

**APPROVED**  
**January 17, 2024**



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General Counsel

Item #F-2  
January 17, 2024

### **FISCAL YEAR 2024 NURSING SCHOOL GRANT AWARDS**

**Submitted for:** Information.

**Summary:** This informational item will update the Board regarding the recipients of the Fiscal Year 2024 Nursing School Grants.

**Action Requested:** None.

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**FISCAL YEAR 2024 NURSING SCHOOL GRANT AWARDS**

The Nursing School Grant program is designed to address the nursing shortage in Illinois by increasing the number of nurses graduating from Illinois institutions of higher learning. Funds are used to expand and improve nursing programs leading to initial licensure as a Registered Nurse (RN) or programs for RNs leading to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). Nursing schools submit proposals to improve or expand existing nursing programs using strategies supported by current research and best practices. Grant funds may be used for developing and expanding instructional programs and modalities, expanding academic support services, hiring, and retaining nursing faculty and staff, improving classroom and lab spaces, acquiring new instructional equipment and materials, and other related uses to improve teaching and learning as well as student retention, graduation, and preparation for entry into the profession.

The Nursing School Grant program advances the higher education strategic plan, *A Thriving Illinois* in Growth Strategy 3, by aligning the State's higher education and economic development needs and ensuring both address historic inequities. The program also addresses Growth Strategy 6 to expand higher education teaching and learning models that allow students to succeed in future work. Applicants for this grant must provide disaggregated data about the enrollment, retention, completion, and job placement rates of their students during a multi-year period. They must also show how grant funds will be used to enhance their program's efforts to close equity gaps and improve student success. Applications are reviewed and awards made competitively.

At the June 14, 2023, 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 2024 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) *Distribute grant awards to eligible nursing schools; and*
- 5) *Provide the Board with the details of the proposals selected for funding and the award amounts.*

For Fiscal Year 2024, the IBHE received grant proposals from 17 institutions that were reviewed by an IBHE staff review team. Twelve proposals, as outlined below, were selected for total funding of \$1,485,278.

### Fiscal Year 2024 Nursing School Grant Selected Institutions

Institution	Amount Allocated	Use of Funds	Degree Offered
Moraine Valley Community College	\$38,316	Focus on improved math proficiency and preparedness of students to increase NCLEX pass rates through hire of math tutors, and additional prep materials and review course acquirement.	ADN
Concordia University	\$142,500	ENVISION Project – (Exploring Nursing Vocation through Innovative Simulation and Intentional Ongoing Nurturing) week-long overnight 'Nursing Summer Camp' for 15-18 year olds to help bridge a simulation based skills gap.	BSN
Loyola University	\$150,000	Continuation of previous grant work from FY22 and FY23 focusing on expansion of academic support services, implementation of Virtual Reality, purchase of Sim Mom manikin and charging carts, and database evaluation.	BSN
SIU Edwardsville	\$133,942	IMAGINE Summer Success Academy for 30 high school students to close equity gaps and increase diversity among student population.	BSN
Kaskaskia College	\$105,635	Purchase of Anatomage Table and accessories, and 1 person to attend an Anatomage Conference; online faculty training.	ADN
Carl Sandburg College	\$96,401	Simulation equipment; testing and student fees; SLS Sim Chart; African American student retention focus continues work from FY23.	ADN
University of Illinois Chicago	\$148,967	Launch PREPARE (Pre-Licensure Readiness Education Program for Aspiring Registered NursEs) program in the summer of 2024 aimed at improving TEAS test results.	BSN/ MEL
Trinity Christian College of Nursing	\$150,000	Staff hiring to implement and facilitate Distance Education online educational format with remote clinical placement, and virtual labs and simulations, clinical practicum arranged locally, and a focus on expanding recruitment.	BSN
Harper College	\$150,000	Aligns with FY21-24 Strategic Plan - 'Forward Together' goals by hiring of nursing tutors, RN-BSN continuing scholarships, professional development for faculty, and marketing and community-building for current students.	ADN
Illinois State University	\$148,847	Expansion of SimLab by replacing outdated equipment, and purchase of manikins of varying skin tones to promote an inclusive learning environment, as well as facilitate projected growth at Normal and Springfield sites.	BSN
Saint John's College of Nursing	\$70,670	Pathway 2 Success to help increase NCLEX pass rates, and investment in a Peer Tutoring/Mentors Center and HURST NCLEX-RN review and Elevate Program Boot Camp.	BSN
McKendree University	\$150,000	Focus on addressing rural nursing shortages in surrounding hospitals and communities by designating all funds for student scholarships.	BSN