



BEGIN

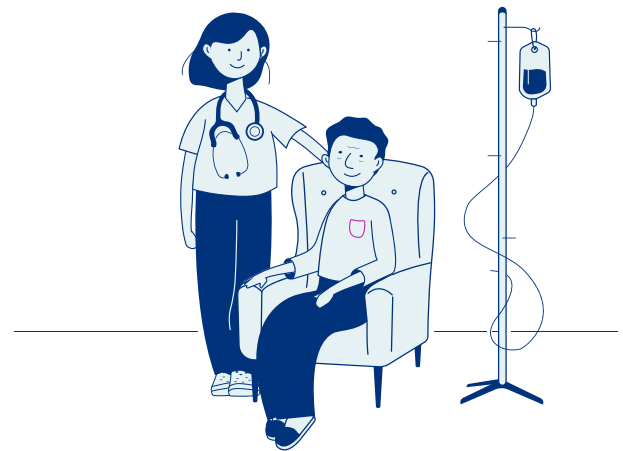
Educator Toolkit

The Bridging Educational Grant in Nursing

The Registered Practical Nurses Association of Ontario (WeRPN) is the voice of Ontario's 60,000+ Registered Practical Nurses. Since the organization was founded in 1958, WeRPN has championed the critical role of RPNs by unifying their members, listening to their needs and advocating on their behalf with government, community stakeholders and the general public.

The Bridging Educational Grant in Nursing (BEGIN) program was created by WeRPN in partnership with the Ontario Government. As part of a commitment to recruit nurses to the Long-Term Care (LTC) and Home and Community Care (HCC) sectors, BEGIN helps Personal Support Workers (PSWs) and Registered Practical Nurses (RPNs) explore new professional pathways and bridge to RPN and RN roles.

Eligible students enrolled in an accredited PSW-RPN, RPN-RN, or PSW-RN program can access BEGIN grants to reimburse their tuition and mandatory ancillary fees¹. Participants in the program will commit to a year of employment in either the LTC or HCC sector in Ontario for every year or portion of a year that they receive funding for their education (up to three years) through a Return of Service Agreement. Upon graduation, students will make a positive impact on our provincial healthcare system.



¹ Up to a yearly maximum amount

The BEGIN Program is a Partnership Between

BEGIN Tuition Grants

The Bridging Educational Grant in Nursing (BEGIN) program provides tuition reimbursement grants to eligible students enrolled in accredited PSW-RPN, RPN-RN, and PSW-RN programs. Designed in partnership with the Government of Ontario, this program aims to reduce financial barriers so that students can expand their careers and make a positive impact on our provincial healthcare system.

How much tuition will students get back?

Students who commit to post-graduation employment in Ontario's LTC or HCC sectors are eligible to receive:

PSW-RPN

Up to \$6,000 in tuition and mandatory ancillary fee reimbursement per year for every year BEGIN funding is received (maximum of \$15,000)

RPN-RN/PSW-RN

Up to \$10,000 in tuition and mandatory ancillary fee reimbursement per year for every year BEGIN funding is received (maximum of \$30,000)

BEGIN participants who demonstrate financial need may also qualify for additional funding of up to \$5,000 per year.

What happens after they graduate?

Upon graduation, students will commit to one year of employment in the LTC or HCC sector in Ontario for every year they receive funding (up to three years), through a Return of Service Agreement. WeRPN will help connect BEGIN graduates to meaningful employment opportunities in a rewarding and in-demand field.

Benefits to students:

- Tuition reimbursement grants
- Free exam preparation resources
- Post-graduation job search support
- Meaningful career opportunities in Ontario's LTC and HCC sectors

To learn more about BEGIN, visit:

begin.werpn.com

Interested in having someone from BEGIN speak to your students? Contact:

info@begin.werpn.com

BEGIN Tuition Reimbursement Grant Details

How much can students be reimbursed?

Eligible PSW-RPN students

Up to \$6,000 per year in tuition and mandatory ancillary fee reimbursements (maximum of \$15,000)

Eligible RPN-RN/PSW-RN students

Up to \$10,000 per year in tuition and mandatory ancillary fee reimbursements (maximum of \$30,000)

Does BEGIN impact OSAP funding?

BEGIN is a tuition reimbursement grant, which may impact the funding amount for students receiving OSAP. Unlike a loan, students do not need to pay back BEGIN tuition reimbursement grants, as long as they graduate* and fulfill their Return of Service.

To get an idea of how tuition grants could inform OSAP funding, use the self-directed OSAP calculator [here](#). We suggest completing the form without tuition grants listed and then completing a second form with your anticipated BEGIN tuition reimbursement amount for comparison.

**Students must complete their education by March 31, 2026.*

What is covered?

BEGIN provides funding for tuition and mandatory ancillary fees up to the maximum amount per year.

Is additional financial assistance available?

Some applicants may also qualify for additional funding of up to \$5,000 per year to help with costs such as tutoring, travel, and caring for dependents. All BEGIN participants are eligible to apply, but only those with demonstrated financial need will qualify.



How BEGIN Supports Students

Provides funding to help students expand their careers

BEGIN provides Ontario PSWs and RPNs with tuition reimbursement grants to explore new pathways in nursing, and expand their careers in Long-Term Care and Home and Community Care. Students enrolled in PSW-RPN, RPN-RN, or PSW-RN programs may be eligible to receive funding they don't need to pay back, reducing financial barriers for students to invest in their futures. Once enrolled, additional funding may be available for participants who demonstrate need or require tutoring support.

Exam preparation resources

Participants also benefit from additional resources, and are paired with a dedicated case manager to support them on their program journey. All BEGIN students will have access to no-cost online NCLEX and REx-PN exam preparation resources.

Secure career opportunities

Students who receive BEGIN funding commit to post-graduation employment in Ontario's LTC or HCC sectors. Upon graduation, participants will work one year for every year they've received BEGIN funding (up to three years). BEGIN helps connect graduates with meaningful employment opportunities in a rewarding and in-demand field.

Job search support

To aid with their job search, BEGIN participants will have access to a new graduate workshop that includes resume writing tips and interviewing skills, as well as a dedicated job board with career opportunities in Ontario's LTC and HCC sectors.

Helpful Links and Resources

Want to know more?

You can find some further Q&As on the BEGIN website [here](#).

Still have questions? Reach out at:

info@begin.werpn.com

