

VDH NURSING PROGRAMS

2026 Advisory Committee Meeting

April 23, 2026





COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health

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RICHMOND, VA 23218

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State Health Commissioner

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AGENDA

**Nursing Scholarship Program
Advisory Committee Meeting
[700 E Jackson St, Richmond, VA 23219](#)**

Date: April 23, 2026

Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

- I. Welcome and Call to Order for Advisory Committee Meeting**
 - a. Introduction of members, staff, and housekeeping information
 - b. Questions for VDH staff

- II. Application Review**
 - a. Committee review and discussion of applicant scores
 - b. Voting on awards

- III. Adjourn**

State-funded Workforce Incentives for Nursing

HISTORY

Mary Marshall served as a Virginia state legislator for 23 years, focusing on health care and nursing. She sponsored numerous bills, including one that created a scholarship fund for nursing students during a statewide nursing shortage. Since 1958, the General Assembly (GA) has funded scholarships for Virginia nursing students. After retiring in 1992, she was appointed to the Board of Health Professions but passed away before attending her first meeting. In 1993, the Board of Nursing honored her contributions by naming the scholarship program the **Mary A. Marshall Nursing Scholarship Fund**, which is supported by a \$1 fee from licensed nurses and awarded by the Board of Health. Most of the current funding available is appropriated by the GA annually directly to VDH. Effective July 1, 2026, funds from the GA will be administered by the Virginia Nursing Workforce Center within the [Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority](#).

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Mary Marshall Nursing Scholarship for Licensed Practical Nurses / Registered Nurses

Eligibility:

- U.S. citizen, National, immigration visa holder, or political refugee (SSN required)
- Virginia resident for at least 1 year (proof required)
- Eligible for in-state tuition
- High school diploma or GED
- Accepted/enrolled in an LPN/RN nursing program in Virginia
- Minimum GPA: 2.5
- Demonstrated financial need (verified by school's financial aid office)
- Completed application with program director's recommendation

Scholarship Amount:

Scholarship amounts vary based on the Advisory Committee's decision. Awards depend upon funds appropriated by the Virginia General Assembly, money collected by the Board of Nursing, and the number of qualified applicants. Per [§ 23.1-614.C in the Code of Virginia](#), “undergraduate nursing scholarships shall not exceed \$2,000 annually. Graduate nursing scholarships shall not exceed \$4,000 annually. No scholarship shall be less than \$150 annually.”

Scholarship Conditions:

- The obligation is one year of full-time employment as a nurse in the Commonwealth of Virginia for every \$2000 scholarship awarded
- Full-time employment must begin within 60 days of graduation date
- Voluntary military service cannot be used to repay scholarship awards
- The scholarship contract will state any other conditions and requirements not covered by this document

Long-Term Care facility Nursing Scholarship (LPN/RN)

The long-term care facility nursing scholarships support students enrolled in undergraduate nursing programs, including diploma, associate, and bachelor's degree pathways for RNs, LPNs, and CNAs. Scholarship decisions are based on academic performance, financial need, character, and overall suitability for the nursing profession.

Eligibility:

- U.S. citizen or National
- Residency in Virginia for at least one year
- Eligible for in-state tuition
- Must possess a high school diploma or GED
- Acceptance/enrollment as a full or part-time student in an LPN school of nursing in Virginia
- Cumulative GPA of at least 2.50 on a 4.00 scale
- Must demonstrate a financial need that is verified by the office of financial assistance at the applicant's school
- Submission of a completed application and recommendation from the program director

Scholarship Amount:

Scholarship amounts vary based on the Advisory Committee's decision. Awards depend upon funds appropriated by the Virginia General Assembly, money collected by the Board of Nursing, and the number of qualified applicants. Per § 23.1-614.C in the Code of Virginia, "undergraduate nursing scholarships shall not exceed \$2,000 annually. Graduate nursing scholarships shall not exceed \$4,000 annually. No scholarship shall be less than \$150 annually."

Scholarship Conditions

- The obligation is one year of full-time employment as a long-term facility nurse in the Commonwealth of Virginia for every \$2000 scholarship awarded
- Full-time employment must begin within 60 days of graduation date or awardee must show proof of employment within 60 days of award being issued
- Voluntary military service cannot be used to repay scholarship awards
- The scholarship contract will state any other conditions and requirements not covered by this document

Virginia Nurse Practitioner/Nurse Midwife Scholarship Program

The Nurse Practitioner/Nurse Midwife Scholarship Program provides awards to students who commit to full-time practice in a Virginia Medically Underserved Area (MUA) or Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA). Historically, preference has been given to Virginia residents who are minority students, those enrolled in Family Practice, OB/GYN, Pediatrics, Adult Health, or Geriatric NP programs, and applicants living in MUAs.

Eligibility:

- Residency in Virginia for at least one year
- Acceptance/enrollment as a full or part-time student in a practical school of nursing
- Submission of a completed application and other required materials

Scholarship Amount:

The recipient will receive up to \$20,000 per year for up to two years while completing coursework. Scholarship amounts vary based on the Advisory Committee's decision.

Scholarship Conditions:

- The obligation is one year of full-time continuous employment in a Virginia Medically Underserved Area (MUA) for each year a scholarship is received
- Practice facility must accept Medicare/Medicaid or other healthcare reimbursement programs
- Full-time employment must begin within two years of the graduation date
- The scholarship contract will state any other conditions and requirements not covered by this document

Nurse Educator Nursing Scholarship Program

The Nurse Educator Scholarship Program is intended for part-time and full-time masters and doctoral level nursing students. Awards are based on scholastic attainment, financial need, character, and adaptability to the Nurse Educator specialty.

Eligibility:

- Residency in Virginia for at least one year
- Full or part-time graduate student in a master's or doctoral program
- Submission of a completed application and other required materials

Scholarship Amount:

The recipient will receive up to \$20,000 per year for up to two years while completing coursework. Scholarship amounts vary based on the Advisory Committee's decision.

Scholarship Conditions:

- The obligation shall be two years of full-time continuous employment teaching in a nursing school in Virginia for every year a scholarship is received
- Full-time employment must begin within 12 months of completing the educational program
- The scholarship contract will state any other conditions and requirements not covered by this document

Nursing Scholarship Program Fiscal Information

Funds Available	
Category	Amount
FY26 Budget	\$1,936,000
Carry Forward from prior state fiscal years	\$3,489,309
Total	\$5,403,309

Program Status	Year: Number of Applications to be Reviewed	Potential Payout Amounts
Mary Marshall (LPN/RN)	2025: 23 2026: 15	\$2,000
Long-Term Care (LPN/RN)	2024: 3 2025: 0 2026: 0	\$2,000
Nurse Educator	2024: 3 2025: 1 2026: 0	Up to \$20,000 per year
Nurse Practitioner / Midwife	2024: 5 2025: 2 2026: 0	Up to \$20,000 per year

Nursing Advisory Committee Responsibilities

Name and Authority

The official name of this body shall be the Virginia Department of Health Nursing Advisory Committee (“the Committee”). The Committee is established by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) under the authority granted by § 54.1-3006 of the *Code of Virginia*, which empowers the Board of Nursing to appoint advisory committees to support nursing education and practice. The committee operates as a non-legislative advisory entity and does not possess regulatory or enforcement powers. It’s recommendations are intended to inform VDH and the Board of Nursing on policy and programmatic decisions related to nursing education and workforce development.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Committee is to support the advancement of nursing education and workforce development across the Commonwealth by advising on the strategic implementation and continuous improvement of VDH nursing programs. The Committee aims to strengthen the nursing workforce in underserved and high-need communities, promote retention of licensed nurses through educational support and workforce incentives, ensure that program policies reflect the needs of diverse populations and align with statewide public health priorities, and foster collaboration among stakeholders to address nursing shortages and improve health outcomes.

Purpose

To establish a clear and formal framework for the Committee’s operations, ensuring transparency, effectiveness, and accountability in its role supporting VDH nursing programs, the Committee shall serve as a strategic advisory body to VDH, with the following core functions: recommend eligibility criteria, program structures, and strategic priorities for nursing initiatives; review nursing workforce data, including geographic distribution, healthcare provider shortage areas, and demographic trends; advise on the quality of nursing graduates and alignment with community and healthcare system needs; facilitate communication between VDH, nursing education institutions, healthcare providers, and community organizations; and advise on performance metrics, outcome tracking, and continuous improvement strategies.

Scholarship Responsibilities

The committee is responsible for reviewing and awarding Nursing scholarships, which provide state funding to nursing students across Virginia. Your participation ensures that VDH can award scholarship funds to deserving nursing students attending Virginia nursing schools. Committee members receive scholarship applications approximately one week in advance to review and score. VDH will also provide training on how to use their system to view and score applications. Each application typically takes about 15 to 20 minutes to review; committee members are generally assigned around 25 to 30 applications per cycle. Scholarship amounts vary based on the Advisory Committee's decision. Awards depend upon funds appropriated by the Virginia General Assembly, money collected by the Board of Nursing, and the number of qualified applicants. Conditions change with each program.

2026 Nursing Scholarship Advisory Committee Members

Name, Position & Title	Year of Appointment
Kelley Florian, Committee Chair Director of Financial Aid Bon Secours floriankelley@gmail.com	2018
Lisa Gregory Campus Director of Financial Assistance ECPI University lgregory@ecpi.edu	2026
Patricia P. Lawson, PhD, RN Dean, School of Health Professions Reynolds Community College PLawson@reynolds.edu	2026
Elizabeth W. Compton, MSN, BSN, RN Dean of Nursing Education Riverside College of Health Science beth.compton@rivhs.com	2026
Nancy Leahy, PhD, RN, CHSE Associate Dean of Nursing and Allied Health Brightpoint Community College nleahy@brightpoint.edu	2026
Dr. Angela Sheaffer DNP, RN, CCRN Dean, School of Nursing and Allied Health Paul D. Camp Community College asheaffer@pdc.edu	2026

Health Workforce Incentives Program Staff

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