



**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act  
Health Professions Programs**

**NURSING WORKFORCE DIVERSITY PROGRAM (NWD)  
Questions and Answers**

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# **The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009**

## **1. What is The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009?**

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA or Recovery Act), was signed into law February 17, 2009.

The Recovery Act was enacted to:

- preserve and create jobs;
- promote economic recovery;
- help people most impacted by the recession;
- increase economic efficiency by investing in technological advances in science and health;
- promote long-term economic benefits by investing in transportation, environmental protection and other infrastructure; and
- preserve essential services of States and local governments.

## **2. Why is the (NWD) Nursing Workforce Diversity program funded under the ARRA?**

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides \$500 million to address health professions workforce shortages. HRSA is making funds available to increase the Nation's ability to address the shortages of primary health care practitioners.

The objective of the Health Professions programs as supported through ARRA is to address health professions workforce shortages. Programs funded promote training in primary care, nursing and public health, help educational institutions, and increase the diversity of the health professions workforce. These programs will also help disadvantaged individuals who might otherwise have to delay their entry into, or drop out of, training programs or teaching.

Several types of activities will be funded with ARRA dollars, including direct student support, loan repayment, training program infrastructure, and equipment purchases for health professions training programs. The grant programs funded under ARRA will help increase the diversity of students entering health professions programs, support the training of disadvantaged students, provide training in primary care disciplines, and improve training programs by providing better access to equipment.

The (NWD) Nursing Workforce Diversity program provides Federal funding for projects to increase nursing education opportunities for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds (including racial and ethnic minorities underrepresented among registered nurses). The NWD program supports projects that provide educational opportunities for students to become registered nurses and/or opportunities for practicing nurses to pursue a baccalaureate degree in nursing. Applicants are required to address all three program components (retention, pre-entry preparation, student scholarships and/or stipends).

The NWD program is receiving \$3.2 million in ARRA funding in FY 2009.

## **3. Where can I learn more about the ARRA?**

Additional information on the Recovery Act can be found at <http://www.recovery.gov>. Information on activities related to the Recovery Act at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) can be accessed at <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery>.

## **Purpose**

### **4. What is the purpose of the ARRA-NWD funding opportunity?**

The purpose of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act or ARRA) Nursing Workforce Diversity grant funding is to improve and increase the diversity of the nursing workforce to meet the increasing need for culturally sensitive and quality care for all.

## **Summary of Funding**

### **5. How do schools apply for ARRA-NWD funds?**

The FY 2009 ARRA competition is complete. The ARRA-NWD awards were selected utilizing the FY 2009 NWD competitive review cycle. Once awards were made under the Section 821 NWD regular award process, applications that were next in order of rank score were identified for ARRA-NWD funding.

### **6. If a school does not receive ARRA-NWD funds in 2009, will they have an opportunity to compete for ARRA-NWD funding in 2010?**

No, this is a one time award. ARRA-NWD funds are being awarded for the three-year project period.

### **7. When will the grant be awarded?**

It is anticipated that ARRA NWD funds will be awarded by September 1.

### **8. Can ARRA-NWD funding be used to cover costs incurred prior to the award date?**

In general, these grants are intended to support costs incurred after the ARRA-NWD project start date. ARRA-NWD funds cannot be used to support any costs incurred prior to September 1, 2009 (the date the Recovery Act was signed). Any costs incurred before receipt of the Notice of Grant Award (NGA) are at the recipient's risk.

### **9. Is there any formal notification of an ARRA-NWD award from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)?**

Yes. HRSA will electronically transmit via email a formal notification in the form of a Notice of Grant Award (NGA) that will be provided to the ARRA-NWD applicant organization/institution.

### **10. What is the timeline for grantees to use the ARRA-NWD funds?**

The grantee is expected to use the ARRA-NWD funds within the three-year budget/project period. Recipients of ARRA-NWD funds should obligate (commit) the grant funds by the end of the three-year budget/project period. HRSA strongly encourages grantees to expend (spend) all funds during the three-year budget/project period to respond to nursing workforce needs.

### **11. Are schools permitted to carryover unused ARRA-NWD funds?**

In general, ARRA-NWD funds must be used within the specified project period. In FY 2009, awards to schools were determined based upon the funding requested by the applicant in November; therefore, we do not expect schools to have unused funds. Any unexpended ARRA-NWD funds may be offset at the conclusion of the project period.

## **Student Support**

### **12. Are schools permitted to make ARRA-NWD stipends and scholarships to continuing and new NWD students?**

Yes. Schools can make ARRA-NWD stipends and scholarships to any continuing or new student. We encourage that stipends and scholarships be made to students expected to graduate within three years.

### **13. Are schools permitted to make ARRA-NWD stipends and scholarships to part-time students?**

Yes. Consistent with program guidance, recipients of scholarship and stipend funds must be engaged full-time in project activities and may be either part time or full time in the academic program. Scholarships may only be awarded to upper level nursing students in good academic standing.

## **Eligible Use of Funds**

### **14. Are there certain eligibility requirements for use of these funds?**

ARRA-NWD funds can be used to support students who are already participating in a NWD project and receiving support from the appropriated NWD funds in the case of a competing continuation.

Costs incurred prior to September 01, 2009 are not allowable costs under ARRA-NWD funding.

### **15. How will ARRA-NWD funding be delivered to grantees?**

Grantees will receive ARRA-NWD funds much in the same way schools get other funding via the PMS; a NGA will be issued under a different grant number. For information regarding the drawdown of your awarded funds, contact your account representative at 1-877-614-5533 or <http://www.dpm.psc.gov/>. Grantees should drawdown funds based on the needs of the ARRA-NWD project.

### **16. How will applications be submitted?**

Applications were submitted as a result of the competitive funding opportunity HRSA-09-107. This opportunity closed on November 21, 2008. No further applications are being accepted for 2009 ARRA-NWD funding opportunities. Applicants will be asked, however, to report on the number of students these funds will support.

### **17. Can I decline receiving ARRA funds?**

Yes. An applicant may decline receiving ARRA-NWD funds.

## **Reporting**

### **18. What are the reporting requirements for Recovery Act funding?**

Grantees must continue to comply with the usual and customary reporting requirements of the NWD Program, in addition to specific Recovery Act reporting. Recipients of Recovery Act funding will be required to provide periodic reports to ensure that funds are used for authorized purposes

and instances of fraud, waste, error, and abuse are mitigated. Recovery Act funds can be used in conjunction with other funding as necessary to complete projects, but tracking and reporting must be separate to meet the reporting requirements of the Recovery Act. Additional information is available at [http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/recovery\\_default/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/recovery_default/).

Generally, as required by the Recovery Act, recipients are required to report the following information to [www.FederalReporting.gov](http://www.FederalReporting.gov) 10 days after the end of each calendar quarter; submission dates will be July 10, October 10, January 10, and April 10.

These reports will include the following data elements, as prescribed by the Recovery Act:

1. The total amount of Recovery Act funds.
2. The amount of Recovery Act funds received that were obligated and expended to projects or activities. This reporting will also include unobligated allotment balances to facilitate reconciliations.
3. A detailed list of all projects or activities for which Recovery Act funds were obligated and expended, including
  - a. The name of the project or activity;
  - b. A description of the project or activity;
  - c. An evaluation of the completion status of the project or activity;
  - d. An estimate of the number of jobs created and the number of jobs retained by the project or activity.
4. Detailed information on any subcontracts or subgrants awarded by the recipient to include the data elements required to comply with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-282), allowing aggregate reporting on awards below \$25,000 or to individuals, as prescribed by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

#### **19. Where can I find out more information about the ARRA reporting requirements?**

The OMB Section 1512 guidance for recipient reporting can be found at:

<http://www.recovery.gov/?q=node/579>

In addition, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) prepared a series of webinars to train Federal Agencies and recipients of ARRA funding on how to comply with their reporting responsibilities. Links to the recorded webinars can be found at:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/Recovery/WebinarTrainingMaterials/>

#### **20. Are schools required to submit both the NWD Annual Operation Report (AOR) and the ARRA-NWD quarterly reports?**

Yes. The NWD-AOR report is a standard annual reporting requirement for all NWD programs. Similarly, the ARRA-NWD program has the requirement for an ARRA NWD-AOR in addition to the required ARRA specific reporting as described on the Recovery.gov web site. However, it is important to note that the AOR is an ANNUAL report while the additional ARRA reporting requirements are quarterly reporting.

#### **21. Why is the ARRA-NWD required reporting scheduled quarterly rather than annually?**

Quarterly reporting is stipulated for timely measure and transparency of the use and impact of ARRA-NWD funds.

#### **22. Will the ARRA-NWD quarterly report be completed and submitted through the HRSA EHBS?**

No. ARRA-NWD reports will be completed and submitted via a centralized system on [www.FederalReporting.gov](http://www.FederalReporting.gov) by no later than 10 days from the end of each quarter. This

information will then be migrated for public access to the Recovery.gov website upon data quality review by the funding agency.