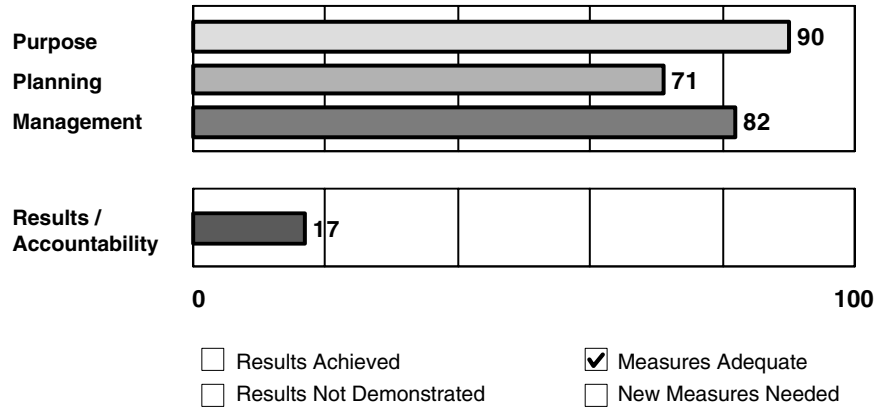


**Program:** *Nursing Education Loan Repayment and Scholarship Program*

**Agency:** *Department of Health and Human Services*

**Bureau:** *Health Resources and Services Administration*



**Key Performance Measures**

**Year Target Actual**

Measure Description	Year	Target	Actual
Long-term Measure: Number of individuals enrolled nationwide in nurse education and training programs compared with 2004 (Increasing enrollment in these programs can help prevent or reduce a shortage of nurses in the health care system.) (New measure, baseline under development)	2010	+10%	
Annual Measure: Percentage of program participants that serve in nursing homes, hospitals that provide care to a disproportionate number of low-income patients under Medicare and Medicaid, and public health departments and clinics compared with 2003 (New measure, baseline under development)	2004	+10%	
Annual Measure: Percentage of participants who remain employed at the health facility for at least a year after completing their federal service contract (New measure, baseline under development)	2004	+10%	

**Rating:** *Adequate*

**Program Type:** *Competitive Grants*

**Program Summary:**

The Nursing Education Loan Repayment and Scholarship program provides loan repayment awards to nurses in exchange for a commitment to serve in health facilities facing a nursing shortage.

The assessment found:

1. The program directly places registered nurses in facilities that are short of nurses. Research has found health care quality and patient outcomes appear to be impacted by the number of nurses working in the facility relative to the number of patients in their care.
2. The program's national impact on nurse vacancies and staffing is not known. Selecting an outcome measure on a large problem is difficult for a relatively small program such as this one. Further work is needed to improve the measurement of key outcomes.
3. Participating nurses are repaying their loans and serving in eligible facilities.
4. While the program has adopted new performance benchmarks, it does not have data to show progress.
5. An evaluation of program results could be useful to target resources and make other decisions, but no evaluations have been conducted and no other evidence is available to indicate the program's overall impact.

In response to these findings, the Administration:

1. Proposes an increase of \$12 million above the 2003 President's Budget for loan repayment awards and newly authorized scholarships by redirecting resources from advanced nursing education activities that do not increase the supply of practicing nurses.
2. Will maximize the impact of the program by targeting providers to nursing homes, hospitals that serve a disproportionate number of low-income patients under Medicare and Medicaid, and other priority health facilities.
3. Will conduct an evaluation of the program's impact, develop outcome measures, and begin to track performance against newly adopted benchmarks by developing a baseline and refining performance targets.

(For more information on this program, please see the Department of Health and Human Services chapter in the Budget volume.)

**Program Funding Level (in millions of dollars)**

<u>2002 Actual</u>	<u>2003 Estimate</u>	<u>2004 Estimate</u>
10	15	27