

## **WA State Student Nurse Preceptorship Grant Policy**

**2022-2023 Academic Year**

**\*Effective Spring Quarter 2023 Reimbursement Cycle**

### **A. Background and Purpose**

The 2022 WA Legislature provided funding of \$3 million dollars per fiscal year in the supplemental budget to the NCQAC to set up a grant program to provide funding to nurses who volunteer to precept nursing students in health care settings. The goal of the preceptorship grant program is to help reduce a shortage of health care settings for students to conduct their clinical hours and bring more nurses into the workforce. (General Fund-State) (Ongoing)

### **B. Definition of Preceptor [WAC 246-840-533](#)**

A nursing preceptor means a practicing licensed nurse who provides personal instruction, training, and supervision (preceptorship) to any nursing student, and meets the following requirements:

(4) A nursing preceptor may be used in nursing education programs when the nursing preceptor:

(a) Has an active, unencumbered nursing license at or above the level for which the student is preparing;

(b) Has at least one year of clinical or practice experience as a licensed nurse at or above the level for which the student is preparing;

(c) Is oriented to the written course and student learning objectives prior to beginning the preceptorship

(d) Is oriented to the written role expectations of faculty, preceptor, and student prior to beginning the preceptorship; and

(e) Is not a member of the student's immediate family, as defined in RCW [42.17A.005\(27\)](#); or have a financial, business, or professional relationship that is in conflict with the proper discharge of the preceptor's duties to impartially supervise and evaluate the nurse.

### **C. Eligibility**

To be eligible for a nursing preceptorship grant, each applicant must:

- Be an eligible preceptor as outlined in [WAC 246-840-533](#)

1. Any WA advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP) providing clinical education

- for ARNP students enrolled in a licensed and accredited WA public or private not-for-profit school of nursing.
2. The ARNP nurse preceptor will complete a minimum of 80 hours of clinical practice instruction per student in the first term of the first and last clinical experience in a licensed and accredited WA public or private not-for-profit school of nursing.
  3. Any WA licensed registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN) providing clinical education for RN or LPN students in a licensed and accredited WA public or private not-for-profit school of nursing.
  4. The RN or LPN preceptor will complete a minimum 80 hours of clinical practice instruction per student during the last term prior to graduation during the preceptorship clinical course/experience in a licensed and accredited WA public or private not-for-profit school of nursing.
  5. A nursing preceptor may not precept more than two students per term.
  6. Possess a valid and unencumbered state license to practice nursing.
  7. Be an LPN, RN, or ARNP employed at an approved clinical practice site with an affiliation agreement with an approved Washington state nursing educational program.
  8. Possess a social security number (United States Citizen, National, Permanent Resident, Political Refugee). Only the last 4 digits of the SSN will need to be provided.

#### **D. Eligible Practice Sites**

An eligible practice site is a clinical site that has been approved by a WA State public or private not-for-profit nursing education program for student clinical practice.

- Clinical hours completed in WA state from out-of-state nursing school programs do not qualify for incentive reimbursement.

#### **E. Application for Reimbursement**

The Nursing Program will:

1. Obtain the Certification of Hours (COH) form from the Deans/Director Resources page on the [NCQAC Education website](#).
2. Complete the first page of the COH form to verify the preceptor hours.
3. The Nursing Dean/Director portion of the COH form requests information which:
  - Verifies of the dates of precepting and position.
  - Verifies the faculty responsible for oversight of the student.

- Verifies qualifying preceptor hours at the end of each term.
- Verifies the number of students the precepted per preceptor.
- A signature of the nursing program Dean/Director.

The preceptor will:

1. Register with the Office of Financial Management (OFM) by completing a Vendor/Payee Registration Form.
  - When the preceptor completes the Vendor/Payee Registration Form, the preceptor will receive a Statewide Vendor Number. A link to the form is available on the Preceptor Grant website.
  - This must be submitted as soon as possible to ensure OFM has plenty of time to process the registration. OFM typically takes 5-7 business days to process a registration form that is complete.
  - When the registration is complete OFM will send a vendor number to the preceptor.
2. Incentive payments will be made by check or direct deposit.
  - If the preceptor would like funds directly deposited, a OFM Vendor/Payee Direct Deposit Authorization Form must be completed. A link to the form is available on the Preceptor Grant website.
3. The Vendor/Payee Registration Form must be submitted to OFM to receive payment from the preceptorship grant program. Once the preceptor receives a Statewide Vendor Number, they can submit the COH form.
  - Payments cannot be authorized without a Statewide Vendor Number.
4. The Nursing Preceptor portion of the COH form, at a minimum, will include
  - Verification of preceptor mailing address, email address, and phone number.
  - Verification of birth date.
  - Verification of State Vendor Number.
  - Verification of Nurse License Number.
  - Verification of Last 4-digits of Social Security Number.
  - Verifies practice site(s) information.
  - A signature of the preceptor.

## **F. Certification of Hours/ Definition of Term**

- The preceptor will be responsible for tracking their hours and emailing the completed COH form provided by their affiliate-nursing program to the NCQAC Preceptor Grant Verification email at [PGVerifications@doh.wa.gov](mailto:PGVerifications@doh.wa.gov).
- Designated due dates for reimbursement cycles will be posted on the Preceptor Grant Website.
- Term is the end of the quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer). A semester term is August through December and January through May. May include a summer session.

## **G. Available Funds and Award Amounts**

The 2022 Legislature appropriated \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2022 and \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2023. The funds are currently ongoing. The funds are provided to the Washington Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) to establish and maintain a grant process to incentivize nurses to preceptor nursing students in healthcare settings. A portion of the appropriated funds in the amount of \$ 433,576.00 will be deducted to support operational costs.

The amount of the incentive will be determined by the number of preceptors accessing the grant during the fiscal year. The incentive will be divided among the total qualified preceptors that complete the specified minimum 80 required hours by the stated deadline. The incentive amount will vary from year to year.

The Preceptor Grant Program Specialist will review the COH form for completeness and send approved documents to the Office of Accounting and Grants for payment processing.

## **H. Reimbursement Cycles**

Each payment cycle needs to have documents submitted in order to receive grant funding.

- Nursing Programs will provide the COH form to the preceptor.
- Preceptors will email the COH form by the specified date for the NCQAC to process for the preceptorship grant.
- The date for completion is dependent on each term and is on the Preceptor Grant Program Website.
- A student nurse preceptor may apply for reimbursement for up to two students each reimbursement cycle. The preceptor will precept each student individually for 80 hours per student.
- All submissions need to be received by the deadline stated on the Preceptor Grant Program Website.

The Grant Program Specialist will review the COH form for completeness prior to disbursement of funds. The Preceptor Program will disburse preceptor grant funds throughout the academic year.

## **I. Required Documentation**

All applicants for the preceptor grant funds will require the following documentation:

- COH form (completed by nursing program and preceptor).
- A valid and unencumbered state license to practice nursing.
- OFM State Vendor Number.

## **J. Questions**

All questions regarding the Washington State Nursing Preceptorship Grant should be directed to Helen Budde, Preceptor Grant Specialist to the DOH email at [helen.budde@doh.wa.gov](mailto:helen.budde@doh.wa.gov) or by phone (360) 584-6864.