



September 14, 2017

The Honorable Michael Burgess  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Health  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Gene Green  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Health  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Burgess and Ranking Member Green:

On behalf of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC), I write to thank you for your support of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs. HPNEC is an alliance of over 60 national organizations representing schools, programs, communities, health professionals, and students dedicated to ensuring the health care workforce of tomorrow has the training and resources needed to adequately serve the country's health care needs, including those in the most underserved communities.

Current and growing workforce shortages remain a health care access barrier for individuals in rural communities, children and families on low incomes, seniors, and veterans. Title VII and Title VIII are among the only federally-funded programs that seek to improve the supply, distribution, and diversity of the health professions workforce, with a focus on primary care and interdisciplinary training. These programs help shape the workforce in targeted ways, such as promoting interprofessional, team-based care; promoting practice in underserved areas, rural, and inner city communities; and filling other gaps in the health care workforce.

As demand for health professionals grows in the face of current and impending shortages, a robust investment in education and training is key to ensuring the health care workforce is adequately supplied. The full spectrum of Title VII and Title VIII programs is essential to prepare our next generation of medical professionals to adapt to the changing health care needs of the nation's growing and aging population, as well as to respond to critical and emerging public health concerns, including the opioid epidemic. Again, we thank you for your continued support of Title VII and Title VIII workforce programs, and look forward to working with you to ensure Congress continues its longstanding commitment to investing in the health professions workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tyler Hanson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Tyler Hanson, JD  
HPNEC Executive Director

## Health Professions Education Programs

*Preparing the next generation of health professionals to meet the nation's health care needs*

**FY 2018**



The Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) is an alliance of more than 60 national organizations (listed on back of brochure) representing schools, programs, health professionals, and students dedicated to ensuring that the health care workforce is trained to meet the needs of our diverse population.

# The Title VII Health Professions and Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs

The Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs, authorized under the Public Health Service Act and administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), provide education and training opportunities in high-need disciplines and settings and provide financial aid to health professions students. Through loans, loan guarantees, and scholarships to students, as well as grants and contracts to academic institutions and nonprofit organizations, Titles VII and VIII ensure the nation is equipped with a workforce that reflects the population it serves, while providing well-coordinated, quality care and improving access to care for all populations.

The programs have a longstanding history of adapting to meet the nation's health care workforce needs. Today, the nation is growing and becoming increasingly diverse and faces a rapidly growing, aging population. Now more than ever, support is needed for Titles VII and VIII, the only federally funded programs that improve the supply, distribution, and diversity of the workforce, to ensure health professionals are prepared to address the health care challenges of today and the future.

Title VII and Title VIII programs include:

- **Primary Care Medicine.** Expands the primary care workforce in general pediatrics, general internal medicine, family medicine, osteopathic medicine, and physician assistants through the following programs: Primary Care Training and Enhancement (PCTE), academic units for PCTE, Physician Assistants in Primary Care, and Interdisciplinary Interprofessional Joint Graduate Degree.
- **Primary Care Dentistry.** Expands the dental primary care workforce in general, pediatric, and public health dentistry through the following programs: Pre- and Postdoctoral Training, Residency Training, Faculty Development, and Faculty Loan Repayment.
- **Minority and Disadvantaged Students.** Increases minority representation in the health professions through the following programs: Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP), Centers of Excellence (COE), Faculty Loan Repayment, and Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS).
- **Interdisciplinary, Community-Based Linkages.** Supports community-based training of health professionals in rural and urban underserved areas through the following programs: Area Health Education Centers (AHEC); Leadership in Public Health Social Work Education; Teaching Health Center Development; Graduate Psychology Education; Mental and Behavioral Health

Education and Training; Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET), including training for social work; and Allied Health Training.

- **Public Health Workforce Development.** Supports education and training in public health and preventive medicine through the following programs: Public Health Training Centers, Preventive Medicine Residency Training, and Loan Repayment for Pediatric Subspecialists.
- **Workforce Information and Analysis.** Supports the compilation and analysis of data on the nation's health workforce, including longitudinal evaluation of the Title VII and Title VIII programs through the National Center for Health Workforce Analysis and the Regional Centers for Health Workforce Analysis.
- **Student Financial Assistance.** Assists health professions students in financing their education through the following programs: Primary Care Loans (PCL), Health Professions Student Loans (HPSL), and Loans for Disadvantaged Students (LDS).
- **Nursing Workforce Development.** Provides federal support for the supply and distribution of qualified nurses for practice in rural and medically underserved communities through the following programs: Advanced Nursing Education; Nursing Workforce Diversity; Nurse Education, Practice, Quality, and Retention; NURSE Corps; and Nurse Faculty Loan Program.
- **Geriatrics Workforce Development.** Integrates geriatrics and primary care to provide coordinated and comprehensive care for older adults through interprofessional continuing education, faculty development, academic-community partnerships, geriatrics fellowships, and caregiver training. The Title VII geriatrics programs provided continuing education on Alzheimer disease and related dementias, among other topics, to more than 162,000 providers.

*HPNEC recommends \$580 million to sustain and strengthen the nation's investment in the Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs in FY 2018.*



**Title VII and Title VIII programs work collaboratively to improve the supply, distribution, and diversity of the primary care workforce and train the next generation of health professionals to meet the nation's health care needs. Across the country, the programs connect students to high-demand health careers and health professionals to rural and urban underserved communities and ultimately help communities achieve better health.**

The Title VII and Title VIII programs play an important role in improving the diversity of the health care workforce and connecting students to health careers by supporting recruitment, education, training, and mentorship opportunities. Additionally, it takes years to train health professionals. Titles VII and VIII support aspiring health professions students throughout the educational pipeline, helping to ensure the health care workforce will reflect the population it serves.

- Studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of such pipeline programs in strengthening students' academic records, improving test scores, and helping minority and disadvantaged students pursue careers in the health professions.
- An inclusive workforce heightens cultural awareness and exposes individuals to backgrounds and perspectives other than their own, providing benefits for all. In fiscal year (FY) 2014, 60% of Titles VII and VIII program completers were underrepresented minorities and/or from disadvantaged backgrounds.<sup>2</sup>
- Title VII's SDS program seeks to alleviate financial barriers for economically disadvantaged students pursuing health professions education. In academic year 2015–2016, SDS graduated 2,151 students.<sup>3</sup>

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*As the nation's population continues to become increasingly diverse, a well-prepared, diverse, and culturally competent workforce will be essential to ensure the nation's health care needs are met and to address racial and ethnic health disparities.<sup>11</sup>*

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- The Title VIII Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship and Title VIII Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship programs supported more than 6,200 nursing and nurse anesthesia students in 2014–2015, exceeding their target by 94%.



- Titles VII and VIII also provide training and continuing education opportunities for practicing professionals and faculty in new care delivery models and concepts, such as team-based education and training, cultural competency training, and mental and behavioral health issues. In academic year 2015–2016, the Title VII COE program reached more than 4,768 health professionals through clinical training. Approximately 59% of COE grantee sites were located in medically underserved communities. In the same academic year, the Title VII AHEC program provided continuing education to more than 203,028 practicing health professionals across the country.<sup>4</sup>

**Titles VII and VIII support the development of the primary care workforce, including in underserved areas and populations.** By providing education and training experiences in community-based settings, students, residents, and faculty work directly with vulnerable populations. Further, these experiences help guide Title VII and VIII participants to careers in underserved communities or caring for vulnerable populations.

- In academic year 2015–2016, Public Health Training Center grantees delivered unique continuing education courses to 185,163 practicing professionals in the workforce. Of those, 22% were practicing in medically underserved communities.<sup>5</sup>
- Studies show that Title VII program participants are more likely to work in community health centers or serve in the National Health Service Corps, bolstering the primary care workforce and improving access to care for rural and underserved communities.<sup>6</sup>

- In academic year 2015–2016, Title VIII Advanced Nursing Education (ANE) program grantees partnered with 2,596 health care delivery sites, provided clinical and experiential training to 10,238 trainees, and produced 2,051 graduates. HRSA estimates that 43% of the ANE grantee sites were in medically underserved communities.<sup>7</sup>



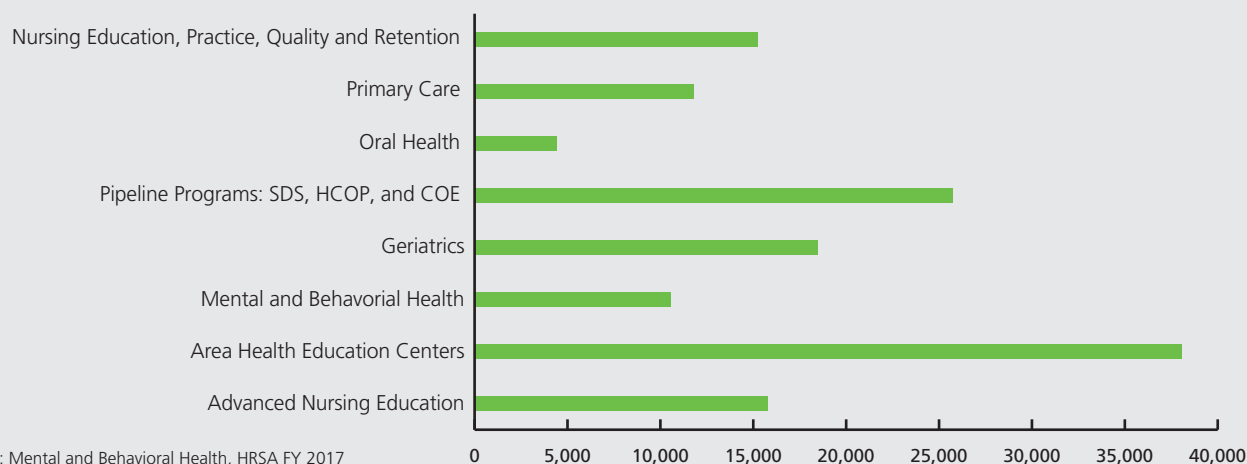
Titles VII and VIII are structured to allow grantees to **test educational innovations, respond to changing delivery systems and models of care, and address timely topics in their communities.** By assessing the needs of the communities they serve, Titles VII and VIII are well positioned to fill gaps in the workforce and increase access

to care for all populations. The programs emphasize interprofessional education and training, bringing together knowledge and skills across disciplines to provide effective, efficient, and coordinated care.



- Titles VII and VIII train professionals to meet the needs of vulnerable populations, including children and seniors. Within 20 years, one in five Americans will be over the age of 65 and one in four Americans will be under the age of 19.<sup>8</sup> In academic year 2015–2016 alone, Title VII's Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) trained 18,451 students and fellows in geriatric-specific degree programs, field placements, and fellowships.<sup>9</sup>
- A recent survey confirms that students who receive support from Title VIII nursing programs say seeking a competitive salary becomes less of a priority, making practicing in a rural or medically underserved area a realistic opportunity and helping to increase access to care.<sup>10</sup>

### Snapshot of the Number of Trainees Supported by Titles VII and VIII in Academic Year 2015–2016



Sources: Mental and Behavioral Health, HRSA FY 2017 Congressional Justification; all others, HRSA FY 2018 Congressional Justification.

1. Association of American Medical Colleges. 2012. Survey Results Demonstrate the Importance of HCOP and COE Pipeline Programs in Preparing the Next Generation of Health Professionals.  
 2. HRSA FY 2017 Congressional Justification.  
 3. HRSA FY 2018 Congressional Justification.  
 4. Ibid.  
 5. Ibid.  
 6. Annals of Family Medicine. 2008. Impact of Title VII Training Programs on Community Health Center Staffing and National Health Service Corp Participation.

7. HRSA FY 2018 Congressional Justification.  
 8. Committee on the Future Health Care Workforce for Older Americans. Institute of Medicine. Retooling for an Aging America: Building the Health Care Workforce. <http://www.elderworkforce.org/files/documents/research/IOM-Report.pdf>.  
 9. HRSA FY 2018 Congressional Justification.  
 10. American Association of Colleges of Nursing. 2015. Title VIII Student Recipient Survey.  
 11. U.S. Census Bureau. 2012.

# Federal Funding for Health Professions and Nursing Education Under Titles VII and VIII of the Public Health Service Act FYs 2015–2016

STATE	FY 2015	FY 2016	Δ FY 15–16
Alabama	\$13,808,056	\$14,817,756	\$1,009,700
Alaksa	\$1,768,111	\$2,007,884	\$239,773
Arizona	\$7,137,007	\$5,548,161	–\$1,588,846
Arkansas	\$2,891,801	\$3,753,218	\$861,417
California	\$31,617,621	\$33,803,207	\$2,185,586
Colorado	\$7,532,793	\$7,628,408	\$95,615
Connecticut	\$7,551,043	\$7,429,721	–\$121,322
Delaware	\$830,395	\$454,356	–\$376,039
District of Columbia	\$6,864,882	\$5,211,216	–\$1,653,666
Florida	\$16,052,445	\$15,884,646	–\$167,799
Georgia	\$12,509,834	\$12,564,006	\$54,172
Guam	\$310,650	\$316,314	\$5,664
Hawaii	\$5,365,345	\$4,808,639	–\$556,706
Idaho	\$1,039,380	\$1,162,875	\$123,495
Illinois	\$15,738,149	\$17,273,094	\$1,534,945
Indiana	\$6,813,286	\$7,217,346	\$404,060
Iowa	\$3,327,809	\$3,134,485	–\$193,324
Kansas	\$2,432,352	\$1,556,993	–\$875,359
Kentucky	\$6,992,365	\$6,786,994	–\$205,371
Louisiana	\$9,756,649	\$7,707,054	–\$2,049,595
Maine	\$1,614,039	\$2,242,903	\$628,864
Maryland	\$5,932,052	\$4,584,268	–\$1,347,784
Massachusetts	\$11,396,881	\$14,323,257	\$2,926,376
Michigan	\$10,624,249	\$10,986,797	\$362,548
Minnesota	\$2,648,518	\$3,666,218	\$1,017,700
Mississippi	\$3,269,762	\$3,309,918	\$40,156
Missouri	\$8,751,676	\$9,045,578	\$293,902
Montana	\$3,376,085	\$3,647,741	\$271,656
Nebraska	\$3,522,135	\$3,505,196	–\$16,939
Nevada	\$2,080,627	\$1,797,295	–\$283,332
New Hampshire	\$2,264,814	\$3,082,102	\$817,288
New Jersey	\$7,668,418	\$6,974,934	–\$693,484
New Mexico	\$3,382,640	\$2,982,164	–\$400,476
New York	\$26,609,601	\$29,288,118	\$2,678,517
North Carolina	\$16,744,959	\$18,224,434	\$1,479,475
North Dakota	\$1,864,954	\$3,306,572	\$1,441,618
Ohio	\$13,226,696	\$10,741,857	–\$2,484,839
Oklahoma	\$771,869	\$691,299	–\$80,570
Oregon	\$3,214,840	\$3,092,869	–\$121,971
Pennsylvania	\$16,430,389	\$17,797,478	\$1,367,089
Puerto Rico	\$6,292,494	\$4,735,787	–\$1,556,707
Rhode Island	\$1,798,171	\$2,219,942	\$421,771
South Carolina	\$3,802,945	\$5,029,726	\$1,226,781
South Dakota	\$2,292,658	\$1,811,341	–\$481,317
Tennessee	\$16,323,747	\$18,268,039	\$1,944,292
Texas	\$21,428,484	\$24,785,533	\$3,357,049
Utah	\$2,577,505	\$2,326,553	–\$250,952
Vermont	\$1,147,225	\$985,868	–\$161,357
Virginia	\$10,032,792	\$10,719,062	\$686,270
Washington	\$8,525,760	\$9,030,496	\$504,736
West Virginia	\$2,325,922	\$3,259,813	\$933,891
Wisconsin	\$5,976,969	\$7,172,115	\$1,195,146
Wyoming	\$849,988	\$842,821	–\$7,167
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$389,109,837</b>	<b>\$403,544,467</b>	<b>\$14,434,630</b>

Source: HRSA, Bureau of Health Professions, FY 2016

# Members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition

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Academic Pediatric Association	Association of Chiropractic Colleges
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine	Association of Departments of Family Medicine
American Academy of Family Physicians	Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
American Academy of PAs	Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry	Association of Minority Health Professions
American Academy of Pediatrics	Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
American Association for Dental Research	Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions
American Association of Colleges of Nursing	Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine	Council on Social Work Education
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy	Eldercare Workforce Alliance
American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine	Emergency Nurses Association
American Association of Nurse Practitioners	Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools
American College of Osteopathic Internists	HIV Medicine Association
American College of Physicians	International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium
American College of Preventive Medicine	National AHEC Organization
American Dental Association	National Association for Geriatric Education
American Dental Education Association	National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
American Dental Hygienists' Association	National Association of Community Health Centers
American Geriatrics Society	National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
American Music Therapy Association	National Athletic Trainer's Association
American Nurses Association	National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions
American Occupational Therapy Association	National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians
American Organization of Nurse Executives	National Hispanic Medical Association
American Pediatric Society	National League for Nursing
American Psychiatric Association	National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
American Psychological Association	North American Primary Care Research Group
American Public Health Association	Oncology Nursing Society
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science	Pediatric Policy Council
American Society for Clinical Pathology	Physician Assistant Education Association
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research	Society for Pediatric Research
Association of Academic Health Centers	Society of General Internal Medicine
Association of American Medical Colleges	Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges	

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