

ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF NURSING

1123 S. University Ave., Suite 800
Little Rock, AR 72204
501.686.2700



Arkansas Department of Health

Division of Healthcare Related
Boards & Commissions

Workforce Expansion Act of 2021

As mandated by Act 725 of 2021 of the Arkansas legislative session, the Arkansas State Board of Nursing has adopted rules to waive the initial licensing fee for individuals who are covered by the Workforce Expansion Act of 2021, and who submit application for initial licensure/certification.

What is the fee waiver?

Note the following, the fee waiver:

- includes license application and temporary permit application (if requested).
- DOES NOT include exam fees paid directly to a testing vendor, criminal background check fees, license verification fees or any fee other than that previously identified.
- It is not applicable for license renewal or reinstatement.

The Arkansas State Board of Nursing shall waive the initial licensing fee if the applicant:

- A. Is receiving assistance through the Arkansas Medicaid Program; the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program (TANF); or the Lifeline Assistance Program;
- B. Was approved for unemployment within the last twelve (12) months; or
- C. Has an income that does not exceed two hundred percent (200%) of the federal poverty income guidelines.

If you receive more than one type of assistance, you will need to list them all in the comment box in your application and upload official documentation for each.

Documentation must include:

- A. Official documentation from the agency providing the benefits that you are receiving that includes your approval for benefit assistance. You must upload a current complete copy of your Notice of Action letter (benefit approval letter) from the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- B. If you marked "yes" as a result of income that does not exceed two hundred percent (200%) of the federal poverty income guidelines, you must submit a copy of your most recent tax return.

Note: Complete, official documentation **must** be uploaded to your Arkansas Nurse Portal Account as you are submitting your application.

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What is the process?

For purposes of Arkansas application, the definition of “Initial licensing fee” includes the fees associated with the following licensure/certification applications:

- APRN Initial and Endorsement Application
- LPN Initial and Endorsement Application
- LPTN Endorsement Application
- LPN Equivalency Initial by Examination Application
- Medication Assistant – Certified (MA-C) Initial and Endorsement Application
- RN Initial and Endorsement Application
- RN Internationally Education Initial and Endorsement Application
- RN/LPN Rewrite Application; or
- Temporary Permit Form.

The Workforce Expansion fee waiver request and required documentation is submitted online within the licensure application. Application for licensure/certification must be submitted before the fee waiver request will be reviewed.

We are not able to provide a timeline for review however, there will be a delay in your initial license application due to the processing time required for review of the fee waiver request.

Follow the steps for application as identified on the Arkansas State Board of Nursing website www.arsbn.org Click on the blue “Apply for Arkansas License or Certificate” box and scroll down to pick the application information link that is applicable. Read and follow the instructions for licensure application submission.

Medication Assistant-Certified applicants click on the blue “Apply for Arkansas License or Certificate” box, then click on the ASBN-Medication Assistant (Certification) link to the left of the screen. Read and follow the instructions for application submission.

Note: If your Workforce Expansion fee waiver request is approved, you will be notified through your Nurse Portal Account Message Center.

How Do I Determine Federal Poverty Level?

To determine if your household annual adjusted gross income does not exceed 200% of the federal poverty level guideline you must first identify the number of individuals in your household.

You can access the Arkansas Federal Poverty Level Calculator at

[Arkansas Federal Poverty Level Calculator](#)