

Streamlining Success in Nursing Programs in Texas

[Trellis Foundation](http://www.trellisfoundation.org)¹, in partnership with [UpSkill America](http://www.upskillamerica.org)² at the Aspen Institute, is excited to announce a new opportunity designed to support innovations in nursing education. Working with the support of a learning community, 8-10 partners will participate in a three-year initiative to achieve the following objectives:

- 1) Enable nursing students working in health care environments to earn credit toward their clinical requirements through work. The [Texas Board of Nursing Education Guideline 3.7.4](https://www.bon.texas.gov/pdfs/education_pdfs/education_nursing_guidelines/3-7-4-Guideline.pdf)³ enables nursing students to meet clinical hours requirements through employment, based on the development of a partnership arrangement between the education provider and employer partner.
- 2) Identify and address policies and practices that are restricting nursing students' ability to complete academic and clinical requirements while also holding a job (in health care or otherwise). This may include shifting didactic learning online, creating more flexible clinical placement schedules, development regional clinical placement and faculty recruitment systems, and other approaches.

Eligibility

Organizations eligible to apply include **public and private nonprofit institutions of higher education in Texas**. Institutions that are based outside of Texas but serve Texas students may also apply, but the proposed work must occur in the state and impact local students. In geographies where work is best coordinated outside of postsecondary institutions, particularly rural communities, **workforce boards** may apply as the lead.

Training organizations and nonprofit community-based organizations that support nursing students and for-profit businesses and organizations are **not eligible to serve as the lead organization**, though they may be involved and supported through funded projects.

Learning Community Activities

Participating institutions and organizations will take part in learning community activities and receive funding to implement their projects (up to \$300,000 over three years):

- **Annual convenings** hosted in Texas designed to share learning across sites and strengthen the network of people working to advance these strategies.
- **Quarterly network calls** designed to support relationship building between organizations, to gain current-state insights about projects, and to get ahead of issues that may affect success.
- **Technical Assistance** to support project goals, particularly in enabling learning gained through work to apply toward clinical requirements.
- **Evaluation activities**, designed to solicit and understand lessons learned, impacts created, and scalable solutions. [Higher Ed Insight](http://www.higheredinsight.com)⁴ will support evaluation directly and will integrate all data collection into regular reporting requirements.

Timeline

- May 16 – Application and proposal forms due by 5:00 PM CDT
- Week of June 2nd - Applicants contacted to schedule interviews and given prep materials
- 3rd and 4th Weeks of June - Interviews conducted with applicant and partner orgs
- June 30 – Applicants notified
- July 31 – Grant agreements signed
- August 15 – Grant payments dispersed

Reach out to txhealthcare@aspeninstitute.org with questions!

¹ www.trellisfoundation.org

² www.upskillamerica.org

³ https://www.bon.texas.gov/pdfs/education_pdfs/education_nursing_guidelines/3-7-4-Guideline.pdf

⁴ www.higheredinsight.com