



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Richardson Announces \$2 Million for Higher Education Nursing Programs throughout New Mexico

Governor also supports efforts to solve nursing shortage

SANTA FE – Governor Richardson today awarded \$2 million in funding to 16 nursing education programs serving 8,000 students throughout the state.

“These programs provide desperately needed nurses and medical professionals for New Mexico’s healthcare system,” said Governor Bill Richardson. “They graduate dedicated and skilled workers who staff our hospitals, clinics, doctors’ offices, nursing homes, and many other facilities.”

New Mexico, like many other states in the country, is facing a nursing shortage that threatens to become a crisis. Currently, the shortfall of nurses in our state is 25%. Estimates indicate the deficit could more than double by the year 2020.

The funding is provided to the institutions and will be used for improving recruitment and retention of faculty and students, increasing pass rates on the state nursing exam, and improving clinical experiences.

The institutions and the amounts received for nursing education programs are:

Albuquerque Technical Vocational Institute	\$250,000
Clovis Community College	\$193,803
Eastern New Mexico University	\$59,050

Eastern New Mexico University, Roswell	\$98,808
Luna Community College	\$125,000
New Mexico State University	\$238,339
New Mexico State – Alamogordo	\$60,000
New Mexico State – Carlsbad	\$150,000
New Mexico State – Dona Ana	\$150,000
New Mexico Junior College	\$60,000
Northern New Mexico College	\$60,000
Santa Fe Community College	\$60,000
San Juan College	\$60,000
University of New Mexico	\$250,000
University of New Mexico, Gallup	\$125,000
Western New Mexico University	\$60,000

In addition to the allocations from the Higher Education Department, the Department of Health is working to retain and recruit nurses to New Mexico and to streamline licensing. Governor Richardson has directed the Department of Health and the Higher Education Department to work closely with the Health Policy Commission, and with other state agencies to also create a long-term strategy to solve this problem. Private sector partners are being encouraged to work to address problems in the workplace environment and to help our universities and community colleges obtain essential nursing faculty by allowing their employees to teach in academic programs.

Since Governor Richardson has taken office, we have taken action to address this critical shortage.

- This is the third year we have provided this additional funding for New Mexico’s nursing programs,
- We have instituted financial support and student loan relief for nurse practitioners and nurse midwives in rural communities,
- We have taken action to streamline the licensing process for nurses moving to New Mexico from out of state,
- We are working to provide on-line licensing for “instant” license renewals. I support this, and today I want to announce I am pledging one-hundred thousand dollars to the New Mexico Board of Nursing for this effort for the FY07-08 fiscal year.