Fact Sheet: Nurses for Tomorrow

Overview
Nurses for Tomorrow is an innovative initiative created by the Independence Blue Cross Foundation as part of a broader strategy to enhance health care delivery by supporting nursing education and the development of future nurses.

Goals
- Increase the number of licensed practice nurses, nursing educators, and advanced practice nurses specializing in primary care and geriatrics in southeastern Pennsylvania.
- Promote innovation in nursing education.
- Influence public policy on critical issues for the nursing profession.

What the program supports
- Nurses for Tomorrow supports scholarships for undergraduate and graduate nursing students pursuing degrees in nursing education, primary care, or geriatric care who are enrolled at qualified nursing programs in the southeastern Pennsylvania five-county region.

Why the IBC Foundation supports Nurses for Tomorrow
- According to the American Hospital Association, the national vacancy rate for registered nurses is 8.1%. Many more trained nurses are needed to fill this serious gap.
- Nurses for Tomorrow promotes the critical role nurses play as an ally with physicians and other health care providers in improving the quality of health care.
- Health care experts expect nurses to make important contributions in the transformation of the health care system under health care reform.
- In the future, nurses will continue to have a greater and more influential role in how health care is delivered. They are increasingly on the front-lines for providing primary care, as evidenced by the increase in new licensed nurse practitioners each year. Adequate education and training are critical to ensuring future nurses have the skills and experience they need to provide quality care.

Who should apply
- The Foundation accepts grant applications from all accredited nursing programs in the five counties in southeastern Pennsylvania: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties.
- The organization must meet the general eligibility guidelines of the IBC Foundation.