



Nurse Faculty Loan Repayment Program

2017 Update

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The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has forecasted that Oregon will experience a shortage of approximately 6,000 nurses in all settings by 2025. To address this, Oregon nursing programs will need to expand to produce more graduates. However, one of the biggest obstacles to increasing nursing school capacity is the lack of nurse faculty.

Recruiting and retaining nurse faculty has been a challenge for many years due to the high cost of graduate nursing education, and the low salaries nurse educators receive when compared to nurses working in other settings. In addition, according to a 2015 study by the Oregon Center for Nursing, as many as one-half of Oregon's current nurse educators are expected to retire by 2025.

In 2009, the legislature passed SB701 to create the Nurse Faculty Loan Repayment Program to provide an incentive for nurse educators to remain in their roles. This program retained nurse faculty by repaying some of the student loans they incurred to become educators.

If funds of \$350,000 are allocated to the Nurse Faculty Loan Repayment Program, as it is currently structured, approximately 10 faculty could receive loan repayment funds. These funds would allow nurse faculty to reduce their student loan debt significantly and focus on a role and specialty crucial to Oregon's ability to care for its population.