

Final Recommendation:
HEALTH SERVICES COST REVIEW COMMISSION
Nurse Support Program II
FY 2011 COMPETITIVE INSTITUTIONAL GRANTS

May 5, 2010

This final recommendation was approved by the Commission on
May 5, 2010.

INTRODUCTION

This paper presents the Evaluation Committee and HSCRC staff recommendations for the FY 2011 Nurse Support Program II (NSP II) Competitive Institutional Grants.

BACKGROUND

At the May 4 2005 HSCRC public meeting, the Commission unanimously approved funding of 0.1% of regulated patient revenue annually over the next ten years for use in expanding the pool of bedside nurses in the State by increasing the number of nurse graduates. The catalyst for this program was the finding that in fiscal year 2004, nearly 1,900 eligible nursing students were denied admission to Maryland nursing schools due to insufficient nursing faculty. In accordance with the Board of Nursing (BON) guidelines, nursing faculty are required to possess a Master's degree in nursing. The primary goal of NSP II is to increase the number of bedside nurses in Maryland hospitals by expanding the capacity of Maryland nursing schools and, thereby, increasing the number of nurse graduates.

Following the approval of NSP II, the HSCRC assembled an advisory group of academicians, business leaders, and nurse executives. The advisory panel held a series of meetings with the Maryland Association of Nurse Executives and the deans and directors of the State's nursing schools. In response to the issues expressed by these two groups, the advisory panel crafted two distinct but complementary programs to address the multi-faceted issues surrounding the nursing faculty shortage: 1) Competitive Institutional Grants, and 2) Statewide Initiatives. The HSCRC also contracted with the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to administer the NSP II grants because of its expertise in the administration of grants and scholarships.

In 2006, the Governor introduced legislation to create a nonlapsing fund, the Nurse Support Assistance Fund, so that funds collected through hospital rates under NSP II can be carried forward to cover awards in future years and could not be diverted to the State's general fund at the end of the fiscal year. The legislation also provided that a portion of the Competitive Institutional Grants and Statewide Initiatives be used to attract and retain minorities to nursing and nurse faculty careers.

The Competitive Institutional Grants are designed to increase the structural capacity of Maryland nursing schools through shared resources, innovative educational designs, and streamlining the process to produce additional nurse faculty.

The types of initiatives that qualify for Competitive Institutional Grants are as follows:

1. Initiatives to expand Maryland's nursing capacity through shared resources by developing the synergies between provider and educational institutions.
2. Initiatives to increase Maryland's nursing faculty by streamlining the attainment for Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degrees to increase nursing faculty.
3. Initiatives to improve nursing student retention by providing tutorial support to decrease attrition and increase National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) pass rates.
4. Initiatives to expand the pipeline for nursing faculty by providing incentives for nurses with either an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) or a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) to pursue an MSN, thereby increasing the pool of qualified nursing faculty.
5. Initiatives to increase capacity statewide by providing support for innovative programs that have a statewide impact on the capacity to train nurses or nursing faculty.

The Competitive Institutional Grant process requires an Evaluation Committee to review, deliberate, and recommend programs for final approval by the HSCRC. The proposals based on the criteria set forth in the request for Applications (RFA), the comparative expected outcomes of each initiative, the geographic distribution across the State, and the priority attached to attracting and retaining minorities in nursing and nursing faculty careers. The Statewide Initiatives are evaluated less formally and are awarded based on the qualifications and credentials of each applicant.

First and Second Rounds of NSP II Competitive Grants

During the first year, twenty-six proposals for the Competitive Institutional Grants were received. HSCRC staff, following an Evaluation Committee process, recommended seven programs, including 21 educational institutions and hospitals, for funding, which was approved by the Commission. MHEC staff conducted onsite visits to the organizations funded during the first year (FY 2007) of NSP II Competitive Institutional Grants and program directors summarized findings in an annual report¹.

¹ . Report is available on the HSCRC website (www.hscrc.state.md.us) under HSCRC Initiatives Nurse Support Programs

For the FY 2008 NSP II Competitive Grants, twenty-three proposals were received. The Evaluation Committee comprised of nursing administrators and educators recommended by the industry, a former Commissioner, and MHEC and HSCRC staff, reviewed all of the proposals and unanimously agreed to recommend nine of the twenty-three proposals that were submitted for FY2008. These nine proposals included consortia representing 25 colleges and universities, health systems and hospitals. The programs addressed the multiple aspects of the nursing shortage by accelerating the number of ADN graduates, encouraging the pipeline of ADN to BSN students, and creating pathways to nursing faculty positions through accelerated MSN and doctoral programs.

Third Round and Fourth Round of NSP II Competitive Grants

Four proposals were received for the FY 2009 NSP II Competitive Grant program. The Evaluation Committee recommended three of the four proposals. These three projects will bring a nursing program to a previously underserved county, will convert a doctoral nursing program to a hybrid distance learning format, and will bring graduate students into a certificate program in teaching nursing.

MHEC and the HSCRC staff took several steps to address the issues that may have contributed to the small number of proposals received last year for the NSP II Competitive Grant program. The deans and directors of the colleges and universities were surveyed to determine whether there were specific barriers, and many of their concerns were addressed. Additional technical assistance was provided last year to assist with proposal development. In addition, a survey was administered to solicit input on ways the program could be made more responsive and effective. Changes were made to the program as a result of this input, which led to many more proposal submissions for the fourth round.

For FY 2010, twenty-eight proposals were received. The review panel for this round consisted of eight reviewers, six of whom were returning evaluators. The Commission approved twenty-one of the twenty-eight proposals, which will result in an additional \$20M in NSPII expenditures over five years. These projects incorporate initiatives to increase capacity, improve retention, and add new technology for simulation and instruction. Two of the approved proposals will provide statewide training in simulation for faculty and laboratory staff.

Fifth Round of NSP II Competitive Grants

Proposals for the fifth round of competitive funding for NSPII were due to the Maryland Higher Education Commission on March 1, 2010. Twelve proposals were received by that date. The proposals were mailed to the eight reviewers, all of whom were returning evaluators. This committee came together on March 26, 2010, and unanimously agreed to recommend eleven of the twelve proposals (attachment I). The proposals vary in their goals, with several that continue ongoing projects, several that support online education, two that lend support to new nursing programs, and two that will have Statewide ramifications in new faculty education and student retention. Twenty-four institutions in Maryland will be involved in the proposed three to five year grants.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Commission Staff recommends the eleven Competitive Institutional Grants listed in Attachment I be approved by the Commission for FY 2011 in the funding amounts stated.
2. Staff recommends that the 60- day comment rule be waived so that this recommendation may be considered for final approval during this May Commission meeting.

NSPII FY11 PROPOSALS RECOMMENDED

NSP II	INSTITUTION	TITLE	PROJECT DIRECTOR	AFFILIATES	AMOUNT	DURATION
NSP II-11-101	Allegany College	Creating an On-Line LPN to RN Program	Dennise Exstrom	none	\$ 846,140	5 years
NSP II-11-102	Anne Arundel Comm. College	New RN Delivery Model at AACC	Beth Anne Batturs	AAMC, BWMC, Doctors Comm. Hospital, Mercy Medical Center	\$ 861,369	5 years
NSP II-11-103	Comm. College of Baltimore Co	Maximizing Nursing Retention & Success	Dr. Estelle Young	Franklin Square, Towson University	\$ 1,186,118	4 years
NSP II-11-104	Frostburg State University	Improving Recruitment & Retention in Online RN to BSN Programs	Heather Gable	none	\$ 273,967	3 years
NSP II-11-105	Johns Hopkins University	Creating an On-Line Nurse Educator Certificate Option	Drs. Anne Belcher & Pamela Jeffries	none	\$ 458,000	3 years
NSP II-11-106	Johns Hopkins University	Increasing Bedside Nursing Capacity & Expertise: New Nurse Residency & Clinical Nurse Specialist Education	Elizabeth Jordan & Julie Stanik-Hutt	Bayview Med Ctr, Howard Co Hospital, Suburban Hospital, Johns Hopkins	\$ 1,227,470	5 years
NSP II-11-107	Montgomery College	NSP II Nursing Enrichment Program (NEP)	Barbara Nubile	none	\$ 403,182	3 years
NSP II-11-108	Morgan State University	Building Capacity and Diversity in Nursing Education: Launching a Doctoral Program in Nursing at an HBCU	Dr. Kathleen Galbraith	none	\$ 749,087	3 years
NSP II-11-109	Sojourner Douglass College	S-DC Model for Increasing Capacity & Student Success	Dr. Maija Anderson	none	\$ 1,520,046	5 years
NSP II-11-110	University of MD Baltimore	Meeting the Challenge: Statewide Initiatives for Nursing Faculty	Drs. Louise Jenkins & Carol O'Neil	none	\$ 108,000	1 year
NSP II-11-112	Washington Adventist University	Who Will Teach?	Dr. Gina Brown	Dimensions Health System, Doctors Comm. Hospital	\$ 998,196	5 years
	TOTAL				\$ 8,631,575	



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April 23, 2010

Mr. Oscar Ibarra
Chief, Information Management and Program Administration
Health Services Cost Review Commission
4160 Patterson Avenue.
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Dear Mr. Ibarra

On behalf of MHA and its 67 members, we wish to express our support for approval of the Draft Recommendations for the Nurse Support Program II (NSP II) FY 2011 Competitive Institutional Grants.

Since its establishment in 2005, the NSP II program has made important contributions to addressing the nurse shortage by supporting faculty education and program development. Among its important initiatives are providing new options for RNs to complete MSN and doctoral degrees preparing them to teach and provide primary care. NSP II grants also have helped to increase enrollment and retention of first time nurse graduates.

Our schools and hospitals are beginning to experience the success of the program. New faculty have been educated and hired by schools around the state. New and existing faculty are being educated to use sophisticated patient simulation equipment that enables students to have opportunity to apply nursing knowledge and skill and make more efficient use of time spent in direct patient care "clinical." This in turn opens up more clinical time for additional students.

National interest in this unique program remains high. As you know, Dr. Janet Allen and I were recently approached by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing to write an article for their publication which targets Boards of Nursing across the country and we are working with Bob Murray and Steve Ports to develop it. In addition, NSP II Statewide Initiatives have provided tuition assistance and living expenses to a large number of students. Without the supplemental funds provided by NSP II, tuition assistance would surely have been less available in these difficult times.

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The *Who Will Care?* (WWC) grant continues to build on NSP II success by providing complementary grants. WWC also provides technical assistance for grant writing, student retention strategies, and tracking grant outcomes. Taken together the two programs contribute importantly to meeting the growing statewide need for nurses anticipated over the next few years.

We look forward to working with you and the HSCRC commissioners and staff to assure continued full funding of this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Crowley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Catherine Crowley