

Alaska faces a debilitating healthcare workforce shortage.

The combination of growth and turnover creates a need for over 7,500 new healthcare workers each year, including more than 1,500 registered nurses. And it's predicted to get worse – Alaska will have the highest nurse vacancies in the United States by 2030 with over 5,000 openings and a 22% shortfall.



What is the NLC?

The NLC is an agreement used by 39 states and jurisdictions in the U.S. that allows qualified nurses to practice across state lines with a single license. The NLC has been successfully in operation for almost 20 years.

Why should Alaska join the NLC?

The output of professionals from Alaska-based programs is nowhere near meeting demand. Alaska training programs only graduate 841 professionals for key healthcare positions. For nursing alone, Alaska programs produce just 324 graduates to fill a hole of over 1,500 openings. While the healthcare sector works to “grow our own,” these strategies will take years to play out. Joining the NLC will:

- **Get nurses to work faster** – a survey of Alaska hospitals shows that nurse openings at our facilities have ballooned to 24% and, on average, it takes 161 days to fill a position. This can drastically limit access to care and drive up costs, especially in rural Alaska. The NLC's uniform standards and best practices will help speed up licensure and placement from months to a matter of days.
- **Aid recruitment and retention** – certain nurse professionals interested in providing telehealth services to the lower 48 from Alaska to enhance income will immediately have access to nearly the whole country courtesy of the NLC. Additionally, traveling nurses interested in staying in Alaska on long-term assignments will no longer be deterred by the ultimatum of forfeiting their compact license to stay in a non-NLC state.
- **Support Alaska military families** – Alaska is home to thousands of military members on assignment, many with spouses and family who are nurses. Joining the NLC will help welcome these individuals to our state and seamlessly transition into our healthcare workforce.

Photo :Foundation Health Partners

A Coalition of Support

Over 75 organizations representing every facet of Alaska's healthcare system want legislation passed to join the NLC!

AARP | Airlift Northwest | Alaska APRN Alliance | Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities | Alaska Behavioral Health Association | Alaska Behavioral Health Services | Alaska Board of Nursing | Alaska Chamber of Commerce | Alaska Department of Commerce | Alaska Municipal League | Alaska Native Health Board | Alaska Native Medical Center | Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium | Alaska Pacific University School of Nursing | Alaska Primary Care Association | Alaska Psychiatric Institute | Alaska Public Health Association | Alaska Regional Hospital | Alaska State Medical Association | Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska | American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing | American Association of Colleges of Nursing | American Association of Occupational Health Nurses | Anchorage Chamber of Commerce | Asian American/ Pacific Islander Nurses Association | Bartlett Regional Hospital | Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation | Central Peninsula Hospital | Charter College School of Nursing | City of Seward | Cordova Community Medical Center | Denali Center Fairbanks | Emergency Nurses Association | Fairbanks Memorial Hospital | Foundation Health Partners | Fresenius Medical Care | Heritage Place | Kodiak Island Borough | Maniilaq Health Center | Maple Springs Palmer | Maple Springs Wasilla | Mat-Su Health Foundation | Mat-Su Regional Medical Center | Moda | National Council of State Boards of Nursing | National Governor's Association Center for Best Practices | National League for Nursing | National Military Family Association | National Patient Safety Foundation | National Student Nurses' Association | North Star Behavioral Health | Norton Sound Health Corporation | PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center | Petersburg Medical Center | Population Health Alliance | Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield Alaska | Prestige Care and Rehabilitation of Anchorage | Providence Alaska Medical Center | Providence Extended Care | Providence Horizon House | Providence Kodiak Island Medical Center | Providence Seward Medical Center | Providence St. Elias Specialty Hospital | Providence Transitional Care Center | Providence Valdez Medical Center | Quyanna Care Center | Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) | SEARHC Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital | SEARHC Sitka Long-Term Care | SEARHC Wrangell Medical Center | South Peninsula Hospital | Tanana Valley Clinic Fairbanks | U.S. Department of Commerce | U.S. Department of Defense | UAA School of Nursing | Wildflower Court | Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation