



# WEST VIRGINIA Nursing Scholarship PROGRAM

## NEW POLICIES IN RESPONSE TO COVID19 PANDEMIC

In response to the COVID19 pandemic and the disruptions to everyday life, the West Virginia Center for Nursing (Center) has amended the following policies for the duration of the COVID19 State of Emergency declared by Governor Jim Justice. The Center aims to be flexible during this time of crisis and to work with students on an individual basis as issues may arise related to their service obligations and the pandemic.

### APPLICANTS

The Center is closely monitoring applications for the 2020-2021 application cycle. If the number of applications received fall short of what is expected near the end of the application cycle, the Center will consider extending the deadline for applications to permit all interested students in applying.

### RECENT AND NEW GRADUATES

Many new graduates are facing challenges associated with taking their NCLEX exams as Pearson View testing centers are only opened on a limited basis. The standard terms of the obligation allow recipients 6 months to obtain licensure and begin their service obligations as outlined within their promissory notes. With the uncertainty surrounding when the state will begin allowing businesses to open again and when businesses will also be comfortable with resuming business as usual, the Center will permit additional time, as needed, for graduates to obtain licensure. In order to obtain this additional time and not receive bills for repayment, recipients should reach out to the Center at [nursing@wvhepc.edu](mailto:nursing@wvhepc.edu) to notify staff of their licensure status and obtain a temporary deferment.

### RECIPIENTS COMPLETING THEIR SERVICE OBLIGATIONS

Recipients currently completing their service obligations who can work as nurses on a regular schedule as outlined on their last employment verification form will continue completing their service obligations. Should these recipients need to submit employment verification forms later than normal due to demands associated with the COVID19 pandemic, they will be allowed additional time. These recipients should reach out to the Center at [nursing@wvhepc.edu](mailto:nursing@wvhepc.edu) or to notify staff they need additional time and obtain a temporary deferment.

Recipients who have been furloughed or laid off as a result of the COVID19 pandemic will be permitted a 4-week lapse in employment for the purposes of their service obligations. The permitted 4-week lapse in employment will not impact their previously established service obligation end date and will be forgiven due to the circumstances of the crisis. Should a recipient's employment be paused for longer than 4-weeks, the Center will place the students in a temporary deferment, and the duration of the deferment will be added onto the end of their service obligations once employment resumes. Any recipient who loses their job or has been furloughed should reach out to the Center at [nursing@wvhepc.edu](mailto:nursing@wvhepc.edu) to notify staff.