



The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education Request for Proposals

Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund

Healthcare Training Scholarships & Incentive Partnership Proposals

Deadline: October 15, 2026

The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), through the Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund, seeks partnership proposals from eligible healthcare partners and healthcare programs for healthcare training scholarship.

I. Background

Created in the 2023 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly through HB 200, the Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund (HWIF) is a groundbreaking framework for public/private partnership. The legislation shares responsibility between industry and government to carry out a dedicated mission - to cultivate a robust healthcare workforce in Kentucky. The core objectives are twofold: providing educational scholarships to students pursuing programs targeting critical workforce needs in healthcare professions (at least 65% of funds) and recognizing and rewarding excellence among Kentucky healthcare professional education and training programs (up to 35% of funds).

The Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund website includes links to the guiding legislation and implementation plan, identifies the HWIF Steering Committee, and includes a frequently asked questions section.

[CPE HWIF Website](#)

II. Funding Opportunity

CPE is excited to announce that through the second year of the HWIF appropriation, we are able to award \$2,338,560 in matchable funds to eligible healthcare programs to be used for student scholarships or incentive funds. In the HWIF public-private partnership model, both the healthcare partner and the healthcare program play clearly defined roles that ensure shared responsibility for strengthening Kentucky's healthcare workforce. Both the healthcare partner and the healthcare program collaborate in designing the proposal to align scholarships with workforce needs. If a partnership proposal is selected for funding,

the healthcare partner deposits their pledged amount, which is then matched dollar-for-dollar with the state appropriation by CPE.

HWIF funding will go to the healthcare program. The healthcare program administers the scholarships, and manages student recruitment, selection, and compliance with service obligations. It is responsible for disbursing funds, tracking outcomes, and reporting back to CPE. Together, the partner and program create a sustainable pipeline of trained professionals by investing jointly in students and ensuring they transition into Kentucky's healthcare workforce.

List of Eligible Credentials

- Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor
- Professional Art Therapist
- Community Health Worker Certificate
- Any Emergency Medical Services License or Certificate
- Any Medical Imaging, Radiation, or Other Related License
- Dental Hygienist License
- Dental Assistant License
- Any Nursing License or Certificate
- State-Registered Nursing Aide (Kentucky Board of Nursing)
- Respiratory Care Practitioner Certificate
- Any Psychology License or Certificate
- Any Occupational Therapy License
- Any Behavior Analyst License
- Any Physical Therapy Certificate or License
- Social Worker Certificate or License
- Marriage and Family Therapist Certificate or License
- Professional Counselor Certificate or License
- Any Physician Assistant License
- A Dietitian License or Nutritionist Certificate
- Speech Language Pathology and Audiology License

In KRS 164.0401, a list of eligible credentials is provided. In 13 KAR 5:010, an “eligible entity” means an entity that offers a healthcare program. As long as the entity offers the program and the credential received upon completion of the program allows the graduate to be eligible for licensure (which often includes sitting for an exam), then it is eligible to partner with a healthcare provider in a proposal to receive scholarship funding. In addition to the statute and regulations, a full list of eligible credentials is listed on the HWIF application.

III. HWIF Priorities – Healthcare Training Scholarships

Through statute, CPE is directed to evaluate and prioritize awarding funds to healthcare training scholarship partnership proposals that plan to address the specific needs of a historically underserved county, reduce the workforce demand of a specific eligible healthcare credential that is determined to be among the highest in demand in the state, or are from a healthcare partner with fifty or fewer employees

IV. Healthcare Training Scholarship Partnership Proposal Submission

The submission period for the fifth round of partnership proposals will close at 4:30pm EST on October 15, 2026. Below is the online proposal form that should be used to submit all partnership proposals.

[HWIF Scholarship Fund Submission Form](#)

[HWIF Incentive Fund Submission Form](#)

The submission form above is through Microsoft Forms. Applicants can review a PDF version of the submission form to help prepare for the online submission here. Additional resources to help applicants prepare for submission are linked below.

[Redacted Example of a HWIF Partnership Proposal](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

V. Proposal Evaluation & Award Notification

The HWIF Steering Committee and CPE will use this evaluation form to guide the decision-making process.

[Evaluation Form](#)

The Council reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals in whole or in part and to negotiate any or all aspects of a proposal. All eligible entities that submitted partnership proposals will be notified via email regarding the status of their proposal after all proposals have been evaluated on November 9, 2026.

If a proposal is selected for funding, a representative from both the healthcare program and healthcare partner are required to be present at a virtual HWIF Awardee Meeting following the award with the date of November 30th, 2026, at 11am. The Zoom link will be sent with award notices.

If you have any questions about the Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund, contact cpeworkforce@ky.gov