

MICHIGAN NURSING CORPS – WEBINAR/RFP
Questions/Answers:

Question: With regards to a budget for model A, can the budget include the tuition cost for each student as well as a stipend? Or is the University responsible for paying the tuition cost of each student?

Answer: The MI Nursing Corps intent is that the students' not be charged tuition. It is part of the economic "package" they are receiving to allow them to participate as full time students and complete the curriculum in a 12 month or less program. The Model A budget may include: stipend proposed for each student, tuition, program modification costs related to the "accelerated model". If you wish to spread the costs to include the cost of tuition and additional program costs, you may submit a budget that includes both, but doesn't specify which portion is "tuition". It must be clear that the student is not charged tuition under any circumstance. It may depend on the rules of each educational institution with regard to "tuition" and whether any part of that amount is returned to the University or College.

Question: Will an audit be required?

Answer: The Michigan Nursing Corps grants will not be subject to OMB Circular A-133 audit requirements. The grant agreements entered into between the selected grantees and the State of Michigan will reflect audit requirement imposed by the State of Michigan only.

Q. Does in-kind count toward the Hospital match requirement?

A. No, it must be a cash match.

Q. How soon would cash match need to be met upon award?

A. Appendix D provides the budget format in which match information needs to be submitted along with the proposal. The proposal narrative would report projected cash match for the project and identify the sources from which cash match will be obtained. Match dollars would be spent as expenditures are incurred

Q. If a university is the lead organization, but they partner with a hospital, are match funds still required?

A. Yes.

Q. Do students that receive the stipends have to have a contract in place upon graduation to teach with the training institution?

A. No, students do not have to have a contract in place upon graduation. There is a high likelihood that the individual will be hired by an education program within the region at graduation or shortly thereafter. Upon that time, a contract will need to be in place.

Q. Does the student need to be a full time student or can they be a part time student and receive a stipend?

A. The student should be a full time student. Due to the rigor of an accelerated program, we need to get these students into full time slots. Stipends are intended to “make students whole” in terms of the income they would lose by participating in a full time program.

Q. What is considered match?

A. An example would be support for a new faculty member. The match would require a 50% match from the grant and a 50% cash match from the hospital. A 50% cash match is required.

Q. Does the graduate need to work in the educational system full or part time?

A. The full time equivalent is required for teaching. The goal is to increase the capacity of nursing programs as soon as possible. The programs are accelerated and as such, require a large time commitment.

Q. Does the 5-year teaching requirement (Model A) require them to be applied as a full time faculty position or part time as a clinical adjunct faculty member or both?

A. We are looking for full time faculty. We are seeking to know if the investment results in increased nursing seats. 4,400 nursing students were turned away last year because of the shortage.

- Q. Can students already in a nursing program be eligible to participate?**
- A. We don't believe so. It would be difficult to do due to timing of where the nursing students are in the program and the stipend. We would expect that students receiving stipends are starting with a "clean slate."
- Q. What is the time frame for implementation of the clinical faculty curriculum? I am thinking specifically of the requirement for a uniform curriculum for clinical faculty and the work involved in building census.**
- A. The proposal needs to indicate to us, what a reasonable time frame for implementation would be. The process should dictate the time frame, within reason.
- Q. With regard to Model A, is the up to \$35,000 stipend the only dollar amount that can be requested or can other budget costs be included?**
- A. No, the \$35,000 stipend is not the only dollar amount that can be requested. There are only nine schools that offer MSN programs, so only nine will be qualified. Other costs may be included such as: tuition – i.e., students should not be charged with tuition, we need to "keep students whole" in terms of salary earned prior to enrolling in the accelerated program; other costs of the program - e.g., faculty costs if faculty needs to be added to do the training. These should all be included in the budget projections.
- Q. Is there a limit to the amount awarded in Model C or a limit to the amount an institution can request?**
- A. The limit awarded in Model C is \$600,000. More than likely, there will be more than one award, due to the match requirement.
- Q. When would funds be available? When would the awards be made?**
- A. Grant Agreements will be sent out on June 1st to grantees. Funds will be available upon grant agreements being signed by the State of Michigan and each grantee.
- Q. When would the MSN program be expected to begin - Summer or Fall?**
- A. The information for program start-up should be included as part of the proposal. We would hope that these courses would begin by Fall 2008
- Q. How soon do you expect to see an increase in the capacity to occur?**
- A. We would expect to see an increase in a timely manner. That is the reason for the acceleration of the programs. There are actually two forms of capacity that will be measured. The first measure is the increase in students admitted to the MSN nursing faculty education program. This is a capacity that we should be able to see an increase in rather promptly. The second measure will count the increased capacity of the nursing programs to accept more students due to the increase in faculty. We estimate that for every full time faculty added, the capacity of the programs is increased by 10 full time students. The applicants do not have to

make projections regarding the second capacity measure. We assume the increase in capacity is based on the faculty increase.

Q. It is my understanding that students participating in the Model A cannot work during the one-year accelerated program, is the correct?

A. That is our desire. Based on experience, when students try to work during accelerated programs, they struggle and become unsuccessful. That is why we have given the opportunity for stipends to ease the burden of work.

Q. How many institutions qualify for Model B?

A. Only nine institutions have the capacity to offer MSN credits, so they are the only ones eligible to apply.

Q. What are the penalties if the 5-year teaching contract is broken for some reason?

A. The stipend will revert to a loan with interest that must be repaid.

Q. Will an audit be required?

A. Grantees may be subject to an audit by the State of Michigan. The Michigan Nursing Corps grants will not be subject to OMB Circular A-133 audit requirements. The grant agreements entered into between the selected grantees and the State of Michigan will reflect audit requirement imposed by the State of Michigan only.

Q. For Model C, there seems to be two different foci on pages 6 and 7 of the RFP. Will projects that increase faculty and clinical instructors be the only ones considered?

A. We are addressing both from the front: the need for faculty in schools and for clinical placements. We are looking for a partnership between the educational institution and the hospital that increases the capacity for students and the capacity of the hospital to ensure clinical placements for this cohort. This is so students can move through the program and complete it in a timely manner.

Q. Can a student stipend be built into Model B?

A. No, not with these dollars, there is not enough funding. One lesson we have learned from AHCTI is that there is a need for a more uniform curriculum and a methodology/technology to complete the program.

Q. Will existing university/hospital partnerships be considered? How are these partnerships defined? How would the issue with competing with other Schools of Nursing for placements be considered when a partnership is established? Because we currently have some type of partnership currently with local hospitals, what would be the difference? I think that we would be looking at developing some new clinical opportunities within the hospitals we currently work with, so would that constitute a partnership under Model C?

A. Partnerships are defined in the RFP as an agreement with a Michigan hospital or other health care agency. For both new and/or existing partnerships, it would be necessary to obtain agreement from the partnering hospital or agency that the students and faculty (both classroom and clinical) are part of a seamless package to add a new/additional cohort of students (10 or more), hire additional faculty at the school, identify clinical faculty at the facility and assure that cohort of timely clinical placement as they are ready for the clinical component of the educational program. We recognize that this is actually a 2 year process. You can write the proposal to cover a two year period. The budget would also need to cover the full period. We would continue to collect the outcome data beyond the first fiscal year.

Q. Could Model B be used to train preceptors?

A. It would depend on the definition of a preceptor. Currently, our highest priority is to educate clinical instructors. However, we will look at all applications.

Q. For Model C, where a hospital system is pairing with an educational institution, if the hospital system is awarded the grant, then they have to match 50/50. If the grant is awarded to an educational institution, then no match is required from the hospital system?

A. No! Regardless of the grantee, the 50% cash match is required by the hospital partner. This is a boilerplate requirement and we have to abide by it.

Question: Does the funded university for Model B have to teach the program statewide?

Answer: No, the school does not need to teach the program statewide. The curriculum is to be in a type of format that may be utilized statewide, at no cost, by Michigan nursing education baccalaureate programs through distance learning technology, broad-band video streaming, or web-based platforms.

Question: For Model B, it sounded like from the webinar that courses could start in Winter, but you would prefer them to start in Fall, correct?

Answer: We are not putting a timeline on implementation at this time; but would expect that the proposal would include a reasonable timeline for development and implementation. We recognize that sufficient time is needed for planning and implementation.

Question: The RFP on page 8 under Model B states, "The curriculum must have content permitting assignment of credits toward a Master's degree in Nursing education." Does this mean the proposal has to be congruent with only those programs in the state that offer a master's in nursing education, (which are few) or does it mean the credits earned can be used in any MSN program (even those with a clinical specialty such as Adult Health or Mental Health) as long as there is a teaching component/role function component to that MSN program that is not granting an MS or MSN in nursing education specifically?

Answer: Yes. Note that Model B's primary purpose is for the preparation of clinical instructors. However many individuals may want to continue on at a later date to obtain a MSN. Therefore, courses must be leveled for acceptance toward any MSN with a teaching component in nursing education or clinical instruction.

Question: Also, for Model B, can tuition re-imbusement to the students be part of the grant budget?

Answer: The only product of Model B is the uniform statewide curriculum. The model includes no activity toward implementation that will be carried out by schools offering the curriculum and in conjunction with hospitals.

Question: Could you please clarify who is expected to sign on the Project Budget page? "Authorized Preparer" is unclear to us. Generally, signatures for proposals are required from the Provost. But the term "Preparer" implies the person who actually prepared the budget page - which in this case is me. Please let us know which is expected here.

Answer: The Project Budget signature should be the individual who certifies the budget is being submitted with accurate and complete information.

Question: Are we to use the state per diem rates mentioned in the budget appendix or those established by our University (if they differ)?

Answer: If per diem rates being referenced are related to travel rates, Appendix D provides the rates for meals, lodging and mileage. These are the rates in which the State will reimburse grantees under this project.

Question: Could you please provide some clarification regarding the time period for the RFP for the Nursing Corps Initiative? The Website Q & A states: We recognize that this is actually a 2 year process. You can write the proposal to cover a two year period. The budget would also need to cover the full period. We would continue to collect the outcome data beyond the first fiscal year. From the website you indicate this is a 2-year process. But the RFP indicates funding is only for 1 year. In addition to preparing 26 nurses to teach clinical courses, our proposal includes hiring faculty to teach a new cohort of 40 accelerated students who will begin in January 2009. This group will graduate in December 2009. Since the funding periods ends in the middle of our Summer term, can the budget include funding of the faculty for the full summer term 2009?

Answer: Entities need to submit budgets to cover the grant period for their particular proposal. If the proposal includes a time period beyond the 12 months (7/1/08 - 6/30/09), they should tell us what their time period really is.

Question: Can you clarify please? Is the program budget and narrative included in the 15 page proposal or can these items be submitted as attachments to the proposal?

Answer: The RFP contains Appendix C, which explains under Item 10 the requirements for the Program Budget and Detailed Budget Narrative. In addition, Appendix D of the RFP is the Project Budget that should be used for submitting a budget. We would expect these be included in the proposal as attachments.

Question: Part of what we are proposing is to add an additional entry point for an accelerated class in January that would be covered by this proposal. Since we offer this year-round, we would like to request this being covered through the summer - should we request this now, or wait until after the decision for funding is made? The other question is that we are increasing our numbers in the current accelerated program by 15 students that would start in summer. We are only asking for costs associated with these NEW students. I am assuming that is still acceptable?

Answer: The proposal should include a time period to cover the program as it is being submitted. If the grant period is to be 7/1/08 - 09/30/09, the inquiry should be made now. This would be a consideration when reviewing the proposal and making awards. We do not want to assume any one entity is submitting a proposal for 12 months when the project is for 15 months.

Question: Do you want CV's for key personnel? Are appendices acceptable/desirable?

Answer: Attachments are acceptable (Ex: Program budget and narrative can be submitted as attachments to the proposal).