In the U.S., we are projected to experience a <u>shortage</u> of Registered Nurses that will only be compounded by the aging Baby Boomer generation. To help alleviate this stress and work towards healthy communities, it's important to encourage individuals to consider a career in nursing. However, skyrocketing tuition costs act as a barrier to future nurses and disproportionately affect minority populations.

With this in mind, my team at <u>Nursing.org</u> researched financial aid opportunities for nursing students and nurses who want to advance their careers. We created a pair of guides that dive into the FAFSA, scholarships, loan forgiveness programs, and more. One of them is geared specifically towards minority students, who often face greater financial hardship than their counterparts. You can check them both out below:

- Financial Aid Guide for Nurses: https://www.nursing.org/resources/financial-aid/
- Financial Aid Guide for Minority
 Students: https://www.nursing.org/resources/financial-aid-for-minority-students/

We also created a resource for nurses in Oklahoma and Texas specifically. It includes statespecific licensure requirements and career outlook information:

https://www.nursing.org/online-programs/oklahoma/

https://www.nursing.org/online-programs/texas/

In order for our healthcare system – and more broadly, our society – to be able to address the needs of its people, nurses must step in and counteract the shortage. We published these guides because we believe a nursing education should be accessible to all. Now we need your help getting them in front of those they benefit most –please share them with your readers by adding links to these resources on the East Central University website: https://www.ecok.edu/academics/colleges-and-schools/college-health-and-sciences/school-nursing/school-nursing-resources