

**Consideration of Partial Refund of the Application Fee
for A New Nursing Program Proposal**

Summary:

In response to the discussion among Board members' regarding application fees for new nursing program proposals, Board Staff suggest the following option for consideration by the Board:

- 1) Maintain the required application fee of \$2500 for all proposals.
- 2) After the first proposal is reviewed by at least two (2) education consultants within two (2) weeks of receipt in Board office, refund \$1250 to programs when the proposal is unacceptable (i.e., the proposal does not include essential elements such as qualified director and faculty, contracted clinical experiences for students, adequate resources, and curriculum that meets rule requirements).
- 3) If the program wishes to continue with proposal development and the proposal reaches an acceptable state, a fee of \$1250 must be submitted to the Board prior to presentation to the Board at a regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Pros and Cons:

Pros:

- Maintains the initial application fee for all proposals.
- Retains \$1250 to cover the cost of processing the proposal and providing the initial review.
- Provides an opportunity for programs to abandon the plan to submit a proposal without loss of the total application fee.
- May deter programs from continuing when they have inadequate resources.
- Eliminates a feeling of obligation on the part of Board Staff related to the expense to the program.

Cons:

- Requires a partial refund to be issued by the Board.

Staff Recommendation:

To refund \$1250 of the new proposal application fee to programs when a proposal is unacceptable. If the program proceeds with proposal development, they must repay the \$1250 when the proposal is considered ready for presentation to the Board at a regularly scheduled Board meeting.