



Request For Application – Rural Nursing Education

Information Call

Request for Application (RFA)

Expanding Nursing Programs To Increase Rural Nurses In Washington

Summary of Grant: The Department of Health (DOH) seeks accredited nursing programs to prepare students to meet the unique demands of rural nursing, including obstetrical labor and delivery care. The goal of this funding is to increase the number of registered nurses working in rural areas of Washington.

RFA Information Summary

Estimated Funding: \$100,000 per year

Expected Number of Awards: Up to 2

Funding Period: Up to 3.5 years; dependent on annual renewal application

Eligible Applicants: Accredited nursing programs in Washington

Summary of Grant: The Department of Health (DOH) seeks accredited nursing programs to prepare students to meet the unique demands of rural nursing, including obstetrical labor and delivery care. The goal of this funding is to increase the number of registered nurses working in rural areas of Washington.

RFA Information Summary

Application Due:

Submit applications to waperinatalcollaborative@doh.wa.gov by January 6, 2025, 8 a.m. PST.

RFA Coordinator:

Talia Horacek, talia.horacek@doh.wa.gov

Direct all communication about this RFA to the RFA coordinator listed above. Use “Rural Nursing RFA” in your subject line.

Introduction to the RFA

Introduction and Purpose

This opportunity is funded by the Maternal Health Innovations program through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

The MHI Program has 3 goals:

- Identify existing or new strategic priorities for the next 3 years to improve maternal health in Washington.
- Improve perinatal health data capacity and products.
- Explore and use new strategies to address gaps in maternal health care.

The WA MHI Taskforce identified **Rural Access to Care** as a priority area.

Challenges in Rural Maternity Care

- Rural areas experience higher rates of illness and complications before, during, and after pregnancy.
 - Due to limited resources
- 3 rural Washington hospitals closed their labor and delivery services in 2023 due to:
 - Low number of deliveries
 - Difficulty maintaining skill level
 - High costs and low Medicaid reimbursements,
 - Workforce shortages

Priorities

- Rural nurses require a wide range of skills- including obstetrical labor and delivery
- Training students from rural areas can create an equitable nursing working that reflects the communities it serves

Goal: increasing the number of nurses practicing in rural hospitals

Implementation Examples

- Recruiting students from rural communities and providing support like scholarships for rural students.
- Developing an immersive experience where students can spend summers experiencing rural settings.
- Offer a combination of remote and rural nursing school opportunities so rural students can remain in their communities.

Eligibility for Funding

Applicants must:

- Be a Washington State Board of Nursing-approved nursing program offering ADN and BSN degrees.
 - Check the list of Approved Nursing Programs in the State of Washington
- Have established capacity to improve nursing education for students living in rural communities.
- Be committed to creating a sustainable workforce in rural health care and increasing the supply of Registered Nurses (RN) in rural areas with labor and delivery experience. Be programs leading to students being able to pass the NCLEX-RN.

Application Timeline

	Date
RFA Release Date	December 4, 2024
Application Due Date	January 6, 2025, 8:00 a.m. PST
Application Review	January 7 to February 6, 2025
Notification of Contract Awards	Late February 2025
Contract Fully Executed by	April 1, 2025
Expected Period of Award	April 1, 2025 to September 29, 2028

Fiscal Requirements

The funds for this opportunity come from a grant DOH received from the federal government. Since DOH was initially awarded this grant, and is now granting it to other organizations, grantees are known as “subrecipients.”

- Subrecipient funding has stricter expenses and reimbursement guidelines than state or private funding.
- Organizations must have a budget large enough to pay for services before reimbursement.

Year 1 Budget

The contract year 1 will include a focus on planning and curriculum development. Funding for this period is estimated to be between 6 and 9 months of program work. DOH will negotiate with awardees to develop an adjusted budget based on their ability to complete the work. Years 2 and 3 will cover 12 months of program work.

Application Support

Office Hours: DOH staff will be holding office hours throughout the application period to provide support and answer any questions that arise from applicants.

When: December 12, 2024, 10 to 11 a.m. PST, December 17, 2024, 12 to 1 p.m. PST, January 3, 2025, 1 to 2 p.m. PST

Where: All Office Hours will use the [Office Hours Zoom Link](#)

Application Submission Process

1. All completed application materials must be submitted by PDF to waperinatalcollaborative@doh.wa.gov by **Monday, January 6, 2025, 8 a.m. PST.**
2. A committee of DOH staff and external partners from state organizations and educational facilities will score applications. External reviewers on the selection committee cannot work or otherwise be professionally connected to a state accredited nursing program applying for funding.
3. Funding decisions will be announced in February 2025.

Application Checklist

Application Checklist:

- Application Information Sheet
- Project Work Plan
- Project Budget
- Letters of support*

*Letters of support are optional. A maximum of 3 letters of support can be submitted with the application. These letters can be from partner organizations, community members, students, or rural hospitals or facilities.

Application Evaluation Criteria

Selection Criteria	Max Score
Eligibility and Information Sheet <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Application is complete and includes all required elements from the checklist.• A Washington State Board of Nursing approved nursing program.• Programs lead to students being able to pass the NCLEX-RN.	20 pts
Project Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All answers to the planning questions are detailed and complete.• Expresses established organizational capacity to increase preparedness for rural practice.• Demonstrates a commitment to building a sustainable workforce in rural health care to increase supply of Registered Nurses (RN) in rural communities.• Includes proposed project with milestones and due dates.	50 pts
Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Itemized budget aligned with goals in the project letter.• The total project budget is reasonable and adequate for the proposed project scope	15 pts

Planning Questions

1. Describe your organization's capacity to implement education for nursing students living in rural communities. Include details about your staff and their roles.
2. Tell us about your commitment to creating a sustainable workforce with diverse skills and from different communities. How will your program help increase the supply of Registered Nurses in rural Washington?
3. Share your plan for preparing nursing students to meet the unique needs of working in rural communities. Describe how you'll recruit students, guide them through the program, and help them succeed. Include a high-level timeline with key steps and activities.
4. Describe how you'll deliver rural practice nursing concepts to students, including classroom, lab, and clinical training. How will you give students exposure and experience to rural settings, including labor and delivery?
5. List any existing relationships you have with hospitals and health systems. Please explain how you will work with these partners in the educational process to develop curriculum, offer clinical placements, and give students experience in rural obstetrics care.
6. How will you track student participation and progress in the program. What methods will you use to measure and report the program impact?

Project Budget

Include a description on how you plan to use the grants funds for the budget categories. For more information on allowable costs, see the MHI Allowable Costs Guidance.

Budget Category:

- A. Salaries and Wages
- B. Fringe Benefits
- C. Travel
- D. Equipment
- E. Supplies
- F. Contracts
- G. Other
- H. Indirect Costs

Anticipated Statement of Work

Task Number and Description	Deliverables
<p>1. Program Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a nursing education program tailored to the needs of rural students that leads to RN licensure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A roster of enrolled students with home zip codes. • Sample curriculum highlighting rural nursing education or a program design that supports rural student needs
<p>2. Collaborate with Community Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with rural hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and other health care facilities to engage them in the educational process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief report summarizing your partnership development and the partners' role in curriculum development.
<p>3. Use Simulation Education Methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate simulation-based education methods for on-site training to provide practical, hands-on experience in a controlled environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief report describing how simulation labs were used and delivered in the program.
<p>4. Clinical Rotations and Field Experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Placements: Offer experience in rural hospitals, clinics, and community health centers. • Rural Obstetric Placements: Create opportunities for students to observe rural obstetrics care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief report listing student placements and describing their experiences in rural hospitals, nursing facilities, and other facilities.
<p>5. Loan Repayment and Job Recruitment Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with the Washington State Department of Health, Office of Rural Health Workforce to create presentations about loan repayment and job opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule presentations for nursing students and provide a list of attendees, date, and time of presentations.

Questions?

Talia Horacek

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Coordinator*

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More information available at:

[Washington State Perinatal Collaborative \(WSPC\)](#) | [Washington State Department of Health](#)



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