

Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Nursing Workforce Diversity (NWD) Program
Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) HRSA 17-063
Frequently Asked Questions

Application Submission

1. What is the due date to submit an application?

The due date for all applications under this FOA is 11:59pm ET November 14, 2016. All applications must be submitted electronically via Grants.gov. If you need technical assistance while submitting your application, you may contact the Grants.gov contact center at 1-800-518-4726

2. There is conflicting information regarding the documentation of non-profit status, is this attachment included in the page limit?

The proof of non-profit status is NOT included in the page limit. The page limit for this application is 70 pages. This includes the total size of all uploaded files. As a best practice, please print your application prior to submission to ensure that you have not exceeded the page limit.

3. There are multiple versions of the SF-424 R&R application guide. Which is the correct version?

The correct version of the SF-424 R&R Application guide is provided here: [SF-424 R&R Application Guide](#). Please use this guide when completing your application.

Project and Budget Period

4. Is the ceiling amount that can be requested a total of \$500,000 per year or \$500,000 total for the four years of the award?

The ceiling amount that can be requested is up to \$500,000 per budget period. Each budget period is for one year. This NWD project period is a four year project period. Therefore each applicant may request up to \$500,000 for each budget year within the four year project period for a total of \$2,000,000.

5. Do we have to have a budget and justification for all four years of the project?

Yes. A budget and justification is required for every budget period within the four year project period. Please make sure that the line item budget and the justification are in sync.

Eligibility

6. We are not a school of nursing. Can we partner with an eligible school of nursing to be eligible?

Yes. Eligible entities under the NWD FOA include: accredited schools of nursing, nursing centers, academic health centers, State or local governments, and other private or public non-profit entities determined appropriate by the Secretary, faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, and Tribes and Tribal Organizations, who are otherwise eligible. All awarded

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entities are required to implement all five (5) evidence-based strategies and all other required elements that are listed within the Funding Opportunity Announcement.

7. What nursing programs does the NWD program support?

The NWD program supports registered nursing education at the following levels: Associates, Bachelors, Masters, and Doctoral. Students must receive a degree and be eligible to take the NCLEX-RN exam upon completion/graduation of all associate and baccalaureate nursing programs. Diploma nursing programs and non-degree conferring nursing program students must be enrolled in a bridge or degree completion program in order to receive NWD support. Licensed Practical or Vocational Nurse programs are eligible, if students are enrolled in a bridge or degree completion program. Students receiving only Practical or vocational nursing licensure are NOT eligible.

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

Schools of nursing affiliated with the proposed project that provide formal degree programs must be accredited by a national nurse education accrediting agency or State approval agency recognized by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education for the purposes of nursing education. Overall institutional accreditation is not sufficient.

- A **new program of nursing** that, by reason of an insufficient period of operation, is not, at the time of the submission of an application, eligible for accreditation by such a recognized body or bodies or State agency, shall be deemed accredited for the purposes of this title if the Secretary of Education finds, after consultation with the appropriate recognized State approval or accrediting body or bodies, that there is reasonable assurance that the program will meet the accreditation standards of such body or bodies prior to the beginning of the academic year following the normal graduation date of students of the first entering class in such a program. The Letter of Reasonable Assurance from the U.S. Department of Education.
- If **accreditation is pending or not yet granted**, applicants must submit a Letter of reasonable assurance, from or on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education, along with the application stating that the program will meet the accreditation standards effective prior to the start of the budget/project period during which support will be received. The accrediting body must be identified by the U.S. Department of Education within the letter of reasonable assurance.

*Non-academic eligible entities applying for Nursing Workforce Diversity funds must support students who are enrolled in an accredited school of nursing. Proof of accreditation documentation for partnering school of nursing must be provided in the application.

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

No. Eligible applicants may submit only one application. Multiple applications from any single organization are not allowed. Independent organizations are those who have a unique DUNS number.

10. Do applicants who are current or previous Nursing Workforce Diversity grantees receive preference?

No. This NWD FOA is only accepting new applications. Each application will be evaluated on merit and the applicant organization's ability to address the requirements under the FOA.

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

For this FOA the term Project Director (PD) and Principal Investigator (PI) are used interchangeably. Each project shall have only ONE PD/PI identified. The PD/PI must be a licensed Registered Nurse (RN).

Student Eligibility, Scholarships, and Stipends

12. What students, in terms of educational status or level, are eligible under this FOA? For example, are high school students, pre-entry nursing students, or "generic" baccalaureate nursing students eligible?

Eligible project participants must be enrolled in an accredited school of nursing. Pre-nursing and generic baccalaureate students are also eligible, however applicants must select the nursing population that will allow it to most effectively be able to meet the requirements of the FOA and accomplish the goals of the NWD program. High school students are not eligible for NWD financial support, however partnering with a high school may be used as a recruitment tool.

13. Are there any other student eligibility requirements?

Project participants must be a citizen of the United States, a non-citizen national of the United States, or a foreign national who possesses a visa permitting permanent residence in the United States. Individuals on temporary or student visas are NOT eligible participants and may NOT receive NWD grant support. Project participants must also be from a disadvantaged background including ethnic and racial minorities underrepresented among registered nurses. Disadvantaged background includes educationally and or economically disadvantaged. Please refer to the program definitions on pages 5-6 and pages 35-39 for extended program definitions and examples.

14. Is there a funding limit on stipends and scholarships?

This FOA does NOT have a cap on the amount of financial support in the form of stipends and scholarships an applicant organization can request. There is also NO cap on the amount of

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financial support each student may receive. Even though there is no cap, applicant organization must allocate a *minimum of at least 30%* of the budget, for each budget period, to direct student support (*Trainee Related Expenses categories*).

15. Can scholarships and stipends be used to cover expenses for textbooks or housing?

Student scholarships cover tuition, fees, books, and other related educational expenses. Student stipends are used to cover student general living expenses, including but not limited to housing.

Partnerships and other questions

16. Would all organizations involved in an application be required to register in the System for Award Management (SAM) and submit separate SF-424 R&R forms?

Yes.

17. Are partner organizations required to be contracts or sub-awards?

Yes. Under this FOA, a partner organization providing services would constitute a sub-award.

18. What is the difference between the required partnership with a community organization and the required partnership with a health professions organization?

The community partnership and health professions organization should be two separate entities providing two separate services. In accordance with the FOA, the community partnership(s) are to support the implementation of the systems approach and help to address the social determinants that impede the access to education and success of students from disadvantaged backgrounds. The health professions organization partnership is to train and provide technical assistance with regards to holistic review practices and implementation, and to increase the level of diversity training. Please also refer to the program definition for institutional and community partnerships found on page five and page 38 and pages 34-35 for resources about Holistic review.

19. Do applicants have to implement all of the evidence-based strategies?

Yes. Each applicant must implement all five (5) evidence-based strategies and all elements associated with them as listed in the FOA. The five (5) evidence-based strategies are: academic and peer support, mentoring, institutional and community partnerships, student financial support, and holistic review.

20. What is a comprehensive systems approach?

The goal of this comprehensive systems approach is to use the social determinants of education as a framework to implementing the five evidence-based strategies in order to recruit, enroll, retain, and graduate students from disadvantaged backgrounds including underrepresented racial and ethnic minorities among registered nurses in schools of nursing. The approach supports a pipeline of registered nursing education from beginning (enrollment) to end

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(graduation). Each evidence-based strategy individually, is not wholly sufficient to facilitate access, success, and diversity of students from disadvantaged backgrounds. The emphasis cannot be focused on one strategy and not the others. All strategies have to be built in and work together to create a system that benefits the student as a whole that works continuously and evolves to meet the needs of the students. This system should be built to increase the diversity in the students being recruited and then enrolled into schools of nursing, but to also to provide services that are specifically tailored to help them stay in school, and ultimately graduate. In order to make the system fully comprehensive, institutions must also assess and address the structural and institutional forces that impede the success of students from disadvantaged backgrounds also address them. The comprehensive systems also requires applicant organizations to implement change, if necessary, in order to foster a sense of support and success at all levels including but not limited to the institutional level, school of nursing level, faculty level and individual student level.