

Song-Brown Registered Nurse Program

Scoring and Evaluation Process Guide

September 2026

Song-Brown RN Existing and Expansion: Application Evaluation Criteria

Application Evaluation Criteria: Existing and Expansion

Criteria		Points*
Graduate Practice Sites	Percent of graduate practice sites in Supply & Demand (S&D) Registered Nurse Shortage Areas (RNSAs)	12
	Percent of graduate practice sites designated as a “facility type”	18
	Utilize Area Designation Index (ADI) to assess the needs of surrounding communities	15
Training Sites	Percent of clinical training sites in S&D RNSAs	12
	Percent of clinical hours in designated "facility types"	18
	Utilize ADI to assess the needs of surrounding communities	15
Student Data	Percent of Medi-Cal languages spoken by students	20
General Program	Program entity type: Public, Private (non-profit), Private (for profit)	20
Total Points Possible		130

Graduate Practice Site Criteria

Criteria		Points*	eApp Page
Graduate Practice Sites	Percent of graduate practice sites in Supply & Demand RNSAs	12	Graduate Data
	Percent of graduate practice sites designated as a “facility type”	18	Graduate Data
	Utilize Area Designation Index (ADI) to assess the needs of surrounding communities	15	Graduate Data

Percent of graduate practice sites in Supply & Demand (S&D) RNSAs

1. Weight the graduate practice sites based on severity of shortage for the RNSA. Severity is listed on the HCAI [Geo webpage](#).
 - Severe/High Shortage=High severity, Medium Shortage=Medium severity, Low Shortage=Low Severity, No Shortage or Surplus=Not in RNSA

High severity RNSA site= 1.5 sites	Medium severity RNSA site= 1.0 sites	Low severity RNSA site= 0.5 site	No severity RNSA site= 0 site
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Example: $1.5(13 \text{ sites}) + 1.0(25 \text{ sites}) + 0.5(41 \text{ sites}) + 0(12 \text{ sites}) = 79 \text{ weighted sites.}$

2. Calculate the weighted percentage of graduate practice sites in RNSAs. Example:

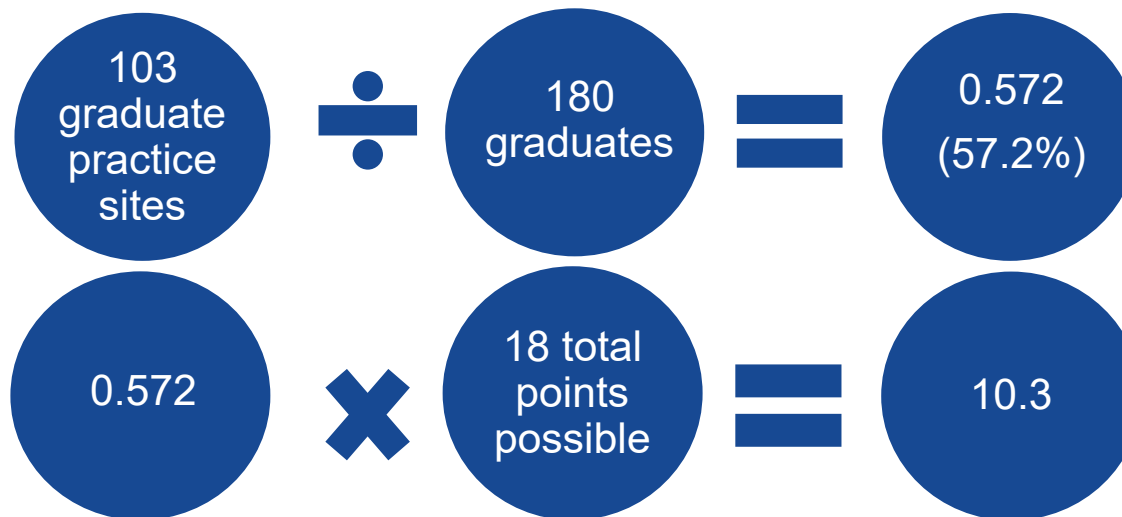
Weighted total graduate practice sites in RNSAs	=	$\frac{79}{91}$	= 86.8%
All graduate practice sites			

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{0.868} \\
 \text{12 total} \\
 \text{points} \\
 \text{possible}
 \end{array}
 \times
 \begin{array}{c}
 \text{12 total} \\
 \text{points} \\
 \text{possible}
 \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{c}
 \text{10.417}
 \end{array}$$

Criteria 1 score=**10.417 points**

Percent of graduate practice sites designated as a “facility type”

1. Graduate practice sites: Criteria 2 is based on the percent of practice sites in designated facility types
 - a. Percent is calculated by adding the number of practice sites in designated facility type and dividing it against the total number of graduates entered
 - b. Points are then calculated by multiplying percent by the maximum points possible for criteria 2
2. **Example:** Total number of graduates= 180 graduates
 - a. Total number of graduate practice sites in a designated facility type= 103



Criteria 2 score= **10.3 points**

Percent of graduate practice sites designated as a “facility type”: Eligible Facility Types

Hospital Type

- High Medi-Cal use:
 - Designated Public Hospital (DPH)
 - Non-Designated Public Hospital (NDPH)
 - Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH)
 - County Hospitals
- Rural/Remote Population:
 - Critical Access Hospital (CAH)
 - Sole Community Hospital (SCH)

Primary Care Facility Types

- Community Health Center
- County Primary Care Clinic
- Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)
- FQHC-Look-Alike
- Free Clinic
- Government Owned Facility
- Indian Health Services Clinic
- Rural Hospital
- Student Run Clinic
- Teaching Hospital

Utilize Area Deprivation Index (ADI) to assess the needs of surrounding communities

1. Area Deprivation Index (ADI) calculations is based on the ADI of the county in which the practice site is located
2. Only the practice sites that fall in the 8th-10th percentile will be scored
3. An average of all ADI sites will be calculated, and the average will be multiplied by 1.5 to find the total score for this criteria
 - **Example:** Applicant submits 5 graduates

	Training Site 1	Training Site 2	Training Site 3	Training Site 4	Training Site 5
Total # of training sites	8.9	3.2	9.8	8.1	6.3

$$\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} 8.9+ \\ 9.8+ \\ 8.1 \end{array} \div 5 \text{ Total Sites} = 5.36 \\ 5.36 \times 1.5 = 8.04 \end{array}$$

Criteria 3 score: **8.04 points**

Training Site Criteria

Criteria		Points*	eApp Page
Training Sites	Percent of clinical training sites in S&D RNSAs	12	Training Sites
	Percent of clinical hours in designated "facility types"	18	Training Sites
	Utilize ADI to assess the needs of surrounding communities	15	Training Sites

Percent of clinical training sites in S&D RNSAs

1. Weight the training sites based on severity of shortage for the RNSA. Severity is listed on the HCAI [Geo webpage](#).
- Severe/High Shortage=High severity, Medium Shortage=Medium severity, Low Shortage=Low Severity, No Shortage or Surplus=Not in RNSA

High severity RNSA site= 1.5 sites	Medium severity RNSA site= 1.0 sites	Low severity RNSA site= 0.5 site	No severity RNSA site= 0 site
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Example: 1.5(22 sites) high + 1.0(26 sites) medium + 0.5(42 sites) low +0(10 Sites) = 90 weighted sites.

2. Calculate the weighted percentage of training sites in RNSAs. Example:

Weighted total graduate practice sites in RNSAs
All graduate practice sites

$$= \frac{90}{100} = 90\%$$

0.90

×

12 total
points
possible

=

10.8

Criteria 1 score= **10.8 points**

Percent of graduate practice sites designated as a “facility type”

1. Trainings sites Criteria 2 is based on the percent of cumulative hours of training sites that are in designated facility types
 - a. Percent is calculated by adding the number of hours for all training sites in a designated facility type and then dividing it against the total number of clinical training hours for all training sites
 - b. Points are then calculated by multiplying percent by the maximum points possible for criteria 2
2. **Example:** Total number of clinical hours for AY 2025-26= **5000 hours**

	Training Site 1	Training Site 2	Training Site 3	Training Site 4	Training Site 5
Total # of training sites	10	8	12	15	4
Total # of Training sites in designated facility type	8	7	6	13	4
Total hours in facility type training site	300	260	290	520	185

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{1555 hours} & \div & \text{5000 hours} & = & \text{0.311 (31.1\%)} \\ \text{0.31} & \times & \text{18 total points possible} & = & \text{5.598} \end{array}$$

Criteria 2 score = **5.6 points**

Percent of clinical hours in designated "facility types" : Eligible Facility Types

Hospital Type

- High Medi-Cal use:
 - Designated Public Hospital (DPH)
 - Non-Designated Public Hospital (NDPH)
 - Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH)
 - County Hospitals
- Rural/Remote Population:
 - Critical Access Hospital (CAH)
 - Sole Community Hospital (SCH)

Primary Care Facility Types

- Community Health Center
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Utilize Area Deprivation Index (ADI) to assess the needs of surrounding communities

1. Area Deprivation Index (ADI) calculations is based on the ADI of the county in which the practice site is located
2. Only the practice sites that fall in the 8th-10th percentile will be scored
3. An average of all ADI sites will be calculated, and the average will be multiplied by 1.5 to find the total score for this criteria
 - **Example:** Applicant submits 5 training sites

	Training Site 1	Training Site 2	Training Site 3	Training Site 4	Training Site 5
Total # of training sites	9.3	8.6	7.1	9.9	4.8

$$\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} 9.3+ \\ 8.6+ \\ 9.9 \end{array} \div 5 \text{ Total Sites} = 5.56 \\ 5.56 \times 1.5 = 8.34 \end{array}$$

Criteria 3 score: **8.34 points**

Student Data Criteria

Criteria		Points*	eApp Page
Student Data	Percent of Medi-Cal languages spoken by students	20	Aggregate Student Data

Percent of Medi-Cal languages spoken by students

- A score for this criteria is calculated by dividing the number of students that speak a Medi-Cal threshold, Indigenous and/or Tribal language, and/or Sign language by the total number of students reported
 - **Example:** 350 students in aggregate reported
 - 188 students speak one or more Medi-Cal threshold language, Indigenous and/or Tribal language, and/or Sign languages

% of students	Allocated Points
35% or more of trainees speak a Medi-Cal threshold language, Indigenous and/or Tribal language, and/or Sign language.	20
10%-34% of trainees speak a Medi-Cal threshold language, Indigenous and/or Tribal language, and/or Sign language.	10
Less than 10% of trainees speak a Medi-Cal threshold language, Indigenous and/or Tribal language, and/or Sign language.	0

$$\begin{array}{c} 188 \\ \text{students} \end{array} \div \begin{array}{c} 350 \\ \text{students} \end{array} = 0.537 \text{ (53.7\%)}$$

Criteria score = **20 points**

Percent of Medi-Cal languages spoken by students

- Arabic
- Armenian
- Cambodian
- Chinese
- Farsi
- Hindi
- Hmong
- Indigenous and/or Tribal languages
- Japanese
- Korean
- Laotian
- Mien
- Punjabi
- Russian
- Sign Languages
- Spanish
- Tagalog
- Thai
- Ukrainian
- Vietnamese

****Medi-Cal threshold language [list\(s\)](#) published by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) are subject to change. This list shows the breakdown of Medi-Cal threshold language needs by each county and should be used for the programs scored based on county-level.**

General Program Information Criteria

Criteria		Points*	eApp Page
General Program	Program entity type: Public, Private (non-profit), Private (for profit)	20	Contract Administration

Program entity type: Public, Private (non-profit), Private (for profit)

When evaluating programs, consideration will generally begin with California community colleges and other public institutions, followed by non-profit institutions and for-profit institutions.

Entity Type	Allocated Points
Public Institutions	20
Private Non-Profit Institutions	10
Private For-Profit Institutions	0

Song-Brown RN New Program: Application Evaluation Criteria

Application Evaluation Criteria: New

Criteria		Points*
1	Anticipated percent and number of clinical training sites in Registered Nurse Shortage Areas (RNSAs)	24
2	Strategies to recruit, admit and support nursing students	26
3	Program strategies used to encourage practice in RNSAs	18
4	Program strategies used to implement culturally responsive care training into the program's curriculum.	19
Total Points Possible		87

Criteria 1: Total Score of Anticipated Training Sites in RNSAs

1. The Criteria 1 score is the total of:
 - The percentage score for training sites in RNSAs
 - The number score for training sites in RNSAs
2. Up to 24 points are possible:



3. For newer programs with no training site data, the average percentage score and number score across all applications in the cycle is assigned

Criteria 2: Strategies to Recruit and Support Nursing Students

Recruit	
Establishes partnerships with community-based organizations serving educational institutions for purposes of recruitment and increasing access and exposure to prospective nursing students	2
Utilizes an established pathway or pipeline program	2
Hosts events tailored, in part or in whole, specifically for prospective nursing students	1
Conducts individualized outreach to prospective nursing students before, during, and after the application process	1
Attendance at academic, health and career fairs in RNSAs	1
Other (open text – short form)	0

Admit	
Incorporates holistic review into the admissions process, to include individual applicant experiences and attributes indicative of prospective nursing students	4
Accounts for applicants' socioeconomic status in review process	4
Ensures a diverse selection committee to mitigate implicit bias in the selection process	4
Other (open text – short form)	0

Support	
Create and maintain a mentorship program available to all nursing students that strives to pair students with staff/faculty members with shared lived experience	2
Program faculty members, lecturers, and staff reflect the cultural diversity of nursing students	2
Institution has a documented zero tolerance policy for discrimination and related discrimination reporting systems	1
Implicit bias/anti-racism training is required for all faculty, program staff, applicant reviewers, and decision makers	2
Other (open text – short form)	0

Criteria 3: Strategies to Encourage practice in RNSAs

Encourage Practice	
Use targeted recruitment strategies to prioritize students coming from RNSAs	4
Provide employment assistance opportunities to encourage graduates to commit to patient-focused/clinical-focused practice in RNSAs	6
Provide employment assistance leading to graduate employment in RNSAs	4
Include a required, patient-focused/clinic-focused curriculum intended to build health equity knowledge and competencies	4
Other (open text – short form)	0

Criteria 4: Strategies to Implement Culturally Responsive Care Training

Implement Culturally Responsive Care Training	
Hire bilingual staff with language fluency representative of nursing students	4
Provide students training in cultural competency	6
Teach professionalism that incorporates multi-cultural social etiquette and social norms representative of nursing students	6
Have students participate in community outreach activities in RNSAs (e.g., going to high schools in RNSAs)	3
Other (open text – short form)	0

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Phone (916) 326-3700



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