

Title VIII – Nursing Workforce Development Programs FY 2017 Funding

REQUEST

- Fund HRSA's Title VIII nursing workforce development programs at the FY 2010 funding level of \$244 million in FY 2017.
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ISSUE

- For the last 50 years, the Title VIII nursing workforce development programs at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) have provided training for entry-level and advanced degree nurses to improve the access to, and quality of, health care in underserved areas.
- Health inequities, inflated costs, and poor health care outcomes are intensifying because of today's shortfall of appropriately prepared licensed vocational/practical nurses (LVNs/LPNs), registered nurses (RNs), advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), and nurse faculty.
- The nursing shortage continues to outpace the level of federal resources allocated by Congress to help alleviate it. Appropriations for nursing education are inconsistent with the health care reality facing our nation today.
- A strong nursing workforce is essential to a health policy that provides high-value care for every dollar invested in capacity building for a 21st century nurse workforce. Insufficient federal investments in the nursing workforce are a shortsighted course of action that further jeopardizes access to and the quality of the nation's health care delivery system.

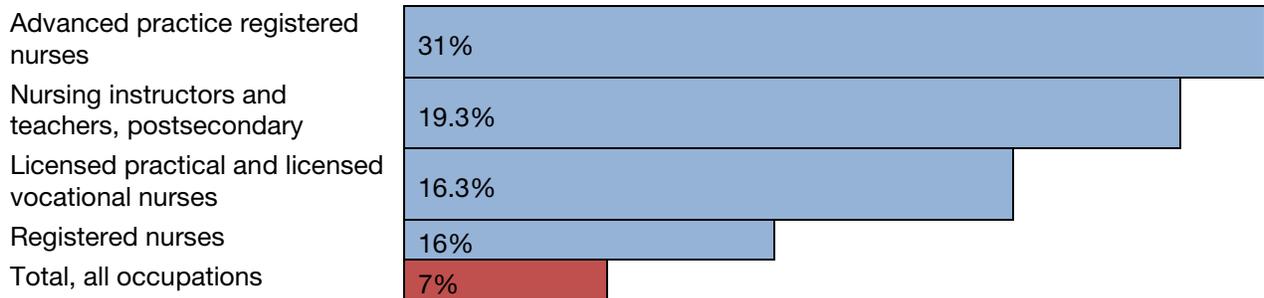
RATIONALE

- With 4.6 million active, licensed RNs/LVNs/LPNs, nurses are the primary professionals delivering quality health care in the nation.¹
- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the RN workforce is projected to grow by 16 percent from 2014 to 2024, resulting in 1,088,400 job openings due to growth and replacement needs.² BLS also calculates the LVN/LPN workforce will grow by 16.3 percent resulting in 322,200 job openings³ and the APRN workforce will grow by 31 percent with 93,600 job openings⁴ during the same timeframe.
- This increase is fueled by an increased demand for healthcare services for the aging population, given that older people typically have more medical problems than younger people. Nurses also will be needed to educate and care for patients with various chronic conditions, such as arthritis, dementia, diabetes, and obesity.
- Job growth is expected in facilities that provide long-term rehabilitation for stroke and head injury patients, and in facilities that treat people with Alzheimer's disease. In addition, because many older people prefer to be treated at home or in residential care facilities, nurses will be in demand in those settings.
- The situation is further affected by the needed replacement of some 439,300 jobs vacated by RNs, 117,300 vacated by LPNs, and 53,400 vacated by APRNs who will leave the profession and/or retire by 2024.
- BLS projects a need of 19 percent more faculty members to meet the expected increase in demand. In addition, with 12,200 current faculty members expected to retire, 25,400 new nursing instructors will be needed by 2024.⁵

- > The Title VIII Programs are evidence-based, cost-effective best practices that hold substantial promise for mitigating the complex factors contributing to the current and expected nurse and nurse faculty shortages.

Nurse Employment Projections

Percent change in employment, projected 2014-2024



Note: All Occupations includes all occupations in the U.S. Economy.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections program

Employment Projections Data, 2014-24

Occupation	Employment 2014	Projected Employment 2024	Change 2014-2024		Job Openings Due to Growth & Replacement Needs
			Percent	Numeric	
Advanced practice registered nurses	170,400	223,800	31	53,400	93,600
Nursing instructors and teachers, postsecondary	68,600	81,800	19	13,200	25,400
Licensed practical and vocational nurses	719,900	837,200	16.3	117,300	322,200
Registered nurses	2,751,000	3,190,300	16	439,300	1,088,400

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections program

¹ National Council of State Boards of Nursing. The National Nursing Database. <https://www.ncsbn.org/national-nursing-database.htm>

² Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-17 Edition*, Registered Nurses, <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>

³ Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-17 Edition*, Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses, <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/licensed-practical-and-licensed-vocational-nurses.htm>

⁴ Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-17 Edition*, Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Midwives, and Nurse Practitioners. <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/nurse-anesthetists-nurse-midwives-and-nurse-practitioners.htm>

⁵ Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-17 Edition*, Postsecondary Teachers, <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/education-training-and-library/postsecondary-teachers.htm>