

Potential Nursing Grant Strategy Options

Important Context

- No matter what approach your region takes – the goal of the nursing grant is the same: **building capacity for health services at high-needs schools by getting more nurses in schools!**
- The following strategies are suggestions – not required approaches.
- We recognize that different regions approach the work of supporting health services at LEAs in different ways.

Potential Strategy #1

ESCs serve as a financial pass-through for LEAs

LEAs do the vast majority of hiring

- For this strategy, each region would be responsible for approving LEA plans/requests for funds.
- ESCs also have the opportunity to advise LEAs on how best to spend funds.
 - Ex. An ESC could advise a smaller district to hire a district level nurse or health director, instead of hiring part time nurses for each school.
- As outlined in the allocation letter, this strategy still allows the ESC to hire a Regional Licensed Nurse position.

Potential Strategy #2

ESCs create or strengthen an ESC-based team of nurses

ESCs do the vast majority of hiring

- For this strategy, the region itself would be hiring nurses to strategically deploy region-wide.
- For this approach to be successful, strong systems of communication and needs assessment with LEAs is **vital**.
 - ESCs are allowed to hire programmatic staff to assist with this. Ex. A data analyst or specialist who oversees the systems for deploying nurses.
- Reminder – this service must be made available to any LEA that needs it!

Potential Strategy #3

A hybrid approach of ESC-based services and LEA's receiving funds

LEAs and ESCs both increase hiring

- For this strategy, the region will create or strengthen an ESC-based team of nurses **and** process/approve funds for LEA usage.
- This approach could work for funding larger districts, while providing support to smaller districts from ESCs directly.
- Given the split nature of this approach, communications and needs assessment are also **vital** important.

What to Avoid

- **Hiring an inordinate number of non-nurses.** Hiring non-nurse employees should only be done when completely necessary.
- **Focusing a majority of expenses on nurse/health trainings.** Trainings are allowable expenses, but should account for a small minority of expenditure.
- **Dedicating too many resources to a small group of LEAs.** This grant is intended to serve as much of your region as possible, particularly your highest-need LEAs.

Q & A