

(126) \$280,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and \$280,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 are provided solely for the department to contract with the central nursing resource center established in RCW 18.79.202 to facilitate communication between nursing education programs and health care facilities that offer clinical placements for the purpose of increasing clinical education and practice experiences for nursing students. The department shall contract with the central nursing resource center to:

(a) Gather data to assess current clinical placement practices, opportunities, and needs;

(b) Identify all approved nursing education programs and health care facilities that offer clinical placement opportunities in the state;

(c) Convene and facilitate quarterly stakeholder meetings between representatives from approved nursing education programs and health care facilities that offer clinical placement opportunities, and other relevant stakeholders, in order to:

(i) Connect representatives by region;

(ii) Facilitate discussions between representatives, by region, to determine:

(A) Clinical placement barriers;

(B) The number and types of clinical placement opportunities needed; and

(C) The number and types of clinical placement opportunities available; and

(iii) Develop strategies to resolve clinical placement barriers;

(d) Provide a digital message board and communication platform representatives can use to maintain ongoing communication and clinical placement needs and opportunities;

(e) Identify other policy options and recommendations to help increase the number of clinical placement opportunities, if possible; and

(f) Submit a report of findings, progress, and recommendations to the governor and appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2025.