



The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education Request for Proposals

Nuclear Medicine Technology Program Grants

Deadline: August 15, 2024

The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), in partnership with the Kentucky Board of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy (KBMIRT), seeks proposals from Kentucky's public universities, KCTCS campuses, and AIKCU member institutions for grants up to \$100,000 to establish or support nuclear medicine technology educational programs.

I. Background

CPE established an ambitious goal to raise the percentage of adults with a postsecondary degree or credential to 60% by the year 2030. Achieving this goal is critical if Kentucky hopes to remain economically competitive with surrounding states and attract more high-skill, high-wage employers. The Council's 2016-21 Strategic Agenda establishes three broad goals: 1) increasing access to a postsecondary credential or degree; 2) increasing student success by raising college completion rates and ensuring graduates are prepared for life and work; and 3) increasing the impact of postsecondary institutions on Kentucky's economy and communities through basic and applied research, outreach, and public service.

Kentucky needs nuclear medicine technologists' education programs to address the growing demand for specialized healthcare services in diagnosing and treating various medical conditions. Nuclear medicine technologists play a crucial role in utilizing radioactive materials to perform imaging and therapeutic procedures that are essential for accurate diagnosis and effective treatment of diseases such as cancer, heart disease, and neurological disorders. By establishing these programs, Kentucky can ensure a steady supply of skilled professionals to support its healthcare system, improve patient outcomes, and keep pace with advancements in medical technology. Additionally, these programs can provide valuable career opportunities for residents, contributing to the state's economic development and overall public health.

Aware of the lack of educational programs for nuclear medicine technology in Kentucky, forcing those interested in the profession to seek education at out-of-state institutions, KBMIRT has provided funds for the development or support of nuclear medicine technology programs. The funds have been given to CPE for the administration and allocation to Kentucky-based educational program(s) in nuclear medicine technology. The aim of such an arrangement is to increase opportunities for individuals to enter the healthcare workforce within the state through nuclear medicine technology and expand the nuclear medicine technology workforce.

II. Funding Opportunity

Funding is available from the CPE through funds received by KBMIRT. Kentucky's public universities, KCTCS campuses, and AIKCU member institutions are eligible to apply. CPE reserves the right to award part or all of the money to grant recipient(s). Award(s) may be up to but not exceeding \$100,000.

If a proposal is accepted to create a new academic program, the new academic program must go through CPE's program approval process, which is outlined [here](#).

III. Elements of Institutional Proposals

Campuses are invited to submit proposals to develop or support a nuclear medicine technology academic program. The proposal, not to exceed five pages, shall demonstrate a commitment to academic quality and workforce development. The following elements should be included:

1. **Program Development Plan:** A comprehensive plan outlining the structure and curriculum of the nuclear medicine technology program. This should include details on course offerings, clinical training components, faculty qualifications, and accreditation objectives. The plan must demonstrate how the program will meet the educational standards and competencies required for nuclear medicine technologists.
2. **Needs Assessment:** A detailed analysis of the current and projected demand for nuclear medicine technologists in Kentucky. This should include data on job market trends, healthcare facility needs, and the anticipated impact on patient care. The assessment should justify the necessity of the program in addressing the state's shortage of qualified professionals in this field.
3. **Budget and Financial Plan:** A clear and detailed budget proposal that outlines how the funds requested will be allocated. This should cover expenses such as faculty recruitment, laboratory equipment, instructional materials, administrative costs, and any other resources required to develop and sustain the program. Institutions must also outline plans for securing additional funding to support long-term program sustainability.
4. **Partnerships and Collaboration:** Evidence of established or proposed partnerships with local healthcare facilities, industry stakeholders, and other educational institutions. These partnerships should facilitate clinical placements, provide employment opportunities for graduates, and support ongoing program development through collaborative efforts and resource sharing.
5. **Outreach and Recruitment Strategy:** A strategic plan for recruiting students into the nuclear medicine technology program. This should include marketing efforts, community engagement activities, partnerships with high schools and community colleges, and initiatives to promote equity and inclusion within the student body. The goal is to attract a diverse pool of applicants and ensure the program reaches underrepresented populations in Kentucky.

IV. Program Outcomes

Proposals should address the elements outlined above and demonstrate how the program will strategically meet the following outcomes:

1. **Competency in Nuclear Medicine Procedures:** Graduates will demonstrate proficiency in performing a wide range of nuclear medicine procedures, including imaging and therapeutic techniques. This includes the ability to safely handle and administer radioactive materials, operate specialized imaging equipment, and accurately interpret diagnostic results.
2. **Certification and Licensure:** The program will prepare graduates to successfully pass the certification exam and obtain licensure required to practice as nuclear medicine technologists in Kentucky.
3. **Clinical Experience and Readiness:** Graduates will complete extensive clinical training in various healthcare settings, ensuring they are well-prepared for real-world applications. They will demonstrate the ability to work effectively in clinical environments, interact professionally with patients and healthcare teams, and apply theoretical knowledge to practical scenarios.
4. **Career Placement and Advancement:** The program will achieve a high rate of job placement for its graduates within six months of program completion. Additionally, it will support career advancement opportunities through partnerships with local healthcare providers, continuing education programs, and professional development resources.

V. Allowable Activities

Below is a list of allowable activities that grant dollars will fund:

- **Personnel Compensation:** Salaries for faculty and support staff.
- **Equipment and Supplies:** Purchase of necessary equipment and instructional materials.
- **Student Support Services:** Funding for services aimed at supporting student success.
- **Other Direct Costs:** Additional costs necessary for program implementation (subject to approval).
- **Indirect Costs:** Not permitted under this RFP.

VI. Reporting Schedule

Institutions that receive funding will be required to submit a progress report by December 6, 2024, and a final report by June 15, 2025.

CPE requires that all reports be submitted on a schedule established in the award letter, or as modified in subsequent correspondence. Additional updates may be requested by Council staff.

VII. Evaluation of Proposals

A review committee selected and coordinated by Council staff will be established to evaluate all proposals. Proposals must score at least 70 points to be considered for funding.

- 1. Program Development Plan (25 points)** – The proposal will be evaluated on the inclusion of innovative and effective teaching methods and technologies and the thoroughness and relevance of the curriculum, including course offerings, clinical training components, and accreditation plans. Additionally, CPE will consider the proposed program's plan for achieving and maintaining accreditation.
- 2. Needs Assessment (20 points)** – The proposal will be evaluated on the analysis of the current and projected demand for nuclear medicine technologists in Kentucky and how well the proposal justifies the necessity of the program based on healthcare needs and workforce shortages.
- 3. Budget and Financial Plan (20 points)** – The proposal will be evaluated the clarity and detail of the budget proposal and the proposed program's plans for securing additional funding and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the program.
- 4. Partnerships and Collaboration (15 points)** – The proposal will be evaluated on the strength and relevance of partnerships with other educational institutions and local healthcare facilities for clinical placements and job opportunities.
- 5. Outreach and Recruitment Strategy (10 points)** – The proposal will be evaluated on the proposed strategies for recruiting students and initiatives aimed at promoting equity and inclusion within the program's student enrollment.
- 6. Program Outcomes (10 points)** – The proposal will be evaluated on how well the proposed outcomes align with the goals of the program and address the healthcare needs of Kentucky. Additionally, the clarity and measurability of the outcomes and their anticipated impact on the healthcare system will be considered.

The maximum number of grants are contingent upon the amount of funding available and confidence in the quality and feasibility of programming proposed. The Council reserves the right, once an initial selection has been made, to negotiate the final terms of the agreement. As a reminder, if selected to receive funding the institution will be required to complete CPE's official academic program approval process if the program has not previously been approved.

VIII. Submission of Proposals

- A. Applicants must submit one complete electronic version of the proposal.
- B. Only one application from each institution will be accepted.
- C. Proposals must be received by **4:30 pm ET on August 15, 2024**, by the following designee:

CPE Workforce & Economic Initiatives Unit
cpeworkforce@ky.gov

Identify your submission with “Nuclear Medicine Program” on the subject line of the email.

IX. Award Notification

All institutions submitting proposals will be notified in writing regarding the status of their proposal after all proposals have been evaluated. The Council reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals in whole or in part and to negotiate any or all aspects of a proposal.

The RFP can be viewed at <http://www.cpe.ky.gov/news/rfp>.

X. Other Terms and Conditions

This is a reimbursement grant and any unexpended funds remaining after the expiration of the agreement will be forfeited by the institution. Reimbursement invoice requirements will be disseminated upon award.

Indirect costs will not be funded.

The anticipated effective date of contracts resulting from this RFP is October 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.