



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

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



2008 Call for Applications

Application Deadline

June 26, 2008

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.

Eligibility Criteria (Page 5)

To be eligible, applicant institutions must:

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

RWJF 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.

Selection Criteria (Page 5)

Complete selection criteria can be found on page 5.

Total Awards

- 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 disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Up to 75 nursing schools will be selected to award scholarships.

Key Dates and Deadlines

- **May 6, 2008 (1 p.m. ET) and June 10, 2008 (2 p.m. ET)**—Optional informational applicant Web conferences. Registration information can be found at www.newcareersinnursing.org.
- **June 26, 2008**—Deadline for receipt of applications and supporting documents submitted online.
- **Early August 2008**—Notification of finalists.
- **September 1, 2008**—Grants begin.

How to Apply

Applications to this program must be made only through the RWJF Grantmaking Online system.

To obtain instructions and apply online please visit the program's Web site or contact:

Vernell DeWitty, Ph.D., R.N.

Phone: (202) 463-6930

E-mail: 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

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) has joined with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) to create the *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Careers in Nursing*, 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 500 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 disadvantaged backgrounds. Schools must demonstrate that the availability of scholarship funds will expand enrollment in accelerated nursing programs. Up to 75 nursing 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 disadvantaged backgrounds who will be

scholarship recipients. Nursing schools that make significant progress in year one will be eligible for scholarship funds in years two and three.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, applicant organizations must:

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

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.

Selection Criteria

Successful applicant organizations must demonstrate that scholarship funds will be used to:

- assist in recruitment and expansion of enrollment of students in entry-level accelerated baccalaureate nursing programs and/or master's nursing programs for non-nursing college graduates;
- leverage the expansion of faculty resources for these professional nursing programs; and
- offer mentorship and leadership development activities for scholarship recipients at the award site.

RWJF 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.

Schools receiving funding will be responsible for selecting students for scholarships who meet the following eligibility requirements:

- are from groups that are underrepresented in nursing or from a disadvantaged background (e.g., underrepresented racial or ethnic minority, financially disadvantaged);

- are citizens or permanent residents of the United States or its territories at the time of application for the scholarship;
- have been accepted in an entry-level accelerated baccalaureate nursing program and/or master's nursing program for non-nursing college graduates; 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.

Use of Grant Funds

Schools of nursing are to use all grant funds for scholarships for students who they select. The scholarship funds may be used to pay tuition, academic fees and living expenses.

How to Apply

Applications to this program must be made only through the RWJF Grantmaking Online system at <http://grantmaking.rwjf.org/ncin>.

The deadline for receipt of the online application, including supporting materials, is June 26, 2008.

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

Vernell DeWitty, Ph.D., R.N.
 Phone: (202) 463-6930
 E-mail: vdewitty@aacn.nche.edu

RWJF does not provide individual critiques of applications submitted. The program's NAC 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, N.W.
 Suite 530
 Washington, DC 20036
 Web site: www.netcareersinnursing.org

Responsible staff members at the NPO are:

- Geraldine (Polly) Bednash, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N., *national program director*
- Vernell DeWitty, Ph.D., R.N., *deputy program director*

Responsible staff members at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation are:

- Rosemary Gibson, M.Sc., *senior program officer*
- Susan Hassmiller, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N. *senior program officer*
- Linda Wright Moore, M.S., *senior communications officer*
- Lois Shevlin, *grants administrator*

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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 improving the health and health care of all Americans, we work with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful and timely change.

For more than 35 years we've brought experience, commitment and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those we serve. When it comes to helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need, we expect to make a difference in your lifetime.

For more information visit www.rwjf.org.

Sign up to receive e-mail alerts on upcoming calls for proposals at www.rwjf.org/services.



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April 2008