

FISCAL YEAR 2022 NURSING SCHOOL GRANT AWARDS

Submitted for: Information.

Summary: This informational item will update the Board regarding the recipients of the Fiscal Year 2022 Nursing School Grants.

Action Requested: None.



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

FISCAL YEAR 2022 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.

This year the applicants were encouraged to submit 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. Four of the nine proposals submitted this year addressed equity gaps.

At the June 8, 2021, 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 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 the details of the proposals selected for funding and the award amounts.*

IBHE received requests for proposals from nine institutions; the total amount requested was \$596,552, almost double the amount appropriated for this program. Proposals were reviewed in consultation with the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center. Four proposals were selected for funding, and all have a strong focus on addressing equity gaps. See table below.

Fiscal Year 2022 Nursing School Grant Awards

Institution (alpha order)	Proposal	Award
Loyola University Chicago (Private NFP) Chicago, Illinois Baccalaureate degree	Proposal is to partially support the CARE Center for Student Success as part of Loyola’s pathway to the BSN. CARE stands for Collaboration, Access, Resources, and Equity. The intent is to address equity gaps in enrollment, course completion, graduation, and licensure by students who are African American and Latinx. Funds will be used for faculty & staff work, a high-fidelity simulation mannequin in Black/African American skin tones, supplemental instruction in targeted courses, and registrations to the AACN Annual Diversity Symposium. The intent is to improve the performance measure for number of graduates.	\$170,854
Prairie State College (Community college) Chicago Heights, Illinois Associate degree	Proposal is to increase the amount of supplemental instruction provided and to add exam preparation sessions for the national licensure exam. These strategies will improve existing equity gaps in retention, course completion, graduation, and licensure that exist for students who are African American, Latinx, low-income, first-generation college, working adults, and those who have young or elderly family members for whom they are responsible. Funding will be used for faculty and tutors to provide supplemental instruction, a three-day exam preparation course, and printing instructional materials. The intent is that the two strategies will help improve first-year retention rates, number of graduates, and pass rates on the national licensure exam.	\$ 50,287
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (Public university) Edwardsville, Illinois Baccalaureate degree	Proposal is to support the development and infrastructure of a holistic admission process in the nursing program. The goal is to increase the recruitment, application, and enrollment of a more diverse student body. Relying on metrics alone such as GPA and standardized test scores does not provide a comprehensive assessment of potential academic success. Funding will be used for faculty, advisors, and staff to learn about holistic admission, to develop a model for holistic admission, and to provide a summer program for ten first year students who are underrepresented and minority (URM) students in 2022. The intent is to improve the performance measure for number of graduates.	\$ 97,941

William Rainer Harper College (Community college) Palatine, Illinois Associate degree	This is a continuation of the program funded in fiscal years 2019 and 2020. Funding will be used for two part-time transition student coordinators, three part-time tutors, and for purchasing additional instructional materials to support student progression to and through the ADN to RN-BSN programs. The college has increased the number of students who transition into baccalaureate programs.	\$54,818
Total Awards		\$373,900