Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) Update

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Topics

• Disbursement updates
• Conflict of Interest
• Health Professional Scholarship and Education Debt Reduction Programs
• Specialty Education Loan Repayment Program (SELRP)
• Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)
• VACAA Expansion
• The Rural Interprofessional Faculty Development Initiative (RIFDI)
Disbursement/Oversight

- $1B budget to fund health professions trainee salaries. Largest training program in the US.
- Unique payment process – disbursement agreement
- Authorized by Statute 7406 to be the payroll mechanism to affiliates
- OAA disbursement process has been in place for decades

OAA sends $ to VAMC

VAMC manages educational funds

Affiliates receive reimbursement from VA

Affiliate pays Health Profession Trainees
Accomplishments

• **September 2020**: Oversight & Compliance Unit established

• **April 2021**: New national standardized EARs tool released

• **April/May 2021**: 4 mandatory EARs trainings held

• **March/April 2021**: OAA released 13 EARs Quick Guides training tools, over 15 EARs training videos, and 7 templates

• **August 2021**: EARs Champion position developed, and trainings started

• **August 2021**: VISN consultations

• **Improvements**: Didactics and shared call
Conflict of Interest

Office of General Counsel report identified potential conflicts of interest in DISBURSEMENT PROCESS for VHA clinical educators/leaders

• Affiliate appointments
• Affiliate leadership roles and leaders with affiliate appointments, or
  • Includes
    • VA Site Directors
    • Designated Education Officers (DEOs)
  • Individual ethics consult with OGC
Health Professionals Scholarship Program

Medical School Scholarships (1-4 years)

• Tuition
• Fees
• Equipment
• Stipend
• 18 months of obligation to VA per year

HSPS Review Committee

Apply:  HPSP - Veterans Affairs (intelliworxit.com)
Specialty Education Loan Repayment Program (SELRP)

- Loan repayment
  - $40K annually / $160k max
  - Recent graduates of medical or osteopathic schools; 2+ years of training left
  - 2+ years of obligated service
  - High Priority residencies
    - Psychiatry
    - Family Practice
    - Internal medicine
    - Gastroenterology
    - Urology
    - Geriatric medicine
Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)

• Limited expansion of benefits:
  • May consolidate other federal loans → Direct Loan program by 10/21/2022
  • Full-time employment (federal, state, local, tribal, non-profit)
  • Repayment under income-driven plan
  • Credit for payments after Oct 1, 2007
• Fact Sheet: Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program Overhaul | U.S. Department of Education
Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act (VACAA)

• Few remaining VACAA (Choice Act) GME positions available
• Emphasis is on rural and underserved sites and needed specialties
• Proposals in Congress to increase VA’s GME and non-GME portfolios.
The Rural Interprofessional Faculty Development Initiative (RIFDI)

• 24-month interprofessional faculty development program (VHA Office of Rural Health & OAA)

• Educational leadership, teaching skills, clinical supervision, and management of the clinical learning environment
  • Anchor meetings
  • Site workshops
  • Online modules
  • Peer group meetings
  • Experiential projects

• 2 cohorts: 34 sites, 76 participants, 10 professions in the program