

### **Remote Practicum Site Travel Stipend Policy**

The Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (WSOS) Graduate Scholarship (GRD) includes financial supports to mitigate the cost of completing a Nurse Practitioner program. Often, clinical practicum sites in medically underserved areas are far from the universities where students are enrolled. WSOS invites Scholars completing their clinical practicum 50 miles or more from their permanent residence to apply for a \$500 per term travel stipend. This travel stipend is available to WSOS GRD scholarship awardees only when training in a designated Medically Underserved Area ([MUA](#)) or Health Professional Shortage Area ([HPSA](#)).

### **Eligibility**

GRD Scholars are eligible for the travel stipend if they are placed at a designated MUA or HPSA site 50 miles or more one-way from their permanent residence. Additionally, the Scholar must be placed at the practicum site for 120 credit hours or more.

Eligible Scholars must complete an application to receive a \$500 travel stipend for a given term. A Scholar is eligible to receive the \$500 travel stipend up to 5 times during the 3-year period of the scholarship for a maximum of \$2,500.

### **Application Approval and Stipend Payment Procedure**

Applications are available in the [scholar portal](#).\* Applications are reviewed by WSOS staff. It may take up to two weeks from receipt to confirm practicum site and approve the application. Applications are due no later than two weeks before the start of the practicum term. We ask that Scholars submit their application in the WSOS scholarship portal as soon as they receive placement at a remote MUA or HPSA site.

### **Administration of Travel Stipend and Tax Implications**

After the stipend is approved, Scholars will have the option to receive an ACH (online) payment or a check. If ACH is selected, the Scholar must complete a form. Processing and payment will take about 10 days for the first stipend. Subsequent ACH payments will take less than a week to administer. Checks may take up to 2 weeks to process and arrive via USPS.

This travel stipend does not fit the IRS definition of a qualified scholarship expense per IRC §117. Qualified scholarship expenses include tuition and fees, books, supplies and equipment. As such, the travel stipend cannot be excluded from taxable income. All Scholars who are approved for this travel stipend will receive a statement during the term in which the travel stipend is disbursed that outlines all Opportunity Scholarship amounts awarded for that term and the taxable nature of this travel stipend.

\*The email for the scholar portal is the one used on the scholarship application. Use the forgot password link to get set-up with a password.