

Nurture NJ Midwifery Scholarships

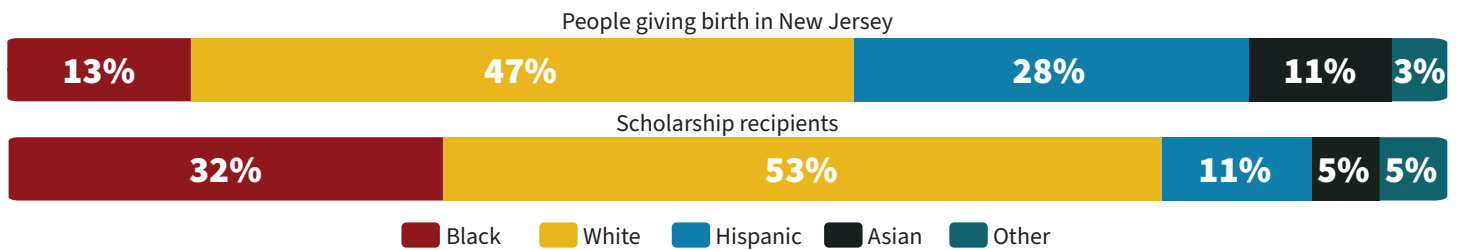
Support the Growth & Diversification of the Midwifery Workforce

Midwifery care has been shown to improve perinatal and reproductive health outcomes, but a recent report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office cites high tuition costs as a key challenge to accessing midwifery education. To grow the midwifery workforce in New Jersey, Nurture NJ has:

+ **Provided funding** to 25 midwifery students attending Rutgers School of Nursing

\$ **Given \$250,000** total scholarships from Spring 2023 - Summer 2024

Nurture NJ scholarship recipients largely reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of people giving birth in the state of New Jersey, which supports the availability of racially and ethnically concordant care.



Midwifery students who received scholarship funding from Nurture NJ reported many benefits from this financial support. Receiving this funding was associated with a higher pass rate on their midwifery certification exams.



3 out of 4 students listed affordability as a very important factor in selecting a midwifery program.

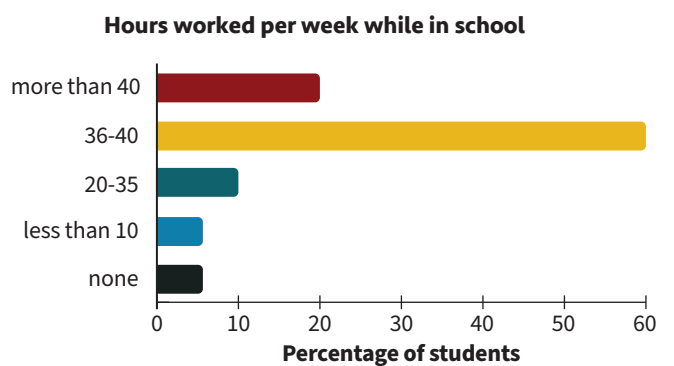
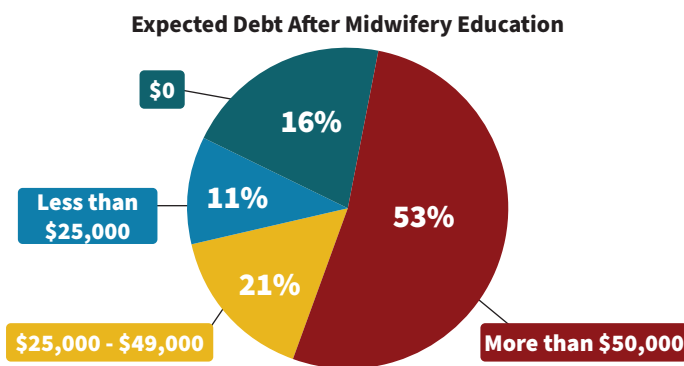
The majority of students credited the scholarship funding for:

- Decreasing barriers to programmatic success
- Increasing study time
- Increasing academic engagement

Receiving this scholarship has been transformative, propelling me closer to my aspirations in women's healthcare. It's not just financial support; it's a beacon of opportunity, empowering me to advance my education, enhance my skills, and ultimately make a greater difference in the lives of those I serve.

The scholarship was game changing for me. It gave me the opportunity to focus on my mental health and fully apply myself to my studies.

Even with these scholarships, the majority of students will carry significant student loan debt after graduation. This is even though most worked fulltime or more during their midwifery education.



Nearly all of these student midwives will practice in New Jersey. Nurture NJ scholarship funds support the growth and diversification of the perinatal workforce statewide.

Student scholarships are only one of the many ways Nurture NJ supports midwifery care in New Jersey. Other areas include establishing pay parity and providing education and support for preceptors.

This research was a collaborative effort between Rutgers University School of Public Health, Rutgers University School of Nursing and the New Jersey Midwifery Education Project

