

**American Rescue Plan (ARP) State
Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF)
Request Form**

Please complete this form in accordance with
the process instructions.

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

Title of Request: Next Generation Nursing Assistant Training for High School and College Students

Date: 12/1/2021

Request Amount: \$ 3,424,933

Expenditure Time Period: 12/15/2021 to 12/31/2022 (no later than 6/30/2023)

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

Governor Walz has issued a call for high school and college health science students to be trained as nursing assistants. With state agencies (Minnesota State, OHE, MDE, DEED, MDH, DHS, DOLI, MNVA) working together, 1000 students will be trained, supported, and employed as nursing assistants. Training will begin as early as the end of December and will be offered at Minnesota State campuses and other training locations throughout the state. Staff and administrative support (from the Minnesota State HealthForce Center of Excellence or other agencies/organizations) has been included to oversee this training effort. (\$251,683) This work will have an initial push immediately with continuing work through 2022.

This funding request addresses several issues which are known to dissuade students from an interest in working as a nursing assistant:

- 1) Lack of awareness of the occupation and its importance: a marketing campaign tailored to the student population, parents, school counselors, teachers, and faculty. (\$500,000)
- 2) Training and certification costs: all training expenses will be covered including tuition, books/materials, scrubs, and the certification exam fee. A "Direct Pay" approach will eliminate up-front costs and the delays that result from tuition reimbursement models. A low-enrollment cohort model will allow trainings to proceed with any number of students which is especially important in rural Minnesota. (\$1,445,500)
- 3) Incentives: a system of incentives will be established to overcome the hourly wage differential when nursing assistant hourly rate of pay is compared to higher rates of pay at other entry-level jobs. (\$750,000)
- 4) Other support for students: gas cards (\$100,000) and a technology fund (\$100,000) are included to support students without the means to get to training or to access any online resources. A full-time "Student Success Coach" (\$87,750) will be able to provide tutoring, study sessions, resources, etc.

Lab equipment for up to 10 labs has been included for high schools that want to offer nursing assistant training but don't have the necessary equipment. (\$150,000)

Other costs of online technology/resources has also been budgeted (\$40,000)

Dennis W. Olson Digitally signed by Dennis W. Olson
Date: 2021.12.02 11:44:52 -06'00'

Department Head Signature

12/2/2021

Date