



Request for Applications

College and Career Nurse Navigator

Application portal: <https://impact.acceleratems.org/>

Funding for the Accelerate Mississippi Nurse Navigator Program was approved through Senate Bill 2371 (Mississippi Legislature, 2023). Funding for this program is derived from federal COVID-19 relief funds allocated to the State of Mississippi through the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund (CFDA 21.027), as authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-2 (Mar. 11, 2021). All funds awarded through this program will be considered a sub-award of federal funds, subject to the provisions of the Code of Federal Regulations governing the use of federal grant funds.

Enabling legislation calls for the office to direct funds for the “purpose of hiring professionals, or navigators, to provide individual assistance and guidance to students to assist them in many areas, from maneuvering challenges while enrolled in college programs and understanding the job market to work through course challenges, and to help retain and graduate nursing and allied health students, at community and junior colleges. Such navigators must be at least a registered nurse with at least two (2) years of experience in nursing.” During the 2023 Regular Session of the Mississippi Legislature, funds for this program were appropriated through Senate Bill 3113.

The Office of Workforce Development, known commonly as Accelerate Mississippi (AccelerateMS), requests applications for grant funding from eligible recipients to support said college and career navigator positions.

Application and Submission Instructions:

1. Review this RFA document in its entirety.
2. Complete the budget template available for download on the application portal. This will be a required attachment when completing the application.
3. Complete the Risk Assessment via the link on the application portal. This will be a required step when completing the application.
4. Complete the AccelerateMS ARPA Application via the link on the application portal.

Eligible applicants for this program include:

- Public Mississippi Community and Junior Colleges

Priority will be given to applicants based on the following criteria:

1. Applications with specific interventions and associated reporting metrics to address jobs within the nursing, allied health, and paramedic fields which are currently experiencing staffing shortages in hospitals, clinics, long-term care facilities, and other healthcare providers across the state.
2. Applications clearly communicating anticipated outcomes by the individual participant.

Eligible Expenses:

Expenses eligible under this program include but are not limited to:

1. Salary and benefits for Nurse Navigator(s) for one year.

By submitting an application, the potential Awardee understands, as a condition of approval and continued funding, it must ensure the funded program is aligned with both American Rescue Plan Act goals as well as those for AccelerateMS and agrees to share data with AccelerateMS as needed to meet reporting requirements and to measure the success of desired outcomes. These requirements will be outlined in the Subgrant Agreement between Subgrantee and AccelerateMS.

Important Dates and Deadlines:

Event	Date/Deadline
Publication of Request for Applications	June 9, 2023
Deadline for Applications	July 14, 2023
Notice of Intent to Award to Recipients	July 28, 2023
Final Award Notification	August 11, 2023, or sooner
Legislative Report Due to AccelerateMS	September 2024
Legislative Report Due to AccelerateMS	September 2025
Legislative Report Due to AccelerateMS	September 2026
Deadline for ALL grant-funded expenses	December 30, 2026

Submit proposals via the form linked in the application portal.

Questions should be directed to: grants@acceleratems.org



Nurse Navigator Program
Deadline for Submission: Friday, July 14, 2023, 5:00 pm

***Questions are to be completed via the link in the application portal:**

<https://impact.acceleratems.org/>*

1. Provide a non-technical description of the need and how the proposed program will address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on nursing and allied health sectors in the proposed region. The summary should include an overview of the expected outcomes of the project.
2. Clearly indicate the specific activities and how they are linked to the project's purpose, key milestones, and deliverables. The proposed intervention must address the need identified clearly and concisely using relevant, local data.
3. Describe your organization's experience carrying out projects funded by state and/or federal grants. Include statements regarding how your organization will adhere to state and/or federal guidelines governing the proper use of award funds, proper internal controls, and adherence to record-keeping requirements and reporting.
4. Indicate the number of nursing or allied health students who will be served by the program
5. Describe the plan to provide data on participation and outcomes of the program, including a plan to report outcomes to the office throughout the funding commitment. At a minimum, the following must be reported:
 - a. Semester-to-semester retention rate (from the first semester)
 - b. Annual graduation rate and number of students
 - c. Job placement of enrolled and graduated students, depending on when they started work (location, company, starting salary)
 - d. Number and type of referrals to support programs (such as Adult Education, WIOA, Rehabilitation Services, Human Services, etc.)

- e. Percentage of empty program seats first semester and each semester after
 - f. Qualitative data (from direct communication) on why nursing students separate from the program if they do
6. Provide nursing program benchmark data (most recent data available), including associated demographic data, showing:
- a. Current semester to semester retention percentages and number of students from the first semester
 - b. Current Annual cohort graduation rate and number of students, from first semester
 - c. Current job placement data
7. Please describe the potential for sustainability of the proposed program beyond the initial grant funding.
8. Detail the key deliverables and program schedule by date for your program.