

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



Rural Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistant Loan Repayment Program

Purpose

The Rural Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistant Loan Repayment Program is a new program under the direction of the College Student Aid Commission. It was established by statute in 2013 and provides loan repayments for advanced registered nurse practitioner students and physician assistant students who agree to practice in service commitment areas for five years.

Service Commitment Areas

A service commitment area is defined as a city in Iowa with a population of less than 26,000 that is located more than 20 miles from a city with a population of 50,000 or more. The service commitment area must provide match funding of \$2,000 for each nurse practitioner or physician assistant participating in the Program.

Eligibility and Requirements for Loan Repayment

To be eligible to apply for the Program, individuals must be enrolled full-time in an eligible university in a curriculum leading to a doctorate of nursing practice degree or a masters of physician assistant studies degree. The applicant must have received recommendation from the university.

Under the Program agreement, the student must fulfill the following:

- Receive a doctorate of nursing practice or masters of physician assistant studies degree from an eligible university and obtain a license to practice as an advanced registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant.
- Within nine months of obtaining a license, engage in full-time practice for a period of 60 consecutive months in an identified service commitment area.

Priority is given to eligible students who are residents of Iowa upon enrolling in the university.

Loan Repayment

Participants are eligible for loan repayment up to \$4,000 annually for five years, for a maximum repayment of \$20,000.

If surplus funds are available, the Commission is authorized to enter into Program agreements with eligible applicants who have already completed degrees and are currently serving in service commitment areas.

State Funding

A General Fund appropriation of \$400,000 was provided for FY 2014 through FY 2016, enough to fully fund 20 Program agreements. For FY 2017, the appropriation was reduced to \$200,000. Interest in the Program was not sufficient to fully expend the FY 2016 appropriation.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code section [261.114](#) and Iowa Code chapters [148C](#) and [152](#)
[283](#) Iowa Administrative Code chapter [25](#)

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More Information

College Student Aid Commission: <http://www.iowacollegeaid.gov/index.html>

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>

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