



## **Request for Applications**

### **Nursing/Allied Health & College and Career Nurse Navigator Grant Programs**

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

Funding for the Accelerate Mississippi Nursing/Allied Health and Nurse Navigator Grant Programs were approved through Senate Bill 2371 (Mississippi Legislature, 2023). Funding for these programs 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 these programs will be considered sub-awards 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 increasing the capacity of nursing and allied health training programs, including accredited paramedic programs, in response to the workforce disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.” and 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.”, respectively. During the 2023 Regular Session of the Mississippi Legislature, funds for these programs 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 nursing and allied health training programs, including accredited paramedic programs in Mississippi and to support said college and career navigator positions.

**\*\*If ARPA funding was previously awarded for one of the aforementioned grant programs, additional funding may not be awarded through the same program. \*\***

#### **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:**

**Nursing/Allied Health**

1. Applications specifically targeting expanding nursing programs in rural areas of Mississippi will receive priority.
2. Applications with specific interventions and associated reporting metrics to address training for 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 will be considered.
3. Applications must clearly communicate anticipated outcomes by the individual participant.
4. Programs that previously received American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through AccelerateMS are not eligible.

**College and Career Nurse Navigator**

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 that clearly communicate anticipated outcomes by the individual participant.

**Eligible Expenses:**

**Nursing/Allied Health**

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

1. Necessary equipment or supplies to increase capacity in nursing and allied health program(s).
2. Infrastructure improvements, including building renovation or construction, to support capacity **expansion** in nursing and allied health training programs, including accredited paramedic programs training programs.

**College and Career Nurse Navigator**

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:**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date/Deadline</b>
Publication of Request for Applications	October 27, 2023
Deadline for Applications	December 8, 2023
Notice of Intent to Award to Recipients	December 22, 2023
Final Award Notification	January 17, 2024, 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	September 30, 2026

**Submit proposals via the form linked in the application portal.**

Questions should be directed to: [grants@acceleratems.org](mailto:grants@acceleratems.org)