

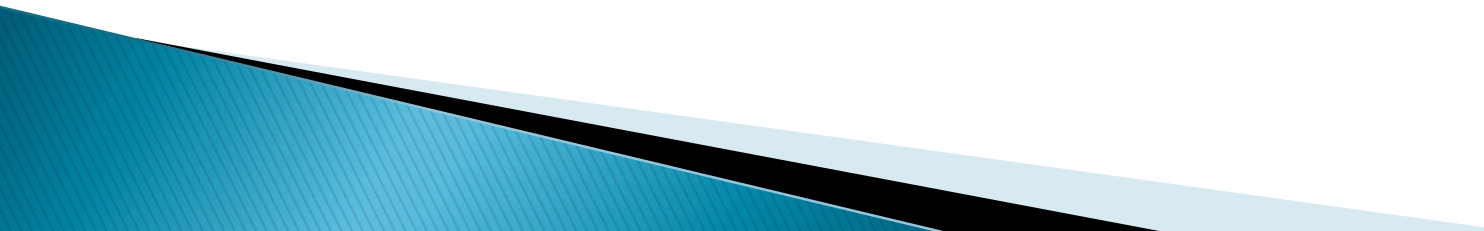
# RSA Grant Informational Meeting



**Dr. Connie McReynolds**  
Program Coordinator & Grant Director

**Dr. Priyanka Yalamanchili**  
Grant Clinical Coordinator

# Application For RSA Scholarship

- Based on the availability of funding, the Rehabilitation Counseling program at California State University San Bernardino is pleased to make competitive awards of scholarships to Rehabilitation Counseling graduate students who are selected each year by program faculty.
  - In order to compete for an RSA Scholarship, the student must complete the following application and return it to Dr. McReynolds by the stated date.
  - Students who received funding must reapply each year by the stated date.
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# Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Training Grant

- ▶ Purpose of the training grant
  - Train qualified rehabilitation counselors to provide counseling and rehabilitation services such as vocational evaluation and job placement to persons with disabilities.
- ▶ Funding for tuition support
- ▶ Competitive application process
- ▶ Full tuition coverage may not always be possible
  - Students are responsible for paying any tuition not covered
- ▶ Grant managed by Dr. McReynolds and Dr. Yalamanchili

# Payback of the Grant

- ▶ Upon graduation students are to seek qualified employment
  - Department of Rehabilitation or
  - Other non-profit community-based organization:
    - Rehabilitation Facilities
    - Universities/Community Colleges
    - County or Federal Programs
    - Inland Regional Center
- ▶ Two years post-graduation to obtain employment
  - Work 2 years for every year of funding
- ▶ Most students working four years to meet payback requirements
- ▶ Students may deferral payment if pursuing licensure training or doctoral work
- ▶ Option to payback funding

# Certification of Eligibility for Federal Assistance

Conditions for applying for **Federal funds**:

- ▶ Applicant does not owe a debt to the federal government, or is current in repaying a debt, not in default on a debt to the Federal Government under a previous loan, scholarship, grant, or cooperative agreement.

OR

- ▶ Has made arrangements with the federal government to repay a debt which was not been current or was in default.

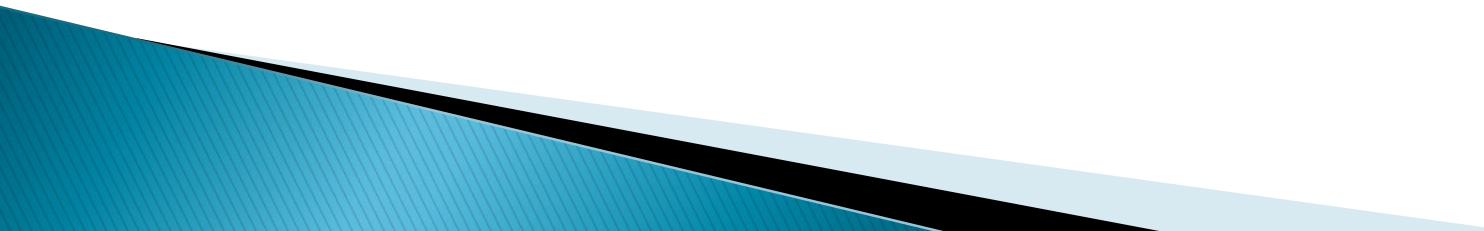
# Prioritized Selection Criteria

1. Describe how your background and your personal beliefs and values demonstrate your commitment to a career in rehabilitation counseling and to serving individuals with disabilities.
2. Describe your plans for completing your practicum and internship (plans do not need to be finalized).
  - Reminder – a minimum of one semester (or equivalent) of internship must be completed at a designated State rehabilitation agency (e.g., CA DOR).
3. Describe your plans for using the \$1,000 professional development monies (some examples are membership dues for professional associations, conference travel/participation, training events).
4. Provide a statement of financial need (either FAFSA report, or narrative explanation when FAFSA is not available).

## Does RSA specify the geographical location in which the work requirement must be satisfied?

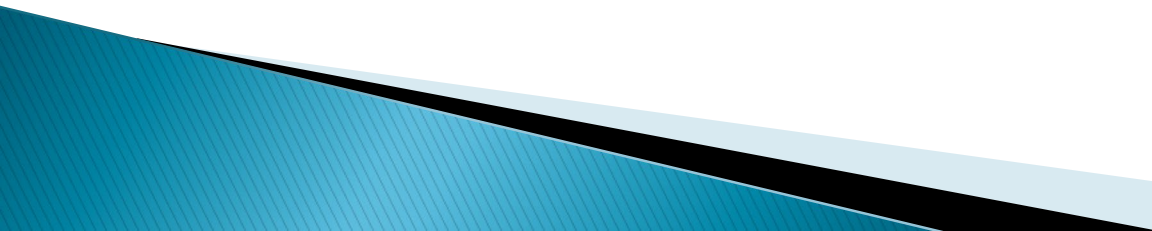
- Regulations implementing the payback requirement **do not** specify the geographical location in which the work requirement must be satisfied.
- An RSA scholar may select where he/she wishes to seek and maintain employment, provided that within the required period of time following the completion of his or her training, the employment obligation is fulfilled with a State VR agency or related agency. (34 CFR 386.40).
- RSA scholars should be aware that due to recent economic conditions, it is not uncommon for scholars to relocate in order to secure qualifying employment.

# What is the definition of a State VR agency?

- State vocational rehabilitation agency means the **designated State agency** as defined in 34 CFR 361.5(c)(13).
  - For California, this means the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR).
  - If you are looking at employment in other states and are not sure if an agency is a designated State agency, please contact us.
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# What is meant by a "related agency?"

- Congress recognized that State VR agencies often accomplish their mission through formal or informal agreements with other programs.
  - The employment obligation may be met by obtaining and maintaining employment in the field in which the scholar was trained in a related agency providing services under an agreement with a State VR agency.
  - A related agency may include a Federal or State agency, a nonprofit organization, or a for-profit professional corporation or professional practice group, so long as there is an informal or formal agreement with the State VR agency. (34 CFR 386.4)
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## **Must scholars serve State VR clients exclusively in full- or part-time employment in a related agency?**

- If a scholar works for a related agency, he/she is not required to serve only rehabilitation clients of the State-Federal programs of VR, supported employment, or independent living in his/her job.
- The requirement can be met if he/she is employed on a full- or part-time basis by the qualifying organization, and the work is as a consultant or practitioner serving rehabilitation clients under an agreement with a State VR agency. (34 CFR 386.4; 34 CFR 386.40)

# Must scholars work on a full-time basis in a qualifying agency?

No.

- A scholar may work on a full- or part-time basis for either the State VR agency or a related agency.
- If a scholar works part-time, he/she still has an obligation to work the full-time equivalent of two years for each year for which assistance was provided within a period of not more than the sum of the number of years owed and two additional years.
- Depending on the length of the service obligation, it may not be possible for a scholar to meet all of his/her service obligation while working part-time. (34 CFR 386.40(a) (7))

# **Does volunteer work count towards the payback requirement?**

No.

Volunteer work does not count towards the payback work requirement.



# If a scholar engages in employment for a State VR agency or related agency while in training, will that count toward payback?

No.

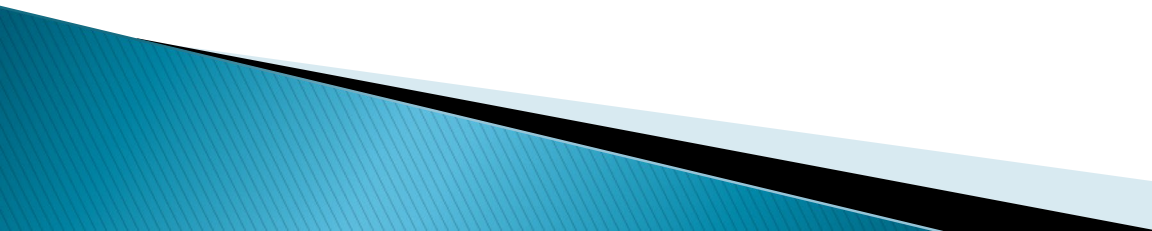
- Rehabilitation employment while in training for which the scholarship was awarded **does not** meet the work requirement.
- The regulations clearly state that the scholar will maintain employment in a qualifying agency "beginning **after** the recipient completes the training for which the scholarship was awarded."  
(34 CFR 386.40).

# What happens if I can't complete the payback requirements within the timeframe?

Contact us for more details specific to your case. In general, there are three possibilities:

1. If there are no extenuating circumstances (or we haven't heard from you after repeated requests for updates), then we will submit paperwork to RSA for them to contact you regarding monetary payment of the remaining amount owed.
2. If there are extenuating circumstances, such as continuing your education in a rehabilitation counseling doctoral program, you can ask for a deferral by contacting us to complete the necessary paperwork to submit to RSA. Deferrals are not automatic and can take time for approval.
3. If you have a permanent disability (must have worsened since entry into the program of study or you must have acquired additional disabilities for a waiver to be granted), you can ask for a waiver by contacting us to complete the necessary paperwork to submit to RSA. Deferrals are not automatic and can take time for approval.

# RSA Scholarship Agreement

- ▶ An expectation that the scholar will complete a minimum of one semester (or an equivalent of 300 hours over two semesters) of fieldwork at a designated State rehabilitation agency (e.g., CA DOR).
  - ▶ An expectation that the scholar will maintain or seek employment as a rehabilitation counselor in a State vocational rehabilitation agency or related agency as defined in 34 CFR 386.4 after graduating or leaving the program.
  - ▶ Scholarship funds include all disbursements or credits for student stipends, tuition and fees, and student travel in conjunction with training assignments.
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# RSA Scholars Agreement

- The scholar agrees to maintain employment as a rehabilitation counselor --
  - (a) in a State vocational rehabilitation agency or related agency as defined in 34 CFR 386.4;
  - (b) on a full- or part-time basis; and
  - (c) for a period of not less than the full-time equivalent of two years for each academic year for which scholarship assistance was received beginning after completing the training for which the scholarship was awarded.
- If the payback is not met by the RSA scholar, the scholar will repay all or part of any scholarship received, plus interest.
- The employment obligation as applied to a part-time scholar will be based on the equivalent total of actual academic years of training received.
- Until the employment obligation is satisfied, the scholar will inform the Rehabilitation Counseling Program of any change of name, address, or employment status and will document employment satisfying the terms of the agreement.



# Submit Application



Includes a 1 to 2 page response to the four selection criteria listed below:

- (1) a completed and signed Scholarship Agreement,
- (2) a signed Certification of Eligibility for Financial Assistance form,
- (3) documentation of U.S. citizenship or legal permanent resident status per 34 CFR 386.33 (a)(1) & (a)(2)
- (4) contact information for someone who the RC Program can contact if we are unable to contact you.

The Rehabilitation Counseling faculty may ask to interview you in order to clarify or expand on your responses.

# RSA Scholar Contact Form

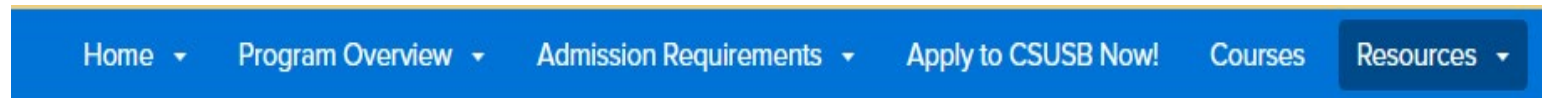
Please provide the following information for someone who the CSUSB Rehabilitation Counseling Program can contact if we are unable to contact you.

This is to be a person who is at least 21 years old; can include a parent, relative, spouse, partner, or sibling. RSA requires programs to collect this information. The information provided below will be kept confidential unless requested by RSA.

- ▶ Name:
  - ▶ Address:
  - ▶ Home Phone #:
  - ▶ Cell Phone #:
  - ▶ Work Phone #:
  - ▶ Email:
  - ▶ Relationship to You:
- 

# RSA Documents

The RSA Training Grant Manual can be located on the Rehabilitation Counseling website under the Resources tab.



## RSA Training Grant Documents & Forms

- [RSA Scholarship Manual](#)
- [Certification of Eligibility for Federal Assistance in Certain Programs Form](#)
- [Application for RSA Scholarship Form](#)
- [RSA Scholar Alternate Contact Person Form](#)

<https://www.csusb.edu/rehabilitation-counseling-program/resources/rsa-training-grant>