

NURSE SUPPORT PROGRAM II

FY 2027

Competitive Institutional Grants

Limited Request for Proposals:

*Instructional Innovation Equipment and
Simulation Capacity*

DUE DATE:

Priority deadline: Wednesday, June 3, 2026

Final deadline: Wednesday, June 17, 2026

Joshua Sharfstein, MD
Chairman

James N. Elliott, MD
Vice-Chairman

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Executive Director

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Claudine Williams
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All proposals must be emailed to:

Laura Schenk, NSP II Grant Administrator:

laura.schenk1@maryland.gov,

Kimberly Ford, NSP II Assistant Grant Administrator:

kimberly.ford@maryland.gov, &

Alicia Gainey, NSP II Grants Specialist:

alicia.gainey@maryland.gov

***Mailed or hand delivered proposals will not be accepted**

For more information:

nursesupport.maryland.gov

SUMMARY TIMETABLE

May 20, 2026	FY 2027 NSP II Competitive Institutional Grants: Limited RFP for Instructional Equipment Released
May 26 & 27, 2026	<p>NSP II Virtual Technical Assistance Meetings:</p> <p><u>Technical Assistance #1:</u> Tuesday, May 26 · 10:00 – 11:00am Video call link: https://meet.google.com/pij-fjki-hux Or dial: (US) +1 661-527-3160 PIN: 768 834 866#</p> <p><u>Technical Assistance #2:</u> Wednesday, May 27 · 2:00 – 3:00pm Video call link: https://meet.google.com/dqj-bhsk-ruu Or dial: (US) +1 413-398-0329 PIN: 652 653 632#</p> <p>*Attendance is optional. The same information will be provided in both sessions.</p>
<p>Priority deadline: June 3, 2026</p> <p>Final deadline: June 17, 2026</p>	<p>All proposals must be emailed to:</p> <p>Laura Schenk, NSP II Grant Administrator: laura.schenk1@maryland.gov,</p> <p>Kimberly Ford, NSP II Assistant Grant Administrator: kimberly.ford@maryland.gov, &</p> <p>Alicia Gainey, NSP II Grants Specialist: alicia.gainey@maryland.gov</p> <p>*Mailed or hand delivered proposals will not be accepted.</p>
June 3 – 24, 2026	Proposal Review
July 1, 2026	Notification of Grant Awards and Project Begins
June 30, 2027	Project Ends
September 30, 2027	Final Report due

NSP II FY 2027 Competitive Institutional Grants
Limited Request for Proposals:
Instructional Innovation Equipment and Simulation Capacity

BACKGROUND

The Nurse Support Program II (NSP II) Competitive Institutional Grants program includes one-year Resource Grants for short-term needs that add value to nursing programs, lack another funding source, and may not supplant existing institutional support. NSP II has several active grants aimed at expanding enrollment, whose success depends on the ability to increase instructional capacity through these essential funds. This RFP allows nursing schools to procure essential instructional equipment, which is vital for training competent nurses.

Nursing programs with budget constraints may not have the resources to purchase modern equipment that mirrors current hospital technology, leaving them to rely on outdated equipment for student training. Additionally, classroom environments must deploy current technology to enhance the learning environment for students in order to prepare them for healthcare's expanding digital landscape. Graduates from well-equipped nursing programs demonstrate superior clinical readiness because their training environments accurately reflect the equipment and procedures used in modern healthcare settings. Consequently, well-prepared graduates may enter clinical settings needing less preparation time, which contributes to reduced healthcare costs and increases the quality of care.

With funding from this Limited Request for Proposals, nursing programs are expected to have a greater ability to purchase innovative teaching technologies to increase graduate success and produce a greater number of competent nurses needed for Maryland's hospitals and healthcare systems.

The FY 2027 NSP II Competitive Institutional Grants Review Panel reviewed and recommended a plan for NSP II staff to administer a limited, rapid request for proposals (RFP) to provide up to \$150,000 to each of the 30 nursing schools in Maryland (\$4.5 million total) for modern simulation and instructional equipment that expands lab capacity, reduces reliance on limited clinical placements, and enables safe increases in cohort size. On May 13, 2026, the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) provided unanimous approval for this limited RFP during its review of the final recommendations for NSP II FY 2027 Competitive Institutional Grants.

OVERVIEW OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

This RFP allows nursing schools to procure essential instructional equipment that is vital for training competent nurses and expanding enrollment.

Resources provided by this critical RFP may include simulation recording and debriefing capture systems, standardized patient (SP) infrastructure and management tools, simulation operations and infrastructure supports (e.g., charging carts, secure storage, and scheduling tools), updated clinical lab equipment (e.g., IV pumps, mannequins), and updated classroom equipment (e.g., tablets, testing software, audience response polling systems).

This rapid Instructional Equipment Resource Grant template is designed for a streamlined two-week turnaround and short submission package while keeping core NSP II requirements: a cover page, brief narrative, annual budget request spreadsheet, and Mandatory Data Table.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Eligible applicants for this limited RFP funded by NSP II must be individual Maryland higher education institutions with approved prelicensure nursing (RN) degree programs.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Submit the following as one application package by a preferred **priority deadline of June 3, 2026**, or **final deadline of June 17, 2026**:

1. Completed cover sheet with required signatures.
2. Brief narrative, limited to one page.
3. Completed NSP II Application Annual Budget Request spreadsheet for \$150,000; include optional institutional match or in-kind support, if applicable.
4. Completed NSP II Mandatory Data Table.

Applications should be emailed as a PDF with the Excel budget file attached. This is intended to be a one-year Resource Grant only. The proposal must clearly explain why NSP II funding is needed, how the purchase will improve nursing education capacity or student success, and how the request supplements rather than supplants institutional resources. The program's Simulation/Lab Coordinator (or other person responsible for acquiring instructional equipment) must review the proposal and provide input. For technical assistance, email NSP II staff: laura.schenk1@maryland.gov, kimberly.ford@maryland.gov & alicia.gainey@maryland.gov.

PROPOSAL CONTENT

Brief narrative:

Limit: one page max, single-spaced.

Address all three prompts below in short paragraphs:

1. **Need for equipment:** Describe the instructional problem or capacity gap. Identify what equipment is outdated, insufficient, unavailable, or mismatched to current care environments. Explain why the institution cannot meet this need with existing resources.
2. **Impact on student and program success:** Explain how the requested equipment will improve student learning, skills competency, clinical readiness, educational capacity, or the program's ability to increase or better support enrollment, progression, completion, or workforce readiness. Where possible, include one or two baseline facts, such as applicant demand, simulation/lab constraints, skills capacity limits, pass rate concerns, or faculty-identified barriers.
3. **Supplement not supplant statement:** State clearly that NSP II funds will supplement and not supplant institutional funds or other available resources. Briefly identify any institutional contribution, such as space, storage, maintenance, implementation support, faculty time, or matching funds.

Budget spreadsheet requirement:

Applicants must submit the NSP II Application Annual Budget Request & Summary spreadsheet for one year only, using the established budget format and signatures. The spreadsheet should show only allowable direct costs and any institutional match or in-kind support, and the narrative in the application should align with the spreadsheet categories.

Recommended budget line groupings for this rapid equipment RFP include:

- Clinical instructional equipment: technology directly tied to simulation/lab instruction.
- Classroom instructional equipment: technology directly tied to classroom instruction.
- Shipping, installation, or setup if necessary and reasonable.
- Limited warranties or start-up costs only when essential to implementation within the grant year.
- Institutional match or in-kind support.

INELIGIBLE COSTS

The following costs are unallowable for this limited RFP and are considered institutional responsibilities, or otherwise ineligible for NSP II funding through this one-year equipment award.

- Indirect costs or overhead.
- Personnel expenses, release time, fringe, stipends, overtime, consultant fees, speaker fees, and honoraria.
- Existing staff salaries or routine operating expenses.
- Student tuition, fees, scholarships, gift cards, incentives, testing reimbursements, licensure costs, review courses, textbooks, or individual student supplies.
- Consultation or contracted services not directly required for installation or basic implementation.
- Capital construction, renovation, furniture for new facilities, utilities, phone lines, or building modifications.
- Marketing, advertising, promotional items, or revenue-generating activities.
- Food, entertainment, hospitality, or travel.
- Standardized patient actor payments.
- Professional development activities or funds for dissemination.
- Duplicative purchases for items already funded through another grant source.
- Virtual reality equipment.
- Simulation systems or equipment that fall under consortium-supported simulation purchasing through the Maryland Clinical Simulation Resource Consortium (MCSRC).
- Expenses that create ongoing annual subscription, licensing, service, maintenance, consumable, or replacement costs that the institution will not formally commit to sustaining after the grant ends.
- General purpose office equipment or non-instructional equipment.
- Equipment not clearly tied to nursing education outcomes, instructional capacity, clinical readiness, or student success.
- Any cost that supplants funds already budgeted or otherwise available from the institution.

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

NSP II will prioritize requests that:

- Address a clear instructional gap or outdated training environment.
- Improve capacity quickly within one year.
- Benefit large numbers of students or multiple courses/cohorts.
- Demonstrate readiness to purchase and implement quickly.
- Include reasonable institutional support for sustainment.
- Support under-resourced nursing programs or strengthen preparation for contemporary practice and patient safety.

GRANT MANAGEMENT

This limited RFP is subject to all general grant management provisions for NSP II competitive institutional grants. Refer to the NSP II website to access the most current RFA for guidelines.

“Request for Applications: FY 2027 Competitive Institutional Grants” pg. 31:

https://nursesupport.maryland.gov/Documents/NSP%20II/Forms/FY2027_RFA_12.11.25.pdf

INSTITUTIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

With proposal submission, the institution certifies the following:

- The request is for a one-year instructional equipment resource need.
- Requested items are necessary for nursing instruction and will remain institutional assets.
- The institution has no other reasonable funding source available for these items at this time.
- NSP II funds will augment and not supplant institutional funding or other committed resources.
- The institution will support any ongoing maintenance, licensing, subscription, replacement, storage, or operating costs after the grant period ends, if applicable.
- The institution understands that unspent funds must be returned at the end of the grant period.
- The institution agrees to submit required reports and the Mandatory Data Table.

SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

- Completed cover page with category checkboxes, certifications and all required signatures.
- One-page narrative.
- One-year NSP II budget spreadsheet with signatures.
- Mandatory Data Table.
- Email-ready PDF application plus Excel budget attachment.

APPENDICES

Template for Cover Sheet

Template for Applicant Information and Required Signatures

Template for Application Annual Budget Request & Summary (Excel Spreadsheet)

NSP II Mandatory Data Tables 2026 – Google Form Instructions

Template for Final Report

Nurse Support Program II FY 2027 Competitive Institutional Grants Cover Sheet

Limited Request for Proposals

Project Title: Instructional Innovation Equipment and Simulation Capacity

Project Duration: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Funding Requested: \$150,000.00

Type of Grant: Resource Grant

Type of Initiative: 1. Initiative to Increase Nursing Pre-Licensure Enrollments and Graduates

Lead Applicant Institution/Program:

Nursing program type(s): ADN / BSN / RN-BSN / Entry MSN / Graduate / Other:

Value of Match (Funds, In-Kind, Etc.), if applicable:

Equipment use categories: (Check all categories that apply to the proposed request)

- Skills and task training equipment, for example IV pumps, feeding pumps, wound care trainers, injection training arms, medication administration trainers, catheterization trainers, tracheostomy care trainers, vital signs monitors, defibrillator trainers, suction training units, EKG teaching devices.
- High-fidelity patient simulators or mannequins, including maternal, infant/newborn, adult, or specialized/trauma models used for clinical simulation hours.
- Low- to mid-fidelity instructional mannequins and part-task trainers used for teaching core nursing skills.
- Patient care lab equipment, for example hospital beds for instruction, stretchers, exam tables, overbed tables, bedside commodes, lifts or transfer devices used for training, mock headwalls, bedside supply systems.
- Maternal, newborn, and pediatric instructional equipment, for example infant warmers for training, pediatric assessment trainers, obstetric task trainers, newborn care trainers.
- Simulation support infrastructure, for example charging carts, secure storage cabinets, equipment management systems, check-out systems, scheduling tools, audiovisual support for debriefing, recording, playback, or classroom capture.
- Standardized patient program infrastructure and management tools, for example scheduling platforms, case management tools, encounter documentation tools, room equipment used to support standardized patient instruction.

- Classroom and lab instructional technology, for example tablets, audience response systems, testing software, presentation displays, portable teaching stations, document cameras, webcams, microphones, hybrid teaching equipment, skills check-off technology.
- Point-of-care or clinical workflow training equipment, for example barcode medication administration training tools, specimen collection trainers, portable diagnostic teaching tools, electronic medication cart training equipment.
- Telehealth and virtual care instructional equipment, for example telehealth carts, cameras, peripherals, and teaching stations used to train students in virtual care delivery.
- Community and population health instructional equipment, for example blood pressure training stations, community screening kits, mobile teaching kits, home-visit bags, public health outreach instructional supplies that remain institutional assets.
- Accessibility, safety, and infection-control training equipment, for example PPE training stations, isolation training supplies, safe patient handling training devices.
- Other instructional equipment category not listed above: **must be described in the proposal narrative.**

Allowable use statements: (Check all statements that describe how the school will use the requested funds)

- Replace outdated instructional equipment that no longer reflects current healthcare practice.
- Expand lab or simulation capacity to admit or teach more students.
- Reduce constraints in skills check-off, lab scheduling, or course progression.
- Better align student training with equipment used in contemporary care settings.
- Improve student readiness for clinical placement, practicum, or entry to practice.
- Strengthen medication safety, clinical judgment, or hands-on competency instruction.
- Improve instructional capacity in maternal-child, medical-surgical, community health, or other high-need content areas.
- Support hybrid, classroom, laboratory, or telehealth-based instruction.
- Address capacity barriers identified by accreditation, board, or program review findings.
- Support under-resourced students or cohorts indirectly through stronger instructional infrastructure, without purchasing individual student supplies.
- Support community/population health education or health equity-focused nursing preparation.
- Support a short-term one-year instructional need for which no other funding source is available.

Applicant Information and Required Signatures

Project Director's Name & Title:

Phone:

E-Mail Address:

Signature _____

Simulation/Lab Coordinator (or other person responsible for procuring instructional equipment) & Title:

Phone:

E-Mail Address:

I certify that I have had the opportunity to review and assist with this proposal for instructional equipment.

Signature _____

Grants Office Contact Name & Title:

Phone:

E-Mail Address:

Signature _____

Finance Office Contact Name & Title:

Phone:

E-Mail Address:

Signature _____

Authorized Institutional Representative's Name & Title (President, Vice President):

I certify that the statements herein are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I further certify that if grant funds are awarded, this institution accepts the obligation to comply with terms and conditions set by the Health Services Cost Review Commission and the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

Authorized Institutional Representative's Signature

Date

SAMPLE Application Annual Budget Request & Summary (Download: [Excel Spreadsheet](#))

**Nurse Support Program II – Competitive Grant Program
Application Annual Budget Request & Summary**

Institution: _____

Total Funds Requested: \$150,000.00

Project Title: Instructional Innovation Equipment and Simulation Capacity

Fiscal Year: FY 2027 (1 year grant: July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027)

	SOURCE OF FUNDS		TOTAL REQUEST
	COLUMN 1 NSP II FUNDS REQUESTED	COLUMN 2 INSTITUTION'S MATCH FUNDS	COLUMN 3 TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDS
A. Clinical Instructional Equipment			
List type and quantity; Ex.: Mannequin (2)			
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
Total Clinical Instructional Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
B. Classroom Instructional Equipment			
List type and quantity; Ex.: Tablets (50)			
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
Total Classroom Instructional Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
C. Other Costs (specify)			
1. Shipping			
2. Limited warranties			
3. Installation/setup			
4. Other (specify):			
Total Other Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
F. Total Direct Costs (A through C)**	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
H. Total (F)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

****Indirect costs are ineligible. *Simulation/Lab Coordinator or other person responsible for procuring instructional equipment.**

I certify that the financial information presented in this report is accurate. (original signatures required, no photocopies)

Project Director _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Financial Officer _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Sim/Lab Coordinator* _____ Signature _____ Date _____



NSP II Mandatory Data Tables 2026 – Google Form Instructions

The NSP II Mandatory Data Tables are now collected annually through a Google Form rather than a fillable document. This form standardizes annual data collection across institutions and supports compliance with legislative, audit, and reporting requirements.

The NSP II Mandatory Data Tables must be submitted once per year per institution, based on the institution's interaction with NSP II:

Who must complete this form?

When?

Institutions submitting NSP II competitive institutional grant proposals

Submit by the application deadline

Institutions submitting NSP II competitive institutional grant annual or final reports

Submit by the applicable reporting deadline

Institutions receiving any NSP II faculty-focused awards (NFAR, ANEC, NNFF, NEDG)

Submit within 30 calendar days of award announcement

What data is requested?

The form mirrors the existing [Mandatory Data Tables](#) and includes information routinely reported to the Maryland Board of Nursing (MBON) and accrediting bodies, such as:

- Nursing faculty FTEs and vacancies
- Program capacity, enrollment, and outcomes
- Graduates by program type
- Faculty and student demographics
- Geographic impact

Why does the form not look like the tables?

Google Forms does not support table-based data entry. To ensure accurate and consistent reporting, each data point from the tables has been translated into individual numeric questions. This approach improves data quality and streamlines analysis while preserving all required metrics.

How should numeric fields be completed?

- Enter whole numbers only unless otherwise specified
- Use "0" if a value does not apply
- Do not leave numeric fields blank
- Percent fields should be entered as numbers from 0–100

Important reminder

Data submitted in this form is expected to match information reported to MBON and accrediting bodies. Please coordinate internally as needed before submission.

Access the Online MDT Form:

Direct Link: <https://forms.gle/2oAStKAVqtGvjirT6>

QR Code:



If you have questions about completing the form, please contact NSP II staff prior to submission: laura.schenk1@maryland.gov, kimberly.ford@maryland.gov, alicia.gainey@maryland.gov

**Nurse Support Program II
Final Report: Limited RFP
Instructional Innovation Equipment and Simulation Capacity
Due September 30, 2027**

Reporting Period: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Grant Number: NSP II - _____

Lead Institution: _____

Project: Instructional Innovation Equipment and Simulation Capacity

Project Director(s): _____

Campus Mail Address: _____

Campus Phone: _____

Project Director E-mail: _____

Please submit report by September 30, 2027:

1. Electronic copies (to the e-mail addresses listed below) should be sent from the **Project Director's** e-mail address, with the **NSP II xx-xxx in the subject line**, and only include one grant report per e-mail submission. Send the following:

- One **combined** PDF of the final report narrative, signed final budget summary, final budget narrative, **and**
- Excel spreadsheet of final budget summary

2. Complete the Mandatory Data Tables using the Google Form instructions

E-mails: laura.schenk1@maryland.gov, kimberly.ford@maryland.gov and alicia.gainey@maryland.gov

Executive Summary

Report on the entire project to support how these funds met the overall goals of NSP II.

The Request for Applications notes: *As a result of the increased demand for nursing education, the capacity limitations on nursing education programs due to nursing faculty shortages were exposed. In response to this barrier, the Health Services Cost Review Commission proactively created the Nurse Support Program II (NSP II) to support increased capacity in nursing education programs. At its May 4, 2005, public meeting, the HSCRC unanimously approved an increase of 0.1% of regulated gross patient revenue for use in expanding the pool of nurses in the state by increasing the capacity of nursing programs in Maryland.*

How has this project increased the numbers of registered nurses/ faculty prepared nurses and increased the diversity, i.e.: gender, age, ethnic minority, etc.

Be specific to your geographical issues and how this funding has helped and how the program will be sustained at completion of the grant.

Identify if you met or did not meet your original goals.

Address any discrepancy.

Type of Competitive Grant Initiative

#1-7: 1. Initiative to: Increase Nursing Pre-Licensure Enrollments and Graduates

Final Report Narrative

Instructions: Please respond to each prompt below in a short paragraph (3–6 sentences). Focus on what changed as a result of the funded equipment.

1. Equipment Need – What changed?

Briefly restate the original instructional need or capacity gap identified in your application. Describe how the funded equipment addressed this need. Indicate whether the equipment replaced outdated items, expanded capacity, or introduced new capabilities. If anything differed from the original plan (e.g., substitutions, delays, or adjustments), briefly explain.

2. Impact on Students and Program – What difference did it make?

Describe how the equipment has affected student learning, skills development, clinical readiness, or program capacity. Provide 1–2 concrete examples or observations (e.g., reduced lab constraints, increased practice opportunities, improved confidence or competency, ability to serve more students). If available, include simple comparison points (before/after or expected vs. actual), but formal metrics are not required.

Example: “Prior to the purchase, only 8 students could complete simulations per lab session; we can now accommodate 16, eliminating scheduling delays.”

3. Supplement, Not Supplant – How was the equipment supported and sustained?

Confirm that grant funds were used to supplement and not replace existing institutional resources. Briefly describe how the institution supported implementation (e.g., space, installation, faculty training, maintenance, or additional funding). Note any plans for ongoing use, upkeep, or integration into the program.

Appendix

Appendix should include the Final Report Budget Narrative and Budget Summary.

Final Report Budget Narrative

For each line item in the budget, report the amounts budgeted and expended for the entire grant. Include details for each line item in the budget to explain differences between actual versus budgeted expenses.

Final Report Budget Summary

Please complete the budget summary in the Excel document format, showing remaining funds in the third column. Submit the signed budget form with original signatures to close out the financial report. Have the Financial Officer sign off on remaining funds and return the funds, with documentation of how they are being returned. After review, the NSP II staff will close out the grant files. If any discrepancies are noted, we will follow up with the project director and financial officer.

If funds are being returned, please provide a detailed explanation of why all grant funds were not expended. Funds are returned to MHEC using PCA 38203 (NSP II - grant # and title).

Agency R62
TC 412
Aobj 1204

Contact Samuel Durai Pandian, Director, Budget and Administration, with any questions.
samueldurai.pandian1@maryland.gov, 410.767.3044