

**APPROVED**  
**January 22, 2025**

*Melissa Bealon*  
Board Secretary Melissa Bealon

Item #H-1  
January 22, 2025

**FISCAL YEAR 2025 NURSING SCHOOL GRANT AWARDS**

**Submitted for:** Information.

**Summary:** This informational item will update the Board regarding the recipients of the Fiscal Year 2025 Nursing School Grants.

**Action Requested:** None.

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**FISCAL YEAR 2025 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 26, 2024, 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 2025 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 2025, the IBHE received grant proposals from 32 institutions that were reviewed by an IBHE staff review team. Thirteen proposals, as outlined below, were selected for total funding of \$1,500,000:

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Amount Allocated</b>	<b>Use of Funds</b>	<b>Degree Offered</b>
Benedictine University	\$137,918.00	Student Success project expansion	RN-BSN
Bradley University	\$138,433.00	Student success – software; academic readiness; 1st-2nd yr. progression	BSN
Carl Sandburg College	\$128,476.00	Expand virtual simulation – equipment and training; curriculum updates; improve clinical learning	AAS
Concordia University	\$136,913.00	Expand summer camp and simulation	BSN
Heartland Community College	\$121,191.00	Improve enrollment, completion, licensure of minority, 1st gen. students; services and curriculum	AAS
Illinois State University	\$133,238.00	Expand special student success program to Springfield campus	BSN
Kaskaskia College	\$42,536.00	Integrate Lyceum simulation software into curriculum	ADN
Lewis University	\$133,784.00	Expansion of Oak Brook campus; student and faculty support, advising	BSN
Loyola University	\$138,424.00	Expand CARE center for students, A & P and simulation equipment; instructional materials	BSN
McHenry County College	\$46,092.00	Add 3rd cohort of students/special populations; equipment and supplies	AAS
Prairie State College	\$138,433.00	Nursing program expansion – evening, weekend cohort, nontraditional students	AAS
Roosevelt University	\$114,958.00	Expand simulation instruction, new equipment and faculty	BSN
SIU Edwardsville	\$89,604.00	Expand capacity of summer success academy – HS students to enter field	BSN