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# Long Term Care Workforce Programs at MDH

## Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Scholarship Program

In 2015, the Legislature created this new program to enhance the education of the state's HCBS workforce. \$950,000 is available in FY 2016. Eligible applicants must provide services primarily to older Minnesotans, and be a:

- Housing with Services Establishment,
- Adult Day Care Facility, and/or
- Home Care Agency.

Up to \$50,000 is available per grant to fund employee scholarships and enhanced employee training, which will improve the quality of care delivered by HCBS providers.

Goals of the program include better care, better patient/client experience, a more skilled HCBS workforce, and better employee retention for employers.

For more information, visit:  
[www.health.state.mn.us/divs/orhpc/funding/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/orhpc/funding/index.html)

## Nurse Loan Forgiveness Program

Also in 2015, funding for the state's Loan Forgiveness Program was expanded, including assistance to nurses – LPNs and RNs – who decide to work in long term care.

Applicants for the Nurse Loan Forgiveness Program must agree to work in a nursing home or an intermediate care facility for the developmentally disabled (ICF/DD) for at least two years, with the option of up to four years.

In exchange for their commitment, nurses receive up to \$5,000 per year to be paid towards student debt.

The Nurse Loan Forgiveness program was established in 1993, and the program has funded over 230 recipients. Currently, there are 17 nurses in the program, delivering care in nursing homes throughout the state. Up to 15 new selections will be announced in December.

When the increased funding is fully implemented, MDH anticipates over 50 nurses will be participating in the program.

For more information, visit:  
[www.health.state.mn.us/divs/orhpc/funding/loans/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/orhpc/funding/loans/index.html)

## Summer Internship Program

In partnership with the Minnesota Hospital Association, MDH also administers an internship program so high school and college students can gain experience in health care and long term care professions over the summer. The program funds 50% of the cost of paid internships.

This program is intended to create positive work experiences as students decide on a career track and build confidence in their skills.

On average, about 300 students participate, including internships in nursing homes and home health agencies.

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