

(6) Meanings of terms

In applying sections 239a, 239b, 239c, 239d, and 239e of this title for purposes of this section—

(A) the terms “vaccine” and “smallpox vaccine” shall be deemed to mean a covered countermeasure;

(B) the terms “smallpox vaccine injury table” and “table established under section 239b of this title” shall be deemed to refer to the table established under paragraph (4); and

(C) other terms used in those sections shall have the meanings given to such terms by this section.

(c) Voluntary program

The Secretary shall ensure that a State, local, or Department of Health and Human Services plan to administer or use a covered countermeasure is consistent with any declaration under 247d-6d of this title and any applicable guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and that potential participants are educated with respect to contraindications, the voluntary nature of the program, and the availability of potential benefits and compensation under this part.

(d) Exhaustion; exclusivity; election**(1) Exhaustion**

Subject to paragraph (5), a covered individual may not bring a civil action under section 247d-6d(d) of this title against a covered person (as such term is defined in section 247d-6d(i)(2) of this title) unless such individual has exhausted such remedies as are available under subsection (a), except that if amounts have not by law been provided for the Fund under subsection (a), or if the Secretary fails to make a final determination on a request for benefits or compensation filed in accordance with the requirements of this section within 240 days after such request was filed, the individual may seek any remedy that may be available under section 247d-6d(d) of this title.

(2) Tolling of statute of limitations

The time limit for filing a civil action under section 247d-6d(d) of this title for an injury or death shall be tolled during the pendency of a claim for compensation under subsection (a).

(3) Rule of construction

This section shall not be construed as superseding or otherwise affecting the application of a requirement, under chapter 171 of title 28, to exhaust administrative remedies.

(4) Exclusivity

The remedy provided by subsection (a) shall be exclusive of any other civil action or proceeding for any claim or suit this section encompasses, except for a proceeding under section 247d-6d of this title.

(5) Election

If under subsection (a) the Secretary determines that a covered individual qualifies for compensation, the individual has an election to accept the compensation or to bring an ac-

tion under section 247d-6d(d) of this title. If such individual elects to accept the compensation, the individual may not bring such an action.

(e) Definitions

For purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) Covered countermeasure

The term “covered countermeasure” has the meaning given such term in section 247d-6d of this title.

(2) Covered individual

The term “covered individual”, with respect to administration or use of a covered countermeasure pursuant to a declaration, means an individual—

(A) who is in a population specified in such declaration, and with respect to whom the administration or use of the covered countermeasure satisfies the other specifications of such declaration; or

(B) who uses the covered countermeasure, or to whom the covered countermeasure is administered, in a good faith belief that the individual is in the category described by subparagraph (A).

(3) Covered injury

The term “covered injury” means serious physical injury or death.

(4) Declaration

The term “declaration” means a declaration under section 247d-6d(b) of this title.

(5) Eligible individual

The term “eligible individual” means an individual who is determined, in accordance with subsection (b), to be a covered individual who sustains a covered injury.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title III, §319F-4, as added Pub. L. 109-148, div. C, §3, Dec. 30, 2005, 119 Stat. 2829.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

H. Con. Res. 95 of the 109th Congress, referred to in subsec. (a), is H. Con. Res. 95, Apr. 28, 2005, 119 Stat. 3633, which is not classified to the Code.

§ 247d-7. Demonstration program to enhance bioterrorism training, coordination, and readiness**(a) In general**

The Secretary shall make grants to not more than three eligible entities to carry out demonstration programs to improve the detection of pathogens likely to be used in a bioterrorist attack, the development of plans and measures to respond to bioterrorist attacks, and the training of personnel involved with the various responsibilities and capabilities needed to respond to acts of bioterrorism upon the civilian population. Such awards shall be made on a competitive basis and pursuant to scientific and technical review.

(b) Eligible entities

Eligible entities for grants under subsection (a) are States, political subdivisions of States, and public or private non-profit organizations.

(c) Specific criteria

In making grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall take into account the following factors:

(1) Whether the eligible entity involved is proximate to, and collaborates with, a major research university with expertise in scientific training, identification of biological agents, medicine, and life sciences.

(2) Whether the entity is proximate to, and collaborates with, a laboratory that has expertise in the identification of biological agents.

(3) Whether the entity demonstrates, in the application for the program, support and participation of State and local governments and research institutions in the conduct of the program.

(4) Whether the entity is proximate to, and collaborates with, or is, an academic medical center that has the capacity to serve an uninsured or underserved population, and is equipped to educate medical personnel.

(5) Such other factors as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(d) Duration of award

The period during which payments are made under a grant under subsection (a) may not exceed 5 years. The provision of such payments shall be subject to annual approval by the Secretary of the payments and subject to the availability of appropriations for the fiscal year involved to make the payments.

(e) Supplement not supplant

Grants under subsection (a) shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, other Federal, State, or local public funds provided for the activities described in such subsection.

(f) Government Accountability Office report

Not later than 180 days after the conclusion of the demonstration programs carried out under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Committee on Commerce and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, a report that describes the ability of grantees under such subsection to detect pathogens likely to be used in a bioterrorist attack, develop plans and measures for dealing with such threats, and train personnel involved with the various responsibilities and capabilities needed to deal with bioterrorist threats.

(g) Authorization of appropriations

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2001, and such sums as may be necessary through fiscal year 2006.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title III, §319G, as added Pub. L. 106-505, title I, §102, Nov. 13, 2000, 114 Stat. 2323; amended Pub. L. 108-271, §8(b), July 7, 2004, 118 Stat. 814.)

Editorial Notes**AMENDMENTS**

2004—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 108-271 substituted “Government Accountability Office” for “General Accounting Office” in heading.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**CHANGE OF NAME**

Committee on Commerce of House of Representatives changed to Committee on Energy and Commerce of House of Representatives, and jurisdiction over matters relating to securities and exchanges and insurance generally transferred to Committee on Financial Services of House of Representatives by House Resolution No. 5, One Hundred Seventh Congress, Jan. 3, 2001.

§ 247d-7a. Grants regarding training and education of certain health professionals**(a) In general**

The Secretary may make awards of grants and cooperative agreements to appropriate public and nonprofit private health or educational entities, including health professions schools and programs as defined in section 295p of this title, for the purpose of providing low-interest loans, partial scholarships, partial fellowships, revolving loan funds, or other cost-sharing forms of assistance for the education and training of individuals in any category of health professions for which there is a shortage that the Secretary determines should be alleviated in order to prepare for or respond effectively to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies.

(b) Authority regarding non-Federal contributions

The Secretary may require as a condition of an award under subsection (a) that a grantee under such subsection provide non-Federal contributions toward the purpose described in such subsection.

(c) Authorization of appropriations

For the purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2002 through 2006.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title III, §319H, as added Pub. L. 107-188, title I, §106, June 12, 2002, 116 Stat. 607.)

§ 247d-7b. Emergency system for advance registration of volunteer health professional**(a) In general**

Not later than 12 months after December 19, 2006, the Secretary shall link existing State verification systems to maintain a single national interoperable network of systems, each system being maintained by a State or group of States, for the purpose of verifying the credentials and licenses of health care professionals who volunteer to provide health services during a public health emergency. Such health care professionals may include members of the National Disaster Medical System, members of the Medical Reserve Corps, and individual health care professionals.

(b) Requirements

The interoperable network of systems established under subsection (a) (referred to in this section as the “verification network”) shall include—

(1) with respect to each volunteer health professional included in the verification network—