



## Rebuilding Nursing Infrastructure Program Grant – Round 2

### Request for Applications

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### GENERAL QUESTIONS

##### 1. Who's eligible to apply?

California community college districts are eligible to apply and may apply on behalf of colleges. Multi-college districts must submit one separate application for each college within the district.

##### 2. What is the purpose of the Rebuilding Nursing Infrastructure Program grant?

In 2030, there's an anticipated shortage of registered nurses by 44,500. To meet this growing demand, the Legislation established the [Rebuilding Nursing Infrastructure \(RNI\) Grant Program \(Ed. Code, § 88770, et seq.; Stats. 2024, ch. 71 \(SB 155\)\)](#) to address nursing shortages, expand nursing programs and partnerships, and increase, educate, and maintain the next generation of registered nurses through the community college system.

##### 3. Where can I find a copy of the PowerPoint for both the Bidder's Conference and the NOVA application walkthrough?

A copy of the PowerPoint and video recording from the Bidder's Conference can be found on our [WEDD RFA website](#). Applicants are encouraged to check this website regularly for updates on the RFA. The walkthrough of the application can be found on slide 17 of the PowerPoint.

##### 4. Where can I find assistance with NOVA?

If you're new to NOVA, request an account use:

<https://nova.cccco.edu/request-access>

For additional assistance, requests can be submitted through the helpdesk:

<https://nova.cccco.edu/help>.

##### 5. Where can I find the application in NOVA?

In NOVA, the application is listed under program "RNI." Navigate to "Programs" under the dashboard and find "RNI" listed under "Programs."

##### 6. Can you add additional people beyond the project manager to be able to work on the grant in NOVA?

Yes. Any additional individuals that need access to the plan should be added as an "Alternate Project Lead" or "Contact." Per request of the Chancellor's Office, there should be a



representative from the district, college, and nursing program (preferably the nursing director) listed as a “Project Lead.”

**7. When is the application due?**

Applications are due Friday, January 16, 2026, by 11:59PM. Draft applications and extensions will not be considered. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure their application is submitted by the date and time listed above.

**8. Is there any consideration for the due date to be pushed farther to February?**

At this time, no. Last year, the deadline was extended due to the LA Fires, but this year, unless an unforeseen major event occurs, we do not plan to extend the deadline.

**9. What is the performance period?**

The grant has a 24-month performance period and is expected to run July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028.

**10. Can indirect costs be charged to these funds?**

Yes, up to 4% can be used for indirect costs. The formula to calculate indirect costs is below:

- $\text{Grant Amount} \div 1.04 = \text{Grant Operating Budget} \times 4 \text{ percent} = \text{Indirect Costs}$

For more information on indirect costs, please refer to the Chancellor’s Office Budget and Accounting Manual on the [Manuals website](#).

**11. How will funding be dispersed?**

Funds will be distributed through an invoicing method with a 60 percent advanced payment upon execution of a grant agreement, and 40 percent paid upon completion of required reporting.

**12. What are the reporting requirements?**

The grantee is required to submit regular reporting, including an end-of-project final report in the NOVA system by **August 31, 2028**. The required report will demonstrate the grantee provided program deliverables pursuant to the grant agreement.

Due Date	Report Type
January 31, 2027	Expenditure and Progress Report due covering the period of July 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026
July 31, 2027	Expenditure and Progress Report due covering the period of January 1, 2027, through June 30, 2027

Due Date	Report Type
January 31, 2028	Expenditure and Progress Report due covering the period of July 1, 2027, through December 31, 2027
July 31, 2028	Expenditure and Progress Report due covering the period of January 1, 2028, through June 30, 2028
August 31, 2028	Final Report of Expenditures due

**13. What types of letters of support should be provided?**

Letters of support are not required, but applicants can choose to include letters from local partners to support the proposal. Applicants may include cost estimates or supporting data to substantiate the accuracy of their proposed budget.

**14. If the applicant has a concurrent enrollment partnership (CSU partnership) already in place, will they receive the 1 priority point?**

If an applicant already has a partnership with a 4-year college in place, they will need to: 1) explain what the current partnership is; and 2) provide a detailed plan of the anticipated expansion. Submitting a current partnership without plans of expansion will not automatically award the applicant the additional priority point.

**15. Should the applicant include a current copy of the MOU and/or articulation agreement with the grant application as proof of the partnership.**

Yes, a current copy of the MOU and/or articulation agreement should be included.

**16. In Round 1, partnerships with CSU and UC systems appear to be emphasized. What are these partnerships worth in the current point system?**

Education Code requires that we award *priority consideration* for newly established partnerships with CSU and UC systems; in the current scoring structure for Round 2, this is worth **one point**.

**17. Will being a recipient of the RNI grant affect eligibility for the Nursing Enrollment Growth and Retention grant?**

No. These are two separate grants with distinct requirements and Education Code provisions. Receiving one grant does not impact eligibility for the other.

**18. Our college is on deferred status with BRN but is expected to return to approved status soon. Does this prevent us from applying for the RNI grant?**

No. You may submit your application, especially if you anticipate being back in good standing. The intent of this requirement is to ensure that colleges will be able to fulfill their obligations if selected for funding.

**19. If we submit our draft application early, is there an opportunity for review and feedback?**

Unfortunately, no. Because this is a competitive process, the Chancellor's Office cannot provide guidance on draft applications. We recommend reaching out to other program directors for peer support.

**20. How should we address sustainability if two faculty members are retiring soon? Can we justify funding for someone to earn a master's degree and commit to staying?**

Applicants are recommended to frame their proposal to meet their long-term needs. In your proposal, consider how you will maintain faculty capacity in the future if someone leaves, provide an outline your plan for ensuring you have the qualified faculty necessary to operate your program, including strategies for recruitment, retention, and succession planning.

**21. If a career pathway is proposed with a facility, do we need to submit a letter of support from the facility?**

While not required, a letter of support will strengthen your proposal by demonstrating the partnership and commitment. Additionally, if you are adding a new pathway, explain how you will accommodate the additional students and ensure program capacity in your proposal.

**22. What guidance can you provide for applicants to avoid in their proposals?**

Avoid proposals that include all eight legislative priorities. Applicants are encouraged to focus on what is most relevant and achievable for your program. Ensure your proposal is well-structured, clearly addresses your statement of need, and includes a detailed, realistic work plan.

Additionally, the Statement of Need sets the tone for the application. It should clearly explain the challenges your college is facing and why they exist, supported by context rather than just statistics. Show how your proposed activities directly address those challenges.

Other key points:

- Nursing Directors should be actively involved in writing the proposal. Proposals written solely by consultants often lack practical alignment.
- Activities, outcomes, timelines, and budgets must be realistic and connected.
- Ensure all details align—activities should support goals, and goals should match your statement of need.



- Do not overcommit; failing to meet obligations can impact future funding opportunities.

## NURSING SHORTAGE HIGH NEEDS REGION MAP

### 23. Where do I find the Nursing Shortage High Needs Region map?

The updated map can be located on the [FoundationCCC website](#).

### 24. How can we determine if our college qualifies for priority consideration?

You can check your college's status on the program website. If your college qualifies, a green tag labeled "Priority" will appear beneath its name. For Round 2, only colleges identified as having "Medium" needs or higher will be eligible for priority consideration.

## PROGRAM EXPANSION QUESTIONS

### 25. Does the college need to have Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) approval for growth by the deadline of the application to apply for program growth?

No; however, the applicant should plan to have a detailed outline in their workplan of the intended activities and timeline. The applicant can provide as much information to show the process has begun. It should be clear in the workplan what steps are being taken to ensure growth by the end of the performance period, including by when the applicant plans to have the BRN approval and when the students for the new added slots will begin. Ideally, these new slots should begin before the end of the performance period.

### 26. Do programs need to grow/expand as part of the application?

The RFA has a total of eight legislative priorities that applicants can address in their proposals. ADN expansion of the program in terms of adding additional students to the annual admission is one of them. It is not a requirement for applicants to include this priority in their application. The Chancellor's Office will give consideration to all applications that focus on one or any combination of the priorities listed.

### 27. Will colleges wishing to develop a Licensed Vocational Nursing (LVN) program be eligible for this grant?

Proposals to create or develop a standalone LVN program do not meet the purpose of the grant and will not be considered. However, LVN to RN or LVN to ADN bridge program creation and expansion will be considered.

### 28. Can RNI funding be used to create a CNA program? Were there any successful applications in Round 1?

Yes. Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals that build a pipeline leading into the ADN program, which may include CNA and LVN to RN Bridge components, using strategies such as dual enrollment. Be sure to include how students will be supported throughout the pathway. For example, if you plan to collaborate with high schools, provide specific details on how the partnership will work and how it will benefit students.

## **FUNDING AND BUDGET QUESTIONS**

### **29. Can partnerships include subcontractors?**

Subcontracting provisions will be outlined in the executed grant agreements. Interested applicants will need to include the following information in the application: the name of the proposed subcontractor, the estimated amount to be subcontracted, the services to be provided, and by when the service should be completed.

### **30. Do the other funding sources include general funds? Asking what the breakdowns are of other funding sources?**

This question is in reference to listing additional funding sources that support current efforts to address the applicant's needs and support their overall nursing education. Yes, applicants are requested to include all existing funding sources supporting their nursing education, including general funds. Our goal is to see the selected proposals successful and sustained after the expiration of the RNI grant.

### **31. Can we use it for student scholarships for BSN courses taken concurrently at a 4-year college while enrolled at the community college?**

No. Assuming the ADN program currently has a partnership with the local 4-year college that allows their ADN students to take BSN courses concurrently, the grant funding cannot be used to pay the student fees associated with the concurrent course.

### **32. Can the grant be used to pay accreditation fees for a first-time application for ACEN accreditation?**

Yes, first-time application fees for ACEN Accreditation are an allowable expense. Applicants are encouraged to list this fee including any other ACEN accredited associated fees in their budget.

### **33. Can the RNI grant be used to pay student fees for CCPS or My Clinical Exchange?**

Justification will need to be provided for how this expenditure supports the purpose of the RFA and applicant's needs statement.

### **34. Does the grant allow for tangible, physical student space needs such as modifications to classrooms or existing simulation labs?**

Yes, modifications are allowable if they are intended to improve technology or accommodate a larger class size. Applicants should include an estimate and a clear plan in your proposal. However, the construction of new buildings is not allowed outside the scope of the grant.

**35. Does RNI allow direct payment to students such as stipends? For example, in an apprenticeship model or for clinical parking costs.**

Recent passage of [AB 323](#) allows districts to use funds to provide direct financial support for paid work-based learning (WBL) (e.g., apprenticeships, internships, externships, or similar paid clinical experiences) which are designed to increase students' employability and employment. Any such payments must be clearly tied to participation in paid WBL activities (rather than general tuition or cost-of-attendance support), included in the approved NOVA plan and budget, and structured in a manner consistent with grant fiscal requirements and local board policies. Additional guidance from the Chancellor's Office will be forthcoming. For now, proposals must clearly outline:

- The conditions students must meet to receive direct aid
- How direct aid to students will be disbursed (e.g., through the Financial Aid office)
- How the approach will be sustainable after the RNI grant ends

For costs related to clinical site travel (such as parking), districts may include reasonable expenses if they help ensure students complete the program on time. Again, applicants should provide details of the terms for eligibility and address sustainability beyond the grant period.

**36. Could you provide an example of how a stipend could be offered for a non-credit prep course? Could it include items like nursing skill bags as an incentive?**

RNI Grant is intended to support efforts in increasing Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) program enrollment, enhancing student support services, expanding clinical placement opportunities, expanding strategies to recruit and retain nursing faculty, strengthening transfer pathways to BSN programs, and improving program compliance and accreditation. Applicants are encouraged to apply strategies that reduce the cost of nursing education for students, as these efforts can improve retention in ADN programs. Coordinating resources for offsetting costs to students should be explored. As an example, colleges could offer admitted students an incentive such as nursing skill bag, uniforms, or shoes in the pathway. Proposals should be clearly outlined:

- How the stipend or incentive will work
- The expectations and conditions for student participation

- How success will be measured (e.g., participation rates, improvement in professional skills)

If the goal is to address gaps in professionalism or readiness, proposals shall include justification and measurable outcomes. Ideally, offer the opportunity to all students, even piloting, and explain how you will evaluate its impact. Also, consider sustainability: how will you continue this approach after the grant ends?

**37. Are there restrictions on purchasing technology such as simulators or VR equipment?  
Should we rent or purchase?**

There are no specific restrictions on purchasing technology, such as simulators or VR equipment, as long as your proposal demonstrates a clear need. Applicants should ensure their request aligns with their Statement of Need and include:

- What will be purchased?
- When will the technology be purchased?
- How much it will cost?
- How does it support student success?

Including quotes is not required but can strengthen your proposal by showing thoughtful and reasonable use of funds. You may also include costs for equipment upkeep.

Renting vs. purchasing is a local decision. Whatever the applicant chooses, they should provide a clear rationale for the approach.

**38. Will the Chancellor's Office provide guidance on reasonable dollar amounts for faculty educational stipends?**

It is up to each college to determine an appropriate stipend amount that is considered reasonable and sustainable. Large amounts would not be allowable, as they are not scalable or sustainable. Stipends must be tied to specific conditions and documented in a contract outlining what faculty must achieve in order to qualify and remain eligible for the stipend.

Your proposal should include:

- Clear conditions for receiving the stipend
- How it supports your Statement of Need and the purpose of the RFA
- A plan for sustainability beyond the grant period

**39. Are nursing program directors, who are administrators and not classified as faculty, eligible to receive educational stipends to pursue advanced degrees such as a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)?**

Applicants are encouraged to propose solutions to the barriers identified in their Statement of Need. Each proposal will be evaluated based on whether it:

- Addresses the Statement of Need – Does the proposed solution directly respond to the identified challenges or gaps?
- Aligns with one of the stated priorities – Is the solution consistent with at least one priority outlined in the RFA?
- Supports the Purpose of the RFA – Does the proposal advance the overall goals and objectives described in the RFA?

The Chancellor's Office is seeking proposals that are aligned, actionable, and impactful, and only those most competitive will be considered.

If stipends for administrators are proposed, they will be evaluated for:

- Justification and alignment with program's Statement of Need
- Institutional capacity for sustainability and scalability
- Compliance with allowable uses of state funds

## RETURNING APPLICANTS

### **40. Can you define a returning applicant versus a new applicant?**

A new applicant is an applicant who is submitting an application from a district and college that 1) applied for Round 1 and was not selected to receive funding or 2) is applying for funding consideration for the first time. A returning applicant is an applicant who applied for Round 1 and was selected for funding.

Returning applicants do not receive additional points. All applications are scored based on the same criteria outlined in the Request for Applications (RFA), regardless of whether the applicant has previously received funding. Returning applicants do have additional requirements:

- Must include a new Statement of Need, and
- A Workplan that:
  - Addresses priority areas that are different from those funded in Round 1, or
  - Builds upon and demonstrates expanded work funded under Round 1 - proposals that duplicate previously awarded work will not be considered.

### **41. If a grantee applied and was accepted for RNI Round 1, do they need to apply again?**

Each round of funding requires a new application. Funding from Round 1 does not automatically carry over to Round 2 and has its own set of objectives. Applicants should submit a proposal that reflects their current needs, updated scope of work, and budget for the new grant period.

### **42. What does the Chancellor's Office consider duplication?**

Duplication refers to submitting a proposal in Round 2 that does not build upon the work funded in Round 1. If an applicant was a Round 1 grantee and is applying for Round 2, their proposal should demonstrate how they will expand, enhance, or advance the initiatives started in Round 1, rather than repeating and/or supplanting the same activities.

**43. If we requested technology for traditional ADN students in Round 1, can we now request technology for LVN-to-RN students without it being considered duplication?**

Yes. Applicants are encouraged to frame their proposal to their current needs. As a returning applicant, you can explain that the technology requests in Round 1 were for ADN students, but for Round 2, your goal is to increase enrollment of LVN-to-RN students and address technology and access barriers for students in this pathway. Include specific growth goals, justify the need, and provide details on how the requested resources will support these students and improve program outcomes.

**44. Can applicants propose activities focused on professional practice skills for advanced students (e.g., 3rd/4th semester ADN or LVN-to-RN students), such as modules, training, or apprenticeship models?**

Applicants are encouraged to propose strategies that address transition-to-practice gaps and strengthen professional skills, including soft skills. Examples may include:

- Developing modules or non-credit courses focused on professional readiness
- Piloting innovative approaches (e.g., body swaps or similar models)
- Creating apprenticeship or preceptorship opportunities in partnership with hospitals or clinics

If you include stipends or incentives, ensure your proposal provides:

- Detailed descriptions of the activities
- Clear goals and measurable outcomes
- Justification for how the approach addresses identified gaps
- A sustainability plan beyond the grant period

**45. Can we request funding for a remediation or succession coach if we funded one in Round?**

Yes, if the proposal demonstrates growth and expansion rather than simple continuation. The Chancellor's Office expects colleges to build upon successful activities from Round 1. If you propose the same coach performing the same duties, it is unlikely to be approved. However, if you are adding new responsibilities, or introducing an additional coach to address new needs, that would be considered. Also, applicants are encouraged to clearly show how the Round 2



proposal expands Round 1 effort and supports sustainability and scalability. Avoid framing the request by maintaining the status quo and focusing on growth and impact.

**46. How should we address the overlap between Round 1 and Round 2 during the 2026–2027 year, particularly when developing the budget and scope of work?**

RNI is separate from the Nursing Enrollment Growth and Retention grant, which is allocation based. For RNI, any unspent funds must be returned to the Chancellor’s Office at the end of the performance period. If you do not anticipate being able to spend the full amount (e.g., \$2 million) within 24 months, consider requesting only what you can realistically manage. If there is concern about overlapping budgets or activities, request only the amount you need and ensure your scope of work is achievable within the grant period.

## TECHNICAL QUESTIONS

### 47. How should we label our application?

We recommend using the following naming format: Full College Name: Name of Proposal. This is highly recommended to assist in easy location of applications. How the application is named will not be a factor in the scoring of the application.

### 48. In the Round 2 RNI grant in NOVA, under the workplan section, you can only choose one of the possible activities within each of the 8 purposes. If the applicant does 2 activities, do they just re-enter the purpose again and then select the next activity?

In the workplan section, applicants are to select which priority they are working on (you can select more than one) and answer the following questions that populate. There is a workaround, which is shared in the helper text. See below:

**2. Select the grant purpose that the Applicant's workplan addresses; Complete the follow-up questions that will appear for each priority selected. \***

The purpose of the workplan is to provide a detailed framework of the strategies and activities to be used to address the Statement of Need and to achieve the Applicant's proposed goals. The plan will include a timeline of when those activities will take place and the intended outcomes at the end of the grant period. The list below is the shortened version of the priorities. For the complete list, refer to the RFA. Applicants are encouraged to provide as much information/details as possible. Where applicable, follow the template provided.

Only select the activities which your proposal addresses. If you have more than one activity for your selected priority, list them in question 2.2 before your Goals. Applicants will need to explain how they will carry out these extra activities in the following questions (2.3-2.5), so make sure they are clearly stated and labeled.

### 49. Should supporting documents (quotes or letters of support) be uploaded as one PDF or separately in NOVA? Where are these items linked in NOVA?

Supporting documents can be uploaded individually as needed to strengthen your application. Applicants may also link these documents within their narrative. For example, providing links to quotes in the Proposed Use of Funds section can help justify your budget request. To link a document, follow these steps:

- Upload your document into Supporting Documents. Once the document is uploaded, right click on the name of your document, which should now have a link. Copy the "link address."
- Navigate to your application where you want to link the document as a reference. Highlight the text and click the "link" (or CNTR + K) icon in the textbox.
- A pop-up should appear. Paste the link into the URL box, click on the box that says, "Open in new tab", then click on "Insert." This action will attach the uploaded



document to the specified area in your application. You can test to see if the document was linked correctly by clicking on it after the pop box disappears.

Note: It is not required to link supporting documents to your narrative; however, doing so can help reviewers quickly access and verify the additional resources you provide. Including links within relevant sections, such as the Proposed Use of Funds, can strengthen your application and make it easier to review.