

DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

Memorandum

Date: March 8, 2021

From: Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Patient Care Services/Chief Nursing Officer (12)

Subj: Registered Nurse Transition to Practice/Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Learning Opportunities Residency Initiative (RNTTP) (VIEWS 4632156)

To: Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) Directors (10N1-23)

1. The Office of Nursing Services (ONS) and Workforce Management and Consulting (WMC) have partnered on an initiative to attract new graduate nurses to manage the COVID-19 pandemic response and Fourth Mission assignments. The purpose of this initiative is to allocate fiscal year 2021 (FY 2021) funding to increase recruitment and retention of direct care staff. This will be accomplished by supporting the salaries of VA Learning Opportunities Residency (VALOR) students, Student Nurse Technicians (SNT), and Graduate Nurse Technicians (GNT), to bridge the transition to the RNTTP Program. Non-direct patient care costs will be funded in accordance with VHA Directive 1077: *RNTTP Residency Program for RNTTP residents*.

2. VA Medical Facilities (VAMC) interested in receiving additional funding are asked to identify a facility Point of Contact and complete a formal request via the following link: <https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/VACOVHAONS/public/SitePages/RNTTP-VALOR-Initiative.aspx>.

3. Initiative funding options for FY 2021 are listed below (more than one option may be selected):

- Current RNTTP residents
- Additional RNTTP residents (for positions above current funded residents)
- Current or newly hired SNTs
- Current or newly hired GNTs

4. Local VALOR requests will be initiated by facility VALOR Coordinators and approved by WMC representatives. Important note: VAMCs must complete the Confirmation of Commitment to hire SNTs and VALOR residents within the above link. Requests for funding support should be submitted **no later than two weeks** from the date of this memorandum.

5. Should you have further questions, please have a member of your staff contact Kim DeMasi, DNP, RN, NPD-BC, NE-BC, LADC, RNTTP Program Manager, ONS at Kim.DeMasi@va.gov or Patrick Youngblood, DBA, SPHR, VALOR Program Manager, WMC at Patrick.Youngblood@va.gov.

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