

FISCAL YEAR 2021 NURSING SCHOOL GRANT AWARDS

Submitted for: Information.

Summary: This informational item will update the Board regarding the recipients of the Fiscal Year 2021 Nursing School Grants.

Action Requested: None.



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

FISCAL YEAR 2021 NURSING SCHOOL GRANT AWARDS

The purpose of the grant program is 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 that prepare registered professional nurses at the associate, baccalaureate, and master entry level. Nursing schools submit proposals to improve or expand existing nursing programs using strategies that are supported by current research and best practices.

At the June 9, 2020 Board meeting, the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) authorized the Executive Director to:

- 1) *Notify eligible institutions when a state appropriation has been made and application materials for the Fiscal Year 2021 Nursing School Grant Program are available;*
- 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 by program priorities;*
- 4) *Select the proposals for funding in collaboration with the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center and adjust the awards if the total amount of the funds requested does not equal the funds appropriated;*
- 5) *Distribute grant awards to eligible nursing schools; and*
- 6) *Provide the Board with the details of the proposals selected for funding and the award amounts at the December Board meeting.*

IBHE received requests for proposals from 11 institutions; the total amount requested was \$736,646, almost double the amount appropriated for this program. Funding for this program was placed on set aside in 2020 due to agency budget concerns. Applicants were notified of the delay. In February 2021, the funds were released from set aside and the applicants notified of a modified grant period. Proposals from those who could adapt to an altered grant period were reviewed in consultation with the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center. Four proposals were selected for funding. See table below.

Fiscal Year 2021 Nursing School Grant Awards

Institution (in alpha order)	Proposal	Award
Millikin University (private, not-for-profit) Decatur, Illinois	Continuation of prior year grant to update the simulation lab to support student success and to help Millikin meet long-term goals for degrees conferred and first-year retention rate in the baccalaureate and master's entry level nursing programs.	\$30,642
Northern Illinois University (public university) DeKalb, Illinois	Fostering equity in admissions process, providing additional support services for key classes, providing greater access to technology to support student success, and to help NIU meet long-term goals for degrees conferred and first-year retention rates in the baccalaureate nursing program.	\$99,947
Southern Illinois University (public university) Edwardsville, Illinois	Purchase equipment for simulation lab to support student success in the administration of medications and to help SIUE meet the long-term goal for degrees conferred in the baccalaureate nursing program.	\$99,998
University of Saint Francis (private, not-for-profit) Joliet, Illinois	Continuation of prior year grant for partnerships with Joliet Junior College and Moraine Valley Community College to support student transitions and to help the University meet long-term goals for degrees conferred and first-year retention rate in the baccalaureate nursing program.	\$95,187
Total Awards		\$325,774