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Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) Update

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Topics

- Disbursement updates
- Conflict of Interest
- Health Professional Scholarship and Education Debt Reduction Programs
- Specialty Education Loan Repayment Program (SELRP)
- Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)
- VACAA Expansion
- The Rural Interprofessional Faculty Development Initiative (RIFDI)



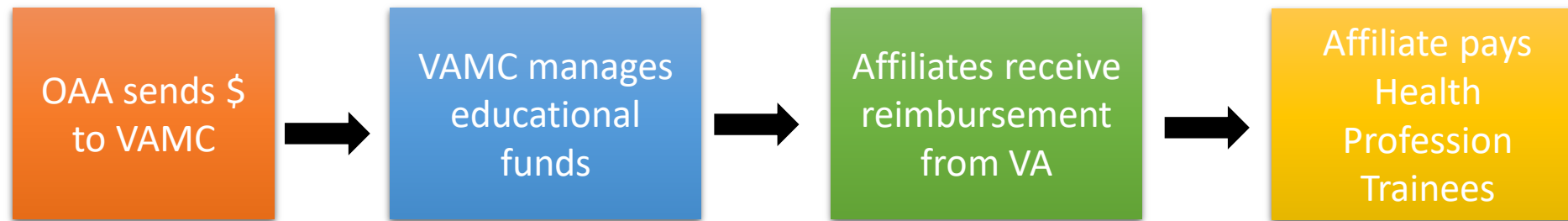
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Disbursement/Oversight

- \$1B budget to fund health professions trainee salaries. Largest training program in the US.
- Unique payment process – disbursement agreement
- Authorized by Statute 7406 to be the payroll mechanism to affiliates
- OAA disbursement process has been in place for decades



Accomplishments

- **September 2020:** Oversight & Compliance Unit established
- **April 2021:** New national standardized EARs tool released
- **April/May 2021:** 4 mandatory EARs trainings held
- **March/April 2021:** OAA released 13 EARs Quick Guides training tools, over 15 EARs training videos, and 7 templates
- **August 2021:** EARs Champion position developed, and trainings started
- **August 2021:** VISN consultations
- **Improvements:** Didactics and shared call



Conflict of Interest

Office of General Counsel report identified potential conflicts of interest in DISBURSEMENT PROCESS for VHA clinical educators/leaders

- Affiliate appointments
- Affiliate leadership roles and leaders with affiliate appointments, or
 - Includes
 - VA Site Directors
 - Designated Education Officers (DEOs)
 - **Individual ethics consult with OGC**



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Health Professionals Scholarship Program

Medical School Scholarships (1-4 years)

- Tuition
- Fees
- Equipment
- Stipend
- 18 months of obligation to VA per year

HSPS Review Committee

Apply: [HPSP - Veterans Affairs \(intelliworxit.com\)](https://intelliworxit.com/HPSP-Veterans-Affairs)



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Specialty Education Loan Repayment Program (SELRP)

- Loan repayment
 - \$40K annually / \$160k max
 - Recent graduates of medical or osteopathic schools; 2+ years of training left
 - 2+ years of obligated service
 - High Priority residencies
 - Psychiatry
 - Family Practice
 - Internal medicine
 - Gastroenterology
 - Urology
 - Geriatric medicine



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Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)

- Limited expansion of benefits:
 - May consolidate other federal loans → Direct Loan program by 10/21/2022
 - Full-time employment (federal, state, local, tribal, non-profit)
 - Repayment under income-driven plan
 - Credit for payments after Oct 1, 2007
 - [Fact Sheet: Public Service Loan Forgiveness \(PSLF\) Program Overhaul | U.S. Department of Education](#)



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Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act (VACAA)

- Few remaining VACAA (Choice Act) GME positions available
- Emphasis is on rural and underserved sites and needed specialties
- Proposals in Congress to increase VA's GME and non-GME portfolios.



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The Rural Interprofessional Faculty Development Initiative (RIFDI)

- 24-month interprofessional faculty development program (VHA Office of Rural Health & OAA)
- Educational leadership, teaching skills, clinical supervision, and management of the clinical learning environment
 - Anchor meetings
 - Site workshops
 - Online modules
 - Peer group meetings
 - Experiential projects
- 2 cohorts: 34 sites, 76 participants, 10 professions in the program



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Questions?



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