

MINNESOTA CARE CENTER GUIDE TO SCHOLARSHIPS AND LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAMS

NURSING FACILITY EMPLOYEE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Scholarship and loan forgiveness program for participating facilities for all current employees (except Administrators)

ELIGIBILITY:



Employees (NARs exempt) must work at least 10 hours per week at a participating facility. Registered nurses, department heads and nursing assistants are now eligible.



The chosen educational program must lead to career advancement with the facility or in long term care, including medical care interpreter services and social work.



There is no length of employment requirement in law, however facilities may develop their own specific policies.

Administrators are not eligible.

HOW DOES IT WORK?



The Minnesota Department of Human Services will solicit, award and manage the program.



For the 27-month period between October 1, 2015 and December 31, 2017 providers with no scholarships per diem may request a per diem of up to 25 cents for the scholarship fund to be added to the external fixed payment rate.



Instructions for entering employee scholarship reports into the DHS Provider Portal can be found at:
https://bit.ly/DHS_scholarship

WHAT DOES IT COVER?

Student loan expenses or costs related to course of study* (tuition, books, mandatory fees, required supplies and equipment)

Transportation costs:

- Related directly to education or training, but not maintenance costs. Costs include but are not limited to: mileage, bus fare and parking. Mileage costs are capped at the annual IRS rate for business travel (2015: \$0.575/mile).
- Must be documented by the employee (mileage log, receipts for bus fare, etc.)
- Not exceed a reasonable amount (as determined by DHS)

Childcare costs:

- Related directly to education or training during the period of time the individual pursues training, education or testing--does not cover any period of time the individual is receiving wages
- Costs include but are not limited to: the hourly, daily or weekly rate charged by a childcare provider (no reimbursement for diapers, food, etc.)
- Must be documented by the employee and should include a detailed statement of costs incurred, signed by the child care provider
- Covers children employee is legally responsible for
- Cannot exceed the lower of actual document costs or the prevailing hourly wage for a commercial child care provider in the area

Costs related to nurse aide training, testing and associated costs for newly hired and recently graduated nurse aides

No dollar amount limitation per employee on scholarship funding

*Expenses can include periodic required minimum amount loan payments but NOT loan balances due.

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Loan forgiveness program for graduated licensed practical or registered nurses

ELIGIBILITY:



Individuals must be or plan to be practicing in a licensed nursing home, intermediate care facility for persons with developmental disabilities or a hospital that owns or operates a licensed nursing home where a minimum of 50% of the hours worked is in the nursing home.



Individuals must make commitment to work a minimum of two years in that setting.

WHAT DOES IT COVER?

Loans for actual costs paid for tuition, reasonable education and living expenses

Participants are eligible to participate up to four years total (including mandatory initial two years)

Payments of \$5,000 paid annually, not to exceed \$20,000 total for maximum of four years

If individuals do not fulfill their minimum two years, they will be required to repay total amount received plus interest

HOW DOES IT WORK?



The Minnesota Department of Health will solicit, award and manage the program.



A prospective participant must submit an application during the open application cycle as a practicing nurse or while completing a licensure preparing nurse program.



Individuals can apply directly for the grant using the WebGrants @ MDH grant management system. More information can be found at: www.grants.health.mn.gov.

WHO DO I CONTACT?

For more information about either program, please contact:
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