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White Paper

Funding Simulation Technology in Your Nursing Education Program



FUNDING SIMULATION TECHNOLOGY IN YOUR NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM

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Using simulation in nursing education provides students with an opportunity to build their clinical judgment and reasoning skills in a safe environment. Whether you're using a solution like Simulation Learning System (SLS) in the simulation lab or virtually, giving students opportunities to practice patient care builds their clinical competency and overall practice readiness. Nursing education simulation has also recently expanded to include virtual reality (VR)—an immersive, realistic virtual environment where students can gain valuable nursing experiences.

Although simulation and VR are great learning tools, the associated cost for equipment can be very expensive for nursing programs. As the need for creative solutions for clinical judgment development in the nursing classroom becomes more pressing, exploring different options to source funding for these solutions is important. Luckily, there are a number of resources available to nursing programs to find funding for simulation and help students with this essential groundwork in their education and tips on how to successfully make these requests.

TIPS FOR WRITING AND REACHING OUT

When writing grants for funding in nursing education, applicants should be clear and concise while communicating the details of how the grant will be executed. Although there are online registration steps for these funding projects with requirements of what's included, it's also important to keep your intention and audience in mind. Think about your program needs relevant to simulation and determine what will be most beneficial to achieve your goals.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR NURSE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Below are resources for nursing education programs to explore that can help fund simulation activities in their classes. These range from emergency funds given our current national climate, international organizations, simulation programs, and other healthcare grants for your program for other projects.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED RESOURCES

The CARES Act

Because of the impact on education, particularly nursing education, due to COVID-19, Congress allocated part of this emergency funding to [The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund](#). This fund provides support for technologies to support distance learning.

The CARES Act also has funding to support healthcare workforce education and training equipment, which is perfect for programs looking to add resources to support enhanced simulation experiences for their students. These funds are dispersed by the state governments, so check with state officials for eligibility.

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Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program

[The Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program](#) provides funds for rural-serving healthcare educators with technology needs. This is especially important for remote learning in rural communities due to COVID-19.

Advances in Patient Safety through Simulation Research

This [R18 US Federal Grant](#) from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) provides support to develop, test, and evaluate simulation in order to improve safe healthcare delivery. The grant is open to various simulation techniques, settings, and populations in various award amounts.

INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES

Laerdal Foundation for Acute Medicine

This international foundation provides financial support to practice-oriented research in acute medicine and is committed to the United Nation's Sustainability Goal #3 – to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all. They support projects in developing countries, international collaborations, research, and more. Their project funding, [The Laerdal Foundation Project Support](#), covers expenses for practically oriented research during bi-annual application cycles.

HEALTHCARE SIMULATION GROUPS SPONSORSHIPS

INACSL – International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning

The [Debra Spunt Research Grant](#) is designed to fund research on issues related to simulation in nursing that advance healthcare simulation science. INACSL encourages novice researchers with first time applicants receiving priority. The applicant must be a member of INACSL and play a key role in the research project.

SSH – Society for Simulation in Healthcare:

The [SSH Novice Research Grant Program](#) aims to support development of new research initiatives and encourages novice researchers with projects focused on a positive impact on the field of healthcare simulation.

INSPIRE – International Network for Simulation-based Pediatric Innovation, Research, & Education

[INSPIRE](#) offers two different research awards. The **INSPIRE Research Award** seeks projects that are simulation-based and have potential positive impact on healthcare delivery and outcomes. Similarly, the **INSPIRE Novice Research Award** is also focused on innovative healthcare simulation with potential for positive healthcare impact, open to novice investigators.

AGENCY SUPPORT FOR GENERAL HEALTHCARE EDUCATION

The ZOLL® Foundation

[The ZOLL® Foundation](#) supports research in resuscitation and acute critical care and focus on working with novice investigators. They seek projects including educational activities combined with measurement to enhance cares and early research in new therapies or techniques.

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Josiah H. Macy Foundation

Dedicated to improving education of health professionals, the [Josiah H. Macy Foundation](#) is committed to innovation in clinical learning environments. They invest in projects that promote diversity, equity, and belonging, increase collaboration among future healthcare professionals, and prepare future healthcare professionals to navigate ethical dilemmas.

There are two types of grants available through this foundation. The **Board Grants** are selected from rolling applications three times a year by the foundation board. The **President's Grants** are awarded by the president at any time they deem necessary that last one year or less in duration.

Organizations like the [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#) and the Academic Pediatric Association (APA) also offer funding for broader projects in healthcare. With various grant opportunities, from large HRSA grants to small project funding, the AAP will choose the applicable health initiative. The APA offers a [Young Investigator Awards](#) funding program to support pediatric-related projects.

LOCAL OUTREACH FOR FUNDING

After exploring resources offered by outside organizations, faculty still have some options when it comes to funding simulations in their courses and should pursue multiple avenues to extend the reach of their ask. Are there other schools nearby that you may be able to partner with to share equipment & resources? Look for partners in your community who can help! You can also reach out to clinical agencies, medical centers, etc. that you work closely with who might be interested in helping or working with you in a funding capacity. Many agencies might be interested in joining your efforts with the potential for publication and attention drawn to your program.

CONCLUSION

As we continue to teach in classrooms that are shifting and adapting to all of the changes that have come our way, innovative simulation programs can be the answer to ensuring students have strong patient experiences with opportunities to develop their clinical judgment. Buffering challenges that programs may face when it comes to sourcing funding for tools in simulation should be explored from numerous avenues.

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