



# Foundation for the future

## A bold initiative to reshape nursing and healthcare

**THROUGHOUT** the COVID-19 pandemic, nurses nationwide have been providing exemplary service under extraordinarily trying circumstances.

From the earliest days of this public health emergency, the American Nurses Foundation (the Foundation) has engaged in a series of effective initiatives to support nurses, leaning into the concept that healthier nurses lead to healthier communities. I'm grateful for all these efforts.

The Foundation's actions have aimed to provide nurses with immediate critical relief and sustain them as they process all they've risked and lost during the pandemic. Crucially, the Foundation also seeks to help rebuild systems and infrastructures, which the pandemic has exposed as inadequate to support nurses in their stressful roles.

Since its founding in 1955 as the research, education, and charitable affiliate of the American Nurses Association (ANA), the Foundation has raised funds for research, education, and clinical practice initiatives that champion the nursing profession and all of healthcare. This unique standing as a charitable organization to benefit the entire nursing profession has propelled the Foundation's activities during the COVID-19 pandemic and is guiding its efforts going forward.

One of the first actions the Foundation took as the pandemic hit was to support ANA in conducting a COVID-19 survey, which assessed more than 32,000 respondents' experiences in March and April 2020. Nearly 90% revealed they feared going to work due to lack of protection, and two-thirds reported being concerned about working without adequate nurse staffing. This endeavor blossomed into the Pulse on the Nation's Nurses COVID-19 Survey Series, an ongoing effort to assess how nurses are being affected by the pandemic. Results of these surveys have been essential in the ANA Enterprise's advocacy and public education efforts and in developing programs and services to support nurses.

Acting on the surveys' findings about nurses' extraordinary stress during the pandemic, the Foundation, in collaboration with ANA and several other nurses' associations, launched the Well-

Being Initiative, which offers resources to bolster nurses' care of others and themselves. More than 110,000 nurses have accessed these programs.

In addition, the Foundation supported ANA in mounting a series of hour-long webinars and short-form videos, which provide evidence-based information on a range of topics. With a \$2.6 million grant to Nurses House, the Foundation also gave direct financial assistance to more than 2,000 nurses in need in 45 states.

Beyond these efforts, I'm excited that the Foundation has embarked on its largest program ever—the Reimagining Nursing Initiative. This ambitious project aims to improve consumers' health outcomes by transforming nursing education, regulation, and practice.

Conceived before the pandemic began and with generous support from Kaiser Permanente National Community Benefit Fund at the East Bay Community Foundation, Omnicell, AMN Healthcare, and Salka Impact Fund, the RN Initiative is proceeding toward its goals of achieving a highly adept, diverse workforce; digitally enabled nursing practice; and nursing-led person-centric care delivery. Proposals are under consideration for pilot projects that aspire to produce practice-ready nurse graduates, integrate nurse-designed technology into practice, or demonstrate direct-reimbursement nursing models. Up to \$15 million for as many as 11 incubator ideas will be awarded in early 2022.

Before the pandemic, the Foundation had a whole-of-nursing perspective. During the pandemic it is concentrating especially on nurses' mental health and well-being. With an eye on a post-pandemic world, the Foundation now is investing to build a better future for nurses and their patients. The excitement and optimism about this effort are palpable. Join the journey at [givetonnursing.org](http://givetonnursing.org), and invite those who care about you and your excellent work to come along.



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