



**THE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP:**

- Covers tuition and fees at any New Mexico public college or university
- Accepts students pursuing high-demand certificate, associate, and bachelor's degree programs
- Allows students to attend part time or full time
- Requires students to maintain a 2.5 GPA while enrolled in a college or university

**DATE:**

September 16, 2022

**PURPOSE OF HEARING:**

Financial Incentives for Health Care Students and Professionals

**PREPARED BY:**

Stephanie M. Rodriguez  
*Cabinet Secretary*

Harrison Rommel, Ph.D.  
*Director of Academic Finance*



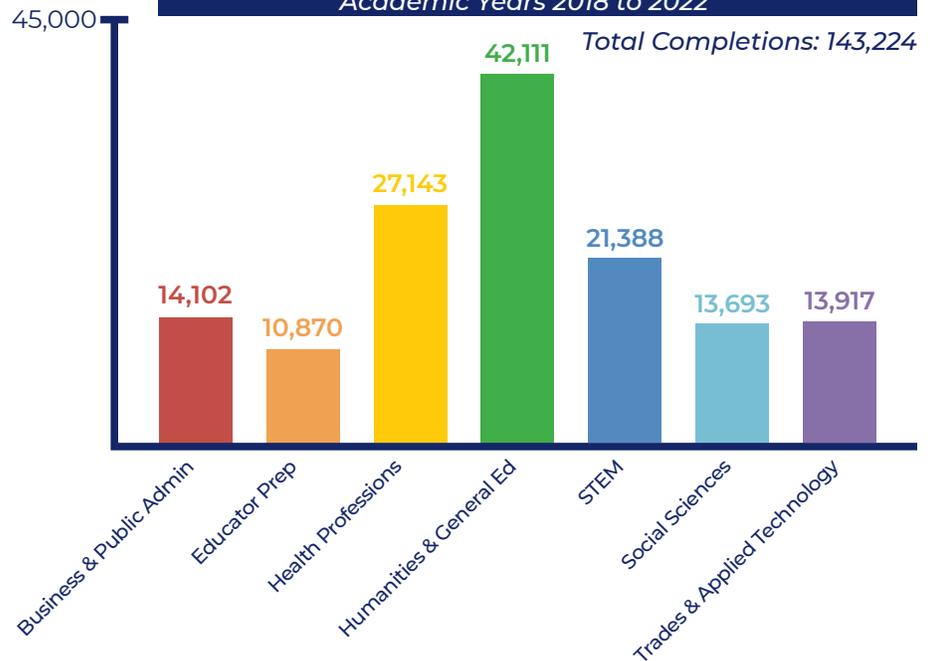
**TUITION-FREE COLLEGE PROGRAMS: OPPORTUNITY & LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIPS**

Many jobs in today's economy require an education beyond a high school diploma. With the ever-changing workforce environment, the proximity to the bases and national laboratories, and employment shortages in critical fields, New Mexicans will need opportunities to continue to learn and grow their skills for career success and family-sustaining wages in their home state. But for too many, earning a degree or other credential after high school is oftentimes unaffordable. For others, their education saddles them with so much debt it prevents them from buying a home or saving for retirement. Tuition-free college programs, such as the Opportunity and Lottery Scholarships, promote access to higher education programs, limits or eliminates student loan debt, and promotes economic prosperity.

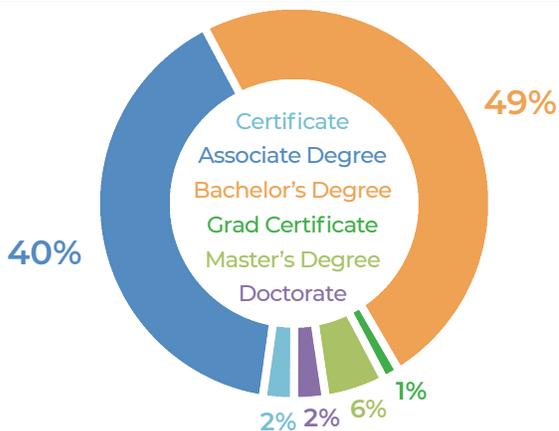
The Opportunity Scholarship is New Mexico's newest tuition-free scholarship program that allows flexibility for all students toward their postsecondary credentials. Over 34,000 New Mexicans are already benefitting from the Opportunity Scholarship this semester, and on average, over 10,000 students benefit from the Lottery Scholarship each year.

**CUMULATIVE DEGREE PRODUCTION**

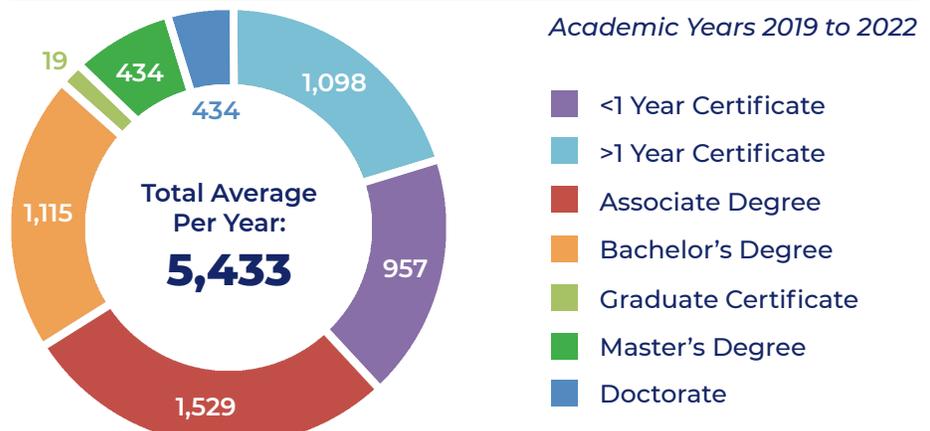
Academic Years 2018 to 2022



**NURSING AWARDS BY DEGREE TYPE**



**AVERAGE NUMBER OF HEALTH AWARDS BY DEGREE TYPE**



Academic Years 2019 to 2022

- <1 Year Certificate
- >1 Year Certificate
- Associate Degree
- Bachelor's Degree
- Graduate Certificate
- Master's Degree
- Doctorate



**STATE FUNDING:  
NURSE EXPANSION & ENDOWMENTS**



**Nurse expansion funding will enroll nearly 400 new students. Faculty endowment funding will enroll 707 new students and support 6,887 students.**

**NURSE EXPANSION**

**\$15,000,000**

**NURSING ENDOWMENT**

**\$30,000,000**

**SOCIAL WORK ENDOWMENT**

**\$50,000,000**

During the 55<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham and policymakers supported millions in funding activities for expanding enrollment in and graduation from nursing programs and establishing endowed faculty positions in nursing, social work and educator preparation, totaling \$145 million in funding. The New Mexico Higher Education Department issued requests for applications (RFAs) in the late spring to all 29 public higher education institutions throughout the state. Awards were announced in August and the process involved the review and ranking of proposals by individuals from the agency, New Mexico Department of Health, New Mexico Human Services Department, and retired nursing faculty from both the four-year and two-year sectors.

**NURSING EXPANSION**

HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION	AWARD AMOUNT
Central NM Community College	\$1,279,900
Clovis Community College	\$284,000
Eastern NM University-Roswell	\$1,000,000
Luna Community College	\$1,071,000
Mesalands Community College	\$700,000
New Mexico Junior College	\$415,000
New Mexico State University	\$1,308,900
Doña Ana Community College	\$995,600
Northern New Mexico College	\$680,000
San Juan College	\$908,700
Santa Fe Community College	\$1,135,000
Southeast New Mexico College	\$573,400
University of New Mexico-Gallup	\$464,000
University of New Mexico-Taos	\$947,300
University of New Mexico-Valencia	\$963,600
UNM Health Sciences Center	\$1,174,100
Western New Mexico University	\$1,098,900
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,000,000</b>

“Nurse Expansion” funding will be used for a variety of purposes at public higher education institutions across New Mexico. This includes but is not limited to:

- Adding slots for pre-licensure nursing students
- Developing tutoring to help students pass the licensure exam
- Recruiting high school and dual credit students
- Expanding clinical sites to rural communities and providing stipends for students working in these communities

The agency received 17 eligible applications with a total of \$18.35 million in requests for “Nurse Expansion” funding. After consideration of all funding requests, the the agency funded every project with targeted, reasonable reductions to meet the \$15 million available this year.

Faculty endowments address a broad statewide need for faculty positions and retention in vital workforce areas. The agency received 22 eligible applications requesting \$137 million in funding to support 58 endowed faculty positions at public higher education institutions.

**FACULTY ENDOWMENTS**

ENDOWMENT TYPE	TOTAL ALLOCATED	TOTAL EXPENDED
Endowed Positions for Nursing	\$30M	<b>\$30M</b>
Endowed Positions for Social Work	\$50M	<b>\$30M</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$80M</b>	<b>\$60.5M</b>



**FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM:  
HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LOAN REPAYMENT**

New Mexico's **Health Professional Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP)** provides repayment for outstanding student loans of practicing health professionals. As a condition of the program, a health professional must make a two-year service commitment to practice full time in a designated medical shortage area in New Mexico.

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham and the Legislature approved \$1.6 million for the program in Fiscal Year 2023, a \$400,000 increase from the previous year. In September, the New Mexico Higher Education Department received \$1.6 million in matching federal funds from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration to be expended over a four-year period.

Eligible professional occupation fields include:

- Medical & Nursing
- Allied Health
- Dental
- Mental & Behavioral Health

PROGRAM DATA				
	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Applicants	101	144	86	649
Awardees	22	22	21	44
Average Award	Average amount for first year new awards: <b>\$25,000</b>			

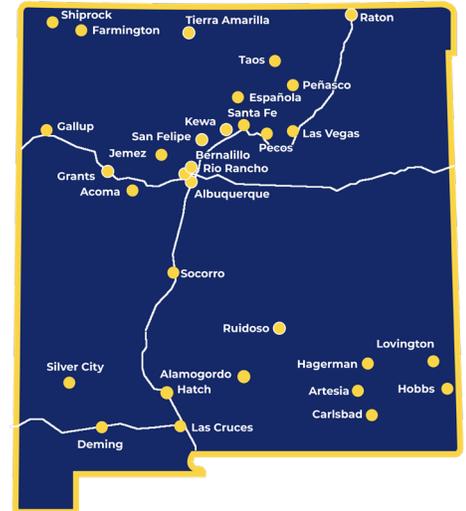
Per the agency budget due to the Executive and Legislature on September 1, 2022, the New Mexico Higher Education Department requests **\$15 million** to support the Health Professional Loan Repayment Program in FY24. This expansion can support 400 to 600 practicing health professionals in New Mexico.



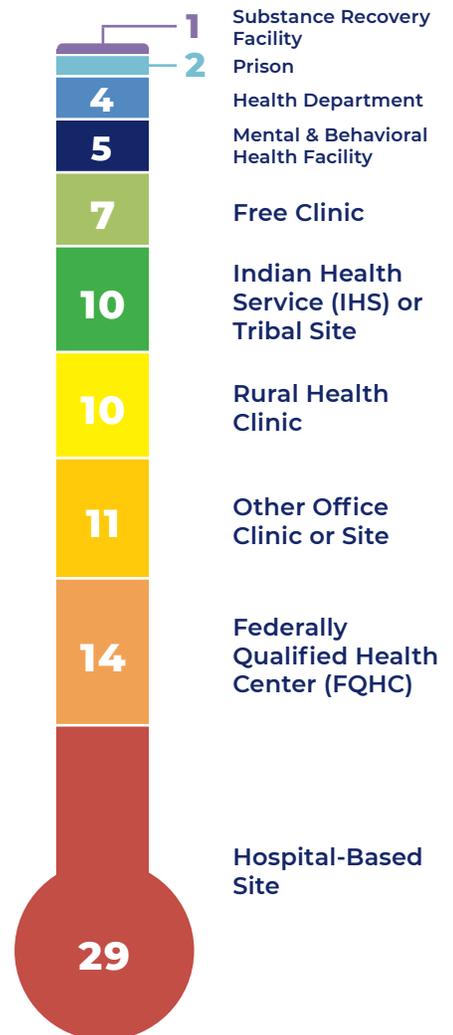
**FY23 AWARDEE PROFILE**

MAXIMUM AWARD: **\$300,000** AVERAGE DEBT: **\$95,150**

**HEALTH PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE LOCATIONS**



**HEALTH PROFESSIONAL TYPES OF PRACTICE**





**FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM:  
HEALTH LOAN FOR SERVICE**

New Mexico's health loan-for-service programs aim to increase the number of healthcare practitioners in high-need areas across the state by providing educational loans to students seeking certification or licensure in an eligible health field. As a condition of each loan, students must declare their intent to practice as a health professional in a designated shortage area within the state of New Mexico. **For every year of service provided in a designated service area, a portion of the loan will be forgiven, up to 100 percent.**

**HEALTH LOAN FOR SERVICE:  
TYPES OF LOAN-FOR-SERVICE PROGRAMS**

**ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL**

Students can receive up to \$12,000 per year if they are seeking certification or licensure in:

- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech-Language
- Pathology
- Audiology
- Pharmacy
- Laboratory Technology
- Mental & Behavioral Health
- Social Services
- Emergency Medical Services
- Nutrition
- Dental Hygiene

**MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL**

Students can receive up to \$25,000 per year when entering a medical school and intending to practice as a health professional in a designated shortage area in New Mexico. Thirty-two out of 33 counties in New Mexico are designated as a "Health Professional Shortage Area" by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, with the exception of Los Alamos.

**PROGRAM DATA**

	Applicants	Awardees
FY20	160	68
FY21	167	58
FY22	164	56
FY23	133	60
Average Award	\$12,000 a year \$25,000 for Medical Pro	

**LOAN-FOR-SERVICE PROGRAM  
NURSING**

**NURSE EDUCATOR**

Students can receive up to \$7,500 per year to support college and university employed nursing educators seeking bachelor of science, master of science and doctorate degrees.

**NURSE**

Students seeking certification or licensure in nursing and intending to practice in a designated shortage area can receive up to \$12,000 per year.

**Applications for New Mexico's loan-for-service programs are open from May 15 to July 1 of each year!**

**NEW MEXICO HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

2044 Galisteo Street, Suite 4  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
505-476-8400  
www.hed.state.nm.us

Financial Aid  
Hotline:

1-800-279-9777



**QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!**

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