

## Health Horizons Grant Program: FAQ (Updated 10/5/22)

### Eligibility

**1. Can an institution apply for grant funds that is not a member of CCIC, CSCU or UCONN?**

No. Only nonprofit colleges and universities located and have their *primary physical campus* in Connecticut are eligible to apply.

**2. Can an institution apply for a grant that does not currently offer a nursing or social work program?**

Yes. An institution can apply for grant funds to: 1) start a new program or 2) establish a partnership with existing programs for their students.

**3. How many applications may an institution submit?**

One. Each institution of higher education may only submit one application, even if they have both a nursing and social work program. Institutional leaders must collaborate and come up with one submission working with the campus lead for each institution.

**4. An institution can only submit one application but can an institution partner with more than one institution if that other institution will take the lead?**

Yes. An institution can serve as a partner to more than one institution and submit its own application. However, any funding sought for tuition assistance must go to the institution awarding course credit. An institution can not seek tuition assistance to award scholarships for its students to enroll at another institution with a nursing or MSW program.

### Budget

**5. What is requested on the budget spreadsheet in the “ARPA funding” and “leveraged funding” columns?**

“ARPA funding” is the CT Health Horizon grant funding. “Leveraged funding” is any outside funding that an institution is using to match or expand the impact of the ARPA funding.

**6. On the budget form APRA matching dollars are asked for all three sections but the only required match is for the innovative programming portion. Can you clarify the budgetary requirements?**

The 50% match is only required on the innovative programs, but are leaving space to show additional matching funds. We encourage leveraging the tuition assistance for this cohort, and leaving room to show what the institutions are covering if the \$135k/faculty isn't going to cover the full cost for FTE.

**7. In the budget, how should we “count” faculty who are splitting their time among classroom, clinical, and other responsibilities? Just choose one and go with it or split it (1/3, 1/3, 1/3?)**

Splitting it will show the best breakdown.

**8. What are the terms of the grant period?**

The original budget template for the grant program was broken out in state fiscal years (July – June). ARPA funding can be spent until 2026 so the budget template was revised so institutions could spend the funds until Fall semester 2025. Below are the timeframes that a school could stretch out their budget to make it 3 years. The budget spreadsheet has been revised to read “CY” (calendar year) vs FY.

Spring 2023

Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

Fall 2024 – Spring 2025

Fall 2025

Tuition Assistance

**9. Is the tuition cap \$10,000 per student for the entire grant cycle (meaning they can receive \$10,000 in total but it could be spread out over two years time) or \$10,000 per year up to two years per student (meaning they can receive up to \$20,000 spread over two years' time)?**

\$10,000 per year up to two years per eligible student, meaning they can receive up to \$20,000 over two years time.

**10. Can we award scholarship monies for the Spring 2023 semester to sophomores in our 4-year BSN program? We would be focusing on this class and our juniors for the three-year grant period but the guidelines say that scholarships can only be given to students in their third and fourth years. If the answer is no, can we apply scholarship funds to their spring 2026 semester even though the grant period would be over at the end of 2025?**

No. The grant is not really intended to support students in traditional 4-year BSN programs so the funding may only be utilized for the final two years of their program. The tuition dollars are

really intended for students in an accelerated BSN who already have a BS and have utilized all their Pell eligibility..

**11. In the guidelines, it is advised that funding for tuition assistance must be utilized as a "last-in" scholarship - does this mean the scholarship money through CT Horizons has to be used as replacement funds? Or can they be used as enhancement dollars to add to student aid packages/reduce the amount they are taking out in loans?**

The funding is not to be used to supplant institutional aid or federal/state financial aid. It is intended to supplement that aid and reduce the amount of loans.

**12. Will students have a choice as with earlier federal HEERF grants whether to use it to pay tuition or to use it for other purchases/payments (rent, car payment, etc.)?**

No, this funding has been approved for tuition use only.

#### Faculty Support

**13. Does the Faculty Support opportunity require the 50% financial match?**

No, but it does require a plan for sustainability.

**14. Do new faculty hires have to be full-time appointments?**

No.

#### Innovative Programs

**15. If we want to request tuition support for eligible students participating in innovative programs, should we include those costs in the tuition support bucket or the innovative programs (and therefore subject to the matching requirement)?**

Tuition support bucket and say in the budget line that is where tuition is included. This was actually on the sample budget as an example.

**16. Would additional licensure training in an MSW program be an eligible expense for an innovative program that seeks to support minority and low-income social work students obtain LMSWs?**

Yes, however be sure to do your research on this issue. We believe DPH is already waiving a lot of the licensure fees for social workers based on need.

**17. Can a school use innovative program funding to run an academy for high school students to get interested in nursing/social work?**

Absolutely but please do a full landscape review of what already exists. There are a lot of existing programs in the alliance school districts and CTECS, so strengthening / bridging one of those would braid existing funding and build off of what already exists.