

Title VII – Health Workforce Development Programs FY 2016 Funding

REQUEST

- Fund HRSA's Title VII health workforce programs at \$280 million in FY 2016.
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ISSUE

- Title VII health workforce development programs fill the gaps in the workforce not met by traditional market forces. Through loans, loan guarantees, and scholarships to students, and grants and contracts to academic institutions and non-profit organizations, Title VII programs contribute to the development of health care professionals providing quality, patient-centered, interdisciplinary team- and evidence-based care.
- Title VII health workforce development programs promote greater ethnic/cultural diversity and minority representation between health care educators and professionals. Workforce diversity is essential where research indicates that factors such as biases and stereotyping, communication barriers, cultural sensitivity/competence, and system and organizational determinants contribute to health care inequities.
- These programs are the only federal programs designed to educate providers in interdisciplinary settings, and to respond to the needs of special and underserved populations. Destabilizing funding for the Title VII programs would reduce education and training support for primary care physicians, nurses, and other health professionals, exacerbating shortages and further straining the nation's already fragile health care system.

RATIONALE

- Research shows the burden of racial and ethnic health disparities will cost the United States \$363.1 billion a year in lost productivity and health care spending by 2050.¹ The nation's health disparities will have a more pronounced effect in coming years as the United States is projected to become a "majority minority" nation by 2050.²
- Despite progress, minorities still fare worse in almost every measure of health. They are less likely to get the preventive care needed to stay healthy, and they have less access to treatments and care when they get sick.
- Because provider-patient race concordance has been shown to help address some of these issues, a diverse health care workforce is essential in the fight to mitigate health disparities.
- These programs graduate four to seven times more minority and disadvantaged students than other programs.
- A recent survey demonstrated the wide range of services and activities offered by the Title VII Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) and Centers of Excellence (COE), from academic enrichment and test preparation to faculty development and research opportunities, supporting aspiring health professionals and faculty throughout their careers.³ Further, funding for these programs supports the education and training of more than 10,000 minority students, graduates, residents, and faculty each year.⁴



National League
for **Nursing**

¹ National Urban League. State of Urban Health: Eliminating Health Disparities to Save Lives and Cut Costs. http://iamempowered.com/sites/default/files/nul_state_of_urban_health_2012_report_.pdf.

² U.S. Census 2012

³ Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). Survey Results Demonstrate the Importance of HCOP and COE Pipeline Programs in Preparing the Next Generation of Health Professionals. December 2012.

⁴ American Public Health Association. Public Health Service Act Title VII and Title VIII: Why are These Programs so Important? <http://www.apha.org/NR/rdonlyres/13E647B5-E51B-4A47-91A8-652EE973A2DB/0/TitleVIIandTitleVIII.pdf>.