

APPROVED
JUNE 8, 2021

June 8, 2021

**NURSE EDUCATOR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2022 GRANT ALLOCATIONS**

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: This item requests approval for the Executive Director to allocate the Nurse Educator Fellowship awards, pending an appropriation of funding in Fiscal Year 2022. The goal of this program is to keep well-qualified faculty in the Illinois nursing schools that prepare students to become registered professional nurses.

This year is the first time that IBHE will consider equity gaps as part of the selection process. Additional consideration will be given to the proportion of nursing students who are African American, Latinx, low-income, first generation college, from rural communities, working adults, or students with disabilities and the institution's success in reducing any equity gaps in nursing student enrollment and graduation.

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes the Executive Director to allocate the anticipated Fiscal Year 2022 appropriation for fellowship awards pursuant to the Board of Higher Education Act, rules, and in consultation with the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**NURSE EDUCATOR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2022 GRANT ALLOCATIONS**

Participation in the Nurse Educator Fellowship Program is open to Illinois institutions of higher learning that offer a pre-licensure registered professional nursing program. The academic program must be approved by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation and accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education or the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. Fellowship awards are salary supplements that, at the discretion of the Fellow, may be used for expenses related to professional development and continuing education.

To be eligible for a fellowship award, an educator must meet the following criteria:

- An Illinois resident;
- Awarded a master's degree or higher in nursing;
- Employed in a full-time nursing faculty position at an eligible institution;
- Employed by the nominating institution in a teaching position preparing registered professional nurses for a minimum of 12 months;
- Made significant contributions to the nursing program; and
- Did not receive a fellowship award in the past five years.

The chief nursing administrator is responsible for nominating an educator and submitting the nomination packet. Nominations are evaluated based on the strength of the administrator's nomination and the educator's personal statement regarding the proposed use of funds and employment plans. Other factors such as major accomplishments; distribution of fellows by state geography, by program degree level, and by sector of the institution; and tenure status are also considered. This year is the first time that IBHE will consider equity gaps as part of the selection process. Additional consideration will be given to the proportion of nursing students who are African American, Latinx, low-income, first generation college, from rural communities, working adults, or students with disabilities and the institution's success in reducing any equity gaps in nursing student enrollment and graduation. The staff of the Board of Higher Education and Illinois Nursing Workforce Center will collaborate on determining the Fellows.

An appropriation for the Fiscal Year 2022 program is anticipated. Each fellowship allocation is no more than \$10,000 and may be reduced if the appropriation is less than anticipated. It is anticipated that the program will be funded with an appropriation of \$190,000 which will be sufficient to provide 19 fellowship awards this year. The names of the fellows and their nominating institutions for Fiscal Year 2022 will be provided to the Board at the December meeting.

Recommendation

The staff recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes the Executive Director to allocate the anticipated Fiscal Year 2022 appropriation for the Nurse Educator Fellowship program as specified by statute and administrative rule and in consultation with the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center. The Board authorizes the Executive Director to:

- 1) *Notify institutions when a state appropriation to the program has been made;*
- 2) *Determine eligibility of nursing schools and nominees; evaluate, score, and rank nominees; and select nominees for funding, pursuant to statute (110 ILCS 205/9.32) and the rules implementing the statute (23 Ill. Adm. Code 1105);*
- 3) *Distribute awards to nursing schools on behalf of fellows; and*
- 4) *Provide the Board with the list of nurse educators selected for funding and their nominating institutions at the December 2021 Board meeting.*