

## FISCAL YEAR 2024 NURSE CORPS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM DEFINITIONS

**ACADEMIC YEAR.** All Nurse Corps Scholarship Program contracts are for a defined academic term. Under the Nurse Corps Scholarship Program, all academic years run from a contract period of July 1 through June 30 of the following year. For example, if a student is in a full-time 24-month program that begins on August 2, 2024, and they sign a contract for two academic years, the student will receive a stipend, other reasonable cost, and tuition payments from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026. Funding for additional months of the program beyond the contract period end date of June 30, 2026, would require the student to request a third year of scholarship funding, and if granted, obligates the participant to 3 years of full-time service.

**ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF ACADEMIC STANDING.** The level at which a student retains eligibility to continue attending the nursing program for which they were awarded under the school's standards and practices as determined by the nursing program.

**ACCREDITED PROGRAM.** A program accredited by a national or regional nurse education accrediting agency or state approval agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education. The Nurse Corps SP recognizes nursing programs accredited by the [Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education \(CCNE\)](#) and the [Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing \(ACEN\)](#), and these five Nursing State Boards: Kansas, Maryland, Missouri, New York, and North Dakota.

**ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE.** A Registered Nurse who has completed graduate-level education such as a master's or a doctorate, and has specialized training and certification in one of these areas: clinical nurse specialist, nurse practitioner, certified nurse-midwife, or certified nurse anesthetist.

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFSET.** For scholars who receive funding under the Nurse Corps Scholarship Program, overpayments of scholarship benefits may be collected through administrative offset from future award payments. The Nurse Corps Scholarship Program may withhold scholarship funds payable to, or on behalf of, participants (including stipends, other reasonable cost, and if necessary, tuition/fees payments) until the overpayment is paid in full. Administrative offset is not a repayment option for participants who wish to terminate a contract.

**AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER.** An entity that operates exclusively for the purpose of furnishing surgical services to patients who do not require hospitalization and for whom the expected duration of services does not exceed 24 hours following admission.

**AMERICAN INDIAN HEALTH FACILITIES.** A health care facility (whether operated directly by the Indian Health Service; or by a tribe or tribal organization contracting with the Indian Health Service pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, codified at 25

U.S.C. 450 et seq.; or by an urban Indian organization receiving funds under Subchapter IV of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, codified at 25 U.S.C. 1651 et seq.), which provides clinical treatment services to eligible American Indians and Alaska Natives on an outpatient basis. Visit: [Urban Indian Health Program](#)

**CAREER PATHWAYS FUNDING.** Funding up to \$2 million dollars to support unlicensed assistive personnel such as certified nursing assistants, home health aides, medical assistants, as well as those in entry level nursing careers, such as licensed practical/vocational nurses to pursue an associate degree in nursing or bachelor of science in nursing.

**CERTIFIED NURSE MIDWIFE.** Certified Nurse Midwives are advanced practice registered nurses who have completed a minimum of a Master of Science in Nursing degree, a post-graduate degree, or a Doctor of Nursing Practice from a nurse-midwifery education program accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education. Certified Nurse Midwives are primary care providers for women throughout their lifespan, with a special emphasis on pregnancy, childbirth, and gynecologic and reproductive health.

**COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER.** Behavioral and mental health facilities must be located in or serve in a Health Professional Shortage Area and must offer comprehensive primary behavioral health services to all residents in the defined health professional shortage area. The site must offer comprehensive primary behavioral health care services including, but not limited to:

- **Core Comprehensive Behavioral Health Service Elements:**
  - Screening and assessment;
  - Treatment plans;
  - Care coordination;
  
- **Non-Core Behavioral Health Service Elements:**
  - Diagnosis;
  - Therapeutic services (including psychiatric medication prescribing and management, chronic disease management, and substance use disorder treatment);
  - Crisis/emergency services (including 24-hour crisis call access);
  - Consultative services; and
  - Case management.

**CONTRACT.** A written contract, as authorized by Section 846(d) of the Public Health Service Act, for an academic year pursuant to which (1) the federal government agrees to provide the individual with a scholarship for attendance at a school of nursing during that academic year, and (2) the individual agrees to serve as a nurse for a period of not less than two years at a health care facility with a critical shortage of nurses after graduation.

**CRITICAL SHORTAGE FACILITY.** A critical shortage facility is a health care facility located in an area experiencing a significant shortage of nurses, as indicated by the federal designation as a health professional shortage area.

**DEFAULT OF SERVICE OBLIGATION.** Failure for any reason to begin or complete the Nurse Corps Scholarship Program service obligation, including failure to comply with the terms and conditions of delaying the service obligation for approved postgraduate training.

**DEFERMENT** - A delay in the start of service obligation granted by the Nurse Corps Scholarship Program upon a student’s request, for a specified period of time to enter and complete an approved postgraduate nursing residency program.

**DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE HOSPITAL.** A hospital that has a disproportionately large share of low-income patients and receives an augmented payment from the state under Medicaid or a payment adjustment from Medicare. Hospital-based outpatient clinics are included under this definition.

**ELIGIBLE REQUIRED FEES AND INELIGIBLE FEES.** Fees that are covered by Nurse Corps Scholarship Program if required by participants’ schools include but are not limited to:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrative</li> <li>• Background Check</li> <li>• Building/Campus</li> <li>• Capstone Course (must be required of all students regardless of source of funding)</li> <li>• Career Resource</li> <li>• Computer Use</li> <li>• Curriculum</li> <li>• Disability Insurance (must be required of all students regardless of source of funding)</li> <li>• Drug Testing Fee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education Fee</li> <li>• Graduation (last year of program)</li> <li>• Health Insurance (must be required of all students regardless of source of funding I)</li> <li>• Health Services and Immunizations</li> <li>• Identification Card (if required and only the initial card)</li> <li>• Laboratory</li> <li>• Library</li> <li>• Malpractice (must be required of all nursing students)</li> <li>• Matriculation</li> <li>• National Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online Course</li> <li>• Processing</li> <li>• Recreation</li> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Student Activities</li> <li>• Student Association/Union</li> <li>• Student Initiated Fees (must be required of all students regardless of source of funding)</li> <li>• Student Services</li> <li>• Technology</li> <li>• Testing</li> <li>• Transcript</li> <li>• Transportation (if required for campus-wide system)</li> <li>• University Fees</li> </ul>
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	Licensure Examination Review (if a required part of the curriculum)	
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Fees NOT eligible for reimbursement or payment include, but are not limited to:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accident Insurance</li> <li>• Attorney</li> <li>• Automobile (including insurance and maintenance)</li> <li>• Books</li> <li>• Certification Board</li> <li>• Class Dues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computer/Devices</li> <li>• Dental Insurance</li> <li>• Education Associations</li> <li>• Financial Aid Trust Fund</li> <li>• ID Maintenance</li> <li>• Late Charges</li> <li>• Life Insurance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Council Licensure Examination Review (unless part of curriculum)</li> <li>• Parking</li> <li>• Penalty Fees</li> <li>• Personal Transportation</li> <li>• Post Office Box Rental</li> <li>• Refundable Property Deposits</li> <li>• Study Abroad</li> </ul>
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**END STAGE RENAL DISEASE DIALYSIS CENTERS.** An end stage renal disease facility is an entity that provides outpatient maintenance dialysis services, or home dialysis training and support services, or both. End Stage Renal Disease facilities are described under section 1881 of the Social Security Act and 42 CFR 413.174 as being either hospital-based or independent facilities.

**ENROLLED OR ACCEPTED FOR ENROLLMENT.** Enrolled is defined as having been formally admitted to a registered nurse or nurse practitioner program at an accredited school of nursing, committed to attend the program, and scheduled or been deemed eligible to schedule classes to begin no later than September 30 of the year for which the award was made. Accepted for

enrollment is defined as having been officially granted entrance without contingency to an Registered nurse or nurse practitioner program at an accredited school of nursing. Wait-listed and alternate selection candidates do not meet this criterion. A letter of acceptance by the school is typically provided for confirmation.

**FAFSA SIMPLIFICATION ACT (Act).** An enacted law as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, and amended by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022. The Act further amends the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), and impacts the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

**FAMILY/FAMILY MEMBER.** For the purposes of the Nurse Corps Scholarship Program, “family member” includes married spouses, as well as unmarried domestic partners (both same-sex and opposite-sex), including those in civil unions or similar formal relationships recognized under state law as something other than a marriage.

**FEDERAL PIPELINE PROGRAMS.** *Federal pipeline programs* are designed to enhance educational opportunities and increase the number of students from disadvantaged backgrounds to progress from elementary through post-undergraduate levels. These programs offer an array of academic enrichment activities and services to better prepare disadvantaged students to successfully graduate from a health professions school.

- a. U.S. Department of Education
  - i. [Federal TRIO Programs](#)
  - ii. [Promising Neighborhoods Program](#)
  - iii. [Student Support Services](#)
  - iv. [Educational Opportunity Centers](#)
  - v. [Talent Search](#)
  - vi. [Upward Bound](#)
  - vii. [Upward Bound Math-Science](#)
  - viii. [Veterans Upward Bound](#)
  - ix. [Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs](#)
- b. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
  - i. [Health Careers Opportunity Program \(The National HCOP Academies\)](#)
  - ii. [Centers of Excellence Program](#)
  - iii. [Area Health Education Centers Program](#)
  - iv. [Health Profession Opportunity Grant](#)
  - v. [National Workforce Diversity Pipeline Program](#)
  - vi. [Community Health Worker Health Disparities Initiative](#)
- c. National Science Foundation
  - i. [Tribal Colleges and Universities Program](#)
  - ii. [Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate](#)
  - iii. [Historically Black Colleges and Universities - Undergraduate Program](#)

**FEDERAL QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER.** – Federal Qualified Health Centers include: (1) private nonprofit entities or public agencies that receive a grant under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act or funding from such a grant under a contract with the recipient of such a grant and meets the requirements to receive such a grant; (2) entities designated as “Look-Alikes” by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (or designee) as meeting the requirements for receiving a grant under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act; and (3) outpatient health programs or facilities operated by a tribe or tribal organization under the Indian Self-Determination Act or by an urban Indian organization receiving funds under Title V of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. Federal Qualified Health Centers include Community Health Centers, Migrant Health Centers, Health Care for the Homeless Health Centers, and Public Housing Primary Care Health Centers.

**FREE AND CHARITABLE CLINICS.** Free and Charitable Clinics are safety-net health care organizations that utilize a volunteer/staff model to provide a range of medical, dental, pharmacy, vision and/or behavioral health services to economically disadvantaged individuals. Such clinics are 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations or operate as a program component or affiliate of a 501(c)(3) organization. Entities that otherwise meet the above definition, but charge a nominal/sliding fee to patients, may still be considered Free or Charitable Clinics if essential services are delivered regardless of the patient’s ability to pay. Free or charitable clinics restrict eligibility for their services to individuals who are uninsured, underinsured and/or have limited or no access to primary, specialty or prescription health care.

**FULL-TIME CLINICAL PRACTICE.** The provision of nursing services for a minimum of 32 hours per week. At least 26 hours per week, of the minimum 32 hours per week, must be spent providing clinical services or direct patient care to patients. This is a weekly requirement and hours cannot be averaged.

**FULL-TIME STUDENT.** A student enrolled in a school for the number of credit hours or courses in any academic term that is considered by the school to be full-time. Any courses that are not required or are unrelated to the qualifying degree program, as well as repeat courses the Nurse Corps Scholarship Program has already paid for, will not count toward the hours required for full-time status.

**GRADUATE NURSING PROGRAM.** Any department, division, or other administrative unit in a college or university that provides primarily or exclusively a program of education in professional nursing and related subjects leading to a graduate degree in nursing, (i.e., where students will receive a master’s degree), or to an equivalent degree. This includes advanced training related to such program of education provided by such school, but only if such program, or such unit, college or university is accredited. It also includes entry to nursing master’s programs where graduates are authorized to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination-Registered Nurse. The educational programs in the school of nursing must be accredited by a national nursing accrediting agency or state approval agency recognized by the

U.S. Secretary of Education.

**HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.** An operating agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**HEALTH WORKFORCE CONNECTOR.** A searchable database of open job opportunities and information about approved sites.

**[HOME HEALTH AGENCY.](#)** An agency or organization, certified under section 1861(o) of the Social Security Act, which is primarily engaged in providing skilled nursing care and other therapeutic services at a patient's home.

**HOSPICE PROGRAM.** An agency or organization, certified under section 1861(dd)(2) of the Social Security Act, that provides 24-hour care and treatment services (as needed) to terminally ill individuals and bereavement counseling for their immediate family members. Care is provided in individuals' homes, on an outpatient basis, and on a short-term inpatient basis, directly or under arrangements made by the agency or organization.

**INITIAL SCHOOL OF RECORD.** The school indicated on the Nurse Corps Scholarship Program application and attended at the time the initial contract is executed.

**IN-SERVICE VERIFICATION.** The In-Service Verification is used to verify the participant's compliance with the Nurse Corps Scholarship Program service obligation after award and throughout the two-year contract. The In-Service Verification must be completed by the Point Of Contact or an authorized official.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE.** A period of approved absence from a course of study granted to a student by his or her nursing school for medical, personal, or other reasons. The leave of absence from the Nurse Corps Scholarship Program is usually granted for a period of one (1) year or less.

**NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALTH CENTER.** An entity, (a) which is organized under the laws of the state of Hawaii; (b) which provides or arranges for health care services through practitioners licensed by the state of Hawaii, where licensure requirements are applicable; (c) which is a public or private entity; (d) which receives funds under 42 USC §§ 11701-11714 and, (d) in which Native Hawaiian health practitioners significantly participate in the planning, management, monitoring, and evaluation of health services. For more information, see the [Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act of 1992](#).

**NURSE MANAGED HEALTH CLINIC/CENTER.** An entity which is a nurse-practice arrangement, managed by advanced practice nurses, that provides primary care or wellness services to underserved or vulnerable populations and that is associated with a school, college, university or department of nursing, Federally Qualified Health Center, or independent health or social services agency. These clinics must serve the general public.

**OTHER REASONABLE COSTS.** An additional annual payment is provided directly to each Nurse Corps Scholarship Program participant to assist in the payment of books, clinical supplies/instruments, and uniforms.

**OUTPATIENT FACILITY.** Outpatient facilities provide healthcare services to private, group and specialty practices that are open to the public.

**PART-TIME CLINICAL PRACTICE.** The provision of nursing services for a minimum of 16 hours per week (up to a maximum of 31 hours per week). At least 80 percent of the hours each week must be spent providing clinical services or direct patient care to patients. This is a weekly requirement and hours cannot be averaged.

**PART-TIME STUDENT.** A student is considered part-time if enrolled on at least a half-time basis (i.e., the student is not taking a sufficient number of credit hours to meet or exceed 50 percent of the credit hours required by the nursing school program to be a full-time student).

**POSTGRADUATE TRAINING.** Additional training that a health professions student may participate in after they graduate from a health professions education program (e.g., internships, residencies, chief residency, or fellowships).

**POINT OF CONTACT.** A school or site official designated as the main point of contact for communication and to verify enrollment or employment for a participant.

**PRIVATE HOSPITAL.** Hospitals or affiliated outpatient clinics that are private entities and are primarily engaged in providing the following care, by or under the supervision of physicians, to inpatients: (a) diagnostic and therapeutic services for medical diagnosis, treatment, and care of injured, disabled, or sick persons, or (b) rehabilitation of injured, disabled, or sick persons. Hospital-based outpatient clinics are included under this definition.

**PUBLIC HOSPITAL.** Any hospital or hospital-based outpatient clinics that are owned by a government (federal, state, or local), receives government funding, and are primarily engaged in providing the following care, by or under the supervision of physicians, to inpatients: (a) diagnostic and therapeutic services for medical diagnosis, treatment, and care of injured, disabled, or sick persons; or (b) rehabilitation of injured, disabled, or sick persons. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals and military treatment facility hospitals are also included under this definition. State psychiatric hospitals must use facility Health Professional Shortage Area to determine site eligibility population and geographic Health Professional Shortage Areas cannot be used.

**RESIDENCY FOR NURSE PRACTITIONER.** Nurse Practitioner fellowship and residency programs are competitive non-mandatory programs defined as a stage in clinical education where a Nurse Practitioner provides patient care under the supervision of either a physician or another

Nurse Practitioner while being paid a salary.

**RESIDENCY FOR REGISTERD NURSE.** These residencies are defined as non-mandatory programs designed to help new nurse graduates transition into clinical practice.

**SUSPENSION.** Suspension of the service or payment obligation is a temporary status granted at the discretion of Nurse Corps Scholarship Program if compliance with the obligation by the participant is (1) temporarily impossible or (2) would involve a temporary extreme hardship such that enforcement of the obligation would be unconscionable.

**STUDENT AID INDEX (SAI).** The SAI is a number that determines each student’s eligibility for certain types of federal student aid. An applicant’s SAI is calculated using modified need analysis formulas outlined in the [FAFSA Simplification Act](#). These formulas use information that applicants provide on the FAFSA form and, in most cases, federal tax information that is retrieved directly from the Internal Revenue Service.

**RESIDENTIAL NURSING HOME.** An institution that is primarily engaged in providing, on a regular basis, health-related care and service to individuals who, because of their mental or physical condition, require care and service (above the level of room and board) that can be made available to them only through institutional facilities. This category includes a “skilled nursing facility,” which is an institution (or distinct part of an institution) certified under section 1819(a) of the Social Security Act, that is primarily engaged in providing skilled nursing care and related services to residents requiring medical, rehabilitation, or nursing care and is not primarily for the care and treatment of mental diseases; transitional facilities; assisted living; and group homes.

**RURAL HEALTH CLINIC.** An entity that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has certified as a rural health clinic under section 1861(aa)(2) of the Social Security Act. A rural health clinic provides outpatient services to a non-urban area with an insufficient number of health care practitioners.

**SCHOOL-BASED CLINIC.** A health clinic that is located in or near a school facility of a school district or board or of an Indian tribe or tribal organization.

**SMALL RURAL HOSPITAL.** A non-federal, short-term general acute care hospital that is located in a rural area (as defined for purposes of section 1886(d)); and (ii) has less than 50 beds. Critical Access Hospitals are included as eligible within this Critical Shortage Facility.

**STATE OR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT.** The state, county, parish, or district entity that is responsible for providing healthcare services, which include health promotion, disease prevention, and intervention services, in clinics or other health care facilities that are funded and operated by the state or local Public Health, Health, or Human Services Departments.

**SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT or SAM.gov.** A website maintained by the General Services Administration for the purpose of disseminating information on parties that are excluded from receiving federal contracts, subcontracts, and federal financial and non-financial assistance and benefits, pursuant to Executive Order 12549, Executive Order 12689, and implementing regulations.

**UNDERGRADUATE NURSING PROGRAM.** Any school of nursing program where graduates are authorized to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination-Registered Nurse (i.e., where students will receive a diploma, associate, or baccalaureate degree). The educational programs in the school of nursing must be accredited by a national nursing accrediting agency or state approval agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education.

**UNENCUMBERED LICENSE.** An unencumbered license means one that is not revoked, suspended, or made probationary or conditional by a licensing or registering authority as the result of any disciplinary action.

**URGENT CARE CENTER.** Urgent care centers provide acute episodic care on a walk-in basis to assist patients with an illness or injury that does not appear to be limb or life threatening and is either beyond the scope or availability of the typical primary care practice. Urgent care centers primarily treat injuries or illnesses requiring immediate care but not serious enough to require an emergency room visit.

**WAIVER.** A permanent release of all or part of a participant's Nurse Corps Scholarship Program service or payment obligation. A waiver will only be granted if compliance with the obligation by the participant (1) is permanently impossible or (2) would involve a permanent extreme hardship such that enforcement of the obligation would be unconscionable.

**WOMEN'S HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER.** An advanced-practice nurse who specializes in the comprehensive care of women throughout the lifespan. Must have a master's degree or higher degree in nursing from a program accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education with a specialization in women's health and obtain Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner certification from the National Certification Corporation.

**WOMEN'S HEALTH NURSE PROVIDERS.** Certified nurse midwives and nurse practitioners with women's health or obstetrics and gynecology specialty.