



Vocational Nurse Scholarship Program (VNSP)

For Fiscal Year 2025-26 Grant Guide

Purpose: This Grant Guide is intended to serve as a comprehensive resource of program information and details. Applicants will find steps to complete their application and Grantees can review program requirements to complete their service obligation. **Please read this guide, in full, prior to contacting program staff.**

All applicants must agree to the terms and conditions prior to receiving funds. The Department of Health Care Access and Information will not make changes to the terms and conditions specified in this Grant Guide.

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Section I: VNSP Grant Information

A. Background and Mission

The Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) works to increase and diversify California's healthcare workforce by providing scholarships and loan repayments to health professional students and graduates who provide direct patient care in those communities.

VNSP is funded through a \$5 surcharge for renewal and licensure fees of Vocational Nurses (LVNs) in California. Eligible applicants who commit to a one year service obligation practicing and providing direct patient care in an underserved community, may receive up to \$4,000. The purpose of this program is to increase the number of appropriately trained Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) providing direct patient care in an underserved area or qualified facility throughout California.

The County Medical Services Program Governing Board (CMSP) also contributes funding to this program to support students who either reside in/or graduated high school from a CMSP-designated County.

B. Eligibility Requirements

1. Provider Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for a VNSP award, applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- Begin class or training program by October 1, 2025
- Be enrolled in a minimum of six semester units, or its equivalent, until program completion
- Have a GPA of 2.0 or higher for most recent academic performance or equivalent
- Maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher, until program completion
- Must graduate after March 31, 2026
- Not have any other existing service obligations with other entities, including other HCAI programs
- Not be in breach of any other HCAI service obligation
- Commit to a one year service obligation providing at least 32 hours per week of direct patient care in an underserved area or qualifying facility starting within six months of graduation
- Be a California resident
- CMSP funded awardees must be a current resident or high school graduate of a CMSP County
- Complete and submit an application through <https://funding.hcai.ca.gov/> by **October 3, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.**

2. Eligible Disciplines

VNSP applicants must be currently accepted or enrolled in a certificate, diploma, or accredited Associate Degree Program leading to licensure as a Licensed Vocational Nurse.

3. Eligible Geographic and Site Designations for a Service Obligation

For a facility to qualify, it must be in one of the following eligible geographic areas or approved site designations:

• California Nursing School	• Non-profit Facility
• Children's Hospital	• Primary Care Shortage Area (PCSA)
• Correctional Facility	• Public School Facility
• County-Operated Health Facility	• Registered Nursing Shortage Area (RNSA)
• Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)	• Rural Health Clinic
• Health Professional Shortage Area – Mental Health (HPSA-MH)	• Skilled Nursing Facility
• Health Professional Shortage Area – Primary Care (HPSA-PC)	• State-Operated Health Facility
• Medically Underserved Area – (MUA)	• Substance Use Facility
• Native American Health Center	• Veteran's Facility

If you receive funding from CMSP, you will need to work in one of the above designations, and in one of the following CMSP-designated counties:

• Alpine	• Glenn	• Madera	• Nevada	• Sonoma
• Amador	• Humboldt	• Marin	• Plumas	• Sutter
• Butte	• Imperial	• Mariposa	• San Benito	• Tehama
• Calaveras	• Inyo	• Mendocino	• Shasta	• Trinity
• Colusa	• Kings	• Modoc	• Sierra	• Tuolumne
• Del Norte	• Lake	• Mono	• Siskiyou	• Yolo
• El Dorado	• Lassen	• Napa	• Solano	• Yuba

NOTE: To be eligible while working for a temp agency or management service company, the facility you provide direct patient care services in must be one of the eligible geographic areas or site designations listed above.

NOTE: If you are providing services via telehealth, your employer must have a physical office in California, and it must be one of the eligible geographic areas or site designations listed above.

4. Eligible Cost of Attendance (For one year)

To qualify for an award, you must indicate that you have costs associated with schooling to be eligible. The Cost of Attendance (CoA) represents the total cost of attending your program for one year. The CoA may include the following expenses:

- Tuition and fees
- On-campus room and board (or housing and food allowance for off-campus students)
- Allowances for books, supplies, transportation, loan fees, and, if applicable, dependent care

- The document must include your school's name and indicate your current year in the program
- The CoA must reflect the costs associated for **one year only** and total must be clearly indicated

Please Note: If the CoA covers more than one year, the application will be deemed ineligible. The CoA must be obtained by your school's website or financial aid office. Screenshots are acceptable.

C. Award Amounts and Available Funding

1. Available Funding

Approximately \$20,000 is available statewide to support students enrolled in eligible certificate, diploma, or accredited Associate Degree Program that prepares them to become a Licensed Vocational Nurse.

The County Medical Services Program (CMSP) Governing Board also contributes funding (up to \$60,000 is available) to this program to support students who either reside in/or graduated high school from a CMSP-designated County.

In the event there is additional state funding available, HCAI has the discretion to make additional awards.

2. Award Amount

The maximum award amount for the Vocational Nurse Scholarship Program (VNSP) is **\$4,000**. HCAI may award full, partial, or no funding to an applicant based on how well the applicant meets the selection criteria, and the availability of funds. Applicants cannot receive more than their total cost of attendance for **one year** of the program.

VNSP's goal is to encourage and retain healthcare providers who are in eligible VNSP worksites located in underserved communities in California. Awardees may apply for an additional VNSP award for each year they remain eligible. For each award, the Awardee will be required to serve an additional one year service obligation. To remain eligible, the applicants must continue enrollment in an eligible Vocational Nursing Program and meet all the other VNSP eligibility requirements.

A new application must be submitted for each award cycle to be considered for an award, as each service obligation requires a separate contract. Awards are not considered a continuation of a previous agreement. Applicants who are not selected for an award may apply for the next cycle.

D. Initiating an Application

The applicant is responsible for providing all necessary information and ensuring the accuracy of the details submitted in the application. An application can be deemed ineligible due to missing information either in the application or on the required forms.

Applicants must register and submit all applications (including all required forms, documents and/or attachments) through the web-based HCAI eApp Funding Portal <https://funding.hcai.ca.gov/>.

New applicants must first register as a user to access the application materials. Returning applicants should log in using their existing email and password.

Applicants may apply for multiple HCAI scholarships or loan repayment programs simultaneously. However, if awarded for more than one program, applicants may accept only one award.

E. Service Obligation

Awardees must, within six months of graduation from an accredited college or career institution or from a qualified program, provide full-time service in direct patient care for a term of at least one year. Services must be provided in either an eligible geographic area or an approved site designation or CMSP County.

“Full-time service” is defined as a minimum of 32 hours of per week of direct patient care.

“Direct Patient Care” means the provision of health care services provided directly to individuals being treated for or suspected of having physical or mental illness. Direct patient care includes both, face-to-face and telehealth-based preventative care as well as first line supervision.

“First-line supervision” is defined as directly supervising staff who provide direct patient or client care services.

1. Worksite Absences

Awardees may take up to **four (4) weeks** of leave during the term of this Agreement, away from their approved worksite for any leave of absence approved by their worksite, except otherwise required in order to comply with applicable federal and state laws, without impacting their service obligation.

Should an Awardee take more than **four (4) weeks** of leave as stated above and HCAI approves the additional leave, HCAI and the Awardee agree to amend the term of this Agreement to extend the service obligation for each day of absence over the allowable **four (4) weeks**.

2. Communication Requirements

Awardee must email HCAI within these specified timeframes for the following reasons:

- **15 calendar days if you:**
 - Experience any change in full-time status, including but not limited to, a decrease in the number of hours providing direct patient care (falling below 32 hours per week), termination, resignation, or taking a leave of absence exceeding the time permitted under “Worksite Absences.”
- **30 calendar days if you:**
 - Have any change in worksite. Email your Program Officer the name and address of

your potential employer and HCAI will verify if the new worksite is eligible. An Employment Verification Form (EVF) must be obtained by downloading the form through your Funding Portal. After the form has been completed and signed by your supervisor, it must be submitted through your Funding Portal for review by HCAI staff to determine eligibility.

- Change in your name, residential address, phone number or email address. Your Funding Portal “Profile” page must be updated to reflect this change prior to contacting Program Officer via email.
- **90 calendar days if you:**
 - File a petition with HCAI for modification of the amount to be paid or repaid and/or the time of repayment regarding a potential breach of contract.

NOTE: It is highly recommended that you contact your Program Officer prior to these changes taking effect.

F. Evaluation and Scoring Procedures

HCAI has established a fair and impartial process for scoring and evaluating applications. All submitted applications are reviewed by HCAI staff to assess their eligibility and award ability per the established program criteria as outlined in Attachment A: Evaluation and Scoring Criteria. Please note that submitting an application does not guarantee an award.

HCAI may issue multiple awards. Final selections will take the following into consideration:

1. At the close of the application, HCAI will review each application submission to ensure the presence or absence of all required information in accordance with submission requirements.
2. HCAI may reject applications that contain false or misleading information and/or that do not match the information on the submitted forms.
3. HCAI will use the evaluation tool in Attachment A: Evaluation and Scoring Criteria to score applications and awards will be granted to the highest scored applicants. HCAI intends for this application to support multiple counties in California by providing a distribution of awards throughout the State of California. HCAI may give preference to applicants seeking to support geographic regions not addressed by other similarly scored applications.

G. Award Process

HCAI will notify selected applicants once all award decisions have been finalized. The timeline for the award process can vary depending upon the number of applications received. HCAI will use DocuSign to send contract documents to Awardees for review and signatures. Once the Grant Agreement is sent out via DocuSign, Awardees will have seven business days to accept and sign the Grant Agreement, or to decline through the DocuSign platform.

NOTE: Please ensure that you check your “Junk/Spam” folders for the Grant Agreement.

H. Contract Termination

An Awardee may terminate the agreement without penalty, no later than 45 days before the end of the fiscal year in which HCAI entered into the agreement. To request termination of the agreement, the Awardee must:

1. Submit a written request via email with the reason for termination of the agreement.
2. Repay all amounts paid to the Awardee pursuant to the agreement. The Awardee shall make all repayments before the end of the fiscal year in which the Awardee received payment from HCAI.

HCAI will close the contract, effective immediately. No penalties will be due back to HCAI, and the Awardee will be allowed to apply again during future funding opportunities.

NOTE: Once the contract is administratively closed, this action cannot be reversed.

I. Grant Agreement Deliverables

The Awardee shall:

- Submit two (2) Progress Reports through the Funding Portal, during the one year service obligation. The reporting schedule will be based on the date the Awardee begins employment at an approved worksite.

J. Required Grant Documentation

- Within 30 days after graduating, Awardee will sign in to the Funding Portal at (<https://funding.hcai.ca.gov/>) to download a Graduation Date Verification Form (GDV). After the form has been completed by the school's administrator or designated official, the GDV Form must be uploaded and submitted through the Funding Portal for HCAI review/approval.
- Anytime there is a change in graduation date or school, a Scholarship Program Verification (SPV) form must be requested from the Program Officer. Once the school has completed the form, Awardee must email the SPV Form to the Program Officer within 30 days of the change.
- Within six months of graduation, the Awardee must secure qualifying employment. Awardees may send the facility name and address of a potential employer to their Program Officer to verify if the proposed worksite qualifies. After the site has been approved, the Program Officer will make the Employment Verification Form (EVF) deliverable available via download through the Funding Portal. After the EVF is completed by the facility's supervisor or HR representative, the Awardee must submit the completed form through the Funding Portal.

NOTE: This is the same process anytime there is a change in worksite.

- Contact the Program Officer via email to request and submit a Payee Data Record form (STD204) **anytime** there is a change in the Awardee's name and/or residential address.

K. Post Award and Payment Provisions

1. HCAI expects the Awardee to begin on the start date specified in the Grant Agreement. Work performed and payments made before the Grant Agreement start date, will not count towards the requirements for the Grant Agreement.
2. Awardee may terminate the Agreement, no later than 45 days before the end of the fiscal year in which HCAI entered into the Agreement. To request a termination, Awardee must:
 - a. Submit a written request via email.
 - b. Repay all funds paid to the Awardee pursuant to this Agreement. The Awardee shall make all repayments before the end of the fiscal year in which the Awardee received payment from HCAI.
3. The State Controller's Office (SCO) will mail a paper check directly to the Awardee's mailing address on file. **Note: Please ensure HCAI has your most recent mailing address on file to avoid any delays in payment.** See Attachment B: Sample Grant Agreement, Section D: Payment Provisions and Reporting Requirements for detailed information.
4. HCAI cannot provide tax advice to Awardees. HCAI are not tax professionals and tax consequences may vary depending on the Awardee. For this reason, Awardees should seek professional tax advice.
5. As an Awardee, HCAI will reach out to you periodically during and after your service commitment and ask you to complete a survey. Your participation is vital to our ability to demonstrate the effectiveness of programs such as this one and advocate for future funding to participants such as you. If you receive a survey from us, it will likely contain questions about your education/training status and employment. We hope that you will take the time to complete such surveys - typically not more than one or two per year and not for more than five (5) years after your service commitment concludes.

NOTE: All scholarship Awardees will receive an IRS 1099 form for their scholarship award.

L. Breach Policy

HCAI reserves the right to recover money for the Awardee's failure to perform the obligations set forth in the Grant Agreement. Refer to Attachment B: Sample Grant Agreement – Section G: Breach for detailed information.

M. Key Dates

The key dates for the program year are as follows:

Event	Date	Time
Application Available	September 2, 2025	3:00 p.m.
Application Submission Deadline	October 3, 2025	3:00 p.m.
Anticipated Award Notice Date	January 2026	N/A
Proposed Grant Agreement Start Date	February 28, 2026	N/A

N. Technical Assistance Call (TAC)

Applicants are encouraged to attend one of the scheduled TAC calls during the application cycle to ask questions related to their application and/or the Funding Portal. Below is a schedule for upcoming TACs.

Date	Time	Meeting Info
Tuesday, September 9, 2025	10:05 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Register for the Technical Assistance Call
Tuesday, September 23, 2025	2:35 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Register for the Technical Assistance Call

O. Resources

HCAI is committed to supporting Applicants and Awardees throughout the application and monitoring process of their service period. To achieve this goal, additional resource documentation has been provided below.

Please reference the following documents for additional information:

1. [Funding Eligibility Quiz](#): Take the quiz to find out if you are eligible to apply for a HCAI Loan Repayment, Scholarship, Grant, or Small and Rural Hospital Project Reimbursement.
2. [Program Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#): Document answers commonly asked questions tailored toward applicants and awardees.
3. [Technical Assistance Guide](#): Assist applicants and awardees with navigating the HCAI Funding Portal and submitting required deliverables.

P. Contact Us

Please review all guides, in full, prior to contacting program staff. Any additional questions related to VNSP and the Funding Portal, can be emailed to HCAI staff at HWDD-SCH@hcai.ca.gov. **Please allow up to 24 business hours for a response.**

Section II: Provider Funding Portal Technical Guide

1. Accessing the Application System

HCAI uses the Funding Portal to allow healthcare providers and students to submit applications. This Grant Guide contains information needed to complete and submit an application in the Funding Portal.

To access the Funding Portal, go to <https://funding.hcai.ca.gov/>. To ensure proper functionality, use Chrome or Microsoft Edge, as Internet Explorer is no longer supported. Using a Windows-based PC/laptop is recommended. We do **NOT** recommend using smartphones, tablets, and/or iOS-based devices.

2. Registration and Login

All applicants must register in the Funding Portal before beginning an application. To register as a new user, click the “Create Account” button on the home page and follow the instructions.

After submitting your email address and creating a password, you will receive an email (from no-reply@hcai.ca.gov) with an account activation link. Click the link in the email to return to the Funding Portal and complete your user Profile. After your user Profile page is complete, navigate to the “Apply Here” tab to begin your application.

3. Submitting an Application

- By submitting the application, you agree to the grant Terms and Conditions.
- **HCAI will not consider late and/or incomplete applications.** For more detailed information, refer to Section M: Key Dates in this Grant Guide.
- Once you click the “Submit” button, you **cannot** go back to revise the application.
- The Funding Portal will email you with confirmation of submission.

4. VNSP Application Components

A submitted application must contain all required information and conform to the Grant Guide format.

The VNSP application has eleven sections to complete:

1. Eligibility Information
2. Program Information
3. Profile Information
4. Contact Information (**one contact required**)
5. Background Information
6. Educational Information

7. Professional Information
8. Scholarship Program Verification
9. Employment History
10. Required Documents
 - **Ensure you use an acceptable file format, or your application may be rejected. Examples of acceptable file formats are .jpg, .doc, .docx, and .pdf.**
11. Application Certification

Attachment A: Evaluation and Scoring Criteria

Core Categories	Guidelines	Points
Languages Spoken	20 points: Speaks one or more listed languages fluently/well enough to be able to provide direct care services to clients. 0 points: Does not speak more than one language.	20 points max
Medically Underserved Areas/Populations	Have you volunteered or worked in a medically underserved area or with medically underserved populations in the United States or overseas? 20 points: Yes 0 points: No	20 points max
Graduation Date	20 points: Graduation date is within 2026. 0 points: Graduation date is later than December 31, 2026.	20 points max
Economically Disadvantaged	Have you ever received an income-based financial aid award at any college or university where enrolled? 20 points: Yes 0 points: No	20 points max
Community Background	What County did you graduate high school from? If you were homeschooled or earned a GED, select the County where you lived when you completed high school or your GED. (Must be a CMSP County to receive points).	5 points max
County of Residence	What County do you reside in? (Must be a CMSP County to receive points).	5 points max
Academic Performance	10 points: Student maintains a 3.0+ GPA 5 points: Student maintains a 2.0 – 2.99 GPA 0 points: Student maintains a GPA lower than 2.0	10 points max
Total Points		100 points max

Note: In the case of a tie, preference is given to students with an earlier graduation date and/or attending a California school.

Attachment B: Sample Grant Agreement

GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS AND INFORMATION
AND

[GRANTEE NAME]

GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER **[GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER]**

THIS GRANT AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is entered into on **[Grant Start Date]** by and between the State of California, Department of Health Care Access and Information (hereinafter "HCAI") and **[Provider Name]** (hereinafter "Grantee")

WHEREAS, HCAI supports healthcare accessibility through the promotion of a diverse and competent workforce while providing analysis of California's healthcare infrastructure and coordinating healthcare workforce issues.

WHEREAS, HCAI seeks to accomplish its mission by encouraging healthcare students to provide healthcare in underserved communities throughout California through the **[Program Cycle Name]**.

WHEREAS, the **[Program Acronym]** provides support to healthcare students by providing scholarship incentives for healthcare educational programs.

WHEREAS, Grantee was selected by HCAI through duly adopted procedures to receive grant funds from **[Program Acronym]**.

NOW THEREFORE, HCAI and the Grantee agree as follows:

A. Definitions

1. "Abortion" (as defined by California Health and Safety code section 123464) means any medical treatment intended to induce the termination of a pregnancy except for the purpose of producing a live birth.
2. "Abortion-related services" includes induced abortions performed by a trained provider, under sanitary conditions, and using modern techniques (e.g., vacuum aspiration), or the use of high-quality medications with an effective regimen for medical abortion. Abortion-related service also includes miscarriage management, counseling and/or mental health services related to abortions, contraceptive services, links to other sexual and reproductive health services, and connections to the community, as defined under post-abortion care."
3. "Approved Practice Site" and/or "Practice Site" is a facility within a "Medically Underserved Area (MUA)" (as defined in California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 97700.35), meaning a geographic area designated by the Director which meets one of the following sets of criteria:

- a. A primary care “Health Professional Shortage Area - Primary Care (HPSA-PC)” as designated by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of section 254e of Title 42 of the United States Code Annotated.
 - b. A facility determined by the Director to have a shortage of nursing personnel (BSNSP ONLY) under section 128385 of the Health and Safety Code.
 - c. “Health Professional Shortage Area - Mental Health (HPSA-MH)” means an area designated as such by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration, Bureau of Health Professions’ Shortage Designation Branch.
 - d. “Health Professional Shortage Area - Dental (HPSA-D)” (**AHSP and APHSP ONLY**) means an area designated as such by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration, Bureau of Health Professions’ Shortage Designation Branch.
 - e. A facility that is a California Nursing School (**BSNSP ONLY**), Children’s Hospital, Correctional Facility, County-Operated Health Facility, Federally Qualified Health Center, Native American Health Center, Public School Facility, Rural Health Clinic, Skilled Nursing Facilities, State-Operated Health Facility, Substance Use Facility, and/or Veteran’s Facility, Non-profit Facility.
- 4. “Deputy Director” means the Deputy Director of the Office of Health Workforce Development (OHWD) or their designee.
 - 5. “Direct Patient Care” means the provision of health care services provided directly to individuals being treated for or suspected of having physical or mental illnesses. Including, face-to-face and telehealth-based preventative care and first-line supervision. “First-line Supervision” means the direct supervision of staff who are providing direct patient/client care.
 - 6. “Full-Time Service” minimum of 32 hours per week providing direct patient care.
 - 7. “Grant Agreement/Grant Number” means Grant Number [**Grant Agreement Number**], awarded to Grantee.
 - 8. “Grantee” means an applicant who was selected by HCAI to receive grant funds.
 - 9. “Grant Funds” means the funds provided by HCAI to Grantee per this Agreement and under the [Program Acronym] for scholarship program assistance.
 - 10. “Program” means the [**Program Cycle Name**] [**Program Acronym**].
 - 11. “Program Application” means the grant application electronically submitted by Grantee and approved by HCAI.

12. "Program Manager" means the HCAI manager responsible for the program.
13. "Progress Report" means a report completed by the grantee and signed by their employer, certifying the Grantee is meeting their contractual obligation to provide a minimum of 32 hours of direct patient care per week at an approved practice site. Progress reports are due every six (6) months.
14. "Program Representative" (hereinafter "Program Officer") means the HCAI analyst that administers and oversees the scholarship program and shall be the primary contact for the Grantee during their service obligation.
15. "State" means the State of California and includes all its Departments, Agencies, Committees and Commissions.

B. Term of the Agreement

This Agreement shall take effect on **[Contract Start Date]** and shall end on **[Contract End Date]**.

C. Scope of Work

Grantee agrees to the following Scope of Work. In the event of a conflict between the provisions of this section and the Grantee's Program Application, the provisions of this Scope of Work Section shall prevail:

The Grantee Shall:

1. For the period of **[Contract Start Date]** through **[Contract End Date]** be enrolled in a(n) eligible health educational program with a minimum of six semester units, or its equivalent, maintain a 2.0 GPA or better in the educational program listed on the approved Program Application for the duration of the program until a degree/certification is conferred, and complete service obligation in a qualifying facility.
 - a. Grantees may have up to four (4) weeks during the Term of this Agreement away from their VNSP approved practice site for vacation, holidays, continuing professional education, illness, or any other reason unless required by federal and state laws, without affecting their service obligation.
 - b. Obtain approval from HCAI for more than four (4) weeks of leave and agree to amend the term of this Agreement to extend the service obligation for each day of absence over the four (4) weeks.

2. Within 30 days following graduation:
 - a. Submit a Graduation Date Verification (GDV) Form certifying Grantee was in good standing and graduated from the educational program listed on the approved Program Application.
3. Within a six-month period following graduation from the educational program listed on the approved Program Application:
 - a. Begin full-time (not less than 32 hours of direct patient care per week) in a qualified facility in California for a period of not less than 12 months.
 - b. Provide proof of full-time employment to HCAI, including hire date, position, and hours worked per week. HCAI will provide forms as needed to Grantee.
 - c. Provide a copy of licensure, registration or certificate including the license number issued by the appropriate California licensing board and/or certifying organization, if requested.
4. Apply all Grant Funds to the qualifying educational expense(s) due to the Cost of Attendance listed on the approved Program Application, during the term of this Agreement. Work performed, and payments made before the Grant Agreement start date, will not count towards the requirements for the Grant Agreement. Failure to adhere to this provision is a material breach of this Agreement and will result in penalties as described below.
5. Notify HCAI, in writing, of any changes to name, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address changes within 30 days of the changes.
6. Grantee must notify HCAI within 30 days of any change in the place of employment. HCAI will verify if the new place of employment is an Approved Practice Site. Grantees shall contact their Program Officer (identified under Section L. HCAI and Grantee Contact Information) to verify the eligibility of a potential new employer before switching places of employment.
7. Submit to HCAI all requested information and documents during the duration of the term of this Agreement **[Contract Start Date]** through **[Contract End Date]**. HCAI may request information including, Scholarship Program Verification Form (SPV), Graduation Date Verification (GDV) Form, Employment Verification Form (EVF), and Progress Reports.
8. Not contract with another entity to practice professionally for a period during the term of this Agreement for financial benefit, including tuition reimbursement, scholarships, loans, or a loan repayment. Grantee shall be ineligible to receive a scholarship under this Agreement until the conflicting obligation with any entity has been fulfilled. The "Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program" is not considered a service obligation.

9. HCAI intends to evaluate the effectiveness of this Program through periodic surveys of participants. Grantee hereby acknowledges that HCAI will contact Grantee during obligation completion and the immediate five (5) years after the service obligation concludes for Program evaluation purposes.

D. Payment Provisions and Reporting Requirements

1. HCAI shall make **one** payment of Grant Funds within the Service Term, from **[Contract Start Date]** to **[Contract End Date]**, payable directly to the Grantee. HCAI reserves the right to change payment provisions within the Agreement term, if needed.
2. Payments will be made pursuant to Government Code, Title 1, Division 3.6, Part 3, Chapter 4.5, commencing with Section 927 et seq.
3. Service obligations will be monitored via the regular submission of progress reports by the Grantee on a bi-annual basis. HCAI reserves the right to increase or decrease the number of progress reports required to be submitted within the Agreement term, if needed. Nothing in this Agreement relieves the Grantee of the primary responsibility to repay the educational debts listed in the approved program application. Grantee shall be issued payment pursuant to HCAI receiving completed progress reports. Grantee will receive an automated email (from no-reply@hcai.ca.gov) when their progress report is available to download and submit in the Funding e-App portal. Progress reports will be available to download approximately one month prior to the due date.
4. The total obligation of HCAI under this Agreement shall be **[\$Award Amount]** and shall be payable as follows:
 1. **[\$PAYMENT]** once this Grant Agreement is executed on **[Grant Agreement Start Date]**.
5. Payments are conditioned upon HCAI's receipt of documentation of the Grantee's provision of the service obligation, and other documents as required by HCAI. Payment shall be made within 45 calendar days from the execution of this Agreement. Payments under this Agreement are issued independent of any loan payment due date and may be made at any time within the term of this Agreement.

E. Award Tax

HCAI does not provide tax advice and this section may not be construed as tax advice from HCAI. Grantee should seek advice from an independent tax consultant on the financial implication(s) of any funds received from HCAI. HCAI does not withhold taxes from payments to Grantees. HCAI will issue an IRS 1099 form for this Agreement.

F. Budget Contingency Clause

1. It is mutually agreed that if the funds provided by the CMSP Governing Board are reduced or eliminated, this Agreement shall be of no further force and effect. In this event, HCAI shall have no liability to pay any funds whatsoever to Grantee or to furnish any other considerations under this Agreement and Grantee shall not be obligated to perform any provisions of this Agreement.
2. If funding for any fiscal year is reduced or deleted by the CMSP Governing Board for purposes of this Program, HCAI shall have the option to cancel this Agreement with no liability occurring to HCAI. In the event that funding is reduced and not deleted, HCAI may offer an Agreement amendment to Grantee to account for the reduced amount. In the event that HCAI elects to offer an Agreement amendment consistent with the terms of this budget contingency clause, HCAI shall retain the right to cancel this Agreement at any time until and unless an Agreement amendment reflecting the reduced amount has been signed by the parties.

G. Breach

HCAI reserves the right to recover the following penalty for Grantee's failure to perform the obligations set forth in this Agreement:

1. For failure to start or complete Grantee's service obligation, HCAI shall recover all of the following:
 - a. The total amounts paid by HCAI to, or on behalf of, the Grantee for scholarship programs for any period of obligated service not served, and
 - b. An amount equal to **10% of the total award plus interest.**
 - c. Interest on the above amounts will accrue at the maximum legal prevailing rate from the date of the breach. Interest is calculated at the rate utilized by the State Treasurer from the date of the breach.
2. Any amount HCAI is entitled to recover from the Grantee for breach of this Agreement shall be paid within one year of the date HCAI determines that the Grantee is in breach of this Agreement.
3. Per Government Code 16580-16586, HCAI has statutory authority to collect on any outstanding debts. HCAI may attempt to collect from the Franchise Tax Board or any Medi-Cal offsets. HCAI may contact the Employment Development Department, the Board of Equalization and/or a collection agency in an effort to obtain repayment of the funds owed.
4. Grantee shall be ineligible to apply for any HCAI Programs in the future if they materially breach their contract unless Grantee obtains relief under Section H.

By signing below, the Grantee has reviewed and acknowledged the terms under Section G: Breach.

[Grantee's Full Name]

Date

H. Provisions for Suspension, Waiver, Cancellation or Voluntary Termination of Service

1. Any service or payment obligation incurred by the Grantee will be canceled upon the Grantee's death.
2. HCAI may waive or suspend the Grantee's Service Obligation or payment obligation incurred under this Agreement if the Grantee is permanently incapacitated by illness or injury, which prevents Grantee from practicing his/her profession, or prevents Grantee from obtaining any other gainful employment. HCAI reserves the right to request medical or disability documentation as deemed necessary in order to complete the waiver or suspension request. Grantee must submit a written request to HCAI for waiver of suspension of Grantee's service obligations. A suspension of Grantee's obligation may be granted up to one year if Grantee's compliance is temporarily impossible or an extreme hardship. Additional time taken will extend the Service Term end date. (Note: A waiver permanently relieves the Grantee of all or part of the Service Obligation, however, waivers are not routinely granted and required a showing of compelling circumstances).
3. HCAI may provide for the partial or total waiver or suspension of any obligations of service or payment by Grantee whenever compliance by the individual is impossible or would involve extreme hardship to the individual and if enforcement of such obligation with respect to any individual would be unconscionable.
4. Leave of absence for medical or personal reasons may be granted up to six months if the Grantee provides independent medical documentation of physical or mental health disability or personal circumstances, including terminal illness of an immediate family member, which results in the Grantee's temporary inability to perform their service obligation. Grantee must submit a written request to HCAI which must be approved at least 30 calendar days prior beginning any leave of absence. Periods of approved leave of absence of service will revise the Service Term end date after a Grant Agreement amendment.
5. If the Grantee plans to be away from his/her approved practice site(s) for paternity/maternity/adoption leave, the Grantee is required to inform HCAI at least 60 calendar days before taking the leave. HCAI allows Grantees to be away from their approved practice site(s) within the timeframes established by either the Family Medical Leave Act (up to 12 weeks), or other federal and state law; however, the Grantee must adhere to the leave policies of his/her approved practice site.

6. Call to Active Duty in the Armed Forces, leave of absence, or suspension of service may be granted to Grantees who are military reservists and are called to active duty; Grantees may be granted from six months to one year, beginning on the activation date described in the reservist's call to active duty order. In addition to the written request for suspension, a copy of the Order to active duty must be submitted to HCAI. The period of active duty will not be credited toward the service obligation. Periods of approved leave of absence of service will extend the Grantee's Agreement end date.
7. HCAI shall terminate the Agreement, no later than 45 days before the end of the state fiscal year in which the Agreement was entered into, if the Grantee:
 - a. Submits a written request for such termination; and
 - b. Repays all amounts paid to Grantee pursuant to this Agreement. Any repayments for a year of obligated service shall be made no later than the end of the fiscal year in which the Grantee completes such year of service.

I. Change of Practice Location

1. Grantee may request that HCAI permit him or her to change the practice location from one approved practice site to another. The request must be in writing and must be received and approved by HCAI, a minimum of 30 calendar days prior to the desired change. If the proposed transfer practice site is disapproved and the Grantee refuses assignment to another approved practice site, the Grantee may be placed in breach.
2. Grantees that voluntarily resign from their approved practice site(s) without prior approval from HCAI or are terminated by their approved practice site(s) for cause may be placed in breach. Grantee must notify HCAI in writing of immediate termination.
3. If Grantee becomes unemployed or is informed by his/her practice site of a termination date, Grantee must notify HCAI immediately in writing. The Agreement may be extended for the length of time the Grantee is without a practice site, so long as the period without a practice site does not exceed six months and so long as the employment is not a result of termination for cause. If additional time is needed, and the period without a practice site is not a result of termination for cause, Grantee may notify HCAI in writing, requesting additional time. HCAI will inform the Grantee of their decision in writing.

J. Executive Order N-6-22 – Russia Sanctions

On March 4, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-2-22 (the EO) regarding Economic Sanctions against Russia and Russian entities and individuals. "Economic Sanctions" refers to sanctions imposed by the U.S. government in response to Russia's actions in Ukraine, as well as any sanctions imposed under state law. The EO directs state agencies to terminate contracts with, and to refrain from entering any new contracts with, individuals or entities that are determined to be a target of Economic Sanctions. Accordingly, should the State determine Contractor is a target of Economic

Sanctions or is conducting prohibited transactions with sanctioned individuals or entities, that shall be grounds for termination of this agreement. The State shall provide Contractor advance written notice of such termination, allowing Contractor at least 30 calendar days to provide a written response. Termination shall be at the sole discretion of the State.

K. General Terms and Conditions

1. **Timeliness:** Time is of the essence in this Agreement. Grantee will submit required deliverables as specified and adhere to the deadlines as specified in this Agreement. Anticipating potential overlaps, conflicts, and scheduling issues, to adhere to the terms of the Agreement, is the sole responsibility of the Grantee.
2. **Final Agreement:** This Agreement, along with the Grantee's Application, exhibits and forms constitutes the entire and final agreement between the parties and supersedes all prior oral or written agreements or discussions. Any conflict between the provisions of this Agreement and the Grantee's application, exhibits, and forms, the provisions of this Agreement shall prevail.
3. **Cumulative Remedies:** A failure to exercise or a delay in exercising, on the part of HCAI, any right, remedy, power or privilege shall not operate as a waiver; nor shall any single or partial exercise of any right, remedy, power or privilege preclude any other or further exercise thereof or the exercise of any other right, remedy, power or privilege. The rights, remedies, powers, and privileges herein provided are cumulative and not exclusive of any rights, remedies, powers, and privileges provided by law.
4. **Ownership and Public Records Act:** All reports and the supporting documentation and data collected during the funding period which are embodied in those reports, shall become the property of the State and subject to the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code §§ 6250 et seq.).
5. **Independence from the State:** The Grantee, in the performance of this Agreement, shall act in an independent capacity and not as officers or employees or agents of the State.
6. **Waiver:** The waiver by HCAI of a breach of any provision of this Agreement by the Grantee will not operate or be construed as a waiver of any other breach. HCAI expressly reserves the right to disqualify Grantee from any future grant awards for failure to comply with the terms of this Agreement.
7. **Approval:** This Agreement is of no effect until signed by both parties. The Grantee may not commence performance until such approval has been obtained.
8. **Amendment:** No amendment or variation of the terms of this Agreement shall be valid unless made in writing, signed by the parties and approved as required. No oral understanding or arrangement not incorporated in the Agreement is binding on any of the parties.

9. Assignment: This Agreement is not assignable by the Grantee, either in whole or in part, without the consent of HCAI in the form of a formal written amendment.
10. Indemnification: Grantee agrees to indemnify, defend and save harmless the State, its officers, agents, and employees from any and all claims and losses accruing or resulting to any person, firm, or corporation who may be injured or damaged by Grantee in the performance of this Agreement.
11. Disputes: Grantee shall continue with the responsibilities under this Agreement during any dispute. Any dispute arising under this Agreement, shall be resolved as follows:
 - a. Grantee will discuss the dispute informally with the HCAI Program Manager. If unresolved, the dispute shall be presented, in writing, to the Deputy Director, stating the issues in dispute, the basis for Grantee's position, and the remedy sought. Grantee shall include copies of any documentary evidence and describe any other evidence that supports their position with their submission to the Deputy Director.
 - b. Within ten working days after receipt of the written grievance from the Grantee, the Deputy Director or their designee shall make a determination and respond in writing to the Grantee indicating the decision and reasons for it.
 - c. Within ten working days of receipt of the Deputy Director's decision, Grantee may appeal to the HCAI Chief Deputy Director stating why the Grantee does not agree with the Deputy Director's Decision. The Chief Deputy Director or designee (who shall not be the Deputy Director or their Designee) shall meet with Grantee within 20 working days of receipt of Grantee's appeal. During this meeting, Grantee and HCAI may present evidence in support of their positions.
 - d. Within ten working days after meeting with Grantee, the HCAI Chief Deputy Director or their designee shall respond in writing to the Grantee with their decision. The Chief Deputy Director's decision will be final.
12. Termination for Cause: In addition to the Breach provisions above, HCAI may terminate this Agreement and be relieved of any payments should Grantee fail to perform the requirements of this Agreement at the time and in the manner provided. Grantee shall return any unused Agreement Funds that were previously provided to Grantee as of the date of termination.
13. Governing Law: This Agreement is governed by and shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of California.

Unenforceable Provision: If any provision of this Agreement is unenforceable or held to be unenforceable, then the parties agree that all other provisions of this Agreement have force and effect and shall not be affected thereby.

L. HCAI and Grantee Contact Information

The representatives of HCAI and the contact information for each party during the term of this agreement are listed below. Direct all inquiries to:

State Agency: Department of Health Care Access and Information	HCAI Program Awarded Under: [Name of Program]
Section/Unit: Office of Health Workforce Development	Grantee's First Name, Last Name: [Grantee's Full Name]
Program Officer Name: [Program Officer Full Name]	Address: [Address 1]
Address: 2020 West El Camino Avenue, Suite 1222 Sacramento, CA 95833	Phone Number 1: [Phone 1]
Phone: [Program Officer Main Phone]	Phone Number 2: [Phone 2]
Email: [Program Officer Primary Email]	Email: [Email Address]

M. Parties' Acknowledgement:

By signing below, the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) and Grantee acknowledge that this Agreement accurately reflects the understanding of HCAI and Grantee with respect to the rights and obligations under this Agreement.

[Grantee's Full Name]

Date

For the Department of Health Care Access and Information:

Date