**Section 598.120 Criteria for Selecting Scholarship Recipients**

a) Preference shall be given to those scholarship applicants who, in written narratives and personal interviews, demonstrate the following:

1) Interest in pursuing a degree and licensure or certification as a certified nurse practitioner, physician assistant, certified registered nurse anesthetist or certified nurse midwife;

2) Previous experience with medically underserved populations;

3) Previous experience in rural practice, with preference given to those whose experience has involved one of the primary care specialty areas;

4) Academic capabilities as reported by the applicant's approved school;

5) Financial need as reported by standard financial analysis documentation supplied by the applicant's school on the student's behalf;

6) Greater number of years of school remaining;

7) Stated interest in providing primary health care to citizens residing in designated shortage areas of Illinois;

8) Most number of years of residence in Illinois; and

9) United States citizens or lawful permanent residents.

b) Of all applicants, priority shall be given to those individuals who have previously received a scholarship, provided that:

1) Recipient requests, in a format determined by the Department, a continuation of scholarship funds;

2) Recipient would not be repeating the same year of school for the second consecutive year because of poor academic performance; and

3) Recipient has not voluntarily withdrawn from school.

c) When the number of applicants is sufficient, scholarships will be equally distributed among all applicants by profession.

(Source: Amended at 36 Ill. Reg. 2345, effective January 27, 2012)