



Submission Requirements:

Your application, two recommendation forms, and the Certification of Educational Status form must be postmarked by **October 15, 2021**. Items clearly postmarked by the due date will be accepted.

Health Sciences Service awards are made through a competitive process, so please provide complete information. You may attach additional pages if needed. **Please print clearly or type your responses.** You can obtain application materials in electronic format by visiting www.cfww.com under **Financial Aid Planning> WV Health Sciences**

Awards will be announced in December, and recipients must accept awards by their date of graduation. The following materials are enclosed:

- ◆ HSSP Student Application
- ◆ Recommendation Forms
- ◆ Certification of Educational Status Form
- ◆ Eligible Sites for Service Obligation

Loan Repayment Award

The program allocates approximately 15 awards for loan repayment each academic year to students in the West Virginia higher education system. Award amounts are dependent on each discipline and are as follows:

- ◆ \$30,000 for medical and dental students
- ◆ \$15,000 for students training to become nurse educators, nurse midwives, nurse practitioners, occupational therapists, pharmacists, physical therapists, physician assistants, clinical psychologists, public health practitioners, and clinical social workers.

Awardees will be provided with the funds in two equal installments. With the exception of medical student participants, the first payment will be made upon the recipient beginning practice at an eligible site and providing documentation of educational debt equivalent to the amount of the total award. The second payment will be made after either one or two years in practice depending on whether a participant has elected a full-time or half-time service obligation track. Medical student participants receive the option to begin drawing down funding during residency or wait until they enter practice.

Service Obligation Information for All Disciplines

- ◆ The service obligation is either two years of full-time (a minimum of 40 hours/week) or four years of half-time (a minimum of 20 hours /week) practice. All eligible service sites are in West Virginia.
- ◆ You are not responsible for securing an eligible practice site until **after** you complete your training.
- ◆ Primary care is defined as family medicine, geriatrics, general internal medicine, internal medicine/pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, preventive medicine, and psychiatry.
- ◆ Ineligible service obligation sites include emergency rooms (except for Emergency Medicine trained physicians), hospital inpatient positions, and walk-in clinics.

- ◆ There is no provision for long-term repayment of the award. The penalty for not fulfilling the service obligation is repayment of the award with 15 percent interest accruing from the date of default if training or the service obligation is not completed.
- ◆ For more information on the service obligations, please see the Service Obligation Handbook for your discipline on the Service Obligation Tab from www.cfwv.com

Eligibility for Other Financial Incentives

You may be able to concurrently serve your Health Sciences Service Program service obligation with **some** other financial incentive programs. However, federal law prohibits concurrent service of a Health Sciences Service Program service obligation with some federal programs' service obligations, such as the National Health Service Corps loan repayment program. Thus, you must complete your obligation to the Health Sciences Service Program before applying for National Health Service Corps loan repayment or other programs with similar prohibitions.

If you have any questions, you may discuss the program with your school contact listed in the Health Sciences Service Program brochure or contact:

Michelle Ruppert, Health Sciences Program Administrator
Health Sciences Service Program
West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission
1018 Kanawha Blvd. E., Suite 700
Charleston, WV 25301
Phone: 304-558-0530x3; Fax: 304-712-9343
E-mail: hssp@wvhepc.edu



If "YES," for how many years have you been a resident of West Virginia?

If "YES," what is your home county?

- 13.** Background: Where were you born and raised? What family ties, if any, do you have to West Virginia? Have you ever lived or worked in rural West Virginia or another underserved area?

- 14.** What personal and professional attributes make you a good match for practice in a rural or underserved area? Or, if applicable, what personal and professional attributes make you a good nurse educator?

15. What do you believe are the positives and negatives of practicing and living in a rural or underserved area? Or, if applicable, teaching in a nursing program?

16. If you receive this award, what impact would the service obligation have on your personal life? Do you have any professional or personal barriers to relocating to any part of the state?

17. Describe an impactful experience you have had in a rural or underserved area of West Virginia as a health professional or health professions student?

18. Describe any related community research, service projects, or volunteer work you have done in rural or underserved areas of West Virginia.

19. Have you explored practice opportunities in West Virginia? YES NO
If "YES," please describe:

20. Do you have any other service obligations, including military obligations? YES NO
If "YES," please describe:

21. Students who receive financial assistance funded by State revenue must be in compliance with the Selective Service Act, which requires that males between the ages of 18 and 25 register with the Selective Service. Are you in compliance?

YES NO DOES NOT APPLY

Comments:

22. List a minimum of three practice opportunities you have explored, including site location.

Did you grow up in or near any of the above communities? Were any of your clinical experiences at the sites or communities you have listed?

23. Are you currently employed? YES NO
If yes, where:

Additional application materials required for all applicants:

In addition to submitting a completed copy of this application, all applicants must also submit the following forms to the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission. All materials must be postmarked by October 15, 2021:

1. At least two letters of recommendation (use the attached form) from (1) an official in the Dean's Office or your Program Director who can address your academic work, clinical skills and professionalism, and interest in working in rural or underserved area or nursing education, and (2) an individual (not a relative) who is knowledgeable about your clinical experiences as a health professions student, particularly in rural or underserved areas of West Virginia. Additional recommendations are optional. *Letters of recommendation must be mailed by the referring individual or the student.*
2. A completed version of the attached Certification of Educational Status Form executed by yourself and the appropriate school official. *The school official must mail this form directly to the Higher Education Policy Commission.*

Please notify your school contact that you are applying for this program. The contact is listed in the Health Sciences Service Program brochure.

I hereby certify that all the above statements are true and correct.

I attest that by my graduation date I will have accrued educational debt in the amount equal to or above the amount of my potential Health Sciences Service Program award.

I understand that, if I am awarded and accept a Health Sciences Service award, I am obligated to:

Practice for at least two years full-time or four years half-time at an eligible site in a rural or underserved area of West Virginia, or if applicable, teach at least two years full-time or four years half-time in an approved nursing home in West Virginia.

I also understand that false statements on this application may be grounds for break of contract.

Signature of Applicant

Date