

APPROVED
JUNE 9, 2020

Item #G-12
June 9, 2020

**NURSING SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2021 AWARDS**

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: This item requests approval for the Executive Director to allocate the Nursing School Grants, pending an appropriation of funding for Fiscal Year 2021. The goal of this program is to increase the number of nurses graduating from Illinois institutions of higher learning who are prepared for careers as registered nurses.

This program helps to increase the number of high-quality post-secondary credentials to meet the demands of the economy. Nursing continues to be a high-demand field where the annual supply of licensed registered nurses continues to be lower than the demand. This grant program provides institutions with financial assistance directed to expand their capacity or improve student performance to help meet the statewide demand for registered nurses.

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes the Executive Director to allocate the anticipated Fiscal Year 2021 appropriation for the Nursing School Grants, pursuant to the Board of Higher Education Act and in consultation with the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**NURSING SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2021**

Participation in the Nursing School Grant Program is open to Illinois institutions of higher learning that offer a pre-licensure associate, baccalaureate, or master's entry level registered professional nursing degree program. Nursing schools may submit proposals to improve or expand an existing nursing programs using strategies that are supported by current research and best practices.

To be eligible for a grant, an institution must meet the following criteria:

- 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 of higher learning that offers a baccalaureate degree in nursing.
- A Baccalaureate of Science 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 of Science in Nursing completion program for students who are licensed registered nurses must be accredited by the ACEN or the CCNE.
- A Master of Science in Nursing program for students who have a baccalaureate in another field must be approved by IDFPR and be accredited by the ACEN or the CCNE.

Proposals from eligible nursing schools will be evaluated, scored, and ranked based on the funding priorities. The top priority is to provide more opportunities for community college students to access four-year baccalaureate programs that will meet the needs of the workforce. The second priority is to provide funding that will continue and build on proposals that were funded in the prior year. The third priority is for new grants that will improve student performance or expand high-quality programs. The staff of the Illinois Board of Higher Education and Illinois Nursing Workforce Center will collaborate on determining the grant awards.

An appropriation for the Fiscal Year 2021 program is anticipated. Last year, an appropriation of \$373,900 was allocated among nine nursing schools (four community colleges and five private institutions). The funding amounts requested by the nursing schools may be adjusted if the total amount requested does not equal the appropriation. Details on the grant proposals and award amounts for Fiscal Year 2021 will be provided to the Board at the December meeting.

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 2021 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 and nomination 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.*