

Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship (NAT) Frequently Asked Questions

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Application Submission Due Dates and Requirements

1. What is the application process for the NAT Program?

Applicants for the Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship (NAT) funding opportunity announcement are required to apply electronically through Grants.gov, which provides instructions on how to apply.

2. When is the application due?

The due date for the NAT Funding Opportunity Announcement is December 5, 2016 at 11:59 pm Eastern Time. You are strongly encouraged to submit your application ahead of the application due date.

3. Are applicants required to submit an application annually?

Yes, NAT applicants must apply annually for funding.

Eligibility, Use of Funds

4. Who is eligible to apply?

Eligible applicants are collegiate schools of nursing, nursing centers, academic health centers, state or local governments and other public or private nonprofit entities that are accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs.

For-profit entities are not eligible under the NAT Funding Opportunity Announcement.

Individuals are not eligible to apply.

5. Who is eligible to receive traineeship funds?

NAT award recipients will provide traineeship awards to full-time nurse anesthesia students who are enrolled in an accredited graduate-level Nurse Anesthesia.

6. How can NAT funds be used; is there a maximum traineeship award amount per student?

Institutional award amounts are awarded to each educational institution; schools then disburse traineeship awards that are no greater than \$22,000 to each of its eligible NAT students. Traineeships will pay all or part of the costs of tuition, books (including e-Books), and fees, and the reasonable living expenses of the individual during the period for which the traineeship is provided.

7. Can a program request support for both first and second year students?

Yes, both first and second year students enrolled in a full-time accredited nurse anesthesia program are eligible to receive funding at the beginning of any academic period, including a summer session, which falls within the budget period specified by the current Notice of Award.

8. What is the maximum number of months a trainee can receive NAT support?

The maximum length of NAT traineeship support authorized per student is a cumulative total of total of 36 months. FY17 awards will be used to support students during Academic Year 2017-18.

Report Requirements

9. What are the reporting requirements for the NAT Program?

All NAT award recipients must track, collect, and report both student- and graduate-level data for the following reporting requirements:

- 1) *Performance Reports* are now due on an annual basis, with reports due to HRSA on July 31.
- 2) *Federal Financial Reports (FFRs, using Standard Form-425)* are no longer required for NAT recipients. In lieu of the *FFR*, the *Federal Cash Transaction Report (Standard Form 272)*, submitted to the Payment Management System, will be used to fulfill the financial reporting requirement.
- 3) *Final Reports* are not required for the NAT program.

10. What information is required for the Performance Report?

Please see the following link: <http://bhw.hrsa.gov/grants/reporting/>. “Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW) grantee organizations are required to complete Performance Reports every year on the Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA) past and projected performance in carrying out its mission to improve health and achieve health equity through access to quality services, a skilled health workforce and innovative programs.

For each major program activity, tables are provided that show key program performance measures, targets and results. Performance Reports will inform HRSA BHW as to how the NAT award recipient performed thorough out the year. All required performance measures are linked to the following legislative purpose of the NAT grant program: To provide traineeships to eligible individuals enrolled in an accredited graduate-level nurse anesthesia degree program.”

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11. I am entering data in Grants.gov on the NAT Program Specific Data Forms and noticed that the dates on the electronic NAT Program Specific Data Forms are different from those listed in the NAT Funding Opportunity Announcement. Is there an error?

No, there is not an error. You must select the fiscal year date provided in the current NAT funding opportunity announcement cover page.

12. If we received funding under this grant program last year, when completing this application do we select "Continuation", "Renewal", or "New"?

All applicants must submit a “new” application for each grant cycle.

13. Are Doctor of Nursing Practice programs that do not yet have accreditation eligible to apply?

A new graduate program of nursing that, by reason of an insufficient period of operation, is not, at the time of the submission of an application for a grant or contract under this title, eligible for accreditation by such a recognized nursing accrediting agency, shall be deemed accredited for the purposes of this program if certain conditions are met. New graduate programs of nursing that are just beginning the accreditation process and wish to establish eligibility must contact a national nursing accrediting agency recognized by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education before requesting a letter of reasonable assurance from the U.S. Department of Education. A letter of reasonable assurance is an assessment by the U.S. Department of Education stating the applicant is expected to receive timely accreditation upon submission of its application to HRSA.

14. What resources are available as I develop my logic model?

A logic model is a visual diagram that demonstrates an overview of the relationships between the 1) resources and inputs, 2) implementation strategies and activities, and 3) desired outputs and outcomes in a project. Although there are similarities, a logic model is not a work plan. A work plan is an ‘action’ guide with a timeline used during program implementation, the work plan provides the ‘how to’ steps.

Information on how to distinguish between a logic model and work plan can be found at the following website: <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/evaluation/pdf/brief5.pdf>.

Additional information on developing logic models can be found at the following website:
https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/state_programs/pdf/logic_models.pdf.

15. What is Rapid Cycle Quality Improvement (RCQI) and how do I incorporate it into my evaluation plan?

RCQI is a powerful tool used to achieve improved outcomes by health care professionals and educators, by asking three simple questions: (1) What are we trying to accomplish? (2) How will we know if a change is an improvement? (3) What changes can we make that will result in improvement? By allowing the application of several tests over time, the RCQI model can identify the most successful ideas that have the largest impact on the overall program outcomes. Additional information on RCQI is available at the following website:

<http://www.healthworkforceta.org/resources/rapid-cycle-quality-improvement-resource-guide/>

16. What are some items that are included in the Maintenance of Effort Documentation?

The Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Documentation is to be attached with the online application. According to HRSA, the MOE is “a requirement contained in the authorizing statute or program regulations stating that, in order to receive federal funds, a recipient must agree to maintain a specified level of financial effort (using a specified baseline period, such as the year prior to the initiation of federal award support) for the grant from its own resources and other non-federal sources”. Applicants are to report non-federal funds, including in-kind, expended / designated for activities proposed in their application. If the response is \$0.00 please indicate this in the Maintenance of Effort Documentation.