New York State Department of Health
Office of Primary Care and Health Systems Management
Center for Strategic Health Initiatives
Office of Health Care Workforce Innovation

Title: Solicitation of Interest #20836 – Nurses Across New York Loan Repayment Program – Cycle 3

Agency: Health, New York State Department of Health/ Center for Strategic Health Initiatives/ Office of Health Care Workforce Innovation

Contract Number: TBD

Contract Term: July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2030

Date of Issue: November 4, 2026

Questions Due: November 18, 2026 4:00 PM

Answers Posted: December 9, 2026

Due Date/Time: January 13, 2027 by 4:00 PM

County(ies): Statewide

Location: Statewide

Classification: Medical & Health Care

Opportunity Type: Grant or notice of funds availability

I. Introduction

The New York State Department of Health (herein referred to as the Department), Office of Health Care Workforce Innovation located in the Office of Primary Care and Health Systems Management, announces availability of up to a $3,000,000 total three (3) year investment for the Nurses Across New York Cycle 3 Loan Repayment Program. Through a Solicitation of Interest process, the Department seeks to address the nursing shortage throughout New York State. Awards will provide up to: (1) $25,000 for a registered nurse or (2) $10,000 for a licensed practical nurse who agrees to practice in an underserved area for the three-year Nurses Across New York service obligation period.

The New York State Nurses Across New York (NANY) Loan Repayment Program (LRP) is designed to place registered professional nurses and licensed practical nurses in underserved communities, in a variety of health care delivery settings to care for New York's diverse population thereby increasing access to comprehensive, quality care consistent with the Department of Health's mission to eliminate health disparities and promote health equity in the state. The NANY Loan Repayment Program makes funds available to help recruit and retain registered nurses and licensed practical nurses and to encourage them to serve in medically underserved areas and to care for medically underserved populations within New York State. Funding to repay qualified educational debt is provided in exchange for a nurse's commitment to work in an underserved area for a consecutive three-year period.

In 2022, Governor Hochul announced a multi-year investment in healthcare to rebuild and grow the healthcare workforce and strengthen the healthcare system. The need to rebuild and grow the healthcare workforce with programs designed to improve the career pipeline, expand access to healthcare training and education, recruit health care workers to underserved areas, and strengthen home care was a direct result of both the preexisting workforce shortages in the health care delivery system and the result of the COVID-19 pandemic where significant numbers of health care workers left the field. One of the initiatives developed as a result of this investment is the Nurses Across New York Loan Repayment Program, which encourages and supports registered professional nurses and licensed practical nurses to practice in underserved communities and care for traditionally disenfranchised and underserved populations.

The Nurses Across New York service obligation period is defined as the total service (full time provision of direct patient care) that an individual agrees to serve upon accepting a Nurses Across New York Loan Repayment grant contract. A maximum of $3 million is currently available under this Solicitation of Interest. It is expected that eighty (80) percent of the funding will be awarded to registered nurses, and twenty (20) percent of the funding will be awarded to licensed practical nurses. Distribution of funding may be amended based on the pool of applications received. If additional funds become available, the New York State Department of Health may make additional awards to qualified applicants until funding is exhausted. The Nurses Across New York Cycle 3 Loan Repayment Program service obligation period begins on July 1, 2027 and ends on June 30, 2030.

Pursuant to Public Health Law § 2807-aa, Nurses Across New York funds can be awarded to registered professional nurses licensed to practice under section 6905 of the Education Law and licensed practical nurses licensed under section 6906 of the Education Law who work in areas determined to be underserved in New York State for a three consecutive year service obligation in exchange for repayment of outstanding qualifying educational debt.

Nurses shall be eligible for a loan repayment award to be determined by the Commissioner of Health over a three-year period distributed as follows: thirty percent of total award for the first year; thirty percent of total award for the second year; and any unpaid balance of the total award not to exceed the maximum award amount for the third year.

The allocation of funding is anticipated to be as follows:

1. Approximately 50 percent of funding will be allocated to newly licensed nurses (i.e., those who have been licensed for two years or less).

2. Approximately 50 percent of funding will be allocated to nurses who have been licensed for two to five years.

3. Nurses licensed for five or more years may be eligible if funding is available after initial awards are made.

II. Minimum Qualifications

Nurses must meet the criteria set forth below to be eligible to apply for the Nurses Across New York funding through this Solicitation of Interest.

A. Eligible Nurse Applicants

A nurse is eligible for a Nurses Across New York award for the period July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2030 to repay qualified educational debt if the following requirements are met:

1. The nurse must be a citizen of the United States or a lawful permanent resident (LPR) holding either a Permanent Resident Card (Form I-551, commonly referred to as a "Green Card") or temporary Form I-551 documentation (i.e., an I-551/Alien Documentation, Identification & Telecommunications [ADIT] stamp).

2. By the time the three-year Nurses Across New York service obligation begins, the nurse must be licensed by the New York State Education Department to practice as:

    - A registered nurse licensed to practice under section 6905 of the Education Law; or

    - A licensed practical nurse licensed under section 6906 of the Education Law.

3. The nurse's license is in active status and there have been no violations noted within five (5) years of the contract start date. Violations can be found on the NYS Office of Professions website (Online Registration Renewal | Office of the Professions) under the Enforcement Actions tab in the Verification Search section. Violations include penalties, fines, suspension, stayed suspensions, probation, and/or misdemeanors.

4. The nurse must not be in breach of a health professional service obligation to the federal government, any state government, or a local government.

5. The nurse must not have and will not incur any judgment liens arising from debt to the federal or any state government.

6. The nurse must not be in default status with any federal or private educational loans at the time of application or during the contract period.

7. The nurse must not be delinquent in child support payments.

8. The nurse must not be fulfilling an obligation under any local, state, or federal government loan repayment program which overlaps or coincides with the three-year Nurses Across New York service obligation. The exceptions are the participation in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program and individual nurses receiving employer sponsored loan repayment funds.

9. A nurse who seeks a Nurses Across New York award to repay educational debt must have an **Employment Attestation (Attachment #1)** from the health care facility, worksite, and/or organization stating the nurse will provide services for the minimum number of hours for the entire Nurses Across New York service obligation period providing direct clinical patient care. For these purposes, a qualified "health care facility, worksite, and/or organization" means:

    - A general hospital, diagnostic and treatment center, or a nursing home licensed by the New York State Department of Health pursuant to Public Health Law Article 28;

    - A certified Home Health Agency, Long Term Home Health Care Program or Licensed Home Care Services Agency licensed by the New York State Department of Health pursuant to Public Health Law Article 36.

    - A certified Hospice licensed by the New York State Department of Health pursuant to Public Health Law Article 40.

    - A medical practice that is registered with the New York State Department of State as a Professional Corporation (PC), Professional Limited Liability Corporation (PLLC), or Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) at the time of application.

- A health care facility operated by the State University of New York;

- Federally funded non-for-profit health centers or clinics that serve medically underserved areas and populations (Federally Qualified Health Centers).

The following types of nurses are **not eligible** to apply under this Solicitation of Interest:

- Nurses employed by a health care facility operated by the federal government;
- Nurses employed by a third-party agency/organization which is not directly affiliated with the qualified worksite (i.e. travel nurses);
- Nurse practitioners; and/or
- Nurses who have received funding from aprevious NYS Department of Health Nurses Across New York Loan Repayment Program cycle.

10. The worksite, practice, or setting where the nurse will be employed must be located in an underserved area or primarily serve an underserved population. The United States Health Services Administration determines whether an area, population, or facility experiences a shortage of health care services. Each state, in conjunction with the United States Health Services Administration, follows a defined shortage designation process utilizing population data of individuals within a geographic region which has either a (i) large elderly population, (ii) a high infant mortality rate, or (iii) a high level of poverty.

    For the purposes of this Solicitation of Interest (SOI) , in addition to the type of setting outlined in Section II, A9 – Minimum Qualifications, there are three (3) ways to determine if the health care worksite, practice, or setting is in an underserved area or primarily serves an underserved population:

    A) Underserved areas are defined as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA), a Medically Underserved Area (MUA), or a Medically Underserved Population (MUP).

    To identify if a worksite or organization is located in an HPSA, MUA, or MUP, go to: https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area/by-address; or

    B) Underserved areas include rural areas, and a list of New York State rural counties and towns that qualify under this program can be found in **Attachment # 3** (New York State Rural Counties and Towns); or

    C) Nurses employed by a Certified Home Health Agency, Licensed Home Care Services Agency, or Hospice, can complete an attestation found in **Attachment #2** (Nurse Applicant Employed by Certified Home Health Agency, Licensed Home Care Services Agency or Hospice Attestation - Option C) which requires documentation of required hours and population served.

11. The services that the nurse will provide under the service obligation must constitute full-time direct clinical, patient care and must be indicated as such in the Employment Attestation found in **Attachment #1** (Employment Attestation). The calculation of full-time employment is based on working a minimum of 144 hours of service per month for 12 months of the year providing direct clinical patient care. Time spent in “on-call” status cannot be applied toward the 144-hour minimum. If a nurse works at multiple sites, the total amount of hours worked between all sites must meet the 144-hour monthly minimum.

Tasks related to the provision of direct, clinical patient care are included in the 144-hour minimum. In addition to "hands on" direct clinical patient care, these tasks can include clinical documentation/charting, communication with the patient, family members or guardians, communication with physicians about care, medication orders, and/or lab results, and coordinating the patient's care with interdisciplinary teams.

Tasks that **cannot** be included in the 144-hour minimum are scheduling, supervision of other nursing or administrative staff, meetings, tasks related to the management of the health care facility, worksite, unit, etc., and any non-clinical related job tasks.

12. The original start date of the nurse's employment with the health care facility, worksite, and/or organization which is required to be included in the Employment Attestation must be no later than the Nurses Across New York Cycle 3 service obligation start date of July 1, 2027.

13. A nurse that applied for previous cycles but was disapproved or not funded may submit a new application for consideration in Cycle 3 if the eligibility requirements are met.

14. Nurses who have received any funding from previous Nurses Across New York Cycles are not eligible for funding under this Solicitation of Interest.

III. Project Narrative

Funding for this project is contingent on the availability of state funds and the number of eligible nurses who respond to this Solicitation of Interest. Available funding to support this initiative will be limited to the amount(s) appropriated in the enacted state Fiscal Year budgets for this purpose.

This advertisement is not a guarantee or promise of funding.

Department of Health staff will review responses to this solicitation in the order in which they are received. Eligible awardees will be selected on a first-come first-served basis if their response meets the requirements of the Solicitation of Interest. When funding has been depleted to a level such that a nurse's total requested funding amount cannot be met, the eligible awardee will be offered a reduced award amount. If the eligible awardee accepts that amount, no further awards will be made. If the eligible awardee declines that amount, the next eligible awardee will be offered an award until funds are completely exhausted. Funding amounts will be awarded in whole numbers and rounded down to the nearest dollar.

A. Use of Funds

Nurses Across New York loan repayment funds can be awarded to a nurse to pay qualified educational debt. Accordingly, funding awarded under this Solicitation of Interest can be used only as follows:

Repaying qualified educational debt: For purposes of this Solicitation of Interest, "qualified educational debt" means any outstanding amounts remaining on student loans that were used by the nurse to pay tuition or related educational expenses, where such loans were made by or guaranteed by the federal or state government or made by a lending or educational institution approved under Title IV of the federal Higher Education Act.

Applications in response to this Solicitation of Interest must include educational loan statements with the lender and nurse's full name printed on the statement, clearly showing an outstanding balance, and dated no more than 90 days prior to the date of submission. The balance of the loan(s) must support the funding request. **These statements must be uploaded into the electronic Nurses Across New York program application where indicated.**

The NANY grant award contract shall NOT be made in excess of the outstanding amount of educational debt verified by the Nurses Across New York Program. If awarded, applicants will be required to provide an updated loan statement to show an outstanding debt balance at the start of the contract term. In addition, the nurse will be required to submit educational loan statements on an annual basis to ensure payments are being applied to the approved educational debt.

A printout from the Department of Education's National Student Loan Data System will not be accepted.

Please note: Awardees are not permitted to hold their Nurses Across New York grant contract payments in private accounts for an extended period of time. All contract disbursements must be applied in full to the pre-approved outstanding educational debt by the earlier of: (a) the first date following grant disbursement upon which an installment payment is owed by the Awardee on the pre-approved educational debt, or (b) sixty (60) days after the date of the grant disbursement, whichever comes first. In either instance, awardees must provide the New York State Department of Health with proof of the application of the full amount of the grant disbursement to the pre-approved educational payment no later than sixty (60) days prior to the next scheduled grant disbursement. If this Awardee is not able or willing to apply these funds, they may be required to return all prior disbursements of grant funds not applied to the repayment of eligible student loan debt to the State. The New York State Department of Health will not be able to disburse any future funds until educational loan repayment statements verifying that prior funds have been applied are received.

If a nurse awarded a NANY grant is enrolled in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program (PSLF), Nurse's Across New York grant contract payments cannot be deferred or delayed, and all disbursements must be applied, in full, toward the approved outstanding educational debt by the end of each contract year. Grantees may apply the full disbursement as a lump sum toward the approved educational debt or use the disbursed funds to make recurring, qualifying educational loan payments over the course of the contract year in connection with participation in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program.

Grantees are not permitted to hold contract disbursements in private accounts for the purpose of maximizing PSLF eligibility. If the Awardee is not able or willing to apply these funds in full, they will be required to return all unused grant funds not applied to the repayment of eligible student loan debt to the State. The New York State Department of Health will not issue future payments until documentation verifying that all prior funds have been applied is received.

Proof of payment must be submitted to the New York State Department of Health before the next disbursement, which will be approximately thirty (30) days after the end of each contract year.

B. Application Limits

1. No more than one application will be accepted from a single nurse. If a nurse submits more than one application, only the application and its attachments received **last** will be reviewed.

C. Award Limits

1. As required by Public Health Law § 2807-AA, one-third of funding awarded under this Solicitation of Interest must be allocated to nurses practicing in health care facilities or organizations located in New York City (comprised of New York, Bronx, Kings, Queens, and Richmond counties) with the remaining two-thirds to individual nurses practicing in and health care facilities or organizations located in the rest of the state.

In addition:

2. Approximately 50 percent of funding will be allocated to newly licensed nurses (i.e., those that have been licensed for two years or less).

3. Approximately 50 percent of funding will be allocated to nurses who have been licensed for two to five years.

4. Nurses licensed for five or more years may be eligible if funding is available after initial awards are made.

5. Eighty (80) percent of the funding will be awarded to registered nurses, and twenty (20) percent of the funding will be awarded to licensed practical nurses.

IV. How to Apply

Written questions will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on November 18, 2026. All questions should be submitted electronically to the email address: NANY@health.ny.gov and with the subject line "Nurses Across New York Cycle 3 Question." All questions, answers, and requests for clarification, exception, or change will be published by the Department at SFS Public Portal Homepage and the Contract Reporter under the tab "Documents" for this announcement as well as the New York State Department of Health website at the following address: https://www.health.ny.gov/funding/soi/. Responses to all questions received by November 18, 2026, will be posted on or about December 9, 2026.

The Nurses Across New York Cycle 3 program application must be completed and submitted using a web-based platform called Alchemer. Paper applications will not be accepted. Prior to completing the application, applicants must read all instructions in their entirety to understand what is required to complete the Nurses Across New York Cycle 3 Program application. Any required attachments must be completed and ready to be uploaded where indicated throughout the electronic application.

To access and complete the application, the nurse must:

1. Open the following link to access the program application:

   https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8809800/NANY-CYCLE-3-APPLICATION

2. Complete all required questions (noted with an asterisk)
3. Upload required documents where indicated throughout the application.
4. Review, download and save a copy of the completed application.
5. Click the "Submit" button at the end of the program application when completed

6. Save the email confirmation generated for future record.

Important notes about the Nurses Across New York Cycle 3 electronic program application (Alchemer):

- Applicants will be prompted to enter their email and create a password when opening the electronic application.
- An email will be generated from noreply@health.ny.gov and sent to the email address provided containing the password and a unique link to your specific application. Please be sure to also check the junk/spam folder, and **do not lose this email**. The system does not allow for a password reset.
- **Do not share the unique link or password**.
- Applicants will have the ability to save their progress and return to the application to complete it at a later time. Note, there is no SAVE button. The application will save automatically when an applicant exits the browser. The applicant will be able to continue the application on the same computer using the unique link sent in the auto generated email with the password.
- Application submissions are limited to one (1) per computer/device. The Alchemer system will not allow two (2) different applications to be started and completed on the same computer and/or device. However, applicants who utilize the unique link sent to them will be able to use the same device to complete the application submission. Once the applicant completes their application and clicks "Submit", their unique link will no longer work, and the applicant will not be able to change their responses.
- Once the applicant completes the application, uploads all required documents, and reviews the application for accuracy and completeness, the "Submit" button must be clicked. Only applications that are submitted will be reviewed.

Required documents to be completed and uploaded into the application where indicated include:

- Attachment #1: Completed Employment Attestation (**REQUIRED)**
- Attachment #2: Nurse Applicant Employed by Certified Home Health Agency, Licensed Home Care Services Agency or Hospice Attestation, *Option C Only* **(IF APPLICABLE)**
- Educational Loan Statements within 90 days of application submission **(REQUIRED)**
- Supporting documentation/Search Results that the underserved areas are defined as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA), a Medically Underserved Area (MUA), or a Medically Underserved Population (MUP) found using this link: https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area/by-address, *Option A only.* **(IF APPLICABLE)**
- Name Change documentation if the nurse's name on the application is different than what is listed on the loan statements. Examples of acceptable documentation include marriage licenses and judgements from the court demonstrating a name change. **(IF APPLICABLE)**

For uploading, the allowable types include: pdf, png, jpg, jpeg, txt. Max file size: 50 MB

PDF format is preferred and strongly recommended.

Reference Documents

The documents listed below are intended for the applicant to use as reference only. Attachment #1 outlines all the required information and language that must be included in the Employment Attestation. The completed Employment Attestation will then be uploaded into the program application where indicated.

Attachment #3 should be reviewed to identify if the applicant's worksite(s) is located in a New York State rural town or county. Applicants will have the ability to choose a town or county, if applicable, from a drop-down menu within the electronic application.

- Attachment #1: Employment Attestation **(TEMPLATE ONLY)**
- Attachment #3: New York State Rural Counties and Towns **(REFERENCE ONLY)**

Late Applications Will Not Be Accepted.

It is the nurse's responsibility to ensure that all documents included in the submission have been properly prepared and submitted. Applications will be processed in the sequence of their submission timestamps, with the most recent timestamp determining the order. It is recommended that completed applications are sent as soon as practicable and up to five (5) days prior to the deadline to avoid technical issues.

For any technical questions regarding the Alchemer survey, please contact NANY@health.ny.gov

Review & Award Process

Applications meeting the guidelines and containing all required documents will be reviewed and evaluated by the New York State Department of Health. Applications will be evaluated on a Pass/Fail basis.

Department of Health staff will review applications that are submitted in the order in which they are received.

No more than one application will be accepted from a single nurse. **If an error was made on the first submission and subsequent applications are submitted, *only the last/final application submitted will be reviewed*. Applications will be processed in the sequence of their submission timestamps, with the most recent timestamp determining the order. Earlier applications and their attachments will not be considered.**

The New York State Department of Health will notify the nurse by e-mail if the application process is complete or incomplete. If the application process is complete, no further action by the nurse is needed. If the application process is incomplete, the New York State Department of Health will provide the nurse with a list of outstanding items to be addressed.

The nurse will have **one** opportunity via email to supply the missing information within **seven (7) calendar days** of being notified by the New York State Department of Health. The Nurse must provide correct personal and work email addresses in the application and **check junk and/or spam email folders in addition to the inbox for any correspondence.** All requested information must be emailed to: NANY@health.ny.gov by the given deadline date and time stated in the information request. If two response emails are sent, only the **last** response email and its attachments, if applicable, will be reviewed. If a corrected document is requested, it must be resubmitted in PDF format and attached to the email response. Links to attachments embedded into the email will not be accepted. Questions cannot be answered during this time.

An application will not be processed further if the nurse fails to respond to the missing information request by the seven (7) calendar day deadline. Therefore, it is advantageous to send a complete submission and to respond to the New York State Department of Health's email regarding any

omissions as soon as possible. The **due date** will be clearly stated in the communication from the New York State Department of Health advising that the application is incomplete. No additional information will be accepted after this due date. Each applicant is strongly encouraged to review the request for information and all documents and/or information that is being resubmitted to ensure accuracy and all tasks are complete.

A complete application process does not guarantee that the nurse will be awarded funding.

The pool of complete and eligible applications will be awarded in order of the date and time of receipt of initial submission and according to the funding allocations outlined in this Solicitation of Interest OI until available funding is exhausted. When funding has been depleted to a level such that the nurse's total requested funding amount cannot be met, the nurse will be offered a reduced award amount. If the nurse accepts that amount, no further awards will be given. If the nurse declines that amount, the next eligible nurse will be offered an award until funds are completely exhausted. The New York State Department of Health reserves the right to allocate funding in ways to best serve the interests of the state.

Gender-Based Violence and the Workplace Certification

New York State Finance Law §139-M requires Applicants on competitive state procurements to certify that they have a written policy addressing gender-based violence and the workplace and that such policy meets the minimum requirements outlined in Section J (Gender-Based Violence and the Workplace Certification) in the electronic application. Applicants who are applying as individuals are not subject to State Finance Law § 139-M, but should review, sign, date attesting to this where indicated in the program application.

Freedom of Information Law

All Applications may be disclosed or used by the Department to the extent permitted by law. The Department may disclose an Application to any person for the purpose of assisting in evaluating the Application or for any other lawful purpose. All Applications will become State agency records and will be available to the public in accordance with the New York State Freedom of Information Law (FOIL). Any portion of an Application that an Applicant believes constitutes proprietary information entitled to confidential handling, as an exception to the general rule regarding the availability to the public of State agency records under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Law, must be clearly and specifically designated in the Application. If the Department agrees with the Applicant's claim regarding the proprietary nature of any portion of an Application, the designated portion of the Application will be withheld from public disclosure. Blanket assertions of proprietary material will not be accepted, and failure to specifically designate proprietary material may be deemed a waiver of any right to confidential handling of such material.

If granted an award, any changes to worksites or employment status must be communicated with the Department of Health before the change occurs. The New York State Department of Health, acting at the discretion of the Commissioner of Health, reserves the right to postpone, change, or waive the service obligation and/or payment amounts in individual circumstances where there is a compelling need or hardship due to circumstances beyond the control of the Contractor which causes or is likely to cause the Contractor to default in the performance/completion of their service obligation under their Contract.

The New York State Department of Health anticipates that awards will be announced in Spring 2027. Awardees will have a NANY contract start date of July 1, 2027.

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