(1) has completed a doctoral degree in computer science or electrical or computer engineering at an accredited institution of higher education during the five-year period preceding the date on which the individual is hired;

(2) is an employee of the Department who serves in a position related to information security (as determined by the Secretary); and

(3) owes any amount of principal or interest under a loan, the proceeds of which were used by or on behalf of that individual to pay costs relating to a doctoral degree in computer science or electrical or computer engineering at an accredited institution of higher education.

(c) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the amount of education debt reduction payments made to an individual under this section may not exceed \$82,500 over a total of five years, of which not more than \$16,500 of such payments may be made in each year.

(2) The total amount payable to an individual under this section for any year may not exceed the amount of the principal and interest on loans referred to in subsection (b)(3) that is paid by the individual during such year.

(d) PAYMENTS.—(1) The Secretary shall make education debt reduction payments under this section on an annual basis.

(2) The Secretary shall make such a payment—

(A) on the last day of the one-year period beginning on the date on which the individual is accepted into the program established under subsection (a); or

(B) in the case of an individual who received a payment under this section for the preceding fiscal year, on the last day of the one-year period beginning on the date on which the individual last received such a payment.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, education debt reduction payments under this section shall not be considered as income or resources in determining eligibility for, or the amount of benefits under, any Federal or federally assisted program.

(e) PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary may make education debt reduction payments to an individual under this section for a year only if the Secretary determines that the individual maintained an acceptable level of performance in the position or positions served by the individual during the year.

(f) NOTIFICATION OF TERMS OF PROVISION OF PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall provide to an individual who receives a payment under this section notice in writing of the terms and conditions that apply to such a payment.

(g) COVERED COSTS.—For purposes of subsection (b)(3), costs relating to a course of education or training include—

(1) tuition expenses; and

(2) all other reasonable educational expenses, including fees, books, and laboratory expenses.

(Added Pub. L. 109-461, title IX, §903(a)(1), Dec. 22, 2006, 120 Stat. 3462; amended Pub. L. 111-275, title X, §1001(*o*), Oct. 13, 2010, 124 Stat. 2897.)

Amendments

2010—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 111–275 substituted "paragraph (3)" for "paragraph (2)".

§ 7904. Preferences in awarding financial assistance

In awarding financial assistance under this chapter, the Secretary shall give a preference to qualified individuals who are otherwise eligible to receive the financial assistance in the following order of priority:

(1) Veterans with service-connected disabilities.

(2) Veterans.

(3) Persons described in section 4215(a)(1)(B) of this title.

(4) Individuals who received or are pursuing degrees at institutions designated by the National Security Agency as Centers of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education.

(5) Citizens of the United States.

(Added Pub. L. 109-461, title IX, §903(a)(1), Dec. 22, 2006, 120 Stat. 3463.)

§ 7905. Requirement of honorable discharge for veterans receiving assistance

No veteran shall receive financial assistance under this chapter unless the veteran was discharged from the Armed Forces under honorable conditions.

(Added Pub. L. 109-461, title IX, §903(a)(1), Dec. 22, 2006, 120 Stat. 3464.)

§ 7906. Regulations

The Secretary shall prescribe regulations for the administration of this chapter.

(Added Pub. L. 109-461, title IX, §903(a)(1), Dec. 22, 2006, 120 Stat. 3464.)

§7907. Termination

The authority of the Secretary to make a payment under this chapter shall terminate on July 31, 2017.

(Added Pub. L. 109-461, title IX, §903(a)(1), Dec. 22, 2006, 120 Stat. 3464.)

PART VI—ACQUISITION AND DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY

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Amendments

Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, \$402(c)(2), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 239, substituted "8101" for "5001" in item for chapter 81, "8201" for "5070" in item for chapter 82, "8301" for "5101" in item for chapter 83, and "8501" for "5201" in item for chapter 85.

1972—Pub. L. 92–541, 2(b), Oct. 24, 1972, 86 Stat. 1107, added item for chapter 82.

Sec.

CHAPTER 81—ACQUISITION AND OPERATION OF HOSPITAL AND DOMICILIARY FACILI-TIES; PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY; EN-HANCED-USE LEASES OF REAL PROPERTY

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Amendment of Analysis

Pub. L. 108-422, title IV, §411(c)(2), (f), Nov. 30, 2004, 118 Stat. 2389, 2390, provided that, effective at the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date on which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs certifies to Congress that the Secretary is in compliance with section 1710B(b) of this title, this analysis is amended by striking out item 8116.

Amendments

2012—Pub. L. 112—154, title II, §211(i)(3), Aug. 6, 2012, 126 Stat. 1182, added item 8168.

- 2010-Pub. L. 111-163, title V, §501(b)(2), May 5, 2010, 124 Stat. 1157, struck out item 8107 "Operational and construction plans for medical facilities"
- 2008—Pub. L. 110-387, title VII, §708(c), Oct. 10, 2008, 122 Stat. 4140, added item 8119.

2006—Pub. L. 109–461, title II, 211(c)(2), title V, $5502(a)(2),\ 503(a)(2),\ Dec.\ 22,\ 2006,\ 120\ Stat.\ 3421,\ 3435,$ 3436, added items 8127, 8128, and 8138.

2004-Pub. L. 108-422, title IV, §411(a)(2), Nov. 30, 2004, 118 Stat. 2389, added item 8118.

2003—Pub. L. 108-170, title II, §202(d)(2), Dec. 6, 2003, 117 Stat. 2048, substituted "Hearing and notice requirements regarding proposed leases" for "Designation of property to be leased" in item 8163.

2002—Pub. L. 107–314, div. A, title VII, §721(a)(2), Dec. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 2595, substituted "Sharing of Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense health care resources" for "Sharing of Department and Department of Defense health-care resources" in item 8111.

Pub. L. 107-287, §6(a)(2), Nov. 7, 2002, 116 Stat. 2032, added item 8117.

1997—Pub. L. 105-114, title II, §205(b)(2), Nov. 21, 1997, 111 Stat. 2289, struck out item 8168 "Limitation on number of agreements"

1996-Pub. L. 104-262, title III, §301(d)(2), Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3193, substituted "Sharing of health-care re-sources" for "Specialized medical resources" in item 8153.

1994—Pub. L. 103-446, title XII, §1201(h)(5), (6), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4688, inserted "ENHANCED-USE" before "LEASES OF REAL" in chapter heading and "and certain other Federal agencies" after "Department" in item 8126.

1992-Pub. L. 102-585, title VI, §603(a)(2), Nov. 4, 1992, 106 Stat. 4975, added item 8126.

Pub. L. 102-405, title I, §103(a)(2), Oct. 9, 1992, 106 Stat. 1975, added items 8157 and 8158.

1991—Pub. L. 102-86, title IV, §401(b)(1), (3), Aug. 14, 1991, 105 Stat. 422, inserted "; LEASES OF REAL PROPERTY" in chapter heading and added analysis for subchapter V.

Pub. L. 102-83, §4(a)(3), (4), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404, substituted "Department and" for "Veterans' Administration and" in item 8111.

Pub. L. 102-54, §14(f)(1), June 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 287, amended the table of sections as in effect immediately before the enactment of Pub. L. 102-40 by transferring item 5016 so as to appear immediately after item 5015