

## SECTION VI

### PART M COLORADO NURSING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

#### **1.00 General Description**

The Colorado Nursing Scholarship Program is designed to provide assistance to individuals who wish to pursue nursing education and who agree to practice in Colorado. There are two components of the program. One is directed to individuals pursuing nursing education statewide. The other is for participants in the Colorado Action Plan for Self Sufficiency.

#### **1.01 Authority**

The Commission's authority to establish scholarship and grant programs is found in 23-3.3-102(1) C.R.S.:

The General Assembly hereby authorizes the Commission to establish a program of financial assistance, to be operated during any school sessions, including summer sessions, for students attending institutions within Colorado.

Specific legislative intent for the Nursing Scholarship Program is in footnote 42 of the 1988 Long Appropriations Bill:

42/ Department of Higher Education, Colorado Commission on Higher Education, Financial Aid, Merit-Based Grant Program for Nurses Training -- This appropriation is for the establishment of a merit-based financial aid program by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education to encourage qualified students to enter the nursing profession. It is recommended that these funds be awarded to students who agree to practice nursing in Colorado for at least five years, that the Commission develop a payback system which encourages students to work for the full five year period, and that for each year a student practices nursing in Colorado after graduation, a portion of the grant payback will be forgiven. The Colorado Commission on Higher Education is requested to submit an annual report on this program by February 1 of each year, beginning with 1989.

#### **2.00 Award Limits**

The Nursing Scholarship shall not exceed the cost of tuition, required fees, books, and supplies, and, if necessary, direct transportation costs for an annual year. Awards will be no less than \$100 per student. For students recommended by the Department of Social

Services, the award is limited to costs remaining after students have received any federal grant for which they may be eligible.

## 2.01 Conditions of Award

Recipients of the Colorado Nursing Scholarship are required to sign an agreement to practice nursing in Colorado for at least one calendar year in return for each academic year, or a portion thereof, a scholarship is received. Copies of signed agreements will be held in offices of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education until the award is repaid. Failure to repay through service will require cash repayment at terms comparable to federal student loans. Exceptions to the repayment provision and/or deferment of repayment will be at the discretion of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education.

## 3.00 Student Eligibility Requirements

Individuals seeking the Nursing Scholarship must meet the following criteria:

- 3.01 Be enrolled, or accepted eligible for enrollment, in an associate, baccalaureate, or masters degree nursing program, or
- 3.02 Have demonstrated professional need for coursework, including continuing education, to enhance or ensure employment in the nursing profession, or
- 3.03 Be recommended by the appropriate County Department of Social Services (Adams, Jefferson, or Denver) as a participant in the Self Sufficiency Program.

## 4.00 Application Procedures

- 4.01 Individuals enrolled, or accepted eligible for enrollment, in an associate, baccalaureate, or masters degree nursing program, or who have a professional need for additional nursing education, are to complete the Nursing Scholarship Program application and submit it to their Area Health Education Center or to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education.
  - 4.01.01 Area Health Education Centers in Pueblo, Greeley, Alamosa, and Grand Junction will accept applications from individuals in their service area. (Applications will be available in those offices and in all colleges and universities).
  - 4.01.02 Applications from individuals in the Denver Metropolitan area will be accepted at offices of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education.
- 4.02 Individuals recommended by the appropriate County Department of Social Services for participation in the Associate Degree Nursing Program at Front Range Community College will complete any required documents for participation in the Colorado Action Plan for Self-Sufficiency. Those documents will be considered application for a

Colorado Nursing scholarship. No separate application is required, but the recommended recipient must agree to practice nursing in Colorado upon acceptance of the award, and must provide, through the institution or Department of Social Services, evidence of consideration for federal grants.

## **5.00 Award Selection and Disbursement**

- 5.01 The four Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) in Colorado may accept applications and recommend awards for a maximum of twenty (20) individuals. Recommendations from the AHECs are to be received in Commission offices no later than December 1, 1988. In making recommendations, the AHEC shall give priority to students who have a financial need for the award, have previously demonstrated an interest in the health care profession, and for whom the education being sought will mean professional advancement in the community in which they plan to practice nursing.
- 5.02 Applications from individuals in the Denver metropolitan area will be accepted in Commission offices through December 1, 1988.
- 5.03 Award recommendations from the County Department of Social Services will be accepted through December 15, 1988.
- 5.04 Award selection will be on the following priority basis:
- 5.04.01 Individuals selected by Area Health Education Centers will receive priority consideration. A maximum of twenty (20) students from each AHEC will be designated as recipients.
  - 5.04.02 Students from the Denver metropolitan area will receive second priority consideration for the funds. Staff of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education will designate recommended recipients on the basis of financial need for the award, nursing education goals, the degree sought (baccalaureate degree seeking students will be given priority), and prior expression of interest in the health care profession.
  - 5.04.03 Department of Social Services clients recommended for awards will receive third consideration. A maximum of 40 awards will be made to those individuals.
- 5.05 The Colorado Commission on Higher Education will be asked to authorize awards for 1988-89 at its January 1989 meeting. Students will be notified of the award and requested to sign and return the practice agreement prior to funds disbursement. Award proceeds will be forwarded to the institutions in which recipients are enrolled. Institutions will make the funds available to students, including any books, supplies, or transportation allowance in excess of tuition and fee charges.

## **6.00 Reporting**

On an annual basis, the Commission shall contact Nursing Scholarship recipients to ascertain their enrollment or employment status. A report of the activity of the program, including current year awards and status of prior recipients, will be made to the Legislature on or before February 1.