

**APPROVED
JUNE 4, 2019**

Item #G-4
June 4, 2019

**ADOPTED AMENDMENTS TO RULES:
NURSING SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM**

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: This item seeks final adoption of amendments to the rules for the Nursing School Grant Program. Program changes are needed due to the reduction in state funding, the call to expand baccalaureate completion programs, the required cross references to the rules for the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA), and the addition of masters entry level programs. Emergency amendments were adopted by the Board at the August 2, 2018 meeting to implement the program changes before the Fiscal Year 2019 grant applications were released. These emergency rules have since expired due to an unexpected delay with incorporating the GATA rules. Amendments are needed before proposals are solicited and grants awarded in Fiscal Year 2020.

In accordance with the Illinois Administrative Procedures Act [5 ILCS 100], the proposed amendments were published in the *Illinois Register* on March 8, 2019, which initiated the 45-day public notice period. No comments were received during this time. The proposed amendments will be reviewed by the staff of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and considered by the committee members at the June 11, 2019 meeting. The rulemaking is ready for Board adoption, pending no objection from JCAR.

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education adopt the amendments for the Nursing School Grant Program (23 Ill. Admin. Code 1100) as contained in this item.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**ADOPTED AMENDMENTS TO RULES:
NURSING SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM**

This item requests adoption of amendments to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) rules for the Nursing School Grant Program. The goal of this program is to increase the number of nurses graduating from Illinois institutions of higher learning who are prepared for careers as registered professional nurses.

The amendments address four issues. First, the on-going reductions in state funds appropriated to IBHE for this program have hampered the effectiveness of the grants. Funds went from \$1.5 million in 2007 and gradually decreased to \$373,900 in 2018. The amendments remove the structure of separate expansion and improvement grants to provide IBHE with greater flexibility to fund smaller projects.

Second, the program will help address the call to provide baccalaureate training for registered professional nurses in regions throughout the State. Illinois nursing schools are interested in partnering with one or more other schools to align their curriculum so that students can transfer seamlessly from associate degree to baccalaureate degree programs. The amendments place the top priority on funding the collaborative programs.

Third, the rule was amended to add cross references to the newly adopted administrative rules to implement the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act [30 ILCS 708]. The Act required the establishment of uniform administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements for State and federal pass-through awards to non-federal entities. State awarding entities such as IBHE are prohibited from imposing additional or inconsistent requirements. Similar cross references will be proposed for IBHE rules that implement other grant programs.

Fourth, the advisory board for the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center has been engaged with IBHE in developing the amendments and asked that the eligible programs be expanded to include the masters entry level. These are relatively new programs for students with bachelor's degrees in other fields who want to transition into nursing and seek licensure as a registered professional nurse. This program is offered by five institutions in Illinois, i.e., DePaul University, Elmhurst College, Millikin University, Rush University, and University of Illinois at Chicago.

This item seeks final adoption of the amendments for Nursing School Grant Program. Upon Board action and pending no objection from the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules, the adopted amendments will be filed with the Secretary of State and become effective immediately.

Attachment 1 is the current rule with amendments shown in strikeout and underline. The final rule with the adopted amendments is shown in Attachment 2.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby adopts the amendments to the rules for the Nursing School Grant Program (23 Ill. Adm. Code 1100) as detailed in the document attached to the item, pending no objection by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.

ATTACHMENT 1: AMENDMENTS TO RULE

**TITLE 23: EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES
SUBTITLE A: EDUCATION
CHAPTER II: BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**PART 1100
NURSING SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM**

Section	
1100.100	Purpose
1100.200	Definitions
1100.300	Eligible Nursing Program
1100.400	Application Process
<u>1100.420</u>	<u>Grant Awards</u>
1100.500	Expansion Grants <u>(Repealed)</u>
1100.600	Improvement Grants <u>(Repealed)</u>
1100.700	Award Process
1100.800	Audit Requirements
<u>1100.900</u>	<u>Post-Award Requirements</u>

AUTHORITY: Implementing and authorized by Section 9.31 of the Board of Higher Education Act [110 ILCS 205].

SOURCE: Emergency rules adopted at 30 Ill. Reg. 17113, effective October 16, 2006, for a maximum of 150 days; adopted at 31 Ill. Reg. 3145, effective February 7, 2007; amended at 35 Ill. Reg. 17458, effective October 14, 2011; emergency amendment at 42 Ill. Reg. 16096, effective August 6, 2018, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency expired January 2, 2019; amended at 43 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____.

Section 1100.100 Purpose

The purpose of the Nursing School Grant Program is to address the nursing shortage in Illinois by *increasing the number of nurses graduating from Illinois institutions of higher learning* [110 ILCS 205/9.31]. ~~The Program is comprised of two grant categories: Expansion Grants and Improvement Grants. Grants for both categories shall be awarded on the basis of performance criteria~~ [110 ILCS 205/9.31] and a competitive application process.

(Source: Amended at 43 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.200 Definitions

"ACEN" means Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.

"Awardee" or "Grantee" means, for the purposes of this Part, an institution of higher learning that offers an eligible nursing program and carries out a grant/award as a recipient.

"Baccalaureate Completion Program" means, for the purposes of this Part, courses and bachelor's degree programs offered by 4-year degree-granting colleges and universities via an online program or at a location geographically

convenient to student populations currently being served by an existing institution of higher learning.

"Board" means the Board of Higher Education.

"CCNE" means the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

"Community College" means the public community colleges of this State.

"DFPR" means the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

"Eligible Nursing Program" means a nursing program at an Illinois institution of higher learning that prepares registered professional nurses in accordance with Section 1100.300 and offers at least one of the following nursing degree programs:

"ADN" means an Associate Degree in Nursing. Upon completion of the program, a graduate must be eligible to take the examination (NCLEX-RN) for licensure as a registered professional nurse.

"BSN" means a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. This program admits pre-licensure students and awards a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. Upon completion of the program, a graduate must be eligible to take the examination (NCLEX-RN) for licensure as a registered professional nurse.

"RN-BSN" means a baccalaureate completion program that admits registered professional nurses and awards a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing.

"MSN Entry" means a Master's of Science in Nursing program for students with bachelor's degrees in other fields who want to transition into nursing. Upon completion of the program, a graduate must be eligible to take the examination (NCLEX-RN) for licensure as a registered professional nurse.

~~"DFPR" means the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation or its successor.~~

~~"Expansion Grant" means a competitive grant, renewable for up to three years, under this Part that supports high performing eligible nursing schools for the purpose of expanding nursing program capacity and either increasing the number of students preparing for initial licensure as registered nurses (ADN or BSN) or increasing the number of registered nurses completing baccalaureate completion programs (RN-BSN).~~

~~"Improvement Grant" means an annual competitive grant under this Part that supports eligible nursing schools with the purpose of increasing student retention and improving institutional NCLEX-RN pass rates.~~

"GATA" means the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act [30 ILCS 708].

"GATA Rule" means 44 Ill. Adm. Code 7000.

"GATU" means the Grant Accountability and Transparency Unit within the Illinois Governor's Office of Management and Budget.

"Grant Period" or "Period of Performance" means the time during which the awardee may incur new obligations to carry out the work authorized under the grant. The Board will include the start and end dates in the award.

"Institution of Higher Learning" means a public or nonpublic institution of higher education located within Illinois that offers associate, baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate degrees and that is authorized to operate in the State of Illinois.

~~"NLNAC" means the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission.~~

"NCLEX-RN" means the National Council Licensure Examination-Registered Nurse. Passing the NCLEX-RN is required of candidates for licensure as a registered professional nurse~~Registered Nurse~~ (RN) in Illinois.

"Performance Goal" means a target level of performance expressed as a tangible, measurable objective or as a qualitative standard, value or rate. A performance goal includes a performance indicator, a target, and a time period, and must be expressed in an objective, quantifiable or measurable form when possible. When necessary, the Board and an awardee shall use an alternative performance goal (such as a set of milestones) described in a way that makes it possible to discern whether progress is being made toward that goal.

"Program" means the Nursing School Grant Program.

(Source: Amended at 43 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.300 Eligible Nursing Program

Illinois institutions of higher learning offering registered professional nursing degree programs must meet the following criteria to be eligible to receive a grant under this Part:

- a) ADN programs must:
 - 1) Be approved by DFPR;
 - 2) Be accredited by ~~ACEN~~NLNAC; and
 - 3) Have an articulation agreement with at least one institution of higher learning that offers baccalaureate degrees for registered professional nurses.
- b) BSN programs must:
 - 1) Be approved by DFPR; and

- 2) Be accredited by CCNE or ACEN/NLNAAC.
- c) RN-BSN programs must be accredited by ~~the~~ CCNE or ACEN~~the NLNAAC~~.
- d) MSN Entry program must:
 - 1) Be approved by DFPR; and
 - 2) Be accredited by CCNE or ACEN.

(Source: Amended at 43 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.400 Application Process

- a) Eligible nursing programs, as defined in this Part, will be notified by the Board when funding opportunities and application materials for grant opportunities under this Part are available.
- b) Application materials may be obtained from the Illinois Board of Higher Education, 1 N. Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite #333431 East Adams Street, Second Floor, Springfield IL, Illinois 62701-1404 or the Board's website at www.ibhe.org.
- c) ~~This State-funded program is subject to GATA. GATA rules are cross-referenced in this Part. Completed application materials signed by the institution's chief executive officer must be received by the Board by the announced deadline for the submission of applications, which shall not be less than 45 days from the announcement and release of application materials. Application materials will be due no later than October 31 of each year.~~
- d) Completed application materials must be signed by the institution's authorized representative and received by the Board by the announced deadline for the submission of applications, which shall not be less than 45 days from the announcement and release of application materials. Application materials will be due no later than October 31 of each year. Grantees maintaining eligibility criteria in accordance with Section 1100.500(b) or Section 1100.600(b) may annually reapply for funding.

(Source: Amended at 43 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.420 Grant Awards

- a) In a given fiscal year, the Program appropriations shall be allocated for projects based on the following order of priority:
 - 1) Funding for baccalaureate completion programs to facilitate student articulation from an ADN program offered by a community college to a BSN or RN-BSN program;
 - 2) Funding for continuation of a grant previously awarded under this Part;
or

- 3) Funding for a new grant to expand or improve an eligible nursing program.
- b) Grant applications under this Part shall include, but need not be limited to, the following items:
 - 1) Comprehensive description of the proposed use of funds, including evidence of current research and best practices, to support proposed strategies.
 - 2) Budget by line items, including personal, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, contractual services, consultant (professional services), training and education, and direct administrative costs, submitted on the uniform grant budget template provided by GATU (see GATA Rule Section 7000.330). Acceptable expenditures may include, but are not limited to, the following direct costs:
 - A) Hiring additional qualified nursing faculty and staff;
 - B) Developing or expanding instructional programs (e.g., online, weekend, evening);
 - C) Developing or expanding academic support services or programs;
 - D) Securing additional clinical instruction sites;
 - E) Improving or increasing spaces for classrooms or laboratories; and
 - F) Purchasing equipment and other program-related instructional materials.
 - 3) Project objectives and performance goals, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - A) Number of degrees conferred (three-year trend);
 - B) First-year retention rate (three-year trend based on 30 semester hours or equivalent);
 - C) NCLEX-RN pass rate for first-time test takers in comparison to the national average for the previous calendar year as reported by DFPR; and
 - D) Job placement within 6 months after degree completion (three-year trend).
 - 4) Statement of institutional support and sustainability of grant-funded activities.

- 5) Uniform grant application provided by GATU and signed by authorized representative (see GATA Rule Section 7000.330).
- d) The grant awards for eligible nursing programs shall be determined using a competitive process to review applications. The Board's standards for approval include, but are not limited to, the following criteria, considerations and weightings:
 - 1) Evidence of effective project objectives and performance goals (25%);
 - 2) Proposed use of funds and budget justification demonstrating an effective use of program resources (25%);
 - 3) Evidence of institutional support and sustainability of grant-funded activities (10%); and
 - 4) Evidence of an effective plan to evaluate progress (15%).
- e) For a grant applicant who is a prior recipient of an award under this Part, the Board shall review available information on the awardee's prior performance and consider that information when assessing grantee risk. This is part of the grantee risk assessment provided by GATU (see GATA Rule Section 7000.340).
- f) Grant funding is subject to Program appropriations.

(Source: Added at 43 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.500 Expansion Grants (Repealed)

- a) ~~In a given fiscal year, the amount of the Program appropriation or allocation to support Expansion Grants shall be based on the following order of priority:~~
 - 1) ~~Funding for renewal grants;~~
 - 2) ~~Funding for grants in year one of a three year grant cycle; or~~
 - 3) ~~A combination of renewal and first year grants the Board deems appropriate to maximize the grant awards.~~
- b) ~~Eligibility Criteria~~
 - 1) ~~ADN and BSN programs must meet both of the following criteria:~~
 - A) ~~NCLEX-RN pass rate for first-time test takers must be equal to or greater than the national average for the previous calendar year as reported by DFPR.~~
 - B) ~~Program attrition rate must be equal to or less than 15 percent.~~

- 2) ~~RN-BSN programs must have a program attrition rate equal to or less than 15 percent.~~
- e) ~~Grant applications for Expansion Grants under this Part shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:~~
- 1) ~~Comprehensive description of the proposed use of funds in accordance with subsection (e), including evidence of current research and best practices to support proposed strategies.~~
 - 2) ~~Budget by line item, including personal services, contractual services, commodities, equipment, telecommunications, travel, and audit.~~
 - 3) ~~Performance measures, including, but not limited to, the following:~~
 - A) ~~Eligibility criteria in accordance with subsection (b);~~
 - B) ~~First year retention rate;~~
 - C) ~~Job placement within 6 months of degree completion; and~~
 - D) ~~Number of degrees conferred (three year trend).~~
 - 4) ~~Statement of institutional support and sustainability of grant funded activities.~~
 - 5) ~~Evaluation plan.~~
 - 6) ~~Program audit and an interim evaluation report from the previous year, if the applicant received an Expansion Grant under this Part.~~
- d) ~~Awards~~
- 1) ~~The grant awards for eligible nursing programs shall be determined using a competitive process to review applications that shall include, but need not be limited to, the following criteria:~~
 - A) ~~Evidence of effective program goals and performance measures;~~
 - B) ~~Proposed use of funds and budget justification demonstrating an effective use of program resources;~~
 - C) ~~An effective evaluation plan including reliable measures of performance and program outcomes;~~
 - D) ~~Evidence of institutional support and sustainability of grant-funded activities; and~~
 - E) ~~Number of completed applications received in accordance with subsection (e).~~

- 2) ~~The number and amount of grant awards is subject to the Program appropriation or allocation.~~
- e) ~~Use of Grant Funds. Expansion Grant funds shall be used to expand capacity and increase the number of students preparing for careers as registered nurses. Acceptable expenditures may include, but are not limited to, the following:~~
 - 1) ~~Hiring additional qualified nursing faculty;~~
 - 2) ~~Developing or expanding instructional programs (e.g., online, weekend, evening);~~
 - 3) ~~Developing or expanding academic support programs;~~
 - 4) ~~Securing additional clinical instruction sites;~~
 - 5) ~~Increasing classroom space;~~
 - 6) ~~Purchasing equipment and other program related instructional materials; and~~
 - 7) ~~Evaluation, dissemination of program results, and program audit.~~
- f) ~~Grantees may annually reapply for funding.~~
- g) ~~Grantees must submit a final evaluation report.~~

(Source: Repealed at 43 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.600 Improvement Grants (Repealed)

- a) ~~In a given fiscal year, the amount of the Program appropriation or allocation directed to Improvement Grants is the remainder after the Expansion Grant determination.~~
- b) ~~Eligibility Criteria~~
 - 1) ~~ADN and BSN programs must meet at least one of the following criteria:~~
 - A) ~~NCLEX-RN pass rate for first time test takers must be less than the national average for the previous calendar year as reported by DFPR.~~
 - B) ~~Program attrition rate must be greater than 15 percent.~~
 - 2) ~~RN-BSN programs must have a program attrition rate greater than 15 percent.~~
- e) ~~Grant applications for Improvement Grants under this Part shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:~~

- 1) ~~Comprehensive description of the proposed use of funds in accordance with subsection (e), including evidence of current research and best practices to support proposed strategies.~~
 - 2) ~~Budget by line item, including personal services, contractual services, commodities, equipment, telecommunications, travel, and audit.~~
 - 3) ~~Performance measures, including, but not limited to, the following:~~
 - A) ~~Eligibility criteria in accordance with subsection (b);~~
 - B) ~~First year retention rate;~~
 - C) ~~Job placement within 6 months after degree completion; and~~
 - D) ~~Number of degrees conferred (three year trend).~~
 - 4) ~~Statement of institutional support and sustainability of grant funded activities.~~
 - 5) ~~Evaluation plan.~~
 - 6) ~~Program audit from the previous year, if the applicant received an Improvement Grant.~~
- d) ~~Awards~~
- 1) ~~The grant awards for eligible nursing programs shall be determined using a competitive process to review applications that shall include, but need not be limited to, the following criteria:~~
 - A) ~~Evidence of effective program goals and performance measures;~~
 - B) ~~Proposed use of funds and budget justification demonstrating an effective use of program resources;~~
 - C) ~~An effective evaluation plan including reliable measures of performance and program outcomes;~~
 - D) ~~Evidence of institutional support and sustainability of grant-funded activities; and~~
 - E) ~~Number of completed applications received in accordance with subsection (e).~~
 - 2) ~~The number and amount of grant awards is subject to the Program appropriation.~~
- e) ~~Use of Grant Funds. Improvement Grant funds may be used to support strategies aimed at increasing student retention and improving graduation rates and institutional NCLEX-RN pass rates.~~

- 1) ~~Acceptable expenditures may include, but are not limited to, the following:~~
 - A) ~~Developing or expanding academic support services to improve student retention and increase graduation rates and NCLEX-RN pass rates;~~
 - B) ~~Improving existing classroom space;~~
 - C) ~~Purchasing equipment and other instructional materials necessary to improve instructional quality; and~~
 - D) ~~Program audit.~~
- 2) ~~Improvement Grants shall not be used to hire faculty.~~
- f) ~~Grantees may apply annually for funding.~~
- g) ~~Grantees must submit an evaluation report.~~

(Source: Repealed at 43 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.700 Award Process

- a) Board staff shall review application materials pursuant to this Part and make recommendations to the Board for approval.
- b) Once grants are awarded by the Board, the Board staff shall notify each applicant in writing concerning its application.
- c) Board staff shall verify that each awardee is registered with the State of Illinois, has completed a prequalification process, and has been determined "qualified" by GATU (see GATA Rule Section 7000.70).
- d) The Board shall enter into an ~~establish a grant~~ agreement with those institutions awarded a grant under this Part using the Uniform Grant Agreement provided by GATU (see GATA Rule Section 7000.370). Project objectives and performance goals will be included in the Uniform Grant Agreement to measure the awardee's performance~~that specifies the terms and conditions of the grant.~~

(Source: Amended at 43 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.800 Audit Requirements

Grantees are subject to the Auditing Standards stipulated by GATU (see GATA Rule Section 7000.90).

- a) ~~All grantees are required to provide an annual program audit to the Board.~~
- b) ~~After the initial program year (fiscal year 2007), applications must include a~~

~~program audit of grant funds received in the previous year.~~

- e) ~~Program audits must be performed by an external auditor who is registered as a public accountant by DFPR.~~
- d) ~~Program audits must include a statement of revenues and expenditures to verify the use of grant funds. Grant funds not expended as identified by the audit shall be refunded to the State.~~
- e) ~~In the event that a grant recipient does not reapply for a grant under this Part in a subsequent year, a program audit must be submitted to verify the use of grant funds.~~
- f) ~~The cost of a program audit is an allowable use of grant funds.~~

(Source: Amended at 43 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.900 Post-Award Requirements

- a) The awardee shall not deviate from the budget, project scope, or objectives stated in the Grant Agreement except with mutual agreement of the Board and the awardee. (See GATA Rule Section 7000.370(b)). The Board shall review a request and notify the awardee within 30 calendar days after receipt of a request. An awardee shall request prior approval by the Board to:
 - 1) Change the scope or the objective of the project (even if there is no associated budget revision).
 - 2) Change in a key person specified by the recipient in the application or Grant Agreement.
 - 3) Transfer funds among budget categories if the cumulative amount of these transfers exceeds 10% of the detail line or \$1,000, whichever is greater. Transfer requests will be accepted up until the last two weeks of the period of performance.
- b) The awardee shall file Periodic Performance Reports with the Board on progress made and financial data for the reporting period. The initial report shall cover the first three months after the Board approves the award. Reports are to be filed using the forms provided by the Board and submitted no later than 30 days after the end of each quarter. (See GATA Rule Section 7000.410).
- c) The awardee shall take the following actions to complete grant closeout at the end of the period of performance. (See GATA Rule Section 7000.440).
 - 1) Promptly refund any balances of unobligated cash that the Board paid in advance and that are not authorized to be retained by the awardee for use in other projects. Refunds shall be returned to the Board within 45 days after the end of the period of performance.

- 2) Expend any encumbered grant funds during a lapse period of 60 days past the end of the period of performance. Any encumbered but unexpended grant funds remaining at the end of the lapse period shall be returned to the Board within 45 days.
- 3) Submit, no later than 60 days after the end date of the grant period, the following reports:
 - A) A statement of costs and revenues signed by the institution's authorized representative.
 - B) A written evaluation of the project signed by the project manager or the institution's authorized representative. The report must address the objectives and performance measures specified in the Grant Agreement. Performance shall be measured in a way that will help the Board and other applicants and recipients improve program outcomes, share lessons learned, spread the adoption of promising practices, and build the evidence upon which the Program is based and performance decisions are made.
 - C) Deadlines may be extended at the discretion of the Board. Extensions shall be issued only in extraordinary circumstances not in the control of the awardee.

(Source: Added at 43 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

ATTACHMENT 2: RULE WITH ADOPTED AMENDMENTS

**TITLE 23: EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES
SUBTITLE A: EDUCATION
CHAPTER II: BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**PART 1100
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Section 1100.100 Purpose

The purpose of the Nursing School Grant Program is to address the nursing shortage in Illinois by *increasing the number of nurses graduating from Illinois institutions of higher learning* [110 ILCS 205/9.31]. Grants shall *be awarded on the basis of performance criteria* [110 ILCS 205/9.31] and a competitive application process.

(Source: Amended at 43 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.200 Definitions

"ACEN" means Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.

"Awardee" or "Grantee" means, for the purposes of this Part, an institution of higher learning that offers an eligible nursing program and carries out a grant/award as a recipient.

"Baccalaureate Completion Program" means, for the purposes of this Part, courses and bachelor's degree programs offered by 4-year degree-granting colleges and universities via an online program or at a location geographically

convenient to student populations currently being served by an existing institution of higher learning.

"Board" means the Board of Higher Education.

"CCNE" means the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

"Community College" means the public community colleges of this State.

"DFPR" means the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

"Eligible Nursing Program" means a nursing program at an Illinois institution of higher learning that prepares registered professional nurses in accordance with Section 1100.300 and offers at least one of the following nursing degree programs:

"ADN" means an Associate Degree in Nursing. Upon completion of the program, a graduate must be eligible to take the examination (NCLEX-RN) for licensure as a registered professional nurse.

"BSN" means a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. This program admits pre-licensure students and awards a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. Upon completion of the program, a graduate must be eligible to take the examination (NCLEX-RN) for licensure as a registered professional nurse.

"RN-BSN" means a baccalaureate completion program that admits registered professional nurses and awards a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing.

"MSN Entry" means a Master's of Science in Nursing program for students with bachelor's degrees in other fields who want to transition into nursing. Upon completion of the program, a graduate must be eligible to take the examination (NCLEX-RN) for licensure as a registered professional nurse.

"GATA" means the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act [30 ILCS 708].

"GATA Rule" means 44 Ill. Adm. Code 7000.

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"Grant Period" or "Period of Performance" means the time during which the awardee may incur new obligations to carry out the work authorized under the grant. The Board will include the start and end dates in the award.

"Institution of Higher Learning" means a public or nonpublic institution of higher education located within Illinois that offers associate, baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate degrees and that is authorized to operate in the State of Illinois.

"NCLEX-RN" means the National Council Licensure Examination-Registered Nurse. Passing the NCLEX-RN is required of candidates for licensure as a registered professional nurse (RN) in Illinois.

"Performance Goal" means a target level of performance expressed as a tangible, measurable objective or as a qualitative standard, value or rate. A performance goal includes a performance indicator, a target, and a time period, and must be expressed in an objective, quantifiable or measurable form when possible. When necessary, the Board and an awardee shall use an alternative performance goal (such as a set of milestones) described in a way that makes it possible to discern whether progress is being made toward that goal.

"Program" means the Nursing School Grant Program.

(Source: Amended at 43 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.300 Eligible Nursing Program

Illinois institutions of higher learning offering registered professional nursing degree programs must meet the following criteria to be eligible to receive a grant under this Part:

- a) ADN programs must:
 - 1) Be approved by DFPR;
 - 2) Be accredited by ACEN; and
 - 3) Have an articulation agreement with at least one institution of higher learning that offers baccalaureate degrees for registered professional nurses.
- b) BSN programs must:
 - 1) Be approved by DFPR; and
 - 2) Be accredited by CCNE or ACEN.
- c) RN-BSN programs must be accredited by CCNE or ACEN.
- d) MSN Entry program must:
 - 1) Be approved by DFPR; and
 - 2) Be accredited by CCNE or ACEN.

(Source: Amended at 43 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.400 Application Process

- a) Eligible nursing programs, as defined in this Part, will be notified by the Board when funding opportunities and application materials for grant opportunities

under this Part are available.

- b) Application materials may be obtained from the Illinois Board of Higher Education, 1 N. Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite #333, Springfield IL 62701 or the Board's website at www.ibhe.org.
- c) This State-funded program is subject to GATA. GATA rules are cross-referenced in this Part.
- d) Completed application materials must be signed by the institution's authorized representative and received by the Board by the announced deadline for the submission of applications, which shall not be less than 45 days from the announcement and release of application materials. Application materials will be due no later than October 31 of each year.

(Source: Amended at 43 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.420 Grant Awards

- a) In a given fiscal year, the Program appropriations shall be allocated for projects based on the following order of priority:
 - 1) Funding for baccalaureate completion programs to facilitate student articulation from an ADN program offered by a community college to a BSN or RN-BSN program;
 - 2) Funding for continuation of a grant previously awarded under this Part; or
 - 3) Funding for a new grant to expand or improve an eligible nursing program.
- b) Grant applications under this Part shall include, but need not be limited to, the following items:
 - 1) Comprehensive description of the proposed use of funds, including evidence of current research and best practices, to support proposed strategies.
 - 2) Budget by line items, including personal, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, contractual services, consultant (professional services), training and education, and direct administrative costs, submitted on the uniform grant budget template provided by GATU (see GATA Rule Section 7000.330). Acceptable expenditures may include, but are not limited to, the following direct costs:
 - A) Hiring additional qualified nursing faculty and staff;
 - B) Developing or expanding instructional programs (e.g., online, weekend, evening);

- C) Developing or expanding academic support services or programs;
 - D) Securing additional clinical instruction sites;
 - E) Improving or increasing spaces for classrooms or laboratories; and
 - F) Purchasing equipment and other program-related instructional materials.
- 3) Project objectives and performance goals, including, but not limited to, the following:
- A) Number of degrees conferred (three-year trend);
 - B) First-year retention rate (three-year trend based on 30 semester hours or equivalent);
 - C) NCLEX-RN pass rate for first-time test takers in comparison to the national average for the previous calendar year as reported by DFPR; and
 - D) Job placement within 6 months after degree completion (three-year trend).
- 4) Statement of institutional support and sustainability of grant-funded activities.
- 5) Uniform grant application provided by GATU and signed by authorized representative (see GATA Rule Section 7000.330).
- d) The grant awards for eligible nursing programs shall be determined using a competitive process to review applications. The Board's standards for approval include, but are not limited to, the following criteria, considerations and weightings:
- 1) Evidence of effective project objectives and performance goals (25%);
 - 2) Proposed use of funds and budget justification demonstrating an effective use of program resources (25%);
 - 3) Evidence of institutional support and sustainability of grant-funded activities (10%); and
 - 4) Evidence of an effective plan to evaluate progress (15%).
- e) For a grant applicant who is a prior recipient of an award under this Part, the Board shall review available information on the awardee's prior performance and consider that information when assessing grantee risk. This is part of the grantee risk assessment provided by GATU (see GATA Rule Section 7000.340).

- f) Grant funding is subject to Program appropriations.

(Source: Added at 43 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.500 Expansion Grants (Repealed)

(Source: Repealed at 43 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.600 Improvement Grants (Repealed)

(Source: Repealed at 43 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.700 Award Process

- a) Board staff shall review application materials pursuant to this Part and make recommendations to the Board for approval.
- b) Once grants are awarded by the Board, the Board staff shall notify each applicant in writing concerning its application.
- c) Board staff shall verify that each awardee is registered with the State of Illinois, has completed a prequalification process, and has been determined "qualified" by GATU (see GATA Rule Section 7000.70).
- d) The Board shall enter into an agreement with those institutions awarded a grant under this Part using the Uniform Grant Agreement provided by GATU (see GATA Rule Section 7000.370). Project objectives and performance goals will be included in the Uniform Grant Agreement to measure the awardee's performance.

(Source: Amended at 43 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.800 Audit Requirements

Grantees are subject to the Auditing Standards stipulated by GATU (see GATA Rule Section 7000.90).

(Source: Amended at 43 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.900 Post-Award Requirements

- a) The awardee shall not deviate from the budget, project scope, or objectives stated in the Grant Agreement except with mutual agreement of the Board and the awardee. (See GATA Rule Section 7000.370(b)). The Board shall review a request and notify the awardee within 30 calendar days after receipt of a request. An awardee shall request prior approval by the Board to:
 - 1) Change the scope or the objective of the project (even if there is no associated budget revision).

- 2) Change in a key person specified by the recipient in the application or Grant Agreement.
 - 3) Transfer funds among budget categories if the cumulative amount of these transfers exceeds 10% of the detail line or \$1,000, whichever is greater. Transfer requests will be accepted up until the last two weeks of the period of performance.
- b) The awardee shall file Periodic Performance Reports with the Board on progress made and financial data for the reporting period. The initial report shall cover the first three months after the Board approves the award. Reports are to be filed using the forms provided by the Board and submitted no later than 30 days after the end of each quarter. (See GATA Rule Section 7000.410).
- c) The awardee shall take the following actions to complete grant closeout at the end of the period of performance. (See GATA Rule Section 7000.440).
- 1) Promptly refund any balances of unobligated cash that the Board paid in advance and that are not authorized to be retained by the awardee for use in other projects. Refunds shall be returned to the Board within 45 days after the end of the period of performance.
 - 2) Expend any encumbered grant funds during a lapse period of 60 days past the end of the period of performance. Any encumbered but unexpended grant funds remaining at the end of the lapse period shall be returned to the Board within 45 days.
 - 3) Submit, no later than 60 days after the end date of the grant period, the following reports:
 - A) A statement of costs and revenues signed by the institution's authorized representative.
 - B) A written evaluation of the project signed by the project manager or the institution's authorized representative. The report must address the objectives and performance measures specified in the Grant Agreement. Performance shall be measured in a way that will help the Board and other applicants and recipients improve program outcomes, share lessons learned, spread the adoption of promising practices, and build the evidence upon which the Program is based and performance decisions are made.
 - C) Deadlines may be extended at the discretion of the Board. Extensions shall be issued only in extraordinary circumstances not in the control of the awardee.

(Source: Added at 43 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)