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**Nursing Faculty Investment Program**

**Agency Policy**

**Purpose.**

The purpose of this program is to provide investment in faculty teaching in a West Virginia nursing education program preparing nurses for initial licensure. Nursing Faculty Investment funds will be awarded to West Virginia pre-licensure programs to invest in nursing faculty development during the Summer of 2022. All funds must be expended by September 20, 2022.

**Eligibility Criteria.**

In order to be eligible for a Nursing Faculty Investment Program award, each organization or faculty member must:

* Organization:
  + Be a participant in the nursing program expansion initiative;
  + Be either nationally accredited or approved by the state;
  + Complete the application.
* Faculty
  + Be a graduate of an accredited program at an institution of higher education, having obtained a degree preparing them for teaching in a WV pre-licensure nursing program;
  + Demonstrate dedication to expansion of nursing programs in WV through teaching at an institution of higher education in a pre-licensure nursing program; and
  + Commit to teach in the nursing program for 1 year full time or 2 years part time after receipt of the investment.

**Application Process.**

The organizational applicant must apply to the Nursing Faculty Investment Program using an application form provided by the WVHEPC on behalf of the Governor’s Nursing Workforce Expansion Initiative. Applicants for participation in the Nursing Faculty Investment Program will submit their applications by no later than June 15, 2022 at 5pm. Applications must be complete and received by the deadline to be considered for an award.

**Use of funds**.

Qualifying expenses for use of the funds are:

1. On site faculty development programs to enhance teaching (including speaker costs, equipment, etc)
2. Faculty continuing education to enhance teaching (including registration, travel, meals and lodging as applicable)
3. Tuition/fees reimbursement for formal education coursework to enhance teaching or gain teaching credentials
4. Other activities may be included, please discuss with Cynthia Persily PhD, Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences [cynthia.persily@wvhepc.edu](mailto:cynthia.persily@wvhepc.edu) prior to preparing application.

**Selection of Recipients.**

Recipients will be selected from a pool of all qualified applicant organizations. Awards will be determined by the HEPC staff with the advice of an advisory panel. The advisory panel may be made up of the Division of Health Sciences staff and Advisory Committee and such other members as may be added from time to time.

Nursing faculty who benefit from a Nursing Faculty Investment Program award must agree to teach in the pre-licensure nursing program for at least one (1) year full-time or at least two (2) years part-time after receiving the investment. The agreement will be with the applicant organization.

The number of awards shall be determined by the availability of funds.

**Provisions and Agreement.**

The award amount will be up to $40,000. The award is not renewable. All funds must be expended by no later than September 30, 2022.

No award payments shall be disbursed before a properly completed and signed award agreement has been delivered by the recipient to the HEPC.

**Notification of Recipients and Fund Disbursement.**

HEPC shall notify recipients of their selection to receive an award. The full amount of the award will be disbursed to the participant organization once the award agreement has been fully executed and an invoice has been received.

**Final Report**.

A final report will be required and will be detailed in the award agreement.

**Definitions.**

“Part-time” is defined as part time regular employment in the state higher education system or equivalent.

“Pre-licensure” means preparing a student for initial licensure as a licensed practical nurse or a registered nurse.

“Nursing workforce expansion initiative” is defined as any project awarded expansion awards from the 2021 funding provided by the Governor to increase the number of pre-licensure nursing graduates in WV by 2025.