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Joint Committee on Finance
2023-2025 Budget Motion Request

Date:

Legislator:

Staff Contact:

Legislator's JFC Designee:

Statement of Motion Intent: *Provide a short description summarizing the intent of your motion.*

This motion is intended to increase funding that will meet demand for allied health professional training grants to hospitals, health systems and educational entities that form education training consortia. As required by statute, these grants must be matched dollar-for-dollar by the grantee.

The motion would propose adding \$500,000 annually to increase funding to meet current demand for allied health professional training grants.

Due to the success of this program, this motion also expands out this model to enable the creation of similar clinical training programs for registered nurses. Wisconsin nursing schools report that it can be increasingly difficult to find clinical training experiences for nurses.

While hospitals already train thousands of nurses every year, this motion is intended to provide grant funding to entities that want to create additional nurse training capacity in a collaborative fashion. The motion would provide an additional \$2 million in the program (which is required to have a dollar-for-dollar match) with the addition of registered nurses as eligible occupations in the program.

Agency: DHS

Summary: *Provide a thorough description. Please attach all supporting documentation and talking points.*

- In 2017-2019, the legislature created a new training program at the Department of Health Services for [allied health professional training](#). Allied health professional training grant programs have helped to train health care workers in the following professions: certified nursing assistants, medical assistants, respiratory therapists, sonographers, lab professionals, surgical technicians, mental health counselors, clinical social workers, psychologists and substance abuse counselors.

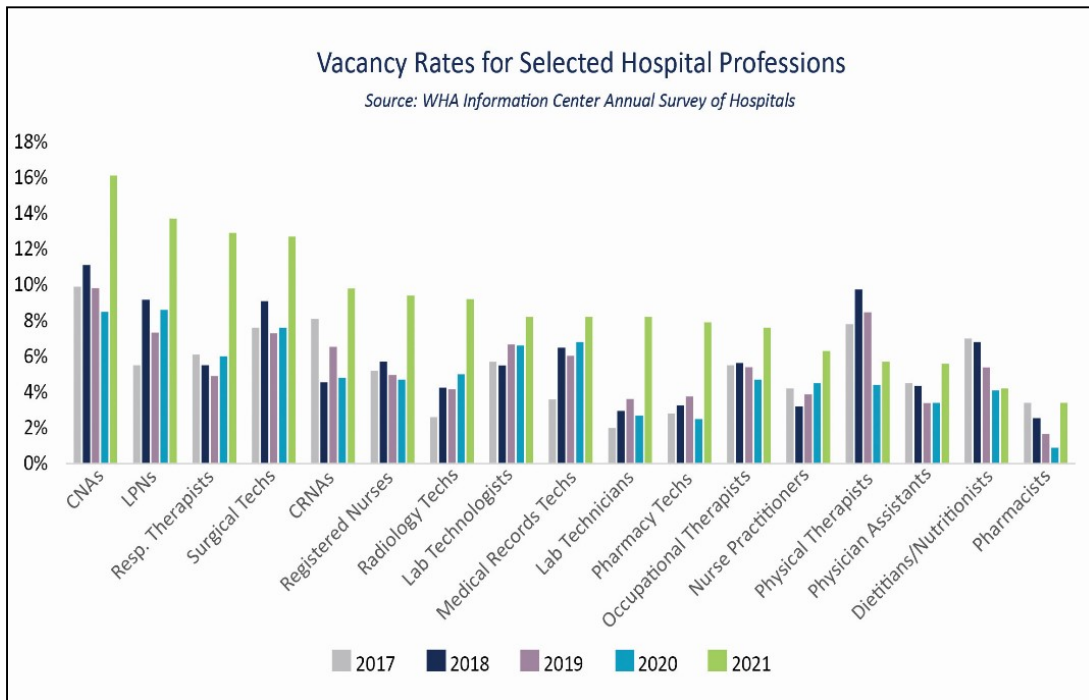
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- Since its inception the grant program has helped expand the workforce pipeline and enhance the skills of our existing allied health professional workforce. Here are a few examples of programs that have been funded:
 - New hospital -based CNA training programs that address a severe shortage and save students from the burden of travel, enhanced partnerships between technical colleges and their regional hospital partners.
 - Enhanced tech college training labs and health system clinical opportunities for certified medical assistants, along with tuition support and flexible scheduling so individuals can progress on a health care career pathway and still earn while they learn.
 - An innovative partnership between a health system, a behavioral health clinic and a school system to create a program to support the supervised clinical training required for mental health counselors-in training.
 - A geriatric-focused rural residency for physical therapists to meet the changing demographics of the communities served by a rural Wisconsin hospital.
 - Clinical education for both new and experienced CMA and CNA caregivers that will enhance knowledge, improve critical thinking, combat burnout and create a better clinical training experience for CNA, CN-advanced and CMA students.
 - Creation of a paid two-year training program for individuals who receive a Masters in Social Work (MSW) to help meet the 3000 hours of clinical supervision needed in order to become licensed in the state of Wisconsin, but not provided as part of the MSW educational program.
 - Partnership between a technical college and a health system to provide lab facilities at the health system, saving the college this expense, which had been a barrier to starting a phlebotomy and lab tech program.
 - Pilot programs from CNAs and CMAs utilizing an apprenticeship model that is now being re-produced throughout the state.
- In the last round of awards made earlier in 2023, the state received applications that, in total, were twice the amount of funding that they had available to award.
- Since the creation of this program there has been significant demand from communities across Wisconsin to [expand training capacity at rural](#)

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[Wisconsin hospitals](#). Hospitals in the following communities have received grant funding: Baldwin, Beaver Dam, Columbus, Dodgeville, La Crosse, Marshfield, Oconto Falls, Rhinelander, Stoughton, Wausau and Whitehall.

- To make registered nurse programs eligible, the motion would need to strike “registered nurse” from the list of health care roles that are ineligible for allied health professional grant funding in Wis Stat. §146.616 (1) (a). This will make registered nurse training programs eligible for funding in a program that has already proven to be effective and in-demand.
- Of the 17 professions tracked by the Wisconsin Hospital Association in its [annual workforce report](#), all 17 experienced a higher vacancy rate in 2021 than in 2020. Some of the largest vacancy gaps by percentage are for allied health professionals but the largest vacancy gap by overall volume is for registered nurses.
- Wisconsin's current RN shortage is the worst it has been in two decades. Hospitals and health systems employ 51% of Wisconsin's registered nurses. 38,896 registered nurses filled full-time and part-time positions at Wisconsin hospitals. If registered nurses could be found to fill the 3,924 positions Wisconsin hospitals are actively recruiting for that number would increase to 42,820.



Fiscal Impact:

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- \$500,000 GPR (annually) to increase funding to meet current new for allied health professional training programs.
- \$2 million GPR (annually) to increase funding to meet expected future need after expanding program to registered nurse consortia.
- **Total: \$2.5 million GPR annually/\$5 million GPR over the biennium**
- All GPR sources must be matched, dollar-for-dollar, by the grantee.

Funding Source (if applicable):

GPR

Support/Opposition:

Support:

- Wisconsin Hospital Association – Support
- Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative - Support