REGISTERED NURSES' FOUNDATION OF ONTARIO

2027

Awards & Scholarships

Brochure & Eligibility Guide

About RNFOO

The Registered Nurses' Foundation of Ontario (RNFOO) is dedicated to advancing nursing practice and supporting the health of Ontarians by providing awards and scholarships to nurses and nursing students across the province.

Through the generosity of individuals, estates, corporations, and organizations, including the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) Interest Groups, RNFOO provides financial support for nursing education and professional development.

In 2026, RNFOO distributed more than **$100,000** through its Academic Awards and Scholarships program.

Awards are available to Registered Nurses (RNs), Registered Practical Nurses (RPNs), and Nurse Practitioners (RN-ECs) pursuing diploma, undergraduate, certificate, master's, and doctoral studies.

2027 Academic Awards & Scholarships Eligibility Requirements

RNFOO awards and scholarships are available to:

- Nurses registered with the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO).
- Students enrolled in baccalaureate nursing programs accredited by the CASN Accreditation Bureau and approved by the CNO.
- Students enrolled in practical nursing programs approved by the CNO.
- Applicants currently enrolled in an eligible diploma, degree, or certificate program at an accredited institution.

Additional requirements:

- Preference is given to Ontario residents.
- Award recipients must have a valid Social Insurance Number (SIN).
- Applicants must meet the specific criteria of the award or scholarship for which they apply.

Program equivalencies: For compressed or second-entry baccalaureate programs, first-year students are considered equivalent to first- or second-year students in a traditional program. Second-year students are considered equivalent to third- or fourth-year students.
Applicants are encouraged to consult the RNFOO Awards & Scholarships Eligibility Guide for detailed award criteria.

How to Apply

Applications must be submitted online at www.rnfoo.org

Application Fee: $35
Application Opening: November 23, 2026
Application Deadline: January 25, 2027, 4pm EST

All applications and required reference letters must be received by the published deadline. Important: Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Applicants are responsible for ensuring all supporting documents and reference letters are submitted on time. The status of submitted documents can be monitored through the online applicant profile.

Learn more and apply: **www.rnfoo.org**

2027 Awards Eligibility Guide

Award / Scholarship	PN Program	Undergrad Degree - RPN to BScN	Undergrad Degree Post-Diploma RN BScN	Undergrad Degree 4yr BScN	Undergrad Degree 2nd level entry BScN	Graduate Masters Degree	Graduate Degree PhD	Research	Certification/ Certificate Program/ Special Project
Section 1 – PN Students									
Karim Moosa Memorial Scholarship	✓								
RNFOO Practical Nursing Scholarship	✓								
WeRPN RPN Program Award	✓								
Section 2 - RPN or Diploma RN to BScN									
Regina Borowska Scholarship (RPN, IEN, Post-Diploma RN)		✓	✓						
Josephine Flaherty Scholarship (RPN, Post-Diploma RN)		✓	✓						
Section 3 - PN , RPN or Diploma RN to BScN or Undergraduates									
Lucy Glass Memorial Scholarship	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Tribute Award	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Section 4 – Undergraduates									
Charlotte Noesgaard Memorial Scholarship				✓	✓				
Jennifer Award				✓	✓				
Margaret Axelson Memorial Scholarship		✓	✓	✓	✓				
Mary Brunning Harkin Scholarship		✓	✓	✓	✓				
Mildred Grace Harbour Memorial Scholarship		✓	✓	✓	✓				
Palliative Care Nurses Interest Group (PCNIG) Baccalaureate		✓	✓	✓	✓				
RNFOO Undergrad Scholarship		✓	✓	✓	✓				
Sonia Varaschin Memorial Scholarship (3rd or 4th year of Bacc program or 2nd year of Degree completion or 2nd level entry)		✓	✓	✓	✓				
Staff Nurses' Interest Group (SNIG) Scholarship for an Indigenous Student		✓	✓	✓	✓				
Dr. Vanessa Burkoski Memorial Scholarship (3rd or 4th year of the BScN program or 2nd year of 2nd level entry BScN)				✓	✓				
Section 5 – RPN or Diploma RN to BScN or Graduate									
Anne L Coghlan Scholarship		✓	✓			✓	✓		
Dorothy Ferguson Scholarship		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Evelyn Cameron Memorial Bursary (PedNIG)			✓			✓	✓		
Julie Hall Scholarship for Neuroscience Nursing			✓			✓	✓		
Ontario Nursing Informatics Group (ONIG) Scholarship			✓			✓	✓		
SE Health H.O.P.E Scholarship (nurse (RN or RPN) enrolled in bacc or grad level)		✓	✓			✓	✓		
Toronto General Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association Scholarship		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

2027 Awards Eligibility Guide

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Section 6 – Undergraduate, Graduate or Certificates									
DNIG Scholarship			✓			✓	✓		✓
DNIG Northern Students Tuition Support Award Diabetes Nursing Interest Group		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Section 7 - Graduate, Research, Certificate									
DNIG Research Award						✓	✓	✓	
Dorothy Monteith Scholarship						✓	✓		
Dorothy Wylie Scholarship						✓	✓		
Dr. Hildegard E. Peplau Award – Mental Health Nursing Interest Group (MHNIG)						✓	✓		
Janet Anderson Memorial Scholarship						✓	✓		
Dr. Joan Lesmond Memorial Scholarship						✓	✓		
Joyce Shack Memorial Bursary						✓	✓		
Karin and Richard Doan Scholarship						✓			
Lynn Kirkwood Research Award						✓	✓	✓	
NRIG Research Award						✓	✓	✓	
Palliative Care Nurses Interest Group Graduate Scholarship						✓	✓		
Research in Mental Health Award – Mental Health Nursing Interest Group (MHNIG)						✓	✓	✓	✓
RNFOO Graduate Scholarship						✓	✓		
Jones Whitcombe Childbearing Family Award						✓	✓		✓
Section 8 - PN, Undergraduate, Graduate, Research, CNA Certification, Special Project									
Chapman Harm Reduction Scholarship	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Christine Newman Memorial Scholarship in Palliative Care Education (PCNIG)		✓							✓
MHNIG Special Projects Award									✓
Diabetes Nursing Interest Group (DNIG) Special Projects in Diabetes Award									✓
WeRPN Post RPN Program Award		✓							✓

RNFOO Awards and Scholarships

Anne L. Coghlan Scholarship

Award amount: 2 × $1,000

Award description: To support a registrant of CNO (RPN, RN or NP) who is pursuing further education. Applicants must demonstrate a focus on supporting processes or change initiatives that have a significant impact on safe nursing care. Preference will be given to applicants demonstrating experience and/or interest in Nursing Regulation, Practice Standards, or Continuing Competence and Quality Assurance. Nurses who integrate the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion to ensure culturally safe practice; who demonstrate a focus on continuous quality improvement and patient safety in their practice; and who demonstrate use of evidence to prevent harm and improve patient safety are encouraged to apply.

Chapman Harm Reduction Scholarship

Award amount: 1 × $1,000

Award description: To support a practising nurse or nursing student who has demonstrated commitment to a career focus on harm reduction in the field of addictions and mental health. Applicants may be a student enrolled in a baccalaureate nursing program, or a practising nurse enrolled in an educational program at a recognized institution.

Charlotte Noesgaard Memorial Scholarship

Award amount: 2 × $2,000

Award description: The Charlotte Noesgaard scholarship is awarded to a full-time undergraduate nursing student in the third or fourth year of the BScN program, (2nd year of a 2nd level entry program), who has demonstrated excellent academic achievement and advocacy. Applicants should provide evidence of their ability to inspire and advocate for others, and their desire to pursue a career in nursing founded in evidence-based clinical practice and advocacy.

Christine Newman Memorial Scholarship in Palliative Care Education (PCNIG)

Award amount: 1 × $1,000

Award description: To support nurses pursuing CNA certification in hospice palliative care (Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Nursing Certification CHPCN), to further their commitment to the care of persons and their families facing a diagnosis that would benefit from a palliative care approach. This award is available to a practicing RN, or an RPN who is becoming an RN and who expects to be licensed as an RN in time to sit for the certification exam. Preference will be given to applicants who are members of the PCNIG. If the selected applicant is not a member, part of the scholarship will be used to secure their membership.

RNFOO Awards and Scholarships

Diabetes Nursing Interest Group (DNIG) Northern Students Tuition Support Award

Award amount: 1 × $1,000

Award description: To support a baccalaureate nursing student or a Registered Nurse who is enrolled in advanced education (certificate or degree) focusing on diabetes education/care for persons living with diabetes, and who demonstrates commitment to the cause of diabetes. Applicants must be a member of the RNAO Diabetes Nursing Interest Group, have held membership for at least one year prior to application, and be living or working in RNAO Region 11 or 122.

Diabetes Nursing Interest Group (DNIG) Research Award

Award amount: 1 × $3,000

Award description: To support a graduate level student in either a PhD, MScN or MN program who is conducting research focused on education, prevention, or management of diabetes. Applicants must have a completed research proposal that has been submitted for ethics approval. As well, applicants must be a member of the RNAO Diabetes Nursing Interest Group and have held membership for at least one year prior to application.

Diabetes Nursing Interest Group (DNIG) Scholarship

Award amount: 1 × $2,000

Award description: To support a Registered Nurse pursuing education (continuing education or degree) in the area of diabetes education and care specific to type 2 diabetes. Applicants need not be enrolled in a degree program. Preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate commitment to diabetes education and care with urban or rural communities with an Indigenous population. Nurses of Indigenous origin are encouraged to apply. Applicants must be a member of the RNAO Diabetes Nursing Interest Group and have held membership for at least one year prior to application. Evelyn Cameron Memorial Bursary – Pediatric Nurses Interest Group (PedNIG)

Diabetes Nursing Interest Group (DNIG) Special Projects in Diabetes Award

Award amount: 1 × $1,000

Award description: To support a Registered Nurse or Nurse Practitioner completing a special project focusing on diabetes. Applicants need not be enrolled in a degree program. The applicant must have proof of significant interest in diabetes research, education, and/or care, and be currently practicing, or intending to practice, in the field. As well, applicants must be a member of the RNAO Diabetes Nursing Interest Group and have held membership for at least one year prior to application. Applicants who have received a previous award from DNIG are not eligible for this award. The project description, including budget estimates, must be provided.

RNFOO Awards and Scholarships

Dorothy Ferguson Scholarship

Award amount: 1 × $1,500

Award description: To support a nursing student who is enrolled in a baccalaureate or graduate nursing degree. Applicants must demonstrate outstanding leadership potential. Preference will be given to full-time students.

Dorothy Monteith Scholarship

Award amount: 2 × $2,000

Award description: To support students enrolled in a graduate degree in nursing, with a focus on health policy, and who demonstrate outstanding leadership potential. The successful applicant may be studying full-time or part-time. submission.

Dorothy Wylie Scholarship

Award amount: 1 × $1,500

Award description: To support a student studying nursing leadership at the graduate level. Dr. Hildegard E. Peplau Award – Mental Health Nursing Interest Group (MHNIG)

Evelyn Cameron Memorial Bursary (PedNIG)

Award amount: 2 × $1,000

Award description: To support Registered Nurses who are enrolled in education at the baccalaureate or graduate level with a focus on pediatric nursing. Applicants must be members of the RNAO Pediatric Nurses Interest Group, and must demonstrate commitment to advancing the practice of pediatric nursing in Ontario.

Hildegard E. Peplau Award (MHNIG)

Award amount: 1 × $1,000

Award description: To support a student enrolled in graduate level education in psychiatric/mental health nursing. Preference will be given to those whose focus of study includes an interpersonal perspective in nurse-client, family, peer, or community relationships. Preference will be given to members of the RNAO MHNIG.

Janet Anderson Memorial Scholarship

Award amount: 1 × $1,000

Award description: To support a student enrolled in a graduate-level nursing program with a focus on quality and improving the patient experience. Preference will be given to applicants with demonstrated leadership in nursing and with Caribbean heritage.

RNFOO Awards and Scholarships

Jennifer Award

Award amount: 5 × $1,500

Award description: To provide opportunities to baccalaureate nursing students who are in the 3rd or 4th year of a basic program or 2nd year of a second level entry program, to complete their degree. Applicants must demonstrate outstanding potential and contribution to the fields of child and family, oncological, or mental health nursing.

Joan Lesmond Memorial Scholarship

Award amount: 1 × $2,500

Award description: Sponsored by SE Health to support a Registered Nurse who is studying diversity at the graduate level. Applicants should demonstrate that their studies are focused on equity and inclusion in the nursing field.

Jones Whitcombe Childbearing Family Award

Award amount: 1 × $1,000

Award description: The Jones Whitcombe Childbearing Family Award, with a value of $1,000, will be awarded to a student enrolled in a Graduate Nursing Program at a recognized School of Nursing who has demonstrated commitment to the field of nursing care of the childbearing family.

Josephine Flaherty Scholarship

Award amount: 1 × $1,000

Award description: To support a Post-Diploma Registered Nurse or a Registered Practical Nurse enrolled in baccalaureate education. Preference will be given to those applicants who demonstrate active volunteerism.

Joyce Shack Memorial Bursary

Award amount: 1 × $1,200

Award description: To support a student enrolled in a graduate level program whose career goals are focused on nursing administration. Preference will be given to students who demonstrate active involvement and leadership in the community. Partnerships Donor-Centered Stewardship Inclusiveness Collaboration Accountability

Julie Hall Scholarship for Neuroscience Nursing

Award amount: 2 × $1,500

Award description: To support Registered Nurses enrolled in education at the baccalaureate or graduate level with an interest in neuroscience nursing. Applicants may be involved in any area of neuroscience across the lifespan and the continuum of care. Applicants must demonstrate excellence in neuroscience nursing and indicate how they contribute to the advancement of clinical practice, education, or research within this specialty.

RNFOO Awards and Scholarships

Karim Moosa Memorial Scholarship

Award amount: 1 × $1,500

Award description: To support a student enrolled in a Practical Nursing program at an Ontario College. The winner of this award will demonstrate deep care and compassion, and a commitment to working with the elderly population.

Karin and Richard Doan Scholarship

Award amount: 1 × $1,500

Award description: To support a student enrolled in a Nurse Practitioner Program at a recognized School of Nursing who has demonstrated commitment to mental health nursing.

Lucy Glass Memorial Scholarship

Award amount: 1 × $1,000

Award description: Recognizing Lucy's experience of undertaking her training as a nurse after many years away from formal education, this scholarship will be awarded to a student enrolled in a PN or BScN program after a significant interval away from formal education.

Lynn Kirkwood Research Award

Award amount: 1 × $3,000

Award description: To support research into the practice of Nursing Practitioners (NP), this scholarship is awarded to graduate level students who are: Researching the practice of Nurse Practitioners in Canada (applicant does not need to be an NP), OR Nurse Practitioners pursuing graduate studies and conducting research focused on the role and/or domains of practice for Nurse Practitioners (once REB approval has been achieved).

Margaret Axelson Memorial Scholarship

Award amount: 1 × $1,000

Award description: To support a student enrolled in a Baccalaureate program at a recognized School of Nursing who demonstrates commitment to being a strong team player.

Mary Brunning Harkin Scholarship

Award amount: 2 × $1,500

Award description: To support a Registered Nurse or Registered Practical Nurse studying at the baccalaureate level, or a nursing student in their 3rd or 4th year. Applicants must show that their career path is dedicated to care of the elderly.

RNFOO Awards and Scholarships

MHNIG Special Projects Award

Award amount: 2 × $500

Award description: The MHNIG Special Project Awards provides funding for an RN practicing in a mental health setting looking to complete a special project in their workplace. This could include a quality improvement initiative, addressing a gap in service, or overcoming a barrier where it's hard to obtain institutional funding. Examples may involve purchasing supplies for new or enhanced client-related interventions, a piece of equipment or resource to streamline care delivery, or materials for a new therapeutic group program.

Mildred Grace Harbour Memorial Scholarship

Award amount: 1 × $1,500

Award description: To support a full-time student enrolled in a baccalaureate program leading to a Registered Nurse designation. Applicants should provide evidence of their ability to inspire others, and their practice of caring above and beyond standard expectations.

Nursing Research Interest Group (NRIG) Award

Award amount: 1 × $1,000

Award description: To support a graduate nursing student who is currently completing thesis-based research (MScN, PhD). Applicants must be members of the RNAO Nursing Research Interest Group for a minimum of two years, and submit a complete research proposal. NRIG encourages the winner of the award to attend the RNFOO Gala (held in May) and NRIG Annual General Meeting (held in August).

Ontario Nursing Informatics Group (ONIG) Scholarship

Award amount: 1 × $1,500

Award description: To support a Registered Nurse or Registered Practical Nurse who is enrolled in continuing education with a focus on informatics and/or digital health. Preference will be given to members of the ONIG.

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Palliative Care Nurses Interest Group (PCNIG) Baccalaureate Scholarship

Award amount: 1 × $1,000

Award description: To support a student enrolled in a baccalaureate/ bridging nursing program. Applicants should be able to demonstrate an interest in or understanding of the challenges faced by marginalized communities needing palliative care. Preference will be given to those who are members of PCNIG and have completed at least 50% of their program.

RNFOO Awards and Scholarships

Palliative Care Nurses Interest Group (PCNIG) Graduate Scholarship

Award amount: 1 × $2,000

Award description: To support a part-time or full-time graduate student (Nurse Practitioner, Masters, PhD, Clinical Doctorate) studying an aspect of palliative care. Applicants must be involved in and demonstrate excellence in any area of palliative care across the lifespan and continuum of care, and indicate how they contribute to the advancement of clinical practice, education, or research in this clinical specialty. Preference will be given to applicants who are members of PCNIG.

Regina Borowska Scholarship

Award amount: 10 × $1,000

Award description: To support RPNs and Internationally Educated Nurses enrolled in a baccalaureate nursing program. Preference will be given to PostDiploma RNs, and RPNs who demonstrate potential to contribute to the advancement of nursing.

Research in Mental Health Nursing Award (MHNIG)

Award amount: 2 × $1,500

Award description: To support a Registered Nurse (RN) completing research in the field of mental health nursing. Preference will be given to RNs who possess current CNA Certification in Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing, whose research is focused on the advancement of mental health nursing practice and who are members of the MHNIG. Applicants must have a completed nursing research proposal including a dissemination plan. Funding received from the MHNIG for this project should be acknowledged in any publications or presentations that result from the project. Upon completion of research, a report of results must be submitted to RNFOO and MHNIG. This report will be published in the MHNIG newsletter. submission.

RNFOO Graduate Scholarship

Award amount: TBD x $1,000

Award description: To support nursing students in a Graduate Nursing program. Applicants must demonstrate high academic standing and potential to make outstanding contributions to nursing.

RNFOO Legacy Award

Award amount: 3 × $1,000

Award description: The RNFOO Legacy Award recognizes up to three nurse mentors who have made a meaningful impact in supporting and guiding the next generation of nurses. Mentorship is a cornerstone of professional development, fostering confidence, growth, and excellence in practice. Awards of $1,000 are available in the RPN, Staff Nurse (RN), and Advanced Practice / Management categories. Recipients are selected through a combined nomination and application process, with letters of support attesting to the applicant's mentorship contributions. Funding is to be used for professional development opportunities within 18 months of the award. There is no application fee.

RNFOO Awards and Scholarships

RNFOO Nursing Innovation Grant

Award amount: 1 grant (offers funding of up to $10,000)

Award description: The new RNFOO Nursing Innovation Grant (NIG) is a follow-up program to the RNFOO Nurse Innovator Award which was designed and built to enable, encourage, support and celebrate nursing innovation.

The NIG offers funding of up to $10,000 to an individual nurse or a nurse-led team that has a new and original idea, method, program and/or service that will enhance nursing practice, nursing education, or the nursing work environment.

The original program was spearheaded by the Honorary Life Members of RNFOO. Between 2019 and 2023, more than $400,000 was distributed to support nurse-led innovation projects. Interim funding for the new Nursing Innovation Grants comes from individual donors (many of whom were Founding Donors of the original NIA program) and a very generous donation received from the Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario (IBAO).

RNFOO Tribute Award

Award amount: 10 × $1,000

Award description: The RNFOO Tribute Scholarship is made available through donations received to honour or in memory of individuals over the prior year. The Scholarship is open to nursing students (PN and BScN programs) who have completed at least 50% of the program in which they are registered, who demonstrate excellence in clinical nursing care, and describe a strong commitment to their future professional goals. Donations to this award this past year were received in memory of Cornelia Bervoets, Agnes Belyea, Teresa Foran, Darla Vrbanic, Sheila Ellison and Marjorie Christner.

RNFOO Undergrad Scholarship PN Program

Award amount: TBD x $1,000

Award description: To support nursing students in a Practical Nursing program. Applicants must demonstrate high academic standing and potential to make outstanding contributions to nursing.

RNFOO Undergraduate Scholarship Baccalaureate

Award amount: TBD x $1,000

Award description: To support nursing students in a Baccalaureate Nursing program. Applicants must demonstrate high academic standing and potential to make outstanding contributions to nursing.

RNFOO Awards and Scholarships

SE Health H.O.P.E. Scholarship

Award amount: 1 × $2,500

Award description: To support a nurse (RN or RPN) who is enrolled in education at the baccalaureate or graduate level. Applicants must show that their career path is dedicated to the principles of the H.O.P.E. Model® (Home, Opportunity, People, Empowerment) in Community Nursing. Requirements for transcripts have changed this year. However, if you applied in previous years, and submitted official transcripts for previously completed programs, you can check with the RNFOO office to determine whether those documents are available.

Sonia Varaschin Memorial Scholarship

Award amount: 1 × $1,000

Award description: To support a baccalaureate nursing student in 3rd or 4th year who has demonstrated leadership and a passion for making a difference toward healthy work environments.

Staff Nurse Interest Group (SNIG) Scholarship for an Indigenous Student

Award amount: 1 × $1,000

Award description: To support an Indigenous student enrolled in a baccalaureate nursing program. Applicants should demonstrate an understanding of the experiences, priorities and health needs of Indigenous communities. Preference will be given to full-time students who have completed at least 50% of their program.

Toronto General Hospital, School of Nursing Alumnae Association Scholarship

Award amount: 4 × $1,000

Award description: To support nursing students pursuing education at the baccalaureate or graduate level. Applicants must demonstrate outstanding potential and/or contributions to their chosen area of practice.

Vanessa Burkoski Memorial Scholarship

Award amount: 1 × $2,000

Award description: Awarded to a full-time undergraduate nursing student who has demonstrated excellent academic achievements and advocacy in the 3rd or 4th year of the BScN program (2nd year of a 2nd level entry program). Applicants should provide evidence of their ability to inspire and advocate for others, and their desire to pursue a career in nursing founded in evidence-based clinical practice and policy/ advocacy.

RNFOO Awards and Scholarships

WeRPN: Post RPN Program Award

Award amount: 1 × $1,000

Award description: To support a Registered Practical Nurse pursuing ongoing education (Continuing Education or RPN to RN Bridging Program) that will enhance patient care and patient outcomes. Applicants need not be enrolled in a degree program. Applicants must demonstrate a patient-centred approach to care.

WeRPN: RPN Program Award

Award amount: 1 × $1,000

Award description: To support a student enrolled in a Practical Nursing education program. Applicants must demonstrate high academic standing and a patient-centred approach to care. Preference will be given to a full-time student.