



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation **New Careers in Nursing**



2012 Call for Applications—Round 5

Application Deadline

January 11, 2012

Program Overview

(For complete details, refer to specific pages noted below.)

Purpose

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation *New Careers in Nursing* is a scholarship program to help alleviate the nursing shortage and increase the diversity of nursing professionals. Through grants to schools of nursing, the program will provide scholarships to college graduates without nursing degrees who are enrolled in accelerated baccalaureate and master's nursing programs.

Total Awards

- A school of nursing may apply for between five and 30 scholarships per year to be awarded to students from groups underrepresented in nursing or who are economically disadvantaged.
- A total of up to 400 scholarship awards will be made during this funding cycle.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, applicant institutions must:

- offer an entry-level accelerated baccalaureate nursing program or master's nursing program for non-nursing college graduates;
- be accredited by a nursing accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is committed to programs that embrace racial, ethnic and economic diversity. Applications should address the applicant organization's past achievements and future plans to recruit and retain a diverse student body.

Additionally, individual award applicants cannot be related by blood or marriage to any Officer* or Trustee of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, or be a descendant of the Foundation's founder, Robert Wood Johnson.

* *The Officers are the Chairman of the Board of Trustees; President and CEO; Chief of Staff; General Counsel; Secretary; Assistant Secretary; Treasurer; and Assistant Treasurer of the Foundation.*

Selection Criteria (Page 6)

Complete selection criteria can be found on page 6.

Key Dates and Deadlines

- **November 3, 2011 (2 p.m. ET) and December 1, 2011 (11 a.m. ET)**—Optional informational applicant Web conferences. Registration information can be found on the program's website.
- **January 11, 2012 (3 p.m. ET)**—Deadline for receipt of applications and supporting documents submitted online.
- **June 2012**—Announcement of grants.

How to Apply

Applications for this solicitation must be submitted via the RWJF online system. Visit www.rwjf.org/cfp/ncin and use the Apply Online link for this solicitation. If you have not already done so, you will be required to register at <http://my.rwjf.org/login.do> before you begin the application process.

To obtain instructions and apply online, please visit the program's website or contact: Vernell DeWitty, PhD, RN

Phone: (202) 463-6930

Email: vdewitty@aacn.nche.edu

www.newcareersinnursing.org

Background

The national spotlight on the nursing shortage has raised awareness of the pivotal role nurses play in providing care to patients. In addition to providing patient care, nurses today conduct research, teach in universities, advise public policy-makers, lead health care organizations, serve on the boards of national organizations and establish independent practices. This dynamic profession is attracting a growing number of highly skilled individuals from other disciplines who are seeking new careers in nursing.

A particularly efficient and effective way to prepare new nurses at an advanced level is through accelerated baccalaureate and master's programs in nursing. These intense programs target students who have baccalaureate degrees in other disciplines and who wish to transition into nursing. Students receive the same number of clinical hours as their counterparts in traditional nursing programs and accomplish academic objectives in a shorter time by building on previous learning experiences.

Expanding capacity in all types of baccalaureate nursing programs, including accelerated options, is crucial to addressing the nursing shortage. Research shows that nurses prepared in baccalaureate programs are four times more likely than other nurses to pursue graduate degrees in nursing, the required credentials to teach. Nursing schools nationwide want to admit all qualified applicants, but a shortage of faculty constrains these efforts. By focusing on preparing more baccalaureate nurses on a fast track, the pool of potential future faculty will increase.

A growing body of research also shows a relationship between higher levels of nursing education and better quality patient care. Graduates of baccalaureate nursing programs are particularly well-equipped to meet the demands placed on today's registered nurses and to satisfy the public's mandate for high-quality patient care. The baccalaureate-prepared nurse has the greatest opportunity for career advancement as

well as the ability to move seamlessly into master's or doctoral degree programs.

The nation also requires a nursing workforce that reflects the country's population. Nurse leaders understand the relationship between a diverse nursing workforce and the ability to provide culturally competent patient care. Although nursing has made great strides in enhancing the diversity of graduates, more must be done.

The Program

RWJF has joined with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) to create *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Careers in Nursing (NCIN)*, a scholarship program to help alleviate the nursing shortage and increase the diversity of nursing professionals. Through grants to schools of nursing, the program will provide scholarships to college graduates, without nursing degrees, who have been admitted into accelerated baccalaureate and master's nursing programs.

Through the *RWJF New Careers in Nursing* program, funds to support up to 400 scholarships of \$10,000 each will be awarded to selected schools of nursing annually over a three-year period. A school of nursing may apply for between five and 30 scholarships per year, to be awarded to students from underrepresented groups in nursing or who are economically disadvantaged. Preference will be given to schools who demonstrate that the availability of scholarship funds will expand enrollment in accelerated nursing programs. Schools will be selected through a competitive application process.

A distinguished national advisory committee (NAC) will assist RWJF with the institutional selection process. Members of the NAC and the national program office (NPO) will monitor the progress of each school in recruiting students from underrepresented groups in nursing or who

are economically disadvantaged as scholarship recipients. Nursing schools that received funding for scholarships from the Foundation in 2008–2011 are eligible to apply for scholarship funds offered in this solicitation. To be selected, they must demonstrate that they are meeting the goals of the program as described in prior applications.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, applicant organizations must:

- offer an accelerated nursing degree program¹;
- be accredited by a nursing accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education; and
- comply with all requirements of the application.

Preference may be given to those applicants who may be either public entities or nonprofit organizations that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Additionally, individual award applicants cannot be related by blood or marriage to any Officer* or Trustee of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, or be a descendant of the Foundation’s founder, Robert Wood Johnson.

** The Officers are the Chairman of the Board of Trustees; President and CEO; Chief of Staff; General Counsel; Secretary; Assistant Secretary; Treasurer; and Assistant Treasurer of the Foundation.*

1 “Accelerated Nursing Degree Program” means a program of education in professional nursing offered by an accredited school of nursing in which an individual holding a bachelors degree in another discipline receives a BSN or MSN degree in an accelerated time frame as determined by the accredited school of nursing.

Selection Criteria

This program has a two-fold purpose: to increase the number of nurses and to address diversity among nursing professionals. Given the need to increase the number of nurses, successful applicant organizations must demonstrate that additional resources will be used to leverage internal and external resources to expand their professional nursing programs.

RWJF is committed to programs that embrace diversity across multiple dimensions including, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, physical ability, religion and socioeconomic status. Accordingly, applications should address the applicant organization's past achievements as well as future plans to recruit, retain and sustain a diverse student body, including how funds will be used to:

- assist in recruitment of scholarship candidates for the accelerated nursing degree program from groups underrepresented in nursing² or persons who are economically disadvantaged³; and
- implement mentorship and leadership development activities for scholarship recipients at the award site.

Schools receiving funding will be responsible for selecting students for scholarships who:

- are from groups underrepresented in nursing or who are economically disadvantaged as defined herein;

2 As defined by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), "underrepresented minorities" are racial and ethnic populations who are underrepresented in the registered nurse population relative to the percentage of that racial or ethnic group in the total population. This would include Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, American Indian or Alaska Native, and any Asian or Pacific Islander group other than Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Asian Indian, or Thai. According to National Sample Survey of registered nurses, males also are underrepresented in the registered nurse population relative to their number in the total population.

3 As defined by HRSA, an "economically disadvantaged" person comes from a "low income family," meaning a family with an annual income that does not exceed 200 percent of HHS's poverty guidelines; a family is a group of two or more individuals related by birth, marriage or adoption who live together, or an individual who is not living with any relatives.

- are U.S. citizens, resident non-citizen nationals or resident foreign nationals;
- have been accepted in an accelerated nursing degree program;
- complete a letter of commitment to the NCIN program; and
- are committed to pursuing professional nursing licensure through the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN®).

Evaluation and Monitoring

As a condition of accepting Foundation funds, grantees and scholarship recipients will be expected to meet RWJF requirements for the submission of annual and final narrative and financial reports, as well as periodic information needed for overall project performance monitoring and management. In addition, all schools must report on the progress of scholarship recipients during the academic year. An assessment of the program may be conducted at its completion. RWJF monitors the grantees' efforts and careful stewardship of grant funds to assure accountability.

Use of Grant Funds

Schools of nursing are to use all grant funds for scholarships for selected students. Students may use the scholarship funds at their discretion to pay tuition, academic fees and living expenses.

How to Apply

Applications for this solicitation must be submitted via the RWJF online system. Visit www.rwjf.org/cfp/ncin and use the Apply Online link for this solicitation. If you have not already done so, you will be required to register at <http://my.rwjf.org/login.do> before you begin the application process.

The deadline for receipt of the online application, including supporting materials, is January 11, 2012, at 3 p.m. ET.

Complete information on the program and application process can be found on the program's website at www.newcareersinnursing.org. Please direct all inquiries about the program, application process and selection criteria to:

Name: Vernell DeWitty, PhD, RN

Phone: (202) 463-6930

Email: vdewitty@aacn.nche.edu

RWJF does not provide individual critiques of applications submitted. The program's national advisory committee makes recommendations about grants to the Foundation staff. RWJF makes all final grant decisions.

Program Direction

Direction and technical assistance for this program is provided by the NPO located at:

American Association of Colleges of Nursing
One Dupont Circle, NW
Suite 530
Washington, DC 20036
Website: www.newcareersinnursing.org

Responsible staff members at the NPO are:

- Geraldine (Polly) Bednash, PhD, RN, FAAN, *national program director*
- Vernell DeWitty, PhD, RN, *program deputy director*

Responsible staff members at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation are:

- Denise Davis, DrPH, MPA, *program officer*
- Linda Wright Moore, MS, *senior communications officer*
- Daniela Phayme, *grants administrator*

**National Advisory
Committee**

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Timetable

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Optional informational applicant Web conferences.
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- **June 2012**

Announcement of grants.

About the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing our country. As the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to health and health care, the Foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, measurable and timely change.

For nearly 40 years the Foundation has brought experience, commitment, and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those it serves. When it comes to helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need, the Foundation expects to make a difference in your lifetime. For more information, visit www.rwjf.org.

Sign up to receive funding alerts on upcoming calls for proposals at <http://my.rwjf.org>.



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Foundation

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