

Colorado Health Care Community Board

Minutes

Conference Call March 17, 2008, 1:30pm (MT)

**Board Members Present:** Brooks, Evetts, Holloway, Pearl, Prado-Gutierrez, Stafford and Wilroy

**Others Present:** Tindall

I. Reviewed Spreadsheet of Applicants

- a. Identified those that had loans that were eligible for purchase by ColleagueInvest.
- b. Discussed the inability of ColleagueInvest to acquire loans of some applicants.
  - i. Private or alternative loans cannot be acquired by ColleagueInvest
  - ii. Some applicants have federal Direct loans and ColleagueInvest, by federal regulations, cannot hold these loans
  - iii. If a borrower has already consolidated (combined all federal loans) the opportunity for ColleagueInvest to acquire the loans is nil
- c. It is anticipated that the acquiring of student loans may very well become easier as the program moves forward. The HSC used to be a federal Direct loan school and that limited ColleagueInvest from loaning to students at the HSC. Since, 2005 the HSC has participated in the FFEL program which permits ColleagueInvest to make loans at the school.
- d. It was requested if there was a means to assist applicants in determining if ColleagueInvest could acquire their loans before completing all the paper work. Why raise hopes if the applicant could be counseled before completing the application? Tindall suggested a brief pre-application that would permit ColleagueInvest to discuss the loan situation with the applicant in advance.

II. Reviewed Program Funding

- a. Funding
  - i. \$186,000 is available for loan forgiveness after ColleagueInvest administrative costs
  - ii. ColleagueInvest administrative fee is estimated at \$17,000 for this year
  - iii. The annual administrative fee cannot exceed \$26,000

III. Awarding Criteria

- a. In the initial year it was determined that HPSA scores would be a deciding factor in the selection process.
- b. For the first year the committee determined to not offer more than one grant per site. One reason for this approach was to reach as many areas of the state as possible with the limited dollars available.

- c. The Board was also interested in the applicant's length of service and commitment to a site. The Board approved, in one situation, a call to a site in order to assist in the evaluation of several applicants.
- d. The Board felt that the dollar amount of the loan repayment had to be meaningful to the applicants.
- e. The applicants' debt load did not play a significant role in the final awarding.
- f. Discussion took place around funding two primary care positions in Northwestern Colorado. The Board decided that both sites had high HPSA scores and merited the two positions. In addition these were the only two eligible applicants representing the Western Slope. Additional discussion took place regarding future requirements of sites.

#### IV. Selection of Applicants

- a. The board recognizes that the selection process for the first year of this program was not ideal due time and planning constraints. The board agreed to target the higher need areas based on the HPSA score, a commitment to serve both rural and urban Colorado, a commitment to recognize the importance of all health care professions and to provide a meaningful amount of loan forgiveness.
- b. See attached spreadsheet for final awards.

#### V. Next Steps

- a. Selected Applicants
  - i. ColleagueInvest will begin contacting the selected applicants and advising them of the award. We will secure an initial confirmation from them as to their interest to accept the award. If they verbally accept a letter will be sent confirming the award and the required agreement.
  - ii. ColleagueInvest will also start working with the selected applicants to secure their loans if applicable.
- b. Applicants not awarded
  - i. ColleagueInvest desires to hold until we have at least a verbal confirmation that the selected applicants will accept the award and it is finally determined that loans can be acquired.
  - ii. ColleagueInvest will send letters to all applicants and advise them of the decisions.
- c. A copy of the three way agreement between Provider, Site and ColleagueInvest will be provided to the Board members upon final review by AG's Office.

#### VI. Adjourned at 2:55pm (MT)