

1968, 687 programs are participating, an increase of 61 percent in four years. In the same period the number of students enrolled in participating schools rose from 67,037 in 1965 to 104,796 in 1968. The number of loans made to students has grown from 3,645 in 1965 to an estimated 24,500 in 1968, about 23 percent of the enrollment in participating schools. The average loan in 1965 was \$395; in 1968 the estimated average loan is \$664. The numbers of participating programs, enrollments, students assisted, amounts allocated and the average loan are shown in table IV.

TABLE IV.—NURSING STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM

	Fiscal year—			
	1965	1966	1967	1968
Number of nursing programs participating in program:				
Graduate.....	23	31	37	41
Baccalaureate.....	106	141	149	164
Associate degree.....	8	29	56	71
Diploma.....	289	391	414	411
Total.....	426	592	656	687
Enrollment of participating programs:				
Graduate.....	1,210	1,195	2,383	2,796
Baccalaureate.....	23,203	30,080	32,415	38,726
Associate degree.....	1,112	3,145	4,092	6,625
Diploma.....	41,512	54,589	54,620	56,649
Total.....	67,037	89,009	93,510	104,796
Number of students assisted:				
Graduate.....	32	28	65	¹ 102
Baccalaureate.....	1,707	4,930	6,426	¹ 9,805
Associate degree.....	38	375	1,060	¹ 2,334
Diploma.....	1,868	6,407	9,667	¹ 12,291
Total.....	3,645	11,740	17,218	¹ 24,532
Percentage of students assisted:				
Graduate.....	3	2	3	¹ 4
Baccalaureate.....	7	16	20	¹ 25
Associate degree.....	3	12	26	¹ 35
Diploma.....	5	12	18	¹ 22
Total.....	5	13	18	¹ 23
Average amount of student loan.....	\$395	\$534	\$567	¹ \$664
Amount of funds allocated, fiscal years 1965-68:				
Graduate.....		\$166,723	\$306,448	\$351,840
Baccalaureate.....	² \$1,461,114	3,627,624	4,691,385	5,725,388
Associate degree.....	31,023	343,258	813,296	1,494,859
Diploma.....	1,597,767	4,732,963	6,865,560	8,817,798
Total.....	3,089,904	8,870,568	12,676,689	16,389,885

¹ Estimated.

² Graduate and baccalaureate.

Despite the increase in numbers of nurses and the improvements in quality of service, the demand for professional nurses continues to be greater than the increasing supply. Educational costs are increasing in all types of nursing education programs beyond the ability of students to meet them from their own or from their family's resources. The availability of this financial assistance is making it possible for more individuals to enter and remain in nursing school.

F. Nursing educational opportunity grants

The Nursing Educational Opportunity Grants were authorized by amendment in 1966 and were initiated in the summer of 1967. During the first full year of the program, Fiscal Year 1968, 248 programs of nursing have awarded these grants to an estimated 7,000 students who could not otherwise attend the school of nursing. The individual grants ranged from \$200 to \$800; the average grant was \$535. The awards to date total \$4.1 million.

The fact that these grants had to be matched by at least equal amounts of aid from other sources presented hardships in many cases. Experience has