

Pennsylvania's Nursing Education Initiatives



The Rendell Administration, the Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board, the Pennsylvania Center for Health Careers, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA), and the Pennsylvania Higher Education Foundation (PHEF) worked together to develop the following initiatives to meet Pennsylvania's demand for more nurses. Funding for these initiatives is being provided by PHEAA through its foundation, PHEF.

Nurse Educator Loan Forgiveness Program

Graduate Nurse Education Grant Program

Nurse Faculty Development Grants

Supplemental Funding for Practical Nursing Programs

Public Promotion of Nursing and Nursing Education as a Career

Interim Student Loan Guarantee Program

Dr. McKenzie Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students

Governor Rendell and the Pennsylvania Legislature are providing approximately \$7.5 million in the 2006-07 budget to complement the current Nursing Education Initiatives.

Loaned Faculty Initiative – This initiative will support partnerships between health care employers and nursing education programs to generate new faculty and increase student enrollment. The purpose is to provide financial incentives to health care employers to lend qualified nurses as faculty to nursing programs that demonstrate a critical need for new faculty and the ability to expand their enrollment.

Clinical Education Initiative – This initiative will foster the effective use of adjunct, part-time, and contracted faculty. The purpose is to increase educational quality and enable institutions to expand their programs by providing these faculty with coordination and training services. This initiative will also enable nursing programs to hire one faculty member dedicated to incorporating simulation technology into the curriculum. The purpose is to provide the most productive and efficient use of simulation labs and increase the number of students nursing programs can prepare.

Nurse Educator Loan Forgiveness Program

Offers qualifying applicants the opportunity to reduce their eligible student loans with funds provided by American Education Services (AES)/PHEAA.

Up to \$50,000 of qualified loan debt can be forgiven in exchange for working three to five years as a nurse educator at an approved Pennsylvania postsecondary nursing school or other approved institution.

Graduate Nurse Education Grant Program

PHEF makes funds available to Pennsylvania graduate schools of nursing which in turn provide funds to graduate nursing students. These grants or scholarships are intended to encourage students to pursue a graduate degree in nursing that will qualify them to become a nurse educator.

Nurse Faculty Development Grants

Provides a new source of financial support for non-profit, tax-exempt schools of nursing. The intent of this program is to enable schools to quickly increase their nursing enrollment by funding additional faculty, providing assistance for current faculty to complete degrees, or allowing faculty members to hire graduate assistants to teach nursing students.

Supplemental Funding for Practical Nursing Programs

Provides financial aid to students seeking to become licensed practical nurses. PHEF will distribute \$1 million each year for three years to practical nursing programs at Pennsylvania schools to distribute scholarships. Funding already has been awarded for 2005.

Public Promotion of Nursing as a Career

This campaign is designed to reach a variety of age groups, from grade school students to adults, who may be looking for an exciting new career. Current nurse professionals also are encouraged to consider returning to school for graduate degrees in nurse education to help teach the next generation of Pennsylvania nurses.

Interim Student Loan Guarantee Program

PHEAA will provide alternative student loans to fund unmet needs at Pennsylvania nursing schools prior to receiving Family Federal Education Loan Program (FFELP) eligibility. This initiative will continue to develop and support the growth of the nursing community in Pennsylvania. This effort initially will target three types of schools:

- New nursing schools
- Nursing schools trying to reopen
- Nursing schools providing accelerated programs

Dr. McKenzie Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students

PHEF currently is developing scholarships for disadvantaged students. These scholarships will be named in honor of the late, distinguished educator and long-time PHEAA and PHEF Board member, Dr. Edna McKenzie.

To learn more about these initiatives or to apply, log on to www.paworkforce.state.pa.us or call 717-772-4966

To learn more about the current initiatives or to apply, log on to www.futuresinnursing.org or call 800-377-4502

