



**Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida, Inc.
Endowed Scholarship Fund for Florida's Community Colleges
Nursing and Allied Health Programs**

CRITERIA

As approved by the Foundation Board on March 3, 2005; with technical changes by staff.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the endowment is to provide a sustained source of funding for student scholarships in Nursing and Allied Health Programs at Florida's Community Colleges in order to meet the growing need for skilled nurses and allied health professionals who serve the diverse population of Florida. A primary focus of the scholarships is to attract students from population segments that are under-represented into the nursing workforce. For purposes of this document, the term under-represented refers to a student of low socio-economic status. Community colleges are encouraged to market the scholarship based on local workforce needs.

Eligible programs include the following:

Nursing Assistant;

Practical Nurse;

Associate Degree Nurse; and

Other Allied Health programs identified by the college

The amount of funds awarded to the college will be based on an equal minimum award, performance index and proportionate to full-time enrollment (FTE) in nursing and allied health programs. **Funds must be matched dollar for dollar by private donors at the local level.** Public funds may not be used to provide the match.

Community College Criteria

1. Regionally accredited through Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).
2. Demonstrate K-20 partnerships such as dual enrollment programs, articulation to bachelor degree, or other partnerships.
3. RN and PN programs approved by the State Board of Nursing.

Role of the Community College

Each community college will be required to submit an annual report to the Foundation for Florida's Community Colleges (FFCC) of funds distributed during the academic year. The annual report must be sent to FFCC no later than May 1 for participation and continued funding. The FFCC may establish an earlier deadline to ensure each institution's compliance with this procedure. The annual report will include the following:

1. Institution's grant amount;
2. Institution's local match amount;
3. Total amount of funds expended;

4. Demographic data on each award recipient
 - a. Student's name;
 - b. Age;
 - c. Gender;
 - d. Race and Ethnicity;
 - e. County of permanent residence in Florida; and
 - f. Full-time/part-time enrollment status

Direct administration of the scholarship will be the responsibility of each participating institution. The selection process is to be conducted at the local college level.

The institution will advertise the availability of this program; establish the application process, including required forms and deadlines; establish the award procedures, and determine the award amount for each recipient.

Student Criteria

These funds are to be awarded in the form of direct scholarships for tuition, fees, books or course medical supplies, ***or other purposes as determined by the college***. The student must:

1. Be a Florida resident;
2. Be accepted and enrolled as a full-time or part-time student in a nursing or allied health program at a Florida Community College; and
3. Submit a copy of the FAFSA application along with the scholarship application.

The scholarship is intended to attract students from populations under-represented in the nursing workforce. Community colleges are encouraged to market the scholarship based on local workforce needs. Funds should be awarded if an expense balance exists for tuition, fees, books or course medical supplies, ***or other purposes as determined by the college***. The funds are intended as "last dollar assistance" ***after all other scholarships for which the student is eligible***, are disbursed.

*Free Application for Federal Student Aid