

Meet Elizabeth Shibahara...

Elizabeth Shibahara is a full time student at Oregon Health and Science University who faced considerable socio-economic barriers to attending college. Without funds from the Nursing Student Loan (NSL) program, it would have been impossible for Elizabeth to follow her dream of enrolling in nursing school and becoming a nurse. Had it not been for the NSL program, she would have needed to work full-time, and would still not have had enough money to cover her education, let alone her living expenses. Elizabeth looks forward to reaching her full potential through a career in nursing.



“With nursing, I should not only be able to get out of poverty. I will be able to give back to my community and improve lives of people through health care.”

About the Program

- The Title VIII Nursing Education grants provide a federal focus to the supply and distribution of qualified nurses.
- The Title VIII Nursing Student Loan (NSL) Program was established in 1964 to address nursing workforce shortages. The loans are granted to those with financial need.
- The revolving fund provides each accepted nursing student, undergraduate or graduate, a maximum of \$13,000 at 5% interest, with a repayment period of ten years.
- Students may receive \$2,500 in each of their first two years and \$4,000 in each of their last two years. Funds are loaned out to new students as existing loans are repaid.
- This program has not received additional appropriations since 1983.

The Effect of Funding Cuts. . .

- Our country has a critical shortage of nurses. It is expected that in the coming years more than a million new nurses will be needed to fill vacant and emerging positions.
- Curtailing access to nursing education for students facing financial challenges is counterproductive to ending the workforce shortage.
- Without Title VIII funding for this program, low-income students interested in pursuing a career in nursing will face greater barriers in accessing education. With appropriations updated for the new millennium, this program could serve an even greater number of students.



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