

APPROVED
AUGUST 2, 2018

Item #II-4
August 2, 2018

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RULES:
NURSING SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM**

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: This item requests approval of the proposed amendments to the rules for the Nursing School Grant Program. Program changes are needed due to the reduction in state funding and the call to provide baccalaureate completion programs. Emergency amendments are needed to implement program changes before starting the grant process in Fiscal Year 2019.

Once approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the proposed amendments to the rules will be submitted to the Secretary of State for publication in the *Illinois Register*. The emergency amendments will become effective immediately upon filing but expire 150 days later, so a second set of proposed amendments which are identical to the emergency amendments, will be filed concurrently. The process for the second set is a three-step process: (1) initial Board approval; (2) a publication and public notice period including a period for review by the staff and members of the legislative Joint Committee on Administrative Rules; and (3) final adoption by the Board.

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve the proposed rule amendments to the Nursing School Grant Program (23 Ill. Admin. Code 1100) to be filed with the Secretary of State for publication in the *Illinois Register*.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RULES:
NURSING SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM**

This item requests approval of the proposed amendments to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) rules for the Nursing School Grant Program. The goal of this program is to increase the number of nurses graduating from Illinois institutions of higher learning who are prepared for careers as registered nurses.

The proposed amendments address two issues. First, the on-going reductions in state funds appropriated for this program, i.e., funds went from \$1.5 million in 2007 to \$373,900 in 2018, have hampered the effectiveness of the grant program. The intent of the original program was to award both expansion grants and improvement grants with an emphasis on supporting expansion grants that may be renewed for up to three years. In the first six years of the program, expansion grants ranged from \$300,000 to \$450,000 and were awarded to nursing schools each year for three years. In Fiscal Year 2013 the funding was reduced by 52 percent which resulted in fewer expansion grants with smaller amounts that were limited to a single year. In 2015, the program funding was suspended and no funds were available for Fiscal Years 2015, 2016, and 2017. Funding in 2018 took another hit and dropped to \$373,900. The original objectives of the program are no longer sustainable due to the reductions in state funding. The proposed amendments remove the expansion and improvement grant structure to provide greater flexibility when requesting and funding proposals that can be funded.

Second, the program should be used to help address the call to provide baccalaureate training for registered nurses in regions throughout the State. Illinois nursing schools are interested in partnering with one or more other schools to align their curriculum so that students can transfer seamlessly from associate degree to baccalaureate degree programs. The proposed amendments will place the top priority on funding the collaborative programs. This priority is followed by proposals to continue a previously funded nursing school grant project and to fund new projects that will expand or improve an existing nursing program.

The Illinois Nursing Workforce Center has been engaged with IBHE in developing the proposed amendments and asked that the eligible programs be expanded to include the MSN Entry programs. These are relatively new programs for students with bachelor's degrees in other fields who want to transition into nursing. Upon completion of the program, the graduate is eligible to take the examination for licensure as a registered nurse in Illinois. This program is currently offered by nursing schools at five institutions of higher education, i.e., DePaul University, Elmhurst College, Millikin University, Rush University, and University of Illinois at Chicago. The proposed amendments add the MSN Entry program to the list of eligible programs which include the associate degree in nursing (ADN), bachelor of science in nursing (BSN), and baccalaureate completion program for registered nurses (RN to BSN).

Once approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the proposed amendments to the rules will be submitted to the Secretary of State for publication in the *Illinois Register*. The emergency proposed amendments will become effective immediately upon filing but expire 150 days later, so a second set of proposed amendments which are identical to the emergency amendments, will be filed concurrently. The process for the second set is a three-step process: (1) initial Board approval; (2) a publication and public notice period including a period for review by the staff and members of the legislative Joint Committee on Administrative Rules; and (3) final adoption by the Board. Final approval is tentatively scheduled for the December 4, 2018 Board meeting.

Attachment 1 is the current rule with proposed amendments, deletions in strikeout and additions underlined. The proposed amended rule is shown in Attachment 2, the clean version.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby approves the proposed amendments to the rules for the Nursing School Grant Program (23 Ill. Adm. Code 1100) as detailed in the attached document for publication in the Illinois Register.

ATTACHMENT 1: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

TITLE 23: EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES
SUBTITLE A: EDUCATION
CHAPTER II: BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

PART 1100
NURSING SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM

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| 1100.200 | Definitions |
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| 1100.400 | Application Process |
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| <u>1100.900</u> | <u>Financial Reports, Close-out Reports, Performance Reports, and Audits</u> |

AUTHORITY: Implementing and authorized by Section 9.31 of the Board of Higher Education Act [110 ILCS 205/9.31].

SOURCE: Emergency rules adopted at 30 Ill. Reg. 17113, effective October 16, 2006, for a maximum of 150 days; adopted at 31 Ill. Reg. 3145, effective February 7, 2007; amended at 35 Ill. Reg. 17458, effective October 14, 2011; emergency amendments at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____.

Section 1100.100 Purpose

The purpose of the Nursing School Grant Program is to address the nursing shortage in Illinois by *increasing the number of nurses graduating from Illinois institutions of higher learning* [110 ILCS 205/9.31]. ~~The Program is comprised of two grant categories: Expansion Grants and Improvement Grants. Grants for both categories shall be awarded on the basis of performance criteria~~ [110 ILCS 205/9.31] and a competitive application process.

(Source: Amended at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.200 Definitions

“ACEN” means Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.

“Baccalaureate completion program” means upper division courses and bachelor’s degree programs offered by 4-year degree-granting colleges and

universities via an online program or at a location geographically convenient to student populations currently being served by an existing institution of higher learning.

"Board" means the Board of Higher Education.

"CCNE" means the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

"Community college" means the public community colleges of this State.

"Eligible Nursing Program" means a nursing program at an Illinois institution of higher learning that prepares registered nurses in accordance with Section 1100.300 and offers at least one of the following nursing degree programs:

"ADN" means an Associate Degree in Nursing. Upon completion of the program, a graduate must be eligible to take the examination (NCLEX-RN) for licensure as a registered nurse.

"BSN" means a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. This program admits pre-licensure students and awards a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. Upon completion of the program, a graduate must be eligible to take the examination (NCLEX-RN) for licensure as a registered nurse.

"RN-BSN" means a baccalaureate completion program that admits registered nurses and awards a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing.

"MSN Entry" means a Master's of Science in Nursing program for students with bachelor's degrees in other fields who want to transition into nursing. Upon completion of the program, a graduate must be eligible to take the examination (NCLEX-RN) for licensure as a registered nurse.

"DFPR" means the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation or its successor.

~~"Expansion Grant" means a competitive grant, renewable for up to three years, under this Part that supports high performing eligible nursing schools for the purpose of expanding nursing program capacity and either increasing the number of students preparing for initial licensure as registered nurses (ADN or BSN) or increasing the number of registered nurses completing baccalaureate completion programs (RN-BSN).~~

~~"Improvement Grant" means an annual competitive grant under this Part that supports eligible nursing schools with the purpose of increasing student retention and improving institutional NCLEX-RN pass rates.~~

"Institution of Higher Learning" means a public or nonpublic institution of higher education located within Illinois that offers associate, baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate degrees and that is authorized to operate in the State of Illinois.

~~"NLNAC" means the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission.~~

"NCLEX-RN" means the National Council Licensure Examination-Registered Nurse. Passing the NCLEX-RN is required of candidates for licensure as a Registered Nurse (RN) in Illinois.

(Source: Amended at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.300 Eligible Nursing Program

Illinois institutions of higher learning offering registered nursing degree programs must meet the following criteria to be eligible to receive a grant under this Part:

- a) ADN programs must:
 - 1) Be approved by DFPR;
 - 2) Be accredited by ACEN~~NLNAC~~; and
 - 3) Have an articulation agreement with at least one institution of higher learning that offers baccalaureate degrees for registered nurses.
- b) BSN programs must:
 - 1) Be approved by DFPR; and
 - 2) Be accredited by CCNE or ACEN~~NLNAC~~.
- c) RN-BSN programs must be accredited by the CCNE or ~~the~~ ACEN~~NLNAC~~.
- d) MSN Entry program must:
 - 1) Be approved by DFPR; and
 - 2) Be accredited by the CCNE or ACEN

(Source: Amended at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.400 Application Process

- a) Eligible nursing programs will be notified by the Board when funding opportunities and application materials for grant opportunities under this Part are available.
- b) Application materials may be obtained from the Illinois Board of Higher Education, 1 N. Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite #333431 East Adams Street, Second Floor, Springfield, Illinois 62701-1404 or the Board's website at www.ibhe.org.

- c) Completed application materials must be signed by the institution's authorized representative ~~chief executive officer must be and~~ received by the Board by the announced deadline for the submission of applications, which shall not be less than 45 days from the announcement and release of application materials. Application materials will be due no later than October 31 of each year.
- d) ~~Grantees maintaining eligibility criteria in accordance with Section 1100.500(b) or Section 1100.600(b) may annually reapply for funding.~~

(Source: Amended at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.420 Priorities for Projects Funded

In a given fiscal year, the amount of the Program appropriation or allocation for projects shall be based on the following order or priority:

- a) Funding for baccalaureate completion programs to facilitate student articulation from an ADN program offered by a community college to a BSN or RN-BSN program;
- b) Funding for continuation of a grant previously awarded under this Part; or
- c) Funding for a new grant to expand or improve an eligible nursing program.

(Source: Added at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.440 Use of Award Funds

Acceptable expenditures may include, but are not limited to, the following direct costs:

- a) Hiring additional qualified nursing faculty and staff;
- b) Developing or expanding instructional programs (e.g., online, weekend, evening);
- c) Developing or expanding academic support services or programs;
- d) Securing additional clinical instruction sites;
- e) Improving or increasing spaces for classrooms or laboratories; and
- f) Purchasing equipment and other program-related instructional materials.

(Source: Added at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.460 Grant Applications

Grant applications under this Part shall include, but need not be limited to, the following items:

- a) Comprehensive description of the proposed use of funds including evidence of current research and best practices to support proposed strategies.
- b) Budget by line items, including personal services, contractual services, commodities, equipment, telecommunications, and travel.
- c) Performance measures, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - 1) Number of degrees conferred (three-year trend);
 - 2) First-year retention rate (three-year trend based on 30 semester hours or equivalent);
 - 3) NCLEX-RN pass rate for first-time test takers in comparison to the national average for the previous calendar year as reported by DFPR; and
 - 4) Job placement within 6 months of degree completion (three-year trend).
- d) Statement of institutional support and sustainability of grant-funded activities.
- e) Plans for close-out reports.
- f) Uniform Application for State Grant Assistance completed and signed by authorized representative.

(Source: Added at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.480 Award Determinations

The grant awards for eligible nursing programs shall be determined using a competitive process to review applications that shall include, but need not be limited to, the following criteria and considerations:

- a) Evidence of effective program goals and performance measures;
- b) Proposed use of funds and budget justification demonstrating an effective use of program resources;
- c) Evidence of institutional support and sustainability of grant-funded activities;
- d) Evidence of an effective plan to evaluate progress; and
- e) Number of completed applications received.

(Source: Added at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.500 Expansion Grants (Repealed)

- a) ~~In a given fiscal year, the amount of the Program appropriation or allocation to support Expansion Grants shall be based on the following order of priority:~~
 - 1) ~~Funding for renewal grants;~~
 - 2) ~~Funding for grants in year one of a three year grant cycle; or~~
 - 3) ~~A combination of renewal and first year grants the Board deems appropriate to maximize the grant awards.~~
- b) ~~Eligibility Criteria~~
 - 1) ~~ADN and BSN programs must meet both of the following criteria:~~
 - A) ~~NCLEX-RN pass rate for first-time test takers must be equal to or greater than the national average for the previous calendar year as reported by DFPR.~~
 - B) ~~Program attrition rate must be equal to or less than 15 percent.~~
 - 2) ~~RN BSN programs must have a program attrition rate equal to or less than 15 percent.~~
- c) ~~Grant applications for Expansion Grants under this Part shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:~~
 - 1) ~~Comprehensive description of the proposed use of funds in accordance with subsection (e), including evidence of current research and best practices to support proposed strategies.~~
 - 2) ~~Budget by line item, including personal services, contractual services, commodities, equipment, telecommunications, travel, and audit.~~
 - 3) ~~Performance measures, including, but not limited to, the following:~~
 - A) ~~Eligibility criteria in accordance with subsection (b);~~
 - B) ~~First year retention rate;~~
 - C) ~~Job placement within 6 months of degree completion; and~~
 - D) ~~Number of degrees conferred (three year trend).~~
 - 4) ~~Statement of institutional support and sustainability of grant-funded activities.~~
 - 5) ~~Evaluation plan.~~

- 6) ~~Program audit and an interim evaluation report from the previous year, if the applicant received an Expansion Grant under this Part.~~
- d) ~~Awards~~
 - 1) ~~The grant awards for eligible nursing programs shall be determined using a competitive process to review applications that shall include, but need not be limited to, the following criteria:~~
 - A) ~~Evidence of effective program goals and performance measures;~~
 - B) ~~Proposed use of funds and budget justification demonstrating an effective use of program resources;~~
 - C) ~~An effective evaluation plan including reliable measures of performance and program outcomes;~~
 - D) ~~Evidence of institutional support and sustainability of grant-funded activities; and~~
 - E) ~~Number of completed applications received in accordance with subsection (c).~~
 - 2) ~~The number and amount of grant awards is subject to the Program appropriation or allocation.~~
- e) ~~Use of Grant Funds. Expansion Grant funds shall be used to expand capacity and increase the number of students preparing for careers as registered nurses. Acceptable expenditures may include, but are not limited to, the following:~~
 - 1) ~~Hiring additional qualified nursing faculty;~~
 - 2) ~~Developing or expanding instructional programs (e.g., online, weekend, evening);~~
 - 3) ~~Developing or expanding academic support programs;~~
 - 4) ~~Securing additional clinical instruction sites;~~
 - 5) ~~Increasing classroom space;~~
 - 6) ~~Purchasing equipment and other program related instructional materials; and~~
 - 7) ~~Evaluation, dissemination of program results, and program audit.~~
- f) ~~Grantees may annually reapply for funding.~~

~~g) — Grantees must submit a final evaluation report.~~

(Source: Repealed at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.600 Improvement Grants (Repealed)

~~a) — In a given fiscal year, the amount of the Program appropriation or allocation directed to Improvement Grants is the remainder after the Expansion Grant determination.~~

~~b) — Eligibility Criteria~~

~~1) — ADN and BSN programs must meet at least one of the following criteria:~~

~~A) — NCLEX RN pass rate for first time test takers must be less than the national average for the previous calendar year as reported by DFPR.~~

~~B) — Program attrition rate must be greater than 15 percent.~~

~~2) — RN BSN programs must have a program attrition rate greater than 15 percent.~~

~~c) — Grant applications for Improvement Grants under this Part shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:~~

~~1) — Comprehensive description of the proposed use of funds in accordance with subsection (e), including evidence of current research and best practices to support proposed strategies.~~

~~2) — Budget by line item, including personal services, contractual services, commodities, equipment, telecommunications, travel, and audit.~~

~~3) — Performance measures, including, but not limited to, the following:~~

~~A) — Eligibility criteria in accordance with subsection (b);~~

~~B) — First year retention rate;~~

~~C) — Job placement within 6 months after degree completion; and~~

~~D) — Number of degrees conferred (three year trend).~~

~~4) — Statement of institutional support and sustainability of grant funded activities.~~

~~5) — Evaluation plan.~~

- 6) ~~Program audit from the previous year, if the applicant received an Improvement Grant.~~
- d) ~~Awards~~
 - 1) ~~The grant awards for eligible nursing programs shall be determined using a competitive process to review applications that shall include, but need not be limited to, the following criteria:~~
 - A) ~~Evidence of effective program goals and performance measures;~~
 - B) ~~Proposed use of funds and budget justification demonstrating an effective use of program resources;~~
 - C) ~~An effective evaluation plan including reliable measures of performance and program outcomes;~~
 - D) ~~Evidence of institutional support and sustainability of grant-funded activities; and~~
 - E) ~~Number of completed applications received in accordance with subsection (c).~~
 - 2) ~~The number and amount of grant awards is subject to the Program appropriation.~~
- e) ~~Use of Grant Funds. Improvement Grant funds may be used to support strategies aimed at increasing student retention and improving graduation rates and institutional NCLEX-RN pass rates.~~
 - 1) ~~Acceptable expenditures may include, but are not limited to, the following:~~
 - A) ~~Developing or expanding academic support services to improve student retention and increase graduation rates and NCLEX-RN pass rates;~~
 - B) ~~Improving existing classroom space;~~
 - C) ~~Purchasing equipment and other instructional materials necessary to improve instructional quality; and~~
 - D) ~~Program audit.~~
 - 2) ~~Improvement Grants shall not be used to hire faculty.~~
- f) ~~Grantees may apply annually for funding.~~
- g) ~~Grantees must submit an evaluation report.~~

(Source: Repealed at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.700 Award Process

- a) Board staff shall review application materials and make recommendations to the Board for approval.
- b) Once grants are awarded by the Board, the Board shall notify each applicant in writing concerning its application.
- c) The Board shall use the uniform ~~establish a grant agreement provided by the~~ Grant Accountability and Transparency Unit pursuant to the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act [30 ILCS 708] with those institutions awarded a grant under this Part that specifies the terms and conditions of the grant.

(Source: Amended at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.800 Audit Requirements (Repealed)

- ~~a) All grantees are required to provide an annual program audit to the Board.~~
- ~~b) After the initial program year (fiscal year 2007), applications must include a program audit of grant funds received in the previous year.~~
- ~~c) Program audits must be performed by an external auditor who is registered as a public accountant by DFPR.~~
- ~~d) Program audits must include a statement of revenues and expenditures to verify the use of grant funds. Grant funds not expended as identified by the audit shall be refunded to the State.~~
- ~~e) In the event that a grant recipient does not reapply for a grant under this Part in a subsequent year, a program audit must be submitted to verify the use of grant funds.~~
- ~~f) The cost of a program audit is an allowable use of grant funds.~~

(Source: Repealed at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.900 Financial Reports, Close-out Reports, Performance Reports, and Audits

- a) Requirements for financial reports, annual reports, close-out reports, performance reports, and audits are pursuant to the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act. Grant recipients shall:
 - 1) File quarterly financial reports with the Board describing the expenditure(s) of funds. The first report shall cover the first three

months after the award is approved. Reports are to be filed in the format determined by the Board.

- 2) Submit a close-out report within 60 calendar days following the end of the fiscal year. In the event that the agreement is terminated prior to the end of the fiscal year, the 60 day period starts on the date of termination. The report is to be submitted in the format determined by the Board.
- 3) Submit a final financial report within 180 days after the end of the fiscal year. The report is a statement of costs and revenues for the grant project and is signed by the authorized representative. Report is to be provided in the format determined by the Board.
- 4) Submit a performance report within 60 calendar days following the end of the fiscal year. In the event that the agreement is terminated prior to the end of the fiscal year, the 60 day period starts on the date of termination. The performance measures are proposed by the grantee and may be adjusted by the Board in consultation with the grantee. The report is to be provided in the format determined by the Board.
- 5) In the event that the grant award meets or exceeds the threshold amounts for a required audit, the performance of an audit must comply with the terms of the grant agreement pursuant to the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act.

- b) Deadlines may be extended at the discretion of the Board, except for the deadline of the first quarterly financial report.

(Source: Added at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

ATTACHMENT 2: PROPOSED AMENDED RULE

TITLE 23: EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES
SUBTITLE A: EDUCATION
CHAPTER II: BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

PART 1100
NURSING SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM

| | |
|----------|---|
| Section | |
| 1100.100 | Purpose |
| 1100.200 | Definitions |
| 1100.300 | Eligible Nursing Program |
| 1100.400 | Application Process |
| 1100.420 | Priorities for Projects Funded |
| 1100.440 | Use of Award Funds |
| 1100.460 | Applications |
| 1100.480 | Award Determinations |
| 1100.500 | Expansion Grants (Repealed) |
| 1100.600 | Improvement Grants (Repealed) |
| 1100.700 | Award Process |
| 1100.800 | Audit Requirements (Repealed) |
| 1100.900 | Financial Reports, Close-out Reports, Performance Reports, and Audits |

AUTHORITY: Implementing and authorized by Section 9.31 of the Board of Higher Education Act [110 ILCS 205/9.31].

SOURCE: Emergency rules adopted at 30 Ill. Reg. 17113, effective October 16, 2006, for a maximum of 150 days; adopted at 31 Ill. Reg. 3145, effective February 7, 2007; amended at 35 Ill. Reg. 17458, effective October 14, 2011; emergency amendments at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____.

Section 1100.100 Purpose

The purpose of the Nursing School Grant Program is to address the nursing shortage in Illinois by *increasing the number of nurses graduating from Illinois institutions of higher learning* [110 ILCS 205/9.31]. Grants shall *be awarded on the basis of performance criteria* [110 ILCS 205/9.31] and a competitive application process.

(Source: Amended at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.200 Definitions

“ACEN” means Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.

“Baccalaureate completion program” means upper division courses and bachelor’s degree programs offered by 4-year degree-granting colleges and universities via an online program or at a location geographically convenient to

student populations currently being served by an existing institution of higher learning.

"Board" means the Board of Higher Education.

"CCNE" means the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

"Community college" means the public community colleges of this State.

"Eligible Nursing Program" means a nursing program at an Illinois institution of higher learning that prepares registered nurses in accordance with Section 1100.300 and offers at least one of the following nursing degree programs:

"ADN" means an Associate Degree in Nursing. Upon completion of the program, a graduate must be eligible to take the examination (NCLEX-RN) for licensure as a registered nurse.

"BSN" means a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. This program admits pre-licensure students and awards a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. Upon completion of the program, a graduate must be eligible to take the examination (NCLEX-RN) for licensure as a registered nurse.

"RN-BSN" means a baccalaureate completion program that admits registered nurses and awards a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing.

"MSN Entry" means a Master's of Science in Nursing program for students with bachelor's degrees in other fields who want to transition into nursing. Upon completion of the program, a graduate must be eligible to take the examination (NCLEX-RN) for licensure as a registered nurse.

"DFPR" means the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation or its successor.

"Institution of Higher Learning" means a public or nonpublic institution of higher education located within Illinois that offers associate, baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate degrees and that is authorized to operate in the State of Illinois.

"NCLEX-RN" means the National Council Licensure Examination-Registered Nurse. Passing the NCLEX-RN is required of candidates for licensure as a Registered Nurse (RN) in Illinois.

(Source: Amended at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.300 Eligible Nursing Program

Illinois institutions of higher learning offering registered nursing degree programs must meet the following criteria to be eligible to receive a grant under this Part:

- a) ADN programs must:
 - 1) Be approved by DFPR;
 - 2) Be accredited by ACEN; and
 - 3) Have an articulation agreement with at least one institution of higher learning that offers baccalaureate degrees for registered nurses.
- b) BSN programs must:
 - 1) Be approved by DFPR; and
 - 2) Be accredited by CCNE or ACEN.
- c) RN-BSN programs must be accredited by the CCNE or ACEN.
- d) MSN Entry program must:
 - 1) Be approved by DFPR; and
 - 2) Be accredited by the CCNE or ACEN

(Source: Amended at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.400 Application Process

- a) Eligible nursing programs will be notified by the Board when funding opportunities and application materials for grant opportunities under this Part are available.
- b) Application materials may be obtained from the Illinois Board of Higher Education, 1 N. Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite #333, Springfield, Illinois 62701 or the Board's website at www.ibhe.org.
- c) Completed application materials must be signed by the institution's authorized representative and received by the Board by the announced deadline for the submission of applications, which shall not be less than 45 days from the announcement and release of application materials. Application materials will be due no later than October 31 of each year.

(Source: Amended at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.420 Priorities for Projects Funded

In a given fiscal year, the amount of the Program appropriation or allocation for projects shall be based on the following order or priority:

- a) Funding for baccalaureate completion programs to facilitate student articulation from an ADN program offered by a community college to a BSN or RN-BSN program;
- b) Funding for continuation of a grant previously awarded under this Part; or
- c) Funding for a new grant to expand or improve an eligible nursing program.

(Source: Added at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.440 Use of Award Funds

Acceptable expenditures may include, but are not limited to, the following direct costs:

- a) Hiring additional qualified nursing faculty and staff;
- b) Developing or expanding instructional programs (e.g., online, weekend, evening);
- c) Developing or expanding academic support services or programs;
- d) Securing additional clinical instruction sites;
- e) Improving or increasing spaces for classrooms or laboratories; and
- f) Purchasing equipment and other program-related instructional materials.

(Source: Added at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.460 Grant Applications

Grant applications under this Part shall include, but need not be limited to, the following items:

- a) Comprehensive description of the proposed use of funds including evidence of current research and best practices to support proposed strategies.
- b) Budget by line items, including personal services, contractual services, commodities, equipment, telecommunications, and travel.
- c) Performance measures, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - 1) Number of degrees conferred (three-year trend);
 - 2) First-year retention rate (three-year trend based on 30 semester hours or equivalent);
 - 3) NCLEX-RN pass rate for first-time test takers in comparison to the national average for the previous calendar year as reported by DFPR; and

- 4) Job placement within 6 months of degree completion (three-year trend).
- d) Statement of institutional support and sustainability of grant-funded activities.
- e) Plans for close-out reports.
- f) Uniform Application for State Grant Assistance completed and signed by authorized representative.

(Source: Added at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.480 Award Determinations

The grant awards for eligible nursing programs shall be determined using a competitive process to review applications that shall include, but need not be limited to, the following criteria and considerations:

- a) Evidence of effective program goals and performance measures;
- b) Proposed use of funds and budget justification demonstrating an effective use of program resources;
- c) Evidence of institutional support and sustainability of grant-funded activities;
- d) Evidence of an effective plan to evaluate progress; and
- e) Number of completed applications received.

(Source: Added at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.500 Expansion Grants (Repealed)

(Source: Repealed at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.600 Improvement Grants (Repealed)

(Source: Repealed at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.700 Award Process

- a) Board staff shall review application materials and make recommendations to the Board for approval.
- b) Once grants are awarded by the Board, the Board shall notify each applicant in writing concerning its application.
- c) The Board shall use the uniform grant agreement provided by the Grant Accountability and Transparency Unit pursuant to the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act [30 ILCS 708] with those institutions awarded a grant under

this Part that specifies the terms and conditions of the grant.

(Source: Amended at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.800 Audit Requirements (Repealed)

(Source: Repealed at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 1100.900 Financial Reports, Close-out Reports, Performance Reports, and Audits

- a) Requirements for financial reports, annual reports, close-out reports, performance reports, and audits are pursuant to the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act. Grant recipients shall:
 - 1) File quarterly financial reports with the Board describing the expenditure(s) of funds. The first report shall cover the first three months after the award is approved. Reports are to be filed in the format determined by the Board.
 - 2) Submit a close-out report within 60 calendar days following the end of the fiscal year. In the event that the agreement is terminated prior to the end of the fiscal year, the 60 day period starts on the date of termination. The report is to be submitted in the format determined by the Board.
 - 3) Submit a final financial report within 180 days after the end of the fiscal year. The report is a statement of costs and revenues for the grant project and is signed by the authorized representative. Report is to be provided in the format determined by the Board.
 - 4) Submit a performance report within 60 calendar days following the end of the fiscal year. In the event that the agreement is terminated prior to the end of the fiscal year, the 60 day period starts on the date of termination. The performance measures are proposed by the grantee and may be adjusted by the Board in consultation with the grantee. The report is to be provided in the format determined by the Board.
 - 5) In the event that the grant award meets or exceeds the threshold amounts for a required audit, the performance of an audit must comply with the terms of the grant agreement pursuant to the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act.
- b) Deadlines may be extended at the discretion of the Board, except for the deadline of the first quarterly financial report.

(Source: Added at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

