

NURSING SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The 1989 Kansas Legislature enacted the Kansas Nursing Student Scholarship Program. The 2001 Legislature amended the program to include renaming the scholarship to the Nursing Service Scholarship. The purpose is to provide financial incentives for students to pursue nursing as a field of study and as a career in Kansas.

The Nursing Service Scholarship is funded jointly by the State of Kansas and a medical provider (sponsor). Contingent on state legislative appropriations, up to 200 scholarships are reserved for Registered Nursing (RN) students, of which 100 are reserved for applicants whose sponsors are located in rural counties. Up to 50 scholarships are available for qualified students enrolled in a Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) program.

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT

Another change made by the 2001 Legislature is that the maximum scholarship stipend is not to exceed 70 percent of the cost of attendance for an academic year in a school of nursing operated by a Kansas educational institution. See the current Nursing Service Scholarship Application for the award amount. Scholarships are renewable for students requiring more than one year to complete their respective program.

If the sponsoring facility is located in a rural county or has less than 100 beds, the sponsor will pay \$1,000 and the state will pay the remainder of the annual scholarship amount. Sponsors in an urban county with 100 or more beds will pay half of the scholarship amount.

SPONSOR ELIGIBILITY

A medical provider, or sponsor, is defined as one of the following:

- Adult care home licensed under the Adult Care Home Licensure Act
- Any medical care facility licensed by the state
- A psychiatric hospital licensed by the state
- A home health agency licensed by the state
- Any local health department licensed by the state
- Any state agency that employs LPNs or RNs.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Kansas residents admitted to a nursing degree program at an eligible Kansas postsecondary institution may apply for the Nursing Service Student Scholarship. **Pre-nursing students do not qualify.**

Preference is given to students who are eligible for the full academic year (both fall & spring semesters). Students beginning a nursing program in January will be considered for scholarships if funds are available. Recipients of the Nursing Service Scholarship must be a full-time student. Full time is defined as a minimum of twelve semester hours (or clock hours equivalent to twelve semester hours). The educational institution must verify that the scholarship recipient is enrolled full time in a nursing program prior to releasing funds.

HOW TO APPLY

Kansas's residents who will enroll in a nursing program at a Kansas institution during the next academic year must complete the following steps to apply for the Nursing Service Scholarship:

- (1) Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and mail it in the envelope provided in the FAFSA. Forms are available from the Financial Aid Office at your college, from high school counselors, by calling 1-800-433-3243, or it can also be filed on line at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- (2) Complete the Financial Aid Sources for Kansas Students Application (Questions #1 thru #4) and mail it along with the \$10.00 processing fee made payable to KBOR. Forms are available from the Financial Aid Office at your college, from high school counselors, by calling KBOR at (785) 296-3518 or from our web site at www.kansasregents.org.
- (3) Obtain the Nursing Service Scholarship Application from the Kansas Board of Regents office, a Financial Aid Office, a high school counselor, a sponsor, any school of nursing or from our web site at www.kansasregents.org.

- (4) Obtain sponsorship from a medical provider for whom you want to work. Submit a **copy** of the Sponsor Agreement **with your nursing scholarship application** to the Kansas Board of Regents. The scholarship application cannot be processed without a copy of the Sponsor Agreement.

Remember, students enrolled in pre-nursing programs are not eligible for the scholarship.

DEADLINE FOR APPLYING

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and state application must be processed by May 1 and the nursing application should be submitted as soon as possible for best consideration of an award. Awards are based on the receipt date of the Nursing Service Scholarship Application and will be made as long as funds are available.

RENEWAL APPLICATION

Students enrolled in a RN program longer than one year are eligible for continued scholarship funding. The sponsor is obligated to provide funding for subsequent years of study if the student meets the renewal criteria of the sponsor. Renewal applications are mailed to current recipients in March each year. The student must submit the application and a current sponsorship agreement to the Kansas Board of Regents. The student must remain in good academic standing and continue to be enrolled full time in a RN nursing program.

RECIPIENT OBLIGATIONS

Nursing Service Scholarship recipients are required to provide one year of service to the medical sponsor for each year they receive scholarship assistance. This means the student agrees to work for the facility that sponsored them. If they do not work for the sponsor the student is required to reimburse their sponsor or have another facility agree to reimburse them. Repayment to the state is also required if the student moves out of Kansas. The student will be signing an Agreement and Promissory Note with the State of Kansas and a separate Agreement and Promissory Note with the sponsor.

Recipients who fail to honor the service agreement must repay the scholarship received from the state and the sponsor, plus the equivalent to the interest rate applicable to loans made under the federal PLUS program plus five percentage points at the time the student first entered into an agreement. If the student fails to repay the state, the recipient's file is turned over to a collection agency where an additional amount of interest is charged. The scholarship is **not** dischargeable due to bankruptcy.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPLICATIONS

- (1) Be sure you want to practice nursing **in Kansas for your sponsor**. If you leave nursing for another curriculum your scholarship converts to a loan with principal plus interest.
- (2) Select your sponsor carefully. You are making an employment promise that could be as long as four years.
- (3) Within six months after graduation or receiving your LPN or RN license, whichever is later, your sponsor is obligated to provide you full-time employment, which means a minimum of 1500 hours per year. **This does not guarantee employment.** You may be released of your service obligation to the sponsor if your sponsor does not have any openings within six months unless you both agree to at least half time or three-quarter-time employment. You will still be obligated to the state unless your sponsor can document bankruptcy, loss of licensure or other failure of operations.

SPONSOR OBLIGATIONS

A facility located in an urban county, **and** with a 100 or more bed capacity, is obligated to fund one-half of the scholarship amount awarded to the student. A facility located in a rural county, **or** with less than a 100-bed capacity, is obligated to fund \$1,000 annually with the state paying the remainder of the scholarship.

The sponsoring facility is obligated to provide full-time employment within six months after graduation or licensure of the scholarship recipient, whichever is later. If, due to particular conditions, employment is not available, the recipient will be released from obligation to the sponsor but must provide nursing service in another approved Kansas facility; the facility must be rural if the original sponsor was rural. The student must complete a Transfer/Release Form that may be requested from the Kansas Board of Regents.

In return for the sponsor's support, the recipient agrees to provide one year of full-time employment to the sponsoring facility as an LPN or RN for each year assistance was received. If a recipient does not render service, the recipient must repay the sponsor the principal amount plus the equivalent to the interest rate applicable to loans made under the federal PLUS program plus five percentage points from the date your check was sent to the Kansas Board of Regents.

SPONSOR AGREEMENT

Certain requirements of the sponsor agreement are mandated by legislation governing the Nursing Service Scholarship Program. This information may be requested from the Kansas Board of Regents. Sponsors may also request a sample agreement if they do not have their own.

You are selecting a future employee when you sign a sponsorship agreement.

RECOMMENDATION FOR SPONSORS

(1) Carefully screen or interview candidates to help determine suitability as future employees. Your facility may be obligated to repay the scholarship funded by the state if you do not offer employment to the student upon completion of his/her nursing program. The interest rate is equivalent to the interest rate applicable to loans made under the federal PLUS program plus five percentage points and accrues from the date the recipient received the funds.

(2) Review the contractual agreement with each applicant each year to be sure applicant understands his/her future obligation to your facility. Provide the applicant with a copy of the agreement so it can be submitted with the nursing application to the Kansas Board of Regents.

(3) When notified of your candidate's selection, follow the instructions provided by the Board of Regents office for scholarship payment. **DO NOT PAY ANY STUDENT DIRECTLY.** By law, payment must be made to the President of the Kansas Board of Regents.

(4) The Nursing Service Scholarship is need-based only when applications exceed funding. Priority is then given to applicants demonstrating the greatest financial need.

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

If the sponsor and the scholarship recipient agree to part-time employment the following options are available:

- (1) half-time employment equals 2 years for each year of scholarship support,
- (2) three-quarter time employment equals 1.5 years for each year of scholarship support.

TRANSFER OF SPONSORSHIP

During the 1992 Kansas Legislative Session the statute governing the nursing scholarship program was changed. The law now allows scholarship recipients to transfer sponsorship if:

- 1) the original sponsor, the proposed new sponsor and the recipient fully agree to the transfer and the transfer obligations are substantially similar,
- 2) the transfer is to a rural sponsor, and
- 3) the transfer is approved by the Board of Regents.

Documentation from all three parties (original sponsor, proposed new sponsor, and recipient) must be sent to the Board of Regents for approval. The **student** must request the Transfer/ Release Form from the Board of Regents.

RECIPIENT RELEASE

A scholarship recipient is relieved of the obligation to either work for the sponsor or to repay the sponsor and the state if:

- 1) the recipient fails to satisfy state licensing requirements after three consecutive exam attempts,
- 2) the recipient fails to satisfy graduation requirements after making "best effort" as determined by the director (or equivalent) of the school's nursing program. Best effort generally requires the student to seek tutoring assistance, extra credit opportunities, and regular academic appointments with the student's advisor,
- 3) because of bankruptcy, loss of licensure or certification, or other failure in the operations of the sponsor;
or
- 4) the recipient becomes permanently physically disabled.

Extensive documentation is required.

SPONSOR RELEASE

A sponsor is relieved of the obligation to provide employment for the student or to provide renewal scholarship assistance to the student when the sponsor:

- 1) files for bankruptcy,
- 2) is denied continued licensure or certification,
- 3) experiences a failure of operations, or
- 4) the recipient cannot meet mandatory or minimum employment requirements.

Extensive documentation is required. The student incurs no service or repayment obligation to the sponsor or the state under the above conditions.

For more information contact:

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