

tion with local and regional trauma systems, essential personnel and other fixed costs, and expenses associated with employee and non-employee physician services; and

(3) to provide emergency relief to ensure the continued and future availability of trauma services.

(b) Minimum qualifications of trauma centers

(1) Participation in trauma care system operating under certain professional guidelines

Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary may not award a grant to a trauma center under subsection (a) unless the trauma center is a participant in a trauma system that substantially complies with section 300d-13 of this title.

(2) Exemption

Paragraph (1) shall not apply to trauma centers that are located in States with no existing trauma care system.

(3) Qualification for substantial uncompensated care costs

The Secretary shall award substantial uncompensated care grants under subsection (a)(1) only to trauma centers meeting at least 1 of the criteria in 1 of the following 3 categories:

(A) Category A

The criteria for category A are as follows:

(i) At least 40 percent of the visits in the emergency department of the hospital in which the trauma center is located were charity or self-pay patients.

(ii) At least 50 percent of the visits in such emergency department were Medicaid (under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.)) and charity and self-pay patients combined.

(B) Category B

The criteria for category B are as follows:

(i) At least 35 percent of the visits in the emergency department were charity or self-pay patients.

(ii) At least 50 percent of the visits in the emergency department were Medicaid and charity and self-pay patients combined.

(C) Category C

The criteria for category C are as follows:

(i) At least 20 percent of the visits in the emergency department were charity or self-pay patients.

(ii) At least 30 percent of the visits in the emergency department were Medicaid and charity and self-pay patients combined.

(4) Trauma centers in 1115 waiver States

Notwithstanding paragraph (3), the Secretary may award a substantial uncompensated care grant to a trauma center under subsection (a)(1) if the trauma center qualifies for funds under a Low Income Pool or Safety Net Care Pool established through a waiver approved under section 1115 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315).

(5) Designation

The Secretary may not award a grant to a trauma center unless such trauma center is

verified by the American College of Surgeons or designated by an equivalent State or local agency.

(c) Additional requirements

The Secretary may not award a grant to a trauma center under subsection (a)(1) unless such trauma center—

(1) submits to the Secretary a plan satisfactory to the Secretary that demonstrates a continued commitment to serving trauma patients regardless of their ability to pay; and

(2) has policies in place to assist patients who cannot pay for part or all of the care they receive, including a sliding fee scale, and to ensure fair billing and collection practices.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XII, §1241, as added Pub. L. 102-321, title VI, §601, July 10, 1992, 106 Stat. 433; amended Pub. L. 111-148, title III, §3505(a)(1), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 522.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Social Security Act, referred to in subsec. (b)(3)(A)(ii), is act Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, 49 Stat. 620. Title XIX of the Act is classified generally to subchapter XIX (§1396 et seq.) of chapter 7 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1305 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2010—Pub. L. 111-148 added subsecs. (a) to (c) and struck out former subsecs. (a) and (b) which related to grants for trauma centers in geographic areas with a significant incidence of violence arising from illicit trafficking in drugs and set forth minimum qualifications of such centers.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Part effective July 10, 1992, with programs making awards providing financial assistance in fiscal year 1993 and subsequent years effective for awards made on or after Oct. 1, 1992, see section 801(b), (d)(1) of Pub. L. 102-321, set out as an Effective Date of 1992 Amendment note under section 236 of this title.

§ 300d-42. Preferences in making grants

(a) Substantial uncompensated care awards

(1) In general

The Secretary shall establish an award basis for each eligible trauma center for grants under section 300d-41(a)(1) of this title according to the percentage described in paragraph (2), subject to the requirements of section 300d-41(b)(3) of this title.

(2) Percentages

The applicable percentages are as follows:

(A) With respect to a category A trauma center, 100 percent of the uncompensated care costs.

(B) With respect to a category B trauma center, not more than 75 percent of the uncompensated care costs.

(C) With respect to a category C trauma center, not more than 50 percent of the uncompensated care costs.

(b) Core mission awards

(1)¹ In general

In awarding grants under section 300d-41(a)(2) of this title, the Secretary shall—

¹ So in original. No par. (2) has been enacted.

(A) reserve 25 percent of the amount allocated for core mission awards for Level III and Level IV trauma centers; and

(B) reserve 25 percent of the amount allocated for core mission awards for large urban Level I and II trauma centers—

(i) that have at least 1 graduate medical education fellowship in trauma or trauma related specialties for which demand is exceeding supply;

(ii) for which—

(I) annual uncompensated care costs exceed \$10,000,000; or

(II) at least 20 percent of emergency department visits are charity or self-pay or Medicaid patients; and

(iii) that are not eligible for substantial uncompensated care awards under section 300d-41(a)(1) of this title.

(c) Emergency awards

In awarding grants under section 300d-41(a)(3) of this title, the Secretary shall—

(1) give preference to any application submitted by a trauma center that provides trauma care in a geographic area in which the availability of trauma care has significantly decreased or will significantly decrease if the center is forced to close or downgrade service or growth in demand for trauma services exceeds capacity; and

(2) reallocate any emergency awards funds not obligated due to insufficient, or a lack of qualified, applications to the significant uncompensated care award program.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XII, §1242, as added Pub. L. 102-321, title VI, §601, July 10, 1992, 106 Stat. 434; amended Pub. L. 111-148, title III, §3505(a)(2), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 523.)

AMENDMENTS

2010—Pub. L. 111-148 added subsecs. (a) to (c) and struck out former subsecs. (a) and (b) which related to preferences in making grants and preferences for certain applications.

§ 300d-43. Certain agreements

(a) Maintenance of financial support

The Secretary may require a trauma center receiving a grant under section 300d-41(a) of this title to maintain access to trauma services at comparable levels to the prior year during the grant period.

(b) Trauma care registry

The Secretary may require the trauma center receiving a grant under section 300d-41(a) of this title to provide data to a national and centralized registry of trauma cases, in accordance with guidelines developed by the American College of Surgeons, and as the Secretary may otherwise require.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XII, §1243, as added Pub. L. 102-321, title VI, §601, July 10, 1992, 106 Stat. 434; amended Pub. L. 111-148, title III, §3505(a)(3), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 524.)

AMENDMENTS

2010—Pub. L. 111-148 added subsecs. (a) and (b) and struck out former subsecs. (a) to (c) which related to

commitment regarding continued participation in trauma care system, maintenance of financial support, and trauma care registry.

§ 300d-44. General provisions

(a) Application

The Secretary may not award a grant to a trauma center under section 300d-41(a) of this title unless such center submits an application for the grant to the Secretary and the application is in such form, is made in such manner, and contains such agreements, assurances, and information as the Secretary determines to be necessary to carry out this part.

(b) Limitation on duration of support

The period during which a trauma center receives payments under a grant under section 300d-41(a)(3) of this title shall be for 3 fiscal years, except that the Secretary may waive such requirement for a center and authorize such center to receive such payments for 1 additional fiscal year.

(c) Limitation on amount of grant

Notwithstanding section 300d-42(a) of this title, a grant under section 300d-41 of this title may not be made in an amount exceeding \$2,000,000 for each fiscal year.

(d) Eligibility

Except as provided in section 300d-42(b)(1)(B)(iii) of this title, acquisition of, or eligibility for, a grant under section 300d-41(a) of this title shall not preclude a trauma center from being eligible for other grants described in such section.

(e) Funding distribution

Of the total amount appropriated for a fiscal year under section 300d-45 of this title, 70 percent shall be used for substantial uncompensated care awards under section 300d-41(a)(1) of this title, 20 percent shall be used for core mission awards under section 300d-41(a)(2) of this title, and 10 percent shall be used for emergency awards under section 300d-41(a)(3) of this title.

(f) Minimum allowance

Notwithstanding subsection (e), if the amount appropriated for a fiscal year under section 300d-45 of this title is less than \$25,000,000, all available funding for such fiscal year shall be used for substantial uncompensated care awards under section 300d-41(a)(1) of this title.

(g) Substantial uncompensated care award distribution and proportional share

Notwithstanding section 300d-42(a) of this title, of the amount appropriated for substantial uncompensated care grants for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall—

(1) make available—

(A) 50 percent of such funds for category A trauma center grantees;

(B) 35 percent of such funds for category B trauma center grantees; and

(C) 15 percent of such funds for category C trauma center grantees; and

(2) provide available funds within each category in a manner proportional to the award basis specified in section 300d-42(a)(2) of this title to each eligible trauma center.