

**Summary of the Nursing Preceptor Working Group Action Plan**  
**(Act 183 Sec. 21)**

**Overview**

As directed by Act 183, the Office of the Director of Healthcare Reform convened a working group of stakeholders to identify ways to increase clinical placement opportunities for nursing students in Vermont nursing school programs, establish sustainable funding models for nurses serving as preceptors, and develop an action plan for implementing the two previously mentioned objectives. The group compiled recommendations that represent the Action Plan.

**Recommendations**

A main barrier for students in finding a clinical placement is navigating the heterogeneous application process. It is recommended that an ongoing working group be established to develop standardized clinical mandates and contracts and to assess the feasibility of a statewide Centralized Clinical Placement Platform.

Remote Learning can complement in-person clinical training and allow programs to expand enrollment. Implementation of remote learning varies by setting, so the working group recommends that the Office of Professional Regulation develop standards for remote learning to ensure that students receive consistent experiences. The group also recommends that Vermont nursing schools ensure that more faculty be trained in simulation nursing.

To improve the quality and accessibility of clinical training, the working group recommends a study be done concerning past and current clinical precepting pilot sites in Vermont and what mechanisms could incentivize the take-up of pilots in Vermont.

Concerning the \$400k appropriated for incentive grants to nurse preceptors, the group recommends that a new funding source be developed to allow more flexible distribution, the list of applicable sites be expanded to include non-critical access hospitals, and consideration be given on how to support preceptors who are training non-student new hires.

To improve access to federal grants which could assist the implementation of the aforementioned recommendations, Vermont nursing programs and clinical sites should develop a framework for submitting joint grant applications.