


**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF NURSING
PROCEDURE**

Title:	Substitute House Bill 1255 Stigma Stipend Program	Number:	50.01
Reference:	RCW 18.79.440 RCW 18.130.175		
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Approved:			
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Purpose

To reduce stigma and incentivize health care professionals licensed by the Washington State Board of Nursing (WABON) to participate in a substance use disorder and treatment program.

Procedure

- I. To reduce the stigma a nurse may experience when WABON administers discipline related to substance use disorder (SUD), WABON will remove the reference to discipline and related documents from the DOH provider credential search. The nurse must meet the following criteria:
 - A. Contact the WHPS monitoring program and if recommended, sign the WHPS monitoring contract and enter into the program.
 - B. Substantially comply with the terms of the order and program.
 - C. Successfully complete the monitoring program.

- II. WABON established a stipend program to defray the out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with participation in the WHPS program.
 - A. WABON may defray up to 80 percent of each out-of-pocket expense deemed eligible.
 - B. For a nurse to be eligible for the stipend program, the nurse must meet the following conditions:
 1. Hold an active, inactive, or suspended license with WABON.
 2. Complete and submit a stipend application.

3. Actively participate in the WHPS program or have completed the program within the previous six months of submission of a stipend application.
 4. Demonstrate a financial need with expenses incurred in connection with participation in the WHPS program.
- C. WHPS may cover up to 80% of incurred expenses associated with participation in the program. Expenses include but are not limited to:
1. Evaluations
 2. Treatment
 3. Drug testing
 4. Peer Support Group
 5. Other expenses approved by WABON
- D. A nurse shall provide WABON with documentation of out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with participation in the WHPS program.
- E. The Substance Use Disorder Review Panel (SUDRP) will review the stipend application to determine eligibility of the nurse and any expenses WABON will pay.
- F. WABON will directly pay facilities and providers.
- III. WABON is required to provide the following information on the WABON website:
- A. Total number of nurses participating in the stipend program.
 - B. The average total amount of eligible expenses defrayed for nurses in the program.
 - C. The amount of funds that remain available for the stipend program.