

Rules and Regulations for the Wavemaker Fellowship Program

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Public Comment

Q1: For Healthcare Applicants: Medical and mental health; clinical social work; pharmacy, dental, behavioral health, ancillary supports, and related healthcare fields- How do you define the applicants who qualify for "related healthcare fields"?

A1: "Related healthcare fields" means those fields or settings in which the primary mission is to provide direct healthcare services -- in contrast to a setting that might employ a health professional, but whose primary mission is not the provision of healthcare services, such as an insurance company.

Q2: Will eligibility be inclusive of all the staff within our provider organizations' infrastructure, i.e. from direct service, Support Coordination, management, to Human Resources, Business office, Administration, grant writing/fund development, among others, as a fair share of our organizations' employees with college degrees are all those mentioned categories besides direct service.

A2: No. The purpose of the statute is to help address critical workforce shortages and needs by supporting the employment of health professionals who directly provide care and services.

Q3: It appears that children's provider clinical employees may qualify under the "Healthcare Applicants" eligibility. We would like to gain clarity on if any of the full-time employees who are rendering care in any of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services programs qualify, for example:

Service Coordinators/Physical Therapists/Speech Language Pathologists in Early Intervention

Full time Behavior Therapists in Applied Behavioral Analysis

Coordinators/Clinicians for the Home Base Therapeutic Services/Personal Assistance Service and Supports programs.

A3: Children's provider clinical employees do qualify. Regarding whether "any of the full-time employees who are rendering care in any of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services programs": Eligible full-time employees are defined by statute and further determined by the Wavemaker selection committee with input from the Department of Labor and Training.

Q4: The proposed amendments appear to expand program eligibility to "healthcare applicants", including to those working as a full time "high-demand...dental practitioner". Does the Commerce Corporation have those terms ("high-demand" and "dental practitioner") defined anywhere? If not formally defined, who is this rule intended to cover? Would it include dental assistants?

A4: Regarding "dental assistants": Only individuals with student loan debt from a two- or four-year institution are eligible for the Wavemaker program; dental assistants who have graduated from such an institution and have student loan debt would be eligible through the Wavemaker program. Generally, the list of eligible dental practitioner occupations is determined by the Wavemaker selection committee with input from the Department of Labor and Training. Regarding "high-demand," the purpose of the statute is to help address critical workforce shortages and needs by supporting the employment of health professionals who directly provide care and services.