Scientific Research is crucial to developing evidence-based nursing regulation and building regulatory expertise, and, like all research, it all begins with funding.

NCSBN is a non-profit organization, which enables boards of nursing to work together to advance regulation for public health, safety and welfare. The Center for Regulatory Excellence grant program is one of the more visible ways the organization supports this vision.

The C-R-E is the only grant program in the U.S. that focuses on advancing the science of nursing policy and regulation. By funding grants up to 300-thousand dollars, it allows recipients to conduct robust and comprehensive research studies.

Boards of Nursing and policy-makers need a scientific basis for their decisions. The C-R-E program has funded dozens of research studies that have contributed evidence to better inform policy development.

Past recipients include nurse and non-nurse investigators from health care organizations, prestigious universities from around the world and many U.S. Boards of Nursing.

Our state was facing a major problem providing care to schoolchildren with diabetes. The South Dakota board was asked if we would support delegating diabetes care to unlicensed personnel. We decided we needed to study the safety of delegating insulin administration and focused on the school setting. We had a model that we wanted to develop and test, so we wrote the proposal based on that. The CRE proposal guidelines are very clear, so following them helped us while developing our proposal. If you have a pressing need you want to investigate, writing the grant proposal is well worth the effort.

All recipients are invited to publish their findings in the Journal of Nursing Regulation and other peer-reviewed journals and present at the NCSBN Scientific Symposium. This helps in disseminating the results throughout the nursing regulation community.

Policy research is critical because it is one of the ways we affect quality outcomes. If we don’t look at policies that enable the use and implementation of evidence based practice then we’re not going to get to the outcome we want which is safe and effective public health. The CRE is one of the only programs out there funding policy research that will inform better quality of practice.
((Maryann))
All applicants are encouraged to take advantage of pre-application consulting to help focus their proposals and gain insight into NCSBN’s current research priorities.

((Julie Sochalski))
It was important to carefully read, to discuss with our collaborators, and to understand the requirements of the grant before we started writing it. You need to frame your proposal so it shows how your research impacts nursing regulation.

It’s important for researchers who want to apply for a CRE grant to start thinking early about the critical questions you hope to address with your study. You should talk to your colleagues and others to figure out how to translate a problem into a policy-focused research question and proposal. It’s those conversations that help you say ‘oh yeah now I can see the policy significance. And how to better describe the problem within those larger policy and quality outcome questions.

((Maryann))
Once submitted, the grant proposals are evaluated by a scientific review panel.

((Maryann))
The panel rates proposals based on their significance, innovation and contribution to the nursing regulation field. They look for well-written grant proposals that have:

- a clearly stated research problem
- a detailed explanation of how the research advances the science of nursing regulation
- a literature review that describes how the proposed research will fit into the existing body of Knowledge
- a clear outline of the design and proposed statistical analysis of results.
- and a well thought out budget that is in line with the proposed research
((Maryann))
NCSBN offers two rounds of funding each year. Submissions are due in April and October. Recipients have up to two years to complete their projects.

((David))
Research studies conducted by past grant recipients have had important impacts on nursing regulation.

((Gloria Damgaard))
The CRE grant allowed us to hire clinical, research and technology consultants and develop training materials. It really paid for everything except the technology itself.

Using tele-health equipment, virtual nurses trained unlicensed personnel to care for children with diabetes, including the administration of insulin. Our study showed that the virtual model of delegation was a safe and effective way to improve access to care. In the end our research provided evidence to support policy changes. We now have a state-wide diabetes training and testing program and registry.

((Maryann))
Those interested in applying for a grant can find specific proposal guidelines, research priorities and other helpful FAQs on NCSBN’s website. You can also email us if you have specific questions or would like to set-up a consultation.

((David))
We are excited to see what the next innovative research questions will be, resulting in studies that will help build the body of knowledge in nursing regulation!