

Nursing Education Scholarship Program Frequently Asked Questions

When is the application period?

Both paper and on-line applications will be accepted May 1 through May 31. Paper applications must be received on or before May 31. Applications postmarked on or before May 31 but received after May 31 will not be accepted.

How do I obtain an application?

It is recommended that you apply online at <http://app.idph.state.il.us/RuralHealth/nesp/>. However, applications can be downloaded and printed if you prefer to submit a paper application. A paper application can be downloaded at http://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/forms/illinois-department-public-health-nesp-online-application-2015-2016_0.pdf.

What does a complete application include?

- 1) your scholarship application;
- 2) a copy of your enrollment or acceptance letter to an approved nursing program;
- 3) a copy of your Illinois driver's license or State-issued identification card;
- 4) a copy of your **notarized** 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 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 the Department when you application is submitted).

What is a SAR or FAFSA and how do I receive one?

You need to apply for your SAR through FAFSA, www.fafsa.ed.gov or contact your school's financial aid office.

What can I expect after the Department receives my application?

We will evaluate your application for completeness. If your application is complete, you will receive a confirmation e-mail. 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 late June 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 an approved nursing school in Illinois (a list of approved nursing schools is here <http://www.idfpr.com/Forms/DPR/NurseSchools.pdf>);
- 3) demonstrate financial need;
- 4) be a U.S. citizen or a lawful permanent resident alien; and
- 5) agree to the nursing employment or nurse educator employment obligation (as applicable).

How are payment 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 October (for the fall semester) and February (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 previous 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.