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with the process instructions.

**Agency/Point of Contact:** Office of Higher Education/Commissioner Dennis Olson

**Title of Request:** Next Generation Nursing Assistant Training Round 2

**Date:** 7/22/2022 **Request Amount:** \$ 2,445,325

**Expenditure Time Period:** 8/1/2022 to 2/15/2023 (no later than 2/15/2023)

**Brief Summary of Request:** (Summary must be complete on this page with supporting information attached)

Minnesota's healthcare employers have a continued and ongoing need for Nursing Assistants. The Next Generation Nursing Assistant initiative which was launched in late December 2021, has proven that a no-barriers approach to training has been successful. This funding request will provide one-time funding to OHE to provide a named grant to Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (Minnesota State) to continue the no-barriers approach with the following activities:

- 1) Training costs: all training expenses will be covered including tuition, books/materials, and scrubs. A "Direct Pay" approach will eliminate up-front costs and the delays that result from tuition reimbursement models.
- 2) Testing costs: the cost of the certification exam will be covered and paid directly to the testing site. In the first round of the Next Generation Nursing Assistant initiative, the pass rate has been lower than historical rates. There are a variety of reasons for this including new testing vendor, limits on how many can test in a day and in a lab space, time allowed, and time from completion of instruction to test. Recognizing this, an average of 2 tests per students is budgeted.
- 3) 369 high school students took the NATO test in Round 1 with 257 passing. Continuing to pay for the NATO test for high school students is a cost-effective approach.
- 4) Support for students such as gas cards or remedial instruction on an "as needed" basis. Program Learner Support such as use of bilingual instructors, support coaches, online office hours with interpreters, etc.
- 5) Upgrades to lab equipment for existing high school programs.
- 6) Marketing support for social media, newspaper, and other outreach.
- 7) Administrative costs associated with implementing, monitoring, and evaluating this initiative are included.

Under the grant, Minnesota State may partner with private training providers to achieve state goals. Additionally, because the cost estimates are rough estimates, funds will be shifted across categories to most efficiently and effectively achieve the state's goals.

**Dennis W. Olson** Digitally signed by Dennis W. Olson  
Date: 2022.08.01 15:52:07 -05'00'  
Department Head Signature

8/1/2022  
Date