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SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, OFFICE OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
ARKANSAS LINKING INDUSTRY TO GROW NURSES (ALIGN) PROGRAM

November 8, 2023

Purpose: To provide funding through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for the Arkansas Linking Industry to Grow Nurses (ALIGN) Program.

Eligible Recipients: Any public or private post-secondary institution providing LPN, RN, and BSN degrees in the state of Arkansas is eligible for funding. For the sake of maximizing funding leverage, each institution shall provide a healthcare partner contribution, with a two-to-one match by the state for every dollar contributed. Grants shall be aimed at upskilling lower-level professionals, expanding nursing apprenticeships, increasing nurse educator recruitment/retention, expanding clinical rotations, increasing nursing program capacity where relevant, tuition reimbursement, equipment purchasing, simulation centers, and expansion of labs. The funds cannot be used for buildings or renovation of buildings. All funds must be expended by December 31, 2026.

Date Proposal is Due to OSD: February 16, 2024 by 5:00 PM

Proposal to be emailed to: STEPHANIE.ISAACS@ARKANSAS.GOV

Grantees shall prepare a request for funding that includes the following:

- Introduction and outline of the project, including identification of the “Lead” organization
- Local or regional workforce need (number of current and future job openings)
- Wage information of trainees and demonstrated wage increase opportunities
- Healthcare Partners identified, as well as the financial and in-kind contribution of each partner
- Detailed budget including lab equipment costs, instructor costs, and other identified costs
- Outcome goals including increased capacity/increase in nurses
- Demonstrate Return on Investment (ROI)