

APPROVED
JUNE 8, 2021

June 8, 2021

**NURSING SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2022 GRANT ALLOCATIONS**

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: This item requests approval for the Executive Director to allocate funds for the Nursing School Grants, pending an appropriation of funding for Fiscal Year 2022. The goal of this program is to increase the number of nurses preparing for careers as registered professional nurses by assisting nursing programs with expanding capacity or improving student performance.

This grant program is about setting and achieving goals regarding student completions, retention after the first year, licensure pass-rates at or above the national average, and job placement rates within the first six months of graduation. These are student centered goals that align closely with the strategic goal to close equity gaps. This year nursing programs are encouraged to propose strategies that include closing equity gaps as either part of their proposal or their entire proposal.

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

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**NURSING SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2022 GRANT ALLOCATIONS**

This grant program seeks to increase the number of registered professional nurses with high-quality postsecondary credentials to meet the demands of the Illinois economy. Grants are awarded to Illinois institutions of higher education with existing programs that prepare registered professional nurses at the associate, baccalaureate, and master entry level.

Nursing schools must first meet the following eligibility criteria before being able to compete for grant awards:

- An associate degree in nursing program must be approved by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR), accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), and have an articulation agreement in place with at least one institution that offers a baccalaureate degree in nursing.
- A baccalaureate degree in nursing program must be approved by IDFPR and be accredited by either the ACEN or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).
- A baccalaureate degree in nursing completion program for students who are licensed registered nurses must be accredited by the ACEN or the CCNE.
- An entry level master's degree in nursing program is for students who have a baccalaureate in another field. The program must be approved by IDFPR and be accredited by the ACEN or the CCNE.

Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Proposals to improve or expand existing nursing programs must use strategies that are supported by current research and best practices, demonstrate an effective use of program resources, and show evidence of support and sustainability. This year the Board will be looking for evidence of proposals that will help to address equity gaps in enrollment, course completion, graduation, or licensure by students who are African American, Latinx, low-income, first generation college, from rural communities, working adults, or students with disabilities.

The anticipated appropriation for fiscal year 2022 is \$373,900, the same level as last year. It is anticipated that there will be multiple grantees with a range of awards, pending the amounts requested. The grant period is from the date of agreement in 2021 thru June 30, 2022.

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 Nursing School Grants Program as specified by statute and administrative rule. The Board authorizes the Executive Director to:

- 1) *Notify eligible institutions when a state appropriation has been made for the Fiscal Year 2022 Nursing School Grant Program;*
- 2) *Determine eligibility of institutions pursuant to statute (110 ILCS 205/9.31) and the rules implementing the statute (23 Ill. Adm. Code 1100);*
- 3) *Evaluate, score, and rank proposals;*
- 4) *Select the proposals for funding in collaboration with the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center;*
- 5) *Distribute grant awards to eligible nursing schools; and*
- 6) *Provide the Board with information about the proposals selected for funding and the award amounts at the December 2021 Board meeting.*