

Community Partner Informational Webinar

**Rural Nursing Education
Program - RNEP**

September 2026

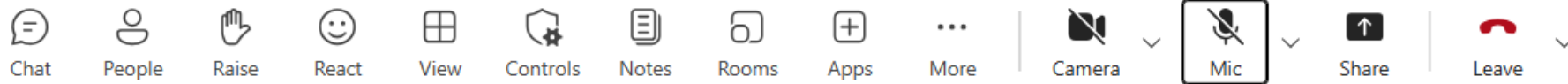


WASHINGTON
RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION



Teams Features

- 📷 **Camera** (*please only go on camera if you feel comfortable, no pressure!*)
- 🔊 **Mic** (*don't forget to mute when you're not speaking*)
- 💬 Select **Raise** button to virtually raise your hand to ask a question or share
- 👋 Select **Chat** to access the meeting conversation and ask questions.
- 😊 Select **React** to choose an emoji reaction



We will be recording this webinar. If you have any concerns, please reach out to a member of our team.



Welcome!

In the chat, please add your:

- Name
- Title
- Organization
- Email address





Webinar Objectives

- Introduce and explore RNEP Program and framework
- Review Community Partner qualifications and expectations
- Explain RNEP investments and participation benefits
- Explore Academic Partners and Student expectations
- Outline application process and timeline

Agenda



- Introductions
- Program Overview
- Community Partner Expectations
- Preceptor Expectation
- Benefits of Participation
- Program Coordinators
- RNEP Academic Partners and Students
- Student Support Specialists
- Application Overview
- How to Apply
- Looking Ahead
- Q&A



RNEP Founders



Kelly Shaw, MPH
Department of Health
RNEP Director



Brenda Senger, PhD, RN
RNEP Nurse Consultant



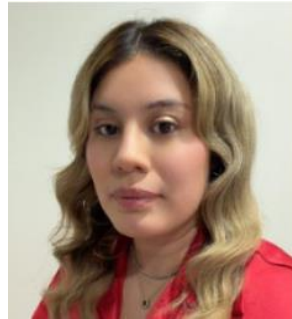
RNEP Staff



Reesa Reonal, MPH
Program Manager



Blair Glanville, MS
Administrative
Assistant



Karina Aispuro
Student Support
Specialist



Andre Dickerson, PhD
Student Support
Specialist



Kylie Allen
Program Coordinator



Leigh Kronsoble
Program Coordinator



RNEP Program Overview



RNEP Mission

To grow a strong and diverse rural nursing workforce by providing access to remote rural nursing education and training.



RNEP Vision

Establish an innovative and sustainable “grow your own” remote nursing program using transformative clinical models that foster community-based collaborations.



RNEP Goals

- Educate students to be registered nurses who want to live, work, and learn in rural communities across Washington State.
- Partner with healthcare facilities, community organizations, and educational institutions to educate nursing students.



Addressing Rural Nursing Workforce

- WA is among 10 states to face the largest RN shortages by 2038
 - Projected by the Health and Resources Services Administration (HRSA) to have the 3rd largest nursing shortage in the country
- Rural areas have fewer practicing RNs compared to urban partners

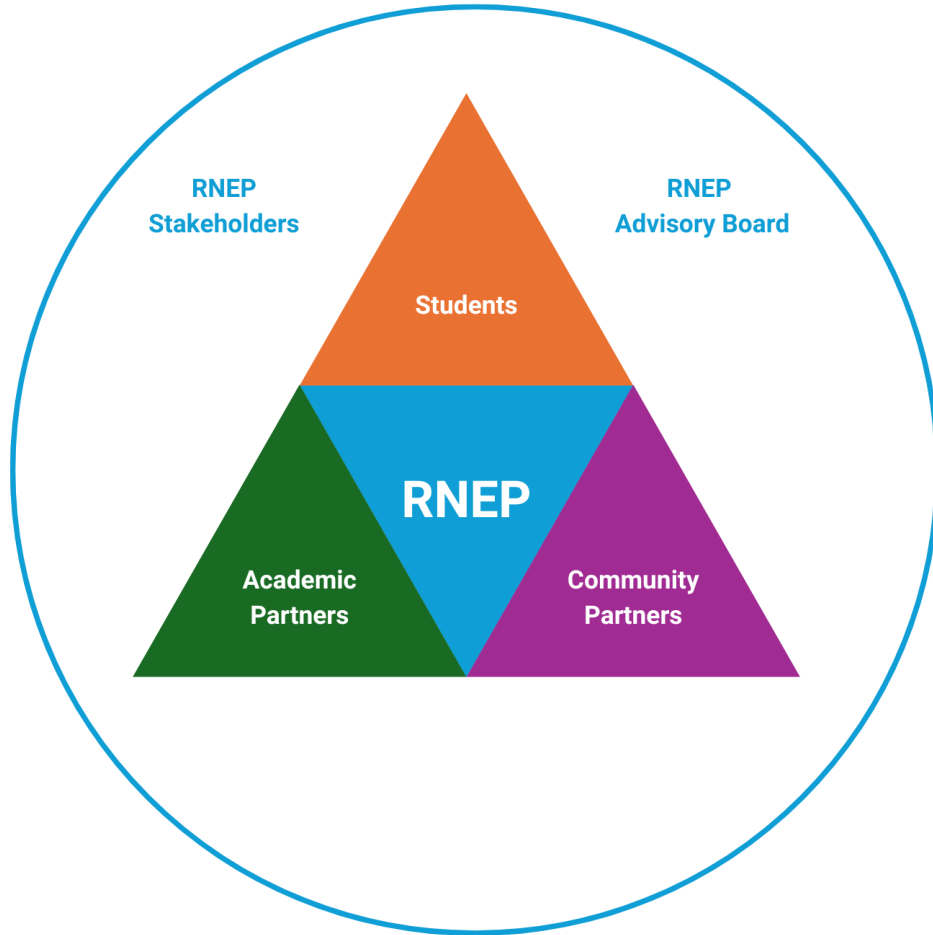
Addressing Rural Community Needs



- Limited access to nursing education programs
- Barriers for rural students:
 - Geographic location
 - Transportation
 - Childcare
 - Financial constraints
- Challenges for rural nursing education:
 - Shortage of nursing workforce to support clinical training
 - Limited preceptors and nurse faculty

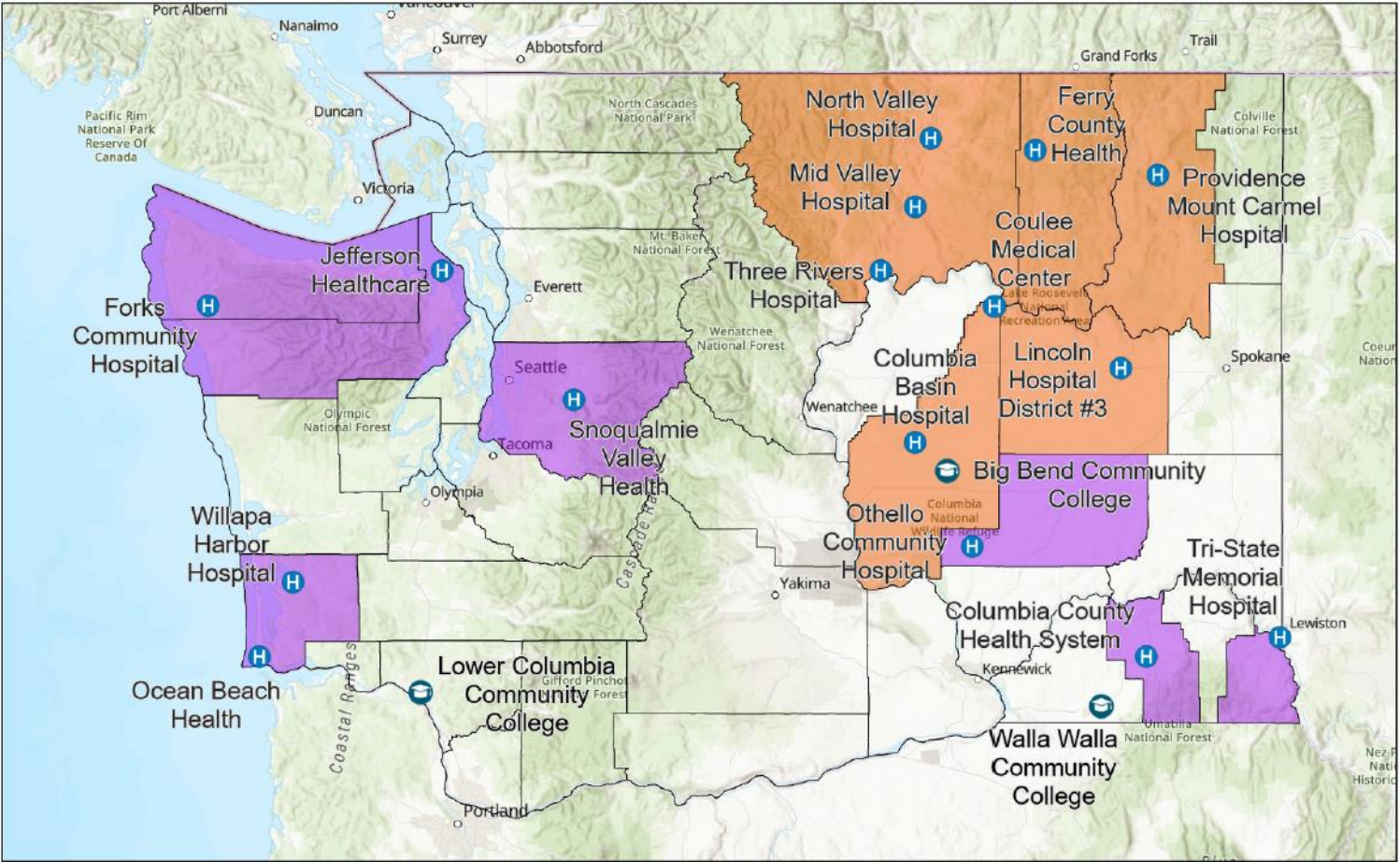


Framework



- Students
- Academic Partners
- Rural Community Partners
- Also involves partnership with Washington Board of Nursing (WABON)

Rural Nursing Education Program Community & Academic Partners Map



July 16, 2026

-  Academic Partner
-  Community Partner
-  RNEP Western & SE Region
-  RNEP Central & NE Region

0 25 50 100 Miles



Community Partners



Community Partner Expectations



RNEP Community Partners will:

- Identify, nominate, and support at least two potential students for participation RNEP.
- Enter into an affiliation agreement with participating RNEP academic partners.
- Collaborate with RNEP staff, academic partners regarding curriculum, clinical training, and program requirements.
- Support RNEP students by providing flexible scheduling, as feasible, to allow participation in required classes, RNEP meetings, and other program activities.
- Provide appropriate onsite space and a reliable internet connection ([at least 30 mb](#)) to support studying, VR simulation, telepresence robots, and other RNEP activities.
- Provide onsite clinical training opportunities for RNEP students in alignment with nursing program requirements. When clinical training requirements cannot be met onsite, work with RNEP staff and academic partners to identify appropriate community-based clinical training sites.

Community Partner Expectations (cont'd)



RNEP Community Partners will:

- Identify at least one qualified nursing staff member per RNEP student who is willing to serve as a preceptor.
- Support designated nursing staff in completing required online RNEP preceptor training.
- Identify at least one facility representative to participate in required monthly and quarterly RNEP Community Partner meetings.
- Participate in required RNEP surveys, evaluation activities, and other program data collection efforts.
- Actively participate in efforts to support the long-term sustainability of RNEP, including efforts to identify ongoing funding and other resources.
- Give RNEP graduates priority consideration for available Registered Nurse positions. If an appropriate position is not available, work with RNEP staff and community partners to identify other nursing employment opportunities within the community.



Preceptor Expectations

- 1:1 preceptor to student ratio
 - Backup preceptors allowed as needed
- All preceptors must complete the online RNEP Preceptor Training
 - Training is available to all incoming preceptors and facility administrators
 - RNEP will cover the preceptor training fee
- Students will follow preceptor's work schedule to minimize time constraints
- RNEP will provide a preceptor stipend quarterly to primary preceptor
 - Additionally, all preceptors in WA are eligible to apply for a [stipend](#) through WABON



Benefits of Participation: RNEP Investments



Telepresence Robots



Meta Quest 2 Headsets



SimX Application



Financial support



Individualized staff
support

RNEP Community Partner POC

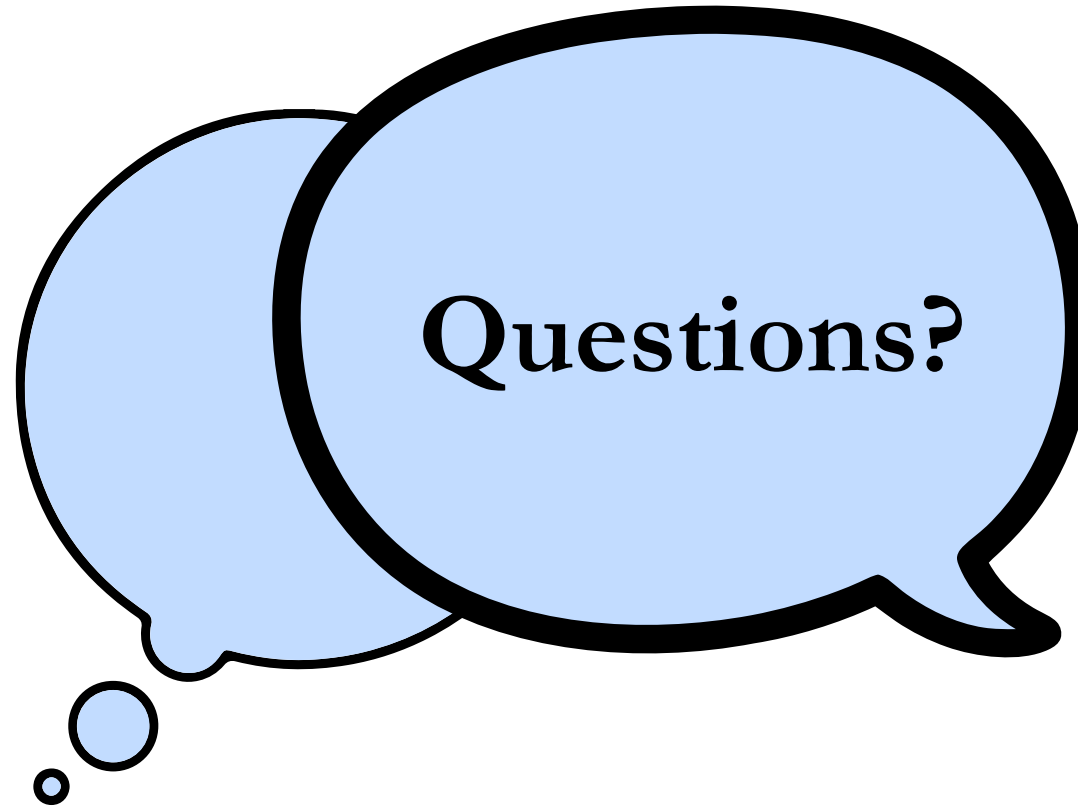


Kylie Allen –
Program
Coordinator, West
and Southeast
Region

Leigh Kronsoble –
Program
Coordinator, Central
and Northeast
Region

RNEP Program Coordinators are the main point of contact. Program Coordinators help support with:

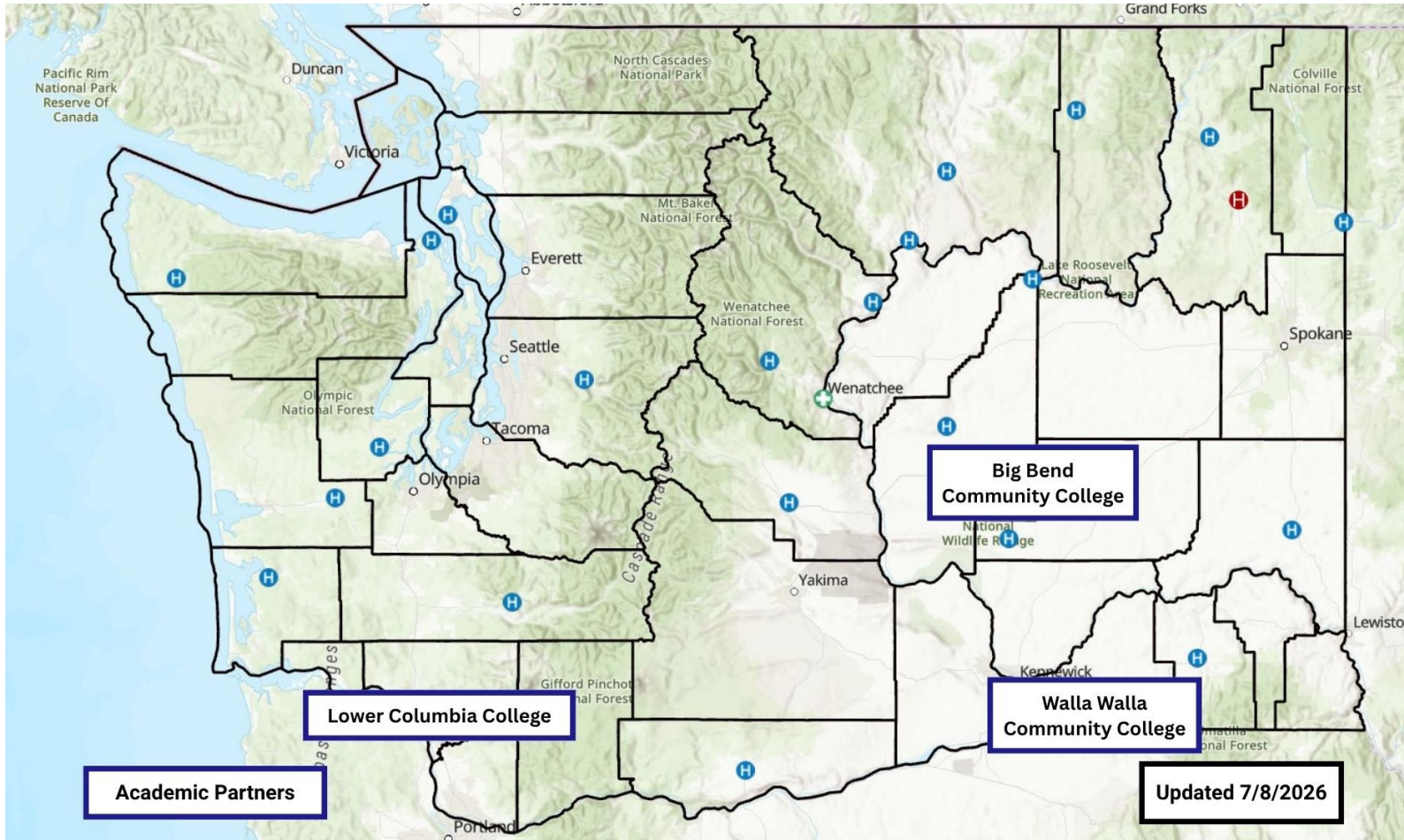
- Scheduling & facilitating monthly/ad-hoc Community Partner meetings (group & individual)
- Equipment distribution and technical assistance (Robots, SimX, Collaboration Space, etc.)
- Communicating key information from academic partners and facilitating connections with academic institutions
- Preceptor training enrollment and ongoing support
- Evolving to support you as we find opportunities for improvement and growth



Reach out to rnep@doh.wa.gov if you have any questions!



Academic Partners



Walla Walla Community College

- 100% online asynchronous curriculum
- ADN Program
 - 10 students starting in 2027
 - 10 spots open for AY 2028
- Preceptor-based training model
- Rural clinical training



Lower Columbia College



- 100% online asynchronous curriculum
- LPN to RN Program
 - 3 students starting in 2026
 - 5 students starting in 2027
 - 5 spots open
 - 4 students starting in 2028
 - 6 spots open
- ADN Program
 - 20 students starting in 2027
 - 4 spots open
 - 4 students starting in 2028
 - 20 spots open
- Preceptor-based training model and rural clinical training





RNEP Students

- Currently live in a rural community in Washington
- Currently working in a Critical Access Hospital
- Commitment to rural nursing practice after graduation
- Acceptance into community college



Student Expectations

- Live and learn locally for classes and clinical experiences, with online coursework and hands-on clinical experiences
 - 15-20 hours weekly on coursework & assignments
- Work with local hospital facility for clinical learning, mentoring and support
 - 8-12 hours weekly in clinical or skills practice, depending on semester
- Connect and communicate with Student Support Specialist for guidance with academic planning, study skills, tutoring referrals, and any other needs that arise



RNEP Student Support Specialist Role

Karina Aispuro - Big Bend
Community College & Walla Walla
Community College Students

Andre Dickerson – Lower Columbia
College Students



Promote access to online
coursework



Facilitate tuition
payments



Access to local clinical
training



Academic and
progression planning



Connection to academic
support



Standardized test prep



Travel assistance



Stipend support
(childcare, food security)



Commitment to Rural Nursing Practice

- RNEP students funded by the Rural Health Transformation Plan (RHTP) are subject to a five-year commitment
 - Students who are working while enrolled in RNEP can count years taking pre-requisites and in nursing school (2-4 years)
- Students will need to sign an agreement form with RNEP
- No information will be shared with the enforcing agency unless non-compliance occurs



RNEP Feedback

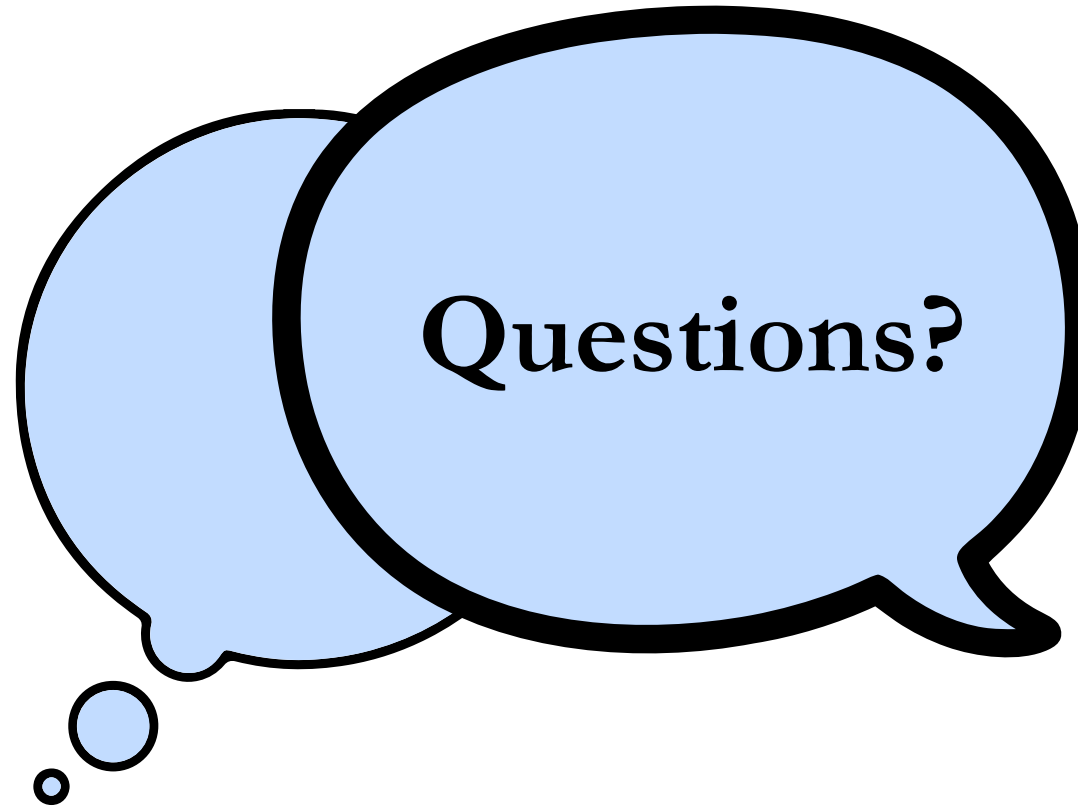
“Having the opportunity to attend school online is the only way I’m going to be able to financially take care of my family while working towards my career goals. The RNEP Program has saved me and finally given me the chance I need to become a nurse.”

- 2024-2025 RNEP student

“We are so excited to ‘grow our own’ and are so thankful for this amazing opportunity, and our students are still in disbelief that their dream will soon be a reality.”

- Critical Access Hospital Partner





Reach out to rnep@doh.wa.gov if you have any questions!



What RNEP is Looking For

- Strong organizational support
- Variety of services
- Need for workforce expansion
- Interest in partnership and need for coordination between preceptors, students and academic institution
- Have employees interested in becoming RN's
- Support resources for students, ex. flexible scheduling
- Have nurses who want to be preceptors that are willing to complete the RNEP preceptor training
- Commitment to "grow your own" rural nursing workforce

Application Overview



- Review of Community Partner expectations
- Section 1: Organization Information
 - Facility information (Address, contact information)
 - Staffing and capacity information (related to RNs)
- Section 2: Service information
 - Services available at your facility and any associated clinics or affiliated partners
- Section 3: Workforce development & education support
- Section 4: Interest in RNEP partnership (Short-answer)
 - Commitment to "grow your own" model
- Contact information (for RNEP)



Application Form



Rural Nursing Education Program (RNEP) Community Partner Application

Thank you for your interest in partnering with the Rural Nursing Education Program (RNEP). RNEP works collaboratively with academic institutions of higher education and rural health care employers to expand access to nursing education and strengthen the nursing workforce across rural Washington State.

If you have any questions about this application, please reach out to rnep@doh.wa.gov.

Application due Friday, October 2, 2026 by 5pm.

[Returning?](#)

AAA



Section 1: Organization Information

Facility Name:

** must provide value*

Facility Street Address:

** must provide value*

Mailing Address:

(If different than facility address)

City:

** must provide value*

County:

** must provide value*

How to Apply



- Gather information needed for application
 - SWV# & TIN (for financial support)
 - Average daily census
 - FTE of traveling RNs
 - FTE of employed RNs – Associate/Bachelor's and graduate degree
 - FTE of LPNs
 - FTE of RN vacancies & duration
 - Available services and supports at your facility
- Identify individuals to serve as primary and secondary RNEP contacts
- Complete the application form
 - For application issues or questions, contact RNEP@doh.wa.gov
- **APPLICATION DUE: Friday, October 2 by 5:00 pm**



Looking Ahead



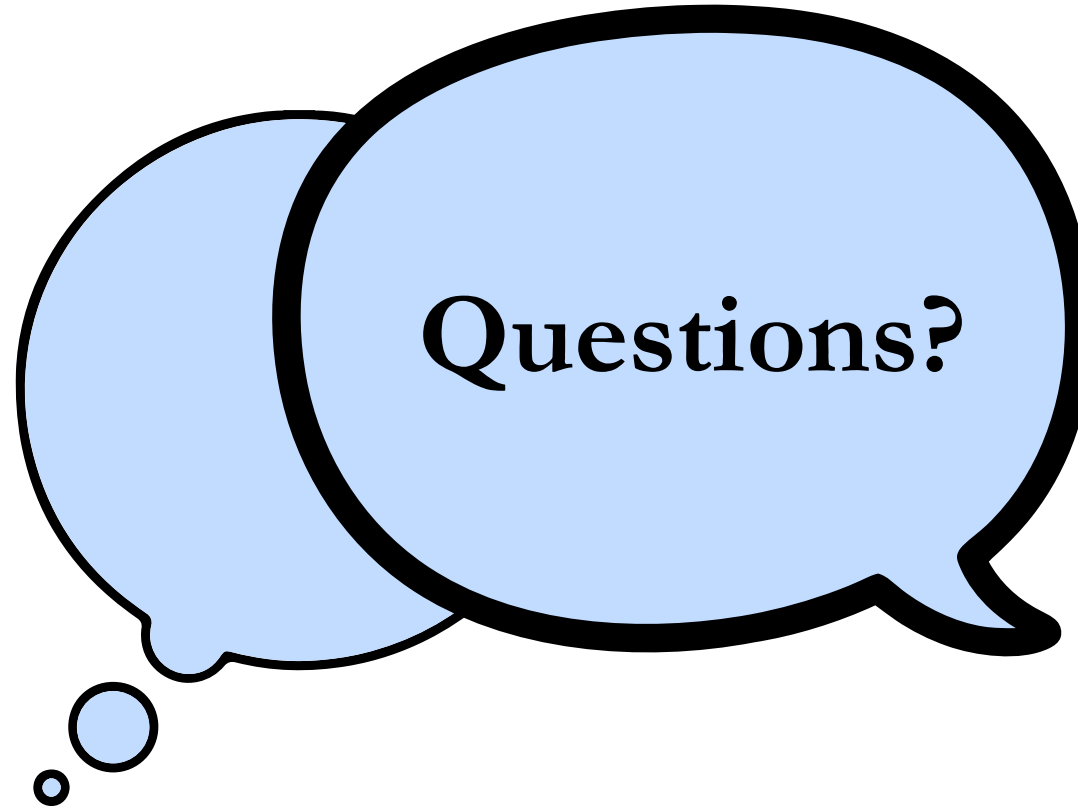
2026

- Community Partner Application (*now open*)
 - **DUE: Friday, October 2 by 5:00pm**
- Community Partner selections announced: **by end of October**
 - If selected, student nominations due: **by end of January 2027**



RNEP Staff Contact Information

- Kelly Shaw, MPH - Director - kelly.shaw@doh.wa.gov
- Reesa Reonal, MPH - Program Manager - reesamarie.reonal@doh.wa.gov
- Blair Glanville, MS - Administrative Assistant - blair.glanville@doh.wa.gov
- Karina Aispuro - Student Support Specialist - karina.aispuro@doh.wa.gov
- Dr. Andre Dickerson - Student Support Specialist - andre.dickerson@doh.wa.gov
- Kylie Allen - Program Coordinator (Western & SE Regions) - kylie.allen@doh.wa.gov
- Leigh Kronsnooble - Program Coordinator (Central & NE Regions)- leigh.kronsnooble@doh.wa.gov
- RNEP Website: <https://waportal.org/health-initiatives/rural-nursing-education-program>



Reach out to rnep@doh.wa.gov if you have any questions!





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This program is supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through a subaward as part of a financial assistance award of \$181,257,515.06 to the Washington State Health Care Authority with \$3,500,000 and 80 percent funded by CMS/HHS and \$914,538 and 20 percent funded by other source(s). The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CMS/HHS or the U.S. Government.

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