

## **Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education ARPA Funding Request – Nursing & Allied Health**

**1. Organization Name**

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

**2. In which county is your organization headquartered?**

Oklahoma County

**3. In 200 words or less, describe the purpose of the project or program.**

Currently ranking 46<sup>th</sup> in the nation for registered nurses (RNs) per capita, Oklahoma's nursing shortage was greatly exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of RNs needed to meet Oklahoma's workforce demands is projected to increase 9.1% by 2028. Oklahoma's state system of higher education plays a significant role in addressing the state's current nursing shortage through Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) and Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) production. While state system institutions enrolled 15,074 students in degree programs leading to RN licensure eligibility and produced over 2,423 ADN and BSN graduates during the 2020-21 academic year, Oklahoma Works notes that current nursing education capacity does not meet demand in Oklahoma. Educational challenges to meeting Oklahoma's nursing workforce needs include: the inability of nursing education programs to increase student enrollment due to lack of qualified nursing faculty; the relatively low percentage of RNs prepared at the BSN level; and the limited capacity of Oklahoma's graduate nursing education programs to prepare Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. Funding is requested to support nursing education and allied health program expansion at state system colleges and universities to address Oklahoma's healthcare workforce shortages, which is expected improve health outcomes for all Oklahomans.

**4. The American Rescue Plan Act requires that COVID-19 recovery and use of funds applies to certain types of programs and projects. Which of these best describes your project or program?**

- **Public Health Expenditures**
- Addressing Negative Economic Impacts
- Lost Public Sector Revenue
- Premium Pay for Essential Workers
- Investments in Water, Sewer, and Broadband

**5. Select the most accurate sub-category(ies) for the project expenditure.**

- Capital investments or physical plant changes that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency
- COVID-19 contact tracing
- COVID-19 testing
- COVID-19 vaccination
- Medical expenses

- Mental health services
- Other COVID-19 public health expenses
- Other public health services
- Payroll costs for public health, safety, and other public sector staff responding to COVID-19
- Personal protective equipment
- Prevention in congregate settings
- Substance use services

**6. The American Rescue Plan Act requires that funds are expended before December 31, 2026. Will your project be complete before that deadline?**

Yes

**7. After project or program approval, approximately how many months do you expect it to take for your project to complete?**

60 months (5 years)

**8. How much funding are you requesting from the State?**

\$260,016,234

**9. Approximately how many Oklahomans will benefit from this project?**

- 0-25,000
- 25,000 – 100,000
- 100,000 – 500,000
- 500,000 – 1,000,000
- 1,000,000+

**10. Have you successfully completed a similar project in the past?**

Yes

**11. In 100 words or less, please describe the process for measuring project performance, including the plan for collecting the required programmatic data.**

The OSRHE will collect data from participating institutions to measure program outcomes. Evidence of project success include: increased nursing and allied health student enrollment; increased nursing and allied health student retention; increased nursing and allied health degree production; increased number of qualified nursing faculty at state system institutions; and improved nursing faculty retention.

**12. Will you be administering this project?**

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) will distribute funds to participating state system colleges and universities for project implementation and administration. The OSRHE will collect data from all participating institutions for performance outcomes reporting.

**13. In 100 words or less, please describe any evidence or sources that validate the interventions proposed in your project or program.**

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing cites insufficient nursing school enrollment and lack of qualified nursing faculty as significant factors contributing to the nursing shortage. Currently, 22 of Oklahoma's state system colleges and universities deliver high quality, OBN-approved BSN and ADN programs leading to RN licensure eligibility. Additionally, Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) programs are offered at four state system universities and doctoral level nursing programs (Doctor of Nursing Practice and Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing) are offered at two state system universities.

**14. In 200 words or less, describe communities or vulnerable populations, including those that have been disproportionately impacted, that will benefit from this program. Include details on how this community was impacted by the pandemic.**

Almost 40% of Oklahoma's population belongs to a racial/ethnic minority group. Over 14% of Oklahoma's population live in poverty. Research demonstrates health disparities in COVID-19 outcomes in the U.S., with members of racial and ethnic minority groups experiencing higher risks of COVID-19 positivity and disease severity. Further, socioeconomic and racial disparities in access to affordable healthcare options limit prevention education and treatment options for COVID-19, as well as many other chronic health conditions. Individuals identifying as white in Oklahoma are more likely to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 whereas Hispanics and Native Americans are overrepresented in the number of positive COVID-19 cases in the state. Increasing the number of nursing degree program graduates in Oklahoma aligns directly with the state's efforts to improve health outcomes and health equity for its citizens.

**15. Which counties would be most impacted by this project or program? (Select the impacted county or counties on the left, then click the arrow to move them to the "chosen" section.**

- Statewide
- Adair
- Alfalfa
- Atoka
- Beaver
- Beckham
- Blaine
- Bryan
- Caddo

- Canadian
- Carter
- Cherokee
- Choctaw
- Cimarron
- Cleveland
- Coal
- Comanche
- Cotton
- Craig
- Creek
- Custer
- Delaware
- Dewey
- Ellis
- Garfield
- Garvin
- Grady
- Grant
- Greer
- Harmon
- Harper
- Haskell
- Hughes
- Jackson
- Jefferson
- Johnston
- Kay
- Kingfisher
- Kiowa
- Latimer
- Le Flore
- Lincoln
- Logan
- Love
- Major
- Marshall
- Mayes
- McClain
- McCurtain
- McIntosh
- Murray
- Muskogee
- Noble
- Nowata
- Okfuskee

- Oklahoma
- Okmulgee
- Osage
- Ottawa
- Pawnee
- Payne
- Pittsburg
- Pontotoc
- Pottawatomie
- Pushmataha
- Roger Mills
- Rogers
- Seminole
- Sequoyah
- Stephens
- Texas
- Tillman
- Tulsa
- Wagoner
- Washington
- Washita
- Woods
- Woodward

**16. Will this project support qualified census tracts?**

Yes.

**17. If so, please identify which qualified census tracts will be impacted.**

Given that the benefits of this project are statewide, all 209 qualified census tracts in Oklahoma will be impacted by this project.

**18. Has your organization or entity received other COVID-19 relief funds?**

Yes

**19. Does your organization receive other Federal Funding?**

Yes

**20. Is your proposal a pre-existing project or program?**

No

**21. Are matching funds or co-investment available from other organizations (philanthropic, local governments, other) that are interested in this project?**

Yes, at some institutions

**22. In total, how many dollars have outside organizations financially committed to this project? Alternatively, describe other assets that have been committed to the project or program.**

Institutions report the potential for over \$33 million in financial commitments or in-kind contributions that support nursing and allied health program expansion. Potential commitments include endowed scholarship funding, building and classroom renovation, financial partnerships with technology centers, grant support, and institutional foundation support. Sources of community support include private donors, businesses, philanthropic organizations, tribal entities, technology centers, and federal grants.

**23. In 50 words or less, tell us which organizations have agreed to match or co-invest funds or have promised in-kind work and tell us what kind of organization they represent (business interest, non-profit, municipal agency, state agency, individual, etc.).**

Sources of community support include private donors, businesses, philanthropic organizations, tribal entities, technology centers, federal grants. Both state health organizations, such as the Oklahoma State Department of Health and the Oklahoma Board of Nursing, and industry health associations, such as the Oklahoma Hospital Association and the Oklahoma Nurses Association, will collaborate in making this initiative a success to improve health outcomes in Oklahoma.

**24. After initial funding from the state, would this project be able to continue operation, or would ongoing investment be required?**

Some of the initiatives contained in this proposal would become self-sustaining after a certain period of time. Long-term nursing program faculty and staff retention challenges need to be addressed with ongoing operational support.

**25. Will this project bring revenue to the state or impacted communities?**

Yes

**26. Would you like to provide any additional supporting documents? (Note: File size limits apply)**

Yes