

**Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)
Nursing Education Scholarship Program
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

When is the application period?

Both paper and on-line applications will be accepted beginning March 1, 2018 through April 30, 2018. Paper applications postmarked on or before April 30, 2018, but received after April 30, 2018 **will not** be accepted.

How do I obtain an application?

It is recommended that you apply online at:

<https://idph.illinois.gov/nespemis/tblApplicationInformation/Show-TblApplicationInformation.aspx?TblApplicationInformation=WzdYB%2fhSWvJTlapAUQG9hw%3d%3d> However, paper application can be downloaded at:
<http://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/forms/nesp-fy19-paper-application-012418.pdf>

What does a complete application include?

A complete application includes:

- 1) your scholarship application;
- 2) a copy of your enrollment or acceptance letter to an approved nursing program (this is not required if you submit official transcripts that demonstrate you are in an approved institution's nursing program);
- 3) a copy of your Illinois driver's license or State-issued identification card;
- 4) a copy of your birth certificate, or documentation that you are a naturalized citizen, or documentation that you are a lawful permanent resident of the U.S.;
- 5) your latest **official** transcripts which indicate your grade point average;
- 6) your current Student Aid Report from your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);
- 7) a copy of your current Illinois nursing license (if applicable); and
- 8) your signed Confirmation and Release form (the form is attached to the e-mail you will receive from IDPH when you application is submitted).

What is a Student Aid Report (SAR) or Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and how do I receive one?

The FAFSA is a form that is prepared annually by current and prospective college students in the U.S. to determine their eligibility for student financial aid. After you submit your FAFSA, you will receive an SAR. The SAR is a summary of your responses to FAFSA and indicates the type of financial aid you may receive. To begin the process, go to www.fafsa.ed.gov or contact your school's financial aid office.

What can I expect after IDPH receives my application?

IDPH will evaluate your application for completeness. If your application is complete, you will be considered for the scholarship. If your application is incomplete, you will receive an e-mail stating the component(s) that are missing from your application. This e-mail will also contain a deadline for you to submit the requested information. You will be notified in July 2018 if you are selected or denied for the scholarship.

Who is eligible for the Nursing Education Scholarship Program?

To be eligible for the scholarship you must:

- 1) be an Illinois resident for at least one year prior to applying for the scholarship;
- 2) attend a nursing school that is approved by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation or the Illinois Board of Higher Education. To view a list of schools approved by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, go to: <http://www.idfpr.com/Forms/DPR/NurseSchools.pdf>) Please contact program staff (dph.nesp@illinois.gov) to see which schools are approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.
- 3) demonstrate financial need;
- 4) be a U.S. citizen or a lawful permanent resident; and
- 5) agree to the nurse employment or nurse educator employment obligation (as applicable).

How are payments disbursed and when can I expect payment if I am selected?

Tuition is paid directly to your school's financial aid office. Stipend payments (full-time students only) are mailed directly to you. Payments usually occur in November (for the fall semester) and March (for the spring semester).

I received the scholarship last year, what do I need to do this year to continue receiving the scholarship?

As a current recipient, you do not need to re-apply for the scholarship. Contact program staff at 1-800-821-3635, TTY (for hearing impaired only) 1-800-547-0466, or dph.nesp@illinois.gov and request a scholarship renewal.