110 statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved  
111 October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

112           Sec. 9. Effective date.

113           This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
114 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), and shall remain in effect for no longer than  
115 90 days, as provided for emergency acts of the Council of the District of Columbia in section  
116 412(a) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 788;  
117 98 D.C. Official Code § 1-204.12(a)).