

**Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Nursing Education, Practice, Quality and Retention
Registered Nurses in Primary Care (NEPQR-RNPC) Program
Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) HRSA 18-012
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

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Accessing and Submitting the Application

1. Accessing the NOFO

The full notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) and package is in www.grants.gov.

- Search for HRSA-18-012 grant
- Click on the grant number and you will be directed to the grant page
- Click on package tab (4th tab)
- Click preview/apply and you will be directed to a page that has two options –
 - Option 1 – apply now using workspace
 - Option 2 – download legacy application package
- The NOFO and other package documents are under option 2
- Click download instructions to access the NOFO

[HRSA-18-012: Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention \(NEPQR\) – Registered Nurses in Primary Care \(RNPC\) Training Program](#) – Grants.gov

[Get instructions for the NOFO.](#)

If you need technical assistance while submitting your application, you may contact the Grants.gov contact center at 1-800-518-4726

Eligibility

2. What nursing programs does the NEPQR-RNPC program support?

Per the NOFO instructions under Program Requirements section, the NEPQR-RNPC program supports undergraduate entry-level registered nursing education – collegiate (BSN), Associate Degree, or Diploma. Entry-level Master’s degree nursing students are considered graduate students and therefore not eligible for this funding opportunity.

3. As a community college, would we be eligible as lead applicant?

As long as a school of nursing is an accredited collegiate, associate degree, or diploma public or private school as defined by section 801(2) and meets all the other requirements, they are eligible. Students must receive a degree and be eligible to take the NCLEX-RN exam upon completion/graduation the program (RN-BSN students are eligible as they were eligible to take the NCLEX-RN exam when they first completed their Associate or Diploma degree and they are not required to retake the exam after completing the Bachelor’s degree). See the [Public Health Service Act](#), pg. 1048.

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4. Would a 501 c(3) not-for-profit healthcare system with acute care facilities or a critical access hospital be eligible to apply for this grant?

Per the Program Requirements Section of the NOFO, if the applicant organization is a health care facility, they must provide primary care services in a community-based setting and partner with an accredited school of nursing in addition to meeting all the other NOFO requirements and having the capacity to implement the program as intended by this NOFO. Per the [Public Health Service Act](#), pg. 1048, a healthcare facility is defined as an Indian Health Service health center, a Native Hawaiian health center, a hospital, a Federally qualified health center, a rural health clinic, a nursing home, a home health agency, a hospice program, a public health clinic, a State or local department of public health, a skilled nursing facility, an ambulatory surgical center, or any other facility designated by the Secretary.

5. Do the health facility primary applicants and clinical partners have to be accredited health facilities or are unaccredited free clinics also eligible?

No, primary applicant and/or partner healthcare facility clinical sites do not need to be accredited.

6. We are not a school of nursing. Can we partner with an eligible school of nursing to be eligible and how many partners are allowed?

Yes, eligible entities under the NEPQR-RNPC NOFO include: accredited schools of nursing, health care facilities, or a partnership of such a school and facility in accordance with Sections 831(g) and 831A(f) of the [Public Health Service Act](#). HRSA is not requiring a certain number of partners for the academic-practice partnership. It is up to the applicant(s) to determine the number of partners needed to fulfill the requirements of the NOFO.

7. What are the accreditation requirements for nursing programs for this Funding Opportunity Announcement?

As defined by the [Public Health Service Act](#) section 801(2), schools of nursing affiliated with the proposed project must be an accredited public or private school. Applicants must provide documentation of current accreditation by a national nurse education accrediting agency or state approval agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education for the purposes of nursing education as **Attachment 1, see below**. Overall, institutional accreditation is not sufficient.

Attachment 1: Accreditation Documentation (Required)

The applicant organization must provide for all affiliated nursing programs: (1) a statement that they hold continuing accreditation from the relevant accrediting body and are not on probation, (2) the name of the accrediting body, (3) the date of initial accreditation, (4) the date of the next expected accrediting body review (or expiration date of current accreditation), and (5) a web link to the accreditation information on the accrediting body website (if available.) The full letter of accreditation is not required. Applicants on

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provisional accreditation status must provide proof of this status. *Applicants whose accreditation status cannot be verified will be considered nonresponsive and deemed ineligible under this funding notice.*

8. Can an eligible entity submit more than one application?

No, eligible applicants may submit only one application in response to this NOFO. Multiple applications from any single organization are not allowed. Separate organizations are those entities that have unique DUNS numbers.

9. Do applicants who are current or previous NEPQR grantees receive preference?

No, this NEPQR-RNPC NOFO is only accepting new applications. Each application will be evaluated on merit and the applicant organization's ability to address the requirements under the NOFO.

10. Who qualifies as a Project Director/Principal Investigator? Can a project have more than one Project Director/Principal Investigator?

For this NOFO we use the term Project Director (PD). Each project shall have only ONE PD identified. The PD must be a licensed Registered Nurse.

Budget and Funding Preference

11. Is the ceiling amount that can be requested a total of \$700,000 per year or \$700,000 total for the four years of the award?

The ceiling amount that can be requested is up to \$700,000 per budget period. Each budget period is for one year. This NEPQR-RNPC project period is four years. Therefore, each applicant may request up to \$700,000 for *each* budget year within the four-year project period for a total maximum amount of \$2,800,000.

The SF-424 RR budget form must be submitted for each budget period of the four-year project period. Provide a budget justification narrative for the entire project period. For subsequent budget years, the narrative should highlight changes from year 1 or clearly indicate that there are no substantive budget changes during the project period for the subsequent budget years. The budget justification must be detailed to include itemized line-item cost breakdown that aligns with the SF 424 RR budget form categories.

Please Note: Applications that request amounts that exceed the ceiling amount of \$700,000 per year will be considered non-responsive and deemed ineligible for review or consideration for funding under this notice.

12. What does paid release time mean?

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Paid release time is administratively authorized time spent away from the employee's normal job responsibilities to participate in other institution sponsored or sanctioned programs without loss of pay and without charge to paid time off (PTO) leave. Release time is considered work time; therefore, such time is counted when computing overtime. *For the purpose of this NOFO, activities related to the funded project are considered normal job responsibilities for the personnel budgeted on the grant. Grant funds cannot be used to support paid release time that is not related to the funded project. This is also applicable to the payment of temporary personnel who are budgeted on this grant.*

13. What is the indirect cost rate for this grant?

The indirect costs rate for the NEPQR-RNPC program **may not exceed eight (8) percent** of modified total direct costs. Direct cost amounts for equipment and capital expenditures, tuition and fees, and sub-grants and subcontracts in excess of \$25,000 are excluded from the direct cost base for purposes of this calculation, as specified on page 14 of the NOFO.

14. We are located in a HSPA designated location. Do we qualify for a funding preference?

This program provides a funding preference as authorized by Section 805 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. § 296d). Preference shall be given to applicants with projects that will substantially benefit rural or underserved populations, or help meet public health nursing needs in State or local health departments. For this competition, HRSA has interpreted "substantially benefit" to mean those projects that encompass *clinical training at a primary care site physically located* in either (a) a rural primary care facility, (b) *a primary care geographic Health Professional Shortage Area*, and/or (c) a State or local health department.

Other

15. Are we limited to hiring one Partnership Liaison even though we have multiple partners or can we have multiple? Who employees the Partnership liaison?

Per the Program Requirements Section of this NOFO, the applicant is required to identify a full time partnership liaison as a formal facilitator between academia and clinical partners. HRSA does not mandate how you manage or hire the partnership liaison and does not require a certain number of partners for the academic-practice partnership. It is up to the applicant(s) to determine how they will fulfill and manage the requirement to have at least one full-time equivalence partnership liaison.

16. What does the term "longitudinal clinical experience" mean with respect for number of weeks or semesters in clinical and are all the nursing students subjected to this requirement?

Per the Program Definition Section of this NOFO, longitudinal experiential training is the process of instruction between a designated faculty and/or nursing preceptor and an individual(s) that includes a component of direct work experience over a period of time to

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adequately immerse the individual(s) in that training (at least 150 hours). It is up to the applicant to determine the number of weeks or semesters that best fulfills the minimum number of hours required for the clinical training. Only the project's student participants are subject to this requirement, but it is encouraged to immerse other students as well.

17. What does an enhanced role mean?

Per the Program Definitions Section of the NOFO, an enhanced RN role is the utilization of RNs in primary care to the fullest extent of their education and practice. This enhanced RN role spans functional areas of episodic and preventative care, triage, documentation of health status, chronic disease management, hospital transition management, delegated care for illness, health coaching, supervision of other staff, and quality improvement leadership. This is a shift from the role RNs have previously played in primary care. The background section has several references that provide more context and exemplars.

Resources

- [Notice of Funding Opportunity Instructions](#)
- [Public Health Service Act](#)
- Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation. (2016). [Registered Nurses: Partners in Transforming Primary Care](#)
- Flinter, M., Blankson, M., & Ladden, M. (2016). Registered Nurses in Primary Care: Strategies that Support Practice at the Full Scope of the Registered Nurse License. Commissioned Paper for the 2016 Macy Foundation Conference.
- Smolowitz, J., Speakman, E., Wojnar, D., Whelan, E., Ulrich, S., Hayes, C., & Wood, L. (2015). [Role of the Registered Nurse in Primary Health Care: Meeting Health Care Needs in the 21st century](#). Nursing Outlook, 63(2), 130-136
- National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice – HRSA (2016). [Preparing Nurses for New Roles in Population Health Management: 14th Annual Report to the Secretary of the United States](#), Department of Health and Human Services and the Congress of the United States
- Quad Council of Public health nursing organizations. (2011). [Quad Council Competencies for Public health Nursing](#)