

California Community Colleges

Rebuilding Nursing Infrastructure (RNI) Program Grant – Round Three

Request for Application (RFA) Bidder's Conference

October 27, 2026

Today's Nursing & Allied Health Team

Presenters

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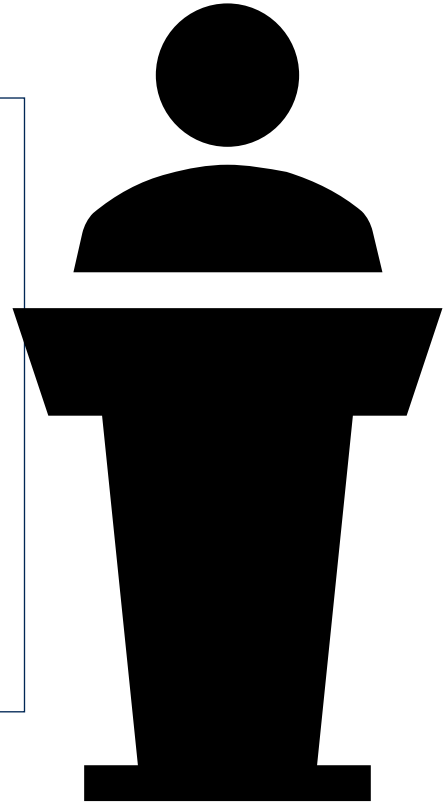
Support

- Brooke Westbrook
- Lyrae Myxter
- Regina Malcolm



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Agenda



Housekeeping

RNI Round Three RFA Overview

- Background and Purpose
- Eligibility and Returning Applicants
- Funding Purposes and Legislative Priorities
- Available Funds and Grant Terms
- Reporting Requirements and Expectations

How to Apply

Application Evaluation Criteria

Important Timeline Overview

Office Hours

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Housekeeping Items

Recording:

- This webinar will be recorded and posted to the WEDD RFA website after remediation

Q&A

- Please use the Q&A window to submit your questions during the presentation
- Questions will be monitored and answered via the Q&A window during the presentation as time allows
- Questions may be submitted through November 9, 2026, at 5:00 PM to NursingApps@CCCCO.edu
- An FAQ document will also be posted to the WEDD RFA website and updated regularly

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Rebuilding Nursing Infrastructure(RNI) Program Grant – Round Three Overview

Background and Purpose

- California continues to face a critical shortage of registered nurses. Due to healthcare demands, the state will need 44,500 more registered nurses by 2030
- The annual Budget Act provides a third year of allocated funds for community colleges to bolster nursing education and training in California. Ed. Code, § 88770, et seq.; Stats. 2024, ch. 71 (SB 155)
- $55.8M will be used for grants and technical assistance to: expand registered nursing programs and partnerships; address nursing shortages; and increase, educate, and maintain the next generation of registered nurses through the community college system

Third Year Goal

Round Three:

- Builds on Round One projects to expand nursing education capacity and Round Two projects emphasizing the launch of new ADN programs
- Focuses on creating additional ADN pathways through dual enrollment models
- Supports high-quality nursing education across California community colleges

Eligibility

- California community college districts are eligible to apply on behalf of a college for this grant
  - Multi-college districts must submit one separate application for each college seeking funding
- The college named in the application must:
  - Have an active Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) program, or
  - Plan to establish an ADN program by the end of the grant performance period
  - Existing programs must remain in good standing with the Board of Registered Nursing (BRN)

Returning Applicants

- Definition: those who received Round One RNI Grant funding and/or Round Two RNI Grant funding and are applying for Round Three
- Returning Applicants must include:
  - An updated Statement of Need
  - Workplan showing:
    - New activities/outcomes OR Expanded work from RNI Round One and/or Round Two
- Competitive process – proposals must:
  - Show new or expanded work, not duplication. Proposals duplicating prior work previously funded will not be considered
  - Avoid supplanting existing funds

Funding Purposes

Usages

- Funds serve as seed funding for projects with long-term ADN program benefits
- Supplanting existing funds or covering ongoing maintenance is not allowed

- Grant aligns with Education Code Section 88772(b) and supports eight legislative priorities
- See page 3 in RFA (link here) for a full list of priorities, listed in no particular order

Legislative Priorities

- Funding for the program will be awarded for any one or combination of the listed priorities (see page 3 in RFA here) . The proposal must address at least one.
- Competitive Proposals:
  - Align with Applicant's Statement of Need
  - Show clear impact on increasing RN workforce/education; support RFA purposes

Available Funds

- The successful Applicant can request a grant of up to $2,000,000 per college
- $55,849,990 total available funds for this application round
  - $3,000,000 set aside for administrative costs & technical assistance

- The Chancellor's Office shall determine the amount of each grant for a recipient, taking the following factors into account:
  - The Applicant's requested amount and justification
  - The Applicant's score on the scoring rubric
  - The total amount of funding available for awarding

Grant Term (Expected)

- 24 months from July 1, 2027 - June 30, 2029
- Awardees may have up to two years to expend a grant
- During a grant term, grant recipients are expected to fully expend grant funds while ensuring full transparency and accountability for all expenditures
- Any unspent amount of the grant at the end of the two-year period of encumbrance shall revert to the Chancellor's Office

Reporting Requirements

- Annual reports in NOVA are required
- An end-of-project Final Report of Expenditures in NOVA is required

NOVA Reporting Dates	
July 31, 2028	Expenditure and Progress Report due covering the period of July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2028
July 31, 2029	Expenditure and Progress Report due covering the period of July 1, 2028, through June 30, 2029
August 31, 2029	Final Report of Expenditures due

Reporting Expectations

- As a condition of receiving a grant, a recipient shall report to the Chancellor's Office the following:



The number of additional nursing education program enrollment slots created with the use of grants



Student outcomes, including course success rates, persistence rates, graduation rates, NCLEX first time pass rate, and, if possible, employment placement outcomes



How the grant was used by expenditure category, as described in the Purpose section (page 3)



The extent to which the grant, combined with other funding sources, addressed regional workforce needs

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Additional Required Program Metrics

- Number of students transferring to four-year BSN programs
- Number of BSN transfer pathways
- Number of students earning ADNs
- Number of students enrolled
- Demographics of enrolled students to include age, race, gender, and language spoken at home
- Number of students completing
- Demographics of completers to include age, race, gender, and language spoken at home
- Program expenditures

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Additional Required Program Metrics (Cont.)

Please note: The data points listed below and completion of submission will be counted as part of the application score for completion.

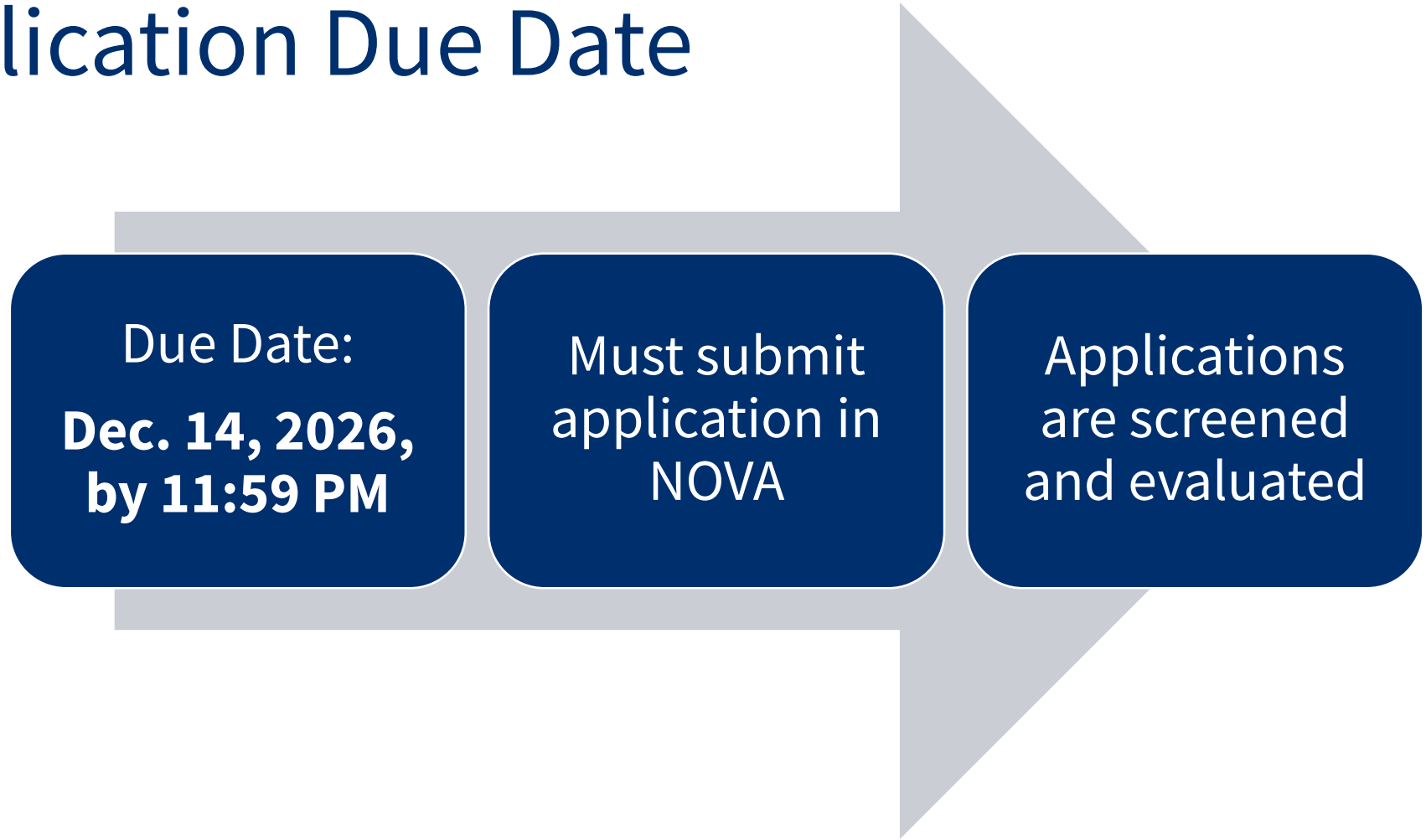
- Number of nursing students
- NCLEX Take/Pass
- Clinical Placements
- FTE of Faculty Vacancies
- ACEN Status
- BRN Status
- Students Participating in Co-Enrollment
- Partnerships Established (Current Partnerships)
- Full-Time vs. Part-Time Faculty Baseline

How to Apply

How to Apply

- For step-by-step instructions on completing the application with the required level of detail, watch the NOVA training recording
  - (Passcode: @j^$c0Ns)
- Applications are now available in NOVA!
  - Applicants must have a NOVA log in to apply. No account? No problem. Request access here.
  - Application can be found by navigating to "Programs" under the dashboard followed by "Applications" then "RNI". Find "Create Application" and find the fund name "RNI 3 – Rebuilding Nursing Infrastructure Grant - Year 3
  - Please use the following naming format: **Full College Name: Name of Proposal**
  - For additional assistance in NOVA, submit helpdesk requests here.
  - Other resources (e.g. FAQ) needed for the application process can be found on the WEDD RFA website

Application Due Date



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Screening Criteria

- The application was submitted by a California community college district for a college with an ADN program, or plans to establish one by end of the grant period
- The application was received by the submission deadline (no drafts will be accepted)
- The application was submitted in the required format with all required information
- The application included all sections, including a budget and budget justification

Rejection of Application

- Not submitted through NOVA by 11:59 PM, December 14, 2026
    - No late submissions, no other formats, no edits after submission; drafts are not considered
- Proposed budget exceeds $2,000,000
- Applicant is a district with a college lacking an ADN program and will not establish one by the end of the performance period
- Any of the required components of the application are incomplete or not submitted
- Returning applicants will be deemed ineligible and rejected if they fail to:
    - Demonstrate a substantive expansion of previously funded work
    - Submit a new and clearly articulated Statement of Need
    - Avoid duplication of activities or objectives previously awarded under this program



Application Evaluation Overview

Application Evaluation

Reviewed for extent to which they:

- Effectively address California's nursing shortages
- Best serve the interests of the California Community Colleges
  - Applications that substantially duplicate Round One and/or Round Two proposals without meaningful expansion or new focus areas will receive lower scores and may be ineligible

Application Evaluation Cont.

- Scoring will be conducted using a 100-point scale
- Applications must receive a score of at least 80 to be eligible for award

Sections	Maximum Points
Statement of Need	15
Amount Requested and Use of Funds	10
Workplan	50
Budget	15
Priority Considerations	Up to 10
Total Possible Points	100

Application Section Review (1 of 5)

Statement of Need

15 points

Returning Applicants are expected to provide a new Statement of Need and demonstrate a focus that is different from their previous application.

1) Identification of Need (8 points)

- Provide a statement identifying the specific needs or problems the Applicant faces regarding access to educating, supporting, graduating, or placing nursing students
  - Must discuss factors that contribute to the existing need
  - Must clearly demonstrate how the needs connect to one of the priorities listed on page 3

2) Current Approach (7 points)

- A description of how the Applicant is currently addressing the needs or problems described
- What existing funds are currently supporting these efforts
- How receipt of this grant will supplement and/or expand those efforts

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Application Section Review (2 of 5)

Amount Requested & Use of Funds

10 points

Provide a detailed description of the proposed use of the grant to address one or a combination of the priorities listed in the "Purpose" section (on page 3).

1. Address the barriers and needs identified in Statement of Need
2. Enhance and expand ADN programs to cultivate, educate, and sustain the next generation of registered nurses
3. Include the grant amount requested to address each priority selected and a breakdown of cost by activity
    - Excellent example of budget breakdown/description "Priority – Technology upgrade: Computer replacement 24 stations, HP Z2 Mini-$2,379 x 24= $57,096 + $4,800 tax at 7.75% = $61,896

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Examples of Potential RNI Uses of Funds

Commonly Aligned with RNI Round 3 Priorities	
New ADN program development	BRN compliance activities
Expansion of existing ADN programs	ACEN accreditation activities
Dual enrollment nursing pathways	ADN-to-BSN pathway development
Faculty training and development	BSN partnership development
Faculty recruitment and retention strategies	
Simulation equipment and instructional equipment	
Student engagement and retention strategies	
Clinical placement expansion activities	
Tutoring, case management, and student supports	

Examples are provided for illustrative purposes only and do not constitute an official allowable cost list. Final determinations depend on alignment with the applicant's Statement of Need, proposed workplan, budget justification, RNI priorities, and grant requirements.

Examples of Potential RNI Uses of Funds

Requires Strong Justification
Professional memberships
Conference attendance and travel
General professional development not tied to project outcomes
Student support costs without a clear connection to project outcomes
Technology purchases lacking a demonstrated need
Direct financial support outside approved project activities
Administrative costs with limited connection to project activities/outcomes
Software subscriptions not tied to the workplan
Costs without measurable outcomes

Examples are provided for illustrative purposes only and do not constitute an official allowable cost list. Final determinations depend on alignment with the applicant's Statement of Need, proposed workplan, budget justification, RNI priorities, and grant requirements.

Examples of Uses of Funds Generally Not Supported by the RNI Round 3 RFA

Not Supported
Construction of new buildings
Supplanting existing funding sources
Duplicating previously funded activities without meaningful expansion
Routine maintenance or ongoing operational expenses
Activities not connected to the approved workplan and statement of need

This slide highlights examples of expenditures that are generally inconsistent with the RNI Round 3 RFA. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list. Applicants should refer to the RFA and applicable statutory requirements when developing budgets and proposed activities.

Application Section Review (3 of 5)

Workplan

50 points

The main framework that connects all parts of the application, including the budget, by showing how the proposed activities will address the Statement of Need and achieve the grant's goals

- Project Plan and Implementation (15)
- Measurable Outcomes and Deliverables (15)
- Sustainability and Long-Term Impact (10)
- Feasibility and Institutional Capacity (10)

Workplan must include:

- Detailed plan with annual tasks/activities
- Timeline with baseline measures and associated target outcomes
- Justification for strategies
- Responsible parties identified
- Number of education slots (where applicable)
- Sustainability plan

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Application Section Review (4 of 5)

Budget by Object Code and Other Funding Sources

15 points

1) Provide a budget by object code with detailed descriptions. All line items must be associated with an activity in the workplan.

2) Include a breakdown of the amount and use of other funding sources that the Applicant is using for nursing education programs

Provide a budget by object code with detailed descriptions.

NOVA allows for expenditure object codes 1000-7000:

- 1000 – Instructional Salaries
- 2000 – Non-Instructional Salaries
- 3000 – Employee Benefits
- 4000 – Supplies and Materials
- 5000 – Other Operating Expenses and Services
- 6000 – Capital Outlay
- 7000 – Other Outgoing Indirect Costs

*Indirect costs should not exceed **four percent**.

*Indirect Costs Calculation

- Grant Amount ÷ 1.04 = Grant Operating Budget × 4 percent = Indirect Costs

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Application Section Review (5 of 5)

Priority Considerations

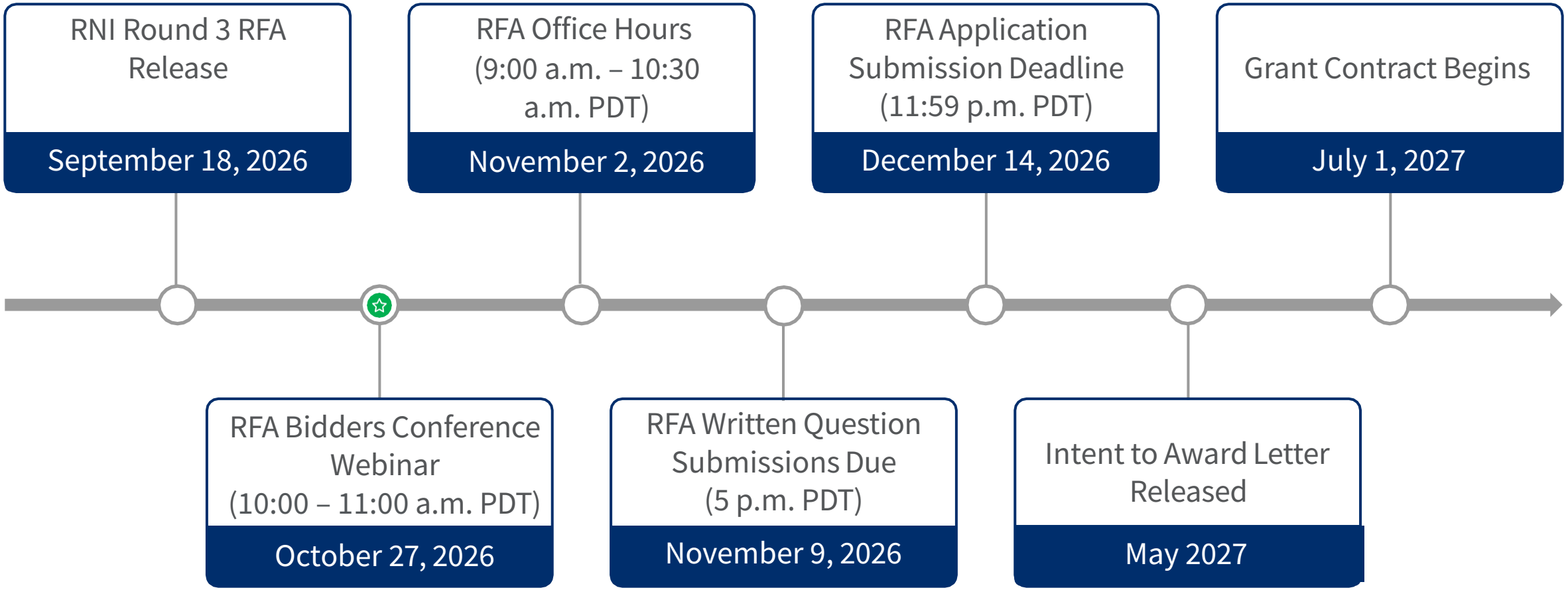
Up to 10 points

Applicants can apply for the priority considerations below:

- New Program Development (3 points)
- Dual Enrollment into ADN Pathways (2 points)
- New Applicants (3 points)
- Geographic Need (1 point)
  - Nursing Shortage Map
- BSN Pathway Expansion (1 point)

Important Timeline Overview

Timeline Overview



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Appeals Process (Part 1 of 2)

- Applicants who wish to appeal a grant award decision must submit a letter of appeal to the Chancellor's Office within 10 business days after the date the notice of intent to award is posted; the letter of appeal must include the signature by the college president or designee.
  - Only emailed letters will be accepted
  - Appeals should be submitted to Vice Chancellor Anthony Cordova at the following email address: ACordova@CCCCO.edu
  - The final decision will be provided in writing within 30 calendar days from the date that appeals are due
  - The Chancellor's Office decision shall be the final administrative action afforded the appeal

Appeals Process (Part 2 of 2)

- The appeal must specify the grounds of appeal and must be based on the process and/or procedures used in the review and recommendation of applications for awards
- The Applicant must file a full and complete written appeal, including the process(es) in dispute
- Incomplete or late appeals will not be considered
- The Applicant may not supply any new information that was not contained in the original application

Office Hours

Office Hours

- November 2, 2026
  - 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
  - Opportunity to ask questions, receive clarification, or request technical assistance prior to application submission.

- Registration Link:
  - https://cccco.zoom.us/meeting/register/KYjaUEdUR8CugHBGgm6tvQ

Submit additional questions to NursingApps@CCCCO.edu **by 5PM on November 9, 2026**

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Useful Links

Updates to RFA/FAQ/Recording of this webinar
WEDD RFA website

Nursing Shortage Map: Nursing Shortage Map

New to NOVA? Request an account
https://nova.cccco.edu/request-access

For additional NOVA questions, utilize the helpdesk https://nova.cccco.edu/help.

For more on projects from previous Rounds projects, visit the RNI grant website

RFA Questions: Email Nursing Program Team at
NursingApps@CCCCO.edu

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Thank you!

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