



The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education Request for Proposals

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## **Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund**

### **Healthcare Training Program Incentive Fund Applications**

**Deadline: September 16, 2024**

The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), through the Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund, seeks applications from eligible healthcare training programs for incentive funds.

#### **I. Background**

Created in the 2023 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly through HB 200, the Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund (HWIF) is a groundbreaking framework for public/private partnership. The legislation shares responsibility between industry and government to carry out a dedicated mission - to cultivate a robust healthcare workforce in Kentucky. The core objectives are twofold: providing educational scholarships to students pursuing programs targeting critical workforce needs in healthcare professions (at least 65% of funds) and recognizing and rewarding excellence among Kentucky healthcare professional education and training programs (up to 35% of funds).

The [Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund website](#) includes links to the guiding legislation and implementation plan, identifies the HWIF Steering Committee, and includes a frequently asked questions section.

#### **II. Funding Opportunity**

During the 2024 legislative session, the Kentucky General Assembly appropriated \$7 million of matchable dollars for the first year of the fund. Recently, Humana has come forward with a generous donation of \$75,000. Matched by dollars from the General Assembly appropriation, this allows CPE to make an incentive award of \$150,000.

Humana has requested that the incentive award be made to one of the following healthcare training programs at a Kentucky-based university, specifically in the eastern part of the state:

- Associates of Applied Science in Nursing (AASN)
- Traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Second degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Through statute, incentive funds must be used by the healthcare training program to invest in the continued excellence of the program by funding the (a) education, recruitment, and training of the healthcare program's faculty and staff; or (b) maintenance and acquisition of medical equipment utilized by the healthcare program.

### **III. HWIF Priorities – Healthcare Training Program Incentive Fund Awards**

Through statute, CPE is directed to evaluate and award incentive funds to programs based on (1) workforce demands and capacity for the credential, (2) if/how the program is meeting healthcare workforce needs in an underserved county, (3) the passage rate of graduates of the program on the healthcare credential examination, and (4) other relevant factors related to meeting community workforce needs as determined by CPE.

Humana has encouraged applicants to consider meeting these statutory elements through the expansion of the following efforts:

- Address/Alleviate social determinant needs (e.g. food insecurity; transportation needs, etc.) that might otherwise disadvantage or limit educational access for potential nursing students.
- Improve recruitment of students from underrepresented, underserved, and/or students from rural communities in Kentucky.
- Improve attrition and retention of underrepresented, underserved, and/or students from rural communities in Kentucky.
- Increase the number of nursing school graduates to improve the state of Kentucky's nursing workforce.

### **IV. Healthcare Training Program Incentive Fund Application Submission**

A downloadable copy of the application form is on the HWIF website linked below.

[Application Form](#)

Proposals must be received by **4:30pm ET on September 16, 2024**, by the following designee:

CPE Workforce & Economic Development Unit  
[cpeworkforce@ky.gov](mailto:cpeworkforce@ky.gov)

Identify your submission with “HWIF Incentive Fund Application” on the subject line of the email.

## **V. Proposal Evaluation & Award Notification**

The HWIF Steering Committee and CPE will use this evaluation form to guide the decision-making process.

### [Evaluation Form](#)

All eligible entities that submit applications will be notified via email regarding the status of their application after all applications have been evaluated on Friday, October 4, 2024.

The Council reserves the right to accept or reject any and all applications in whole or in part and to negotiate any or all aspects of an application.

If you have any questions about the Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund, contact Michaela Mineer at [michaela.mineer@ky.gov](mailto:michaela.mineer@ky.gov).