

261.23 Registered nurse recruitment program.

1. A registered nurse recruitment program is established to be administered by the college student aid commission. The program shall consist of a forgivable loan program and a tuition scholarship program for students and a loan repayment program for registered nurses. The commission shall regularly adjust the registered nurse service requirement under each aspect of the program to provide, to the extent possible, an equal financial benefit for each period of service required. From funds appropriated for purposes of the program by the general assembly, the commission shall pay a fee to schools of nursing, accredited by the board of nursing, for the administration of the program. A portion of the fee shall be based upon the number of registered nurses recruited under subsection 4.
2. A forgivable loan may be awarded to a resident of Iowa who is enrolled at an accredited school of nursing, which is located in this state, on a full-time or part-time basis in a course of study leading to a collegiate or associate degree of nursing, a diploma in nursing, or a graduate or equivalent degree in nursing, if the student agrees to practice in this state for a period of time to be determined by the commission at the time the loan is awarded. Forgivable loans to eligible students shall not become due until after the student completes a licensing examination prescribed by the board of nursing. Interest on the loans shall begin to accrue the day following the student's graduation date. If the student completes the period of practice established by the commission and agreed to by the student, the loan amount shall be forgiven. The loan amount shall not be forgiven if the student fails to complete the required time period of practice in this state or fails to satisfactorily continue in the school of nursing.
3. A student enrolled at an accredited school of nursing, which is located in this state, on a full-time or part-time basis in a course of study leading to a collegiate or associate degree of nursing, a diploma in nursing, or a graduate or equivalent degree in nursing, shall be eligible for a tuition scholarship for the student's study at the school of nursing. The scholarship shall be for an amount not to exceed the resident tuition rate established for institutions of higher learning under the control of the state board of regents. A student who receives a tuition scholarship shall not be eligible for the loan repayment program provided for by this section. A student who receives a tuition scholarship shall agree to practice in a community in this state for a period of time to be determined by the commission at the time the scholarship is awarded. The student shall repay the scholarship to the commission if the student fails to practice in a community in this state for the required period of time.
4. A registered nurse shall be eligible for the registered nurse loan repayment program if the registered nurse has received from an accredited school of nursing located in this state a collegiate or associate degree of nursing, a diploma in nursing, or a graduate or equivalent degree in nursing and agrees to practice in an eligible community in this state that has agreed to provide additional funds for the registered nurse's loan repayment. The contract for the loan repayment shall stipulate the time period the registered nurse shall practice in an eligible community in this state. In addition, the contract shall stipulate that the registered nurse repay any funds paid on the registered nurse's loan by the commission if the registered nurse fails to practice in an eligible community in this state for the required period of time. For purposes of this subsection, "*eligible community*" means a community that agrees to match state funds provided on at least a dollar-for-dollar basis for the loan repayment of a registered nurse who practices in the community.
5. A registered nurse recruitment revolving fund is created in the state treasury as a separate fund under the control of the commission. The commission shall deposit payments made by registered nurse recruitment program recipients and the proceeds from the sale of registered nurse forgivable loans into the registered nurse recruitment revolving fund. Moneys credited to the fund shall be used to supplement moneys appropriated for the registered nurse recruitment program. Notwithstanding section 8.33, any balance in the fund on June 30 of any fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund of the state.
6. The commission shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A to administer this section.

2002 Acts, ch 1131, §1; 2003 Acts, ch 108, § 47