

Support Increased Funding for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs

The United States is in the midst of a decade-long shortage of Registered Nurses (RNs). This shortage is expected to intensify as the baby boomer population ages and the need for health care grows. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported in 2007 that **the nation's nursing shortage will grow to more than 1 million new and replacement nurses by the year 2016.** Unless we act *now* this shortage will further jeopardize access to quality patient care.

Importance of Title VIII Funding

Nursing Workforce Development programs, authorized under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.), support the supply and distribution of qualified nurses to meet our nation's health care needs. Over the last 44 years, Title VIII programs have addressed each aspect of nursing shortages – education, practice, retention, and recruitment.

- Title VIII provides **the largest source of federal funding for nursing education**, offering financial support for nursing education programs, individual students, and nurses.
- These programs bolster nursing education at all levels from entry-level preparation through graduate study.
- Title VIII programs favor institutions that educate nurses for practice in **rural and medically underserved communities.**
- In FY 2007, these programs provided loans, scholarships, traineeships, and programmatic support to **71,729 nursing students and nurses.**

Title VIII Funding

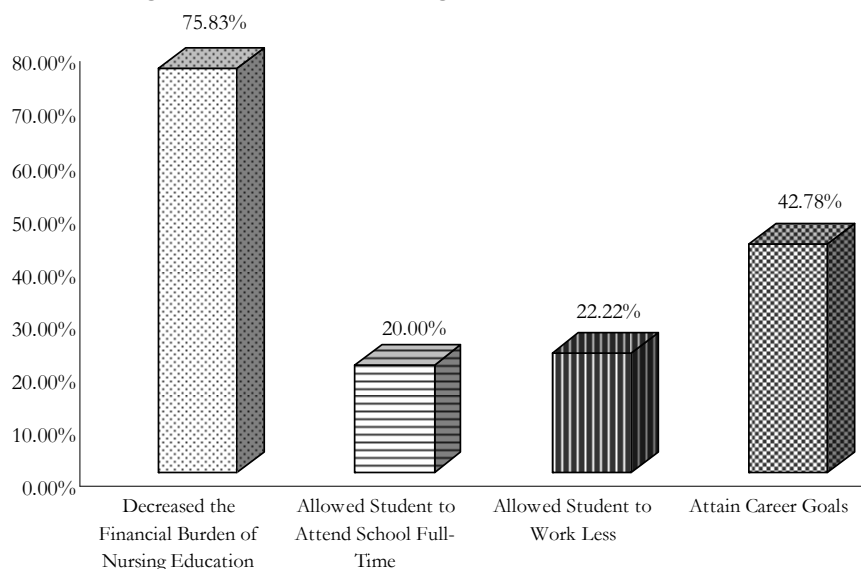
Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs	FY 2008 Appropriations	FY 2009 President's Budget	FY 2009 Continuing Resolution (Through March 09)
Advanced Education Nursing Grants	\$61.88 million	\$0	\$61.88 million
Workforce Diversity Grants	\$15.83 million	\$16.11 million	\$15.83 million
Nurse Education, Practice, and Retention Grants	\$36.64 million	\$37.29 million	\$36.64 million
Loan Repayment and Scholarship Programs	\$30.51 million	\$43.74 million	\$30.51 million
Nurse Faculty Loan Program	\$7.86 million	\$9.32 million	\$7.86 million
Comprehensive Geriatric Education Grants	\$3.33 million	\$3.39 million	\$3.33 million
TOTAL	\$156.05 million	\$109.85 million	\$156.05 million

According to AACN's 2008 Title VIII study, 720 students from 37 states and the District of Columbia reinforced the benefit of Title VIII programs. The major themes identified in this qualitative study indicated that the programs allowed students to attend school full-time, work fewer hours, attain career goals, and alleviate the high financial burden associated with nursing education.

The students who responded to the survey also expressed their appreciation for the funding, and many requested that it be continued.

Respondents commented that Title VIII funding helped them to achieve their career goals of:

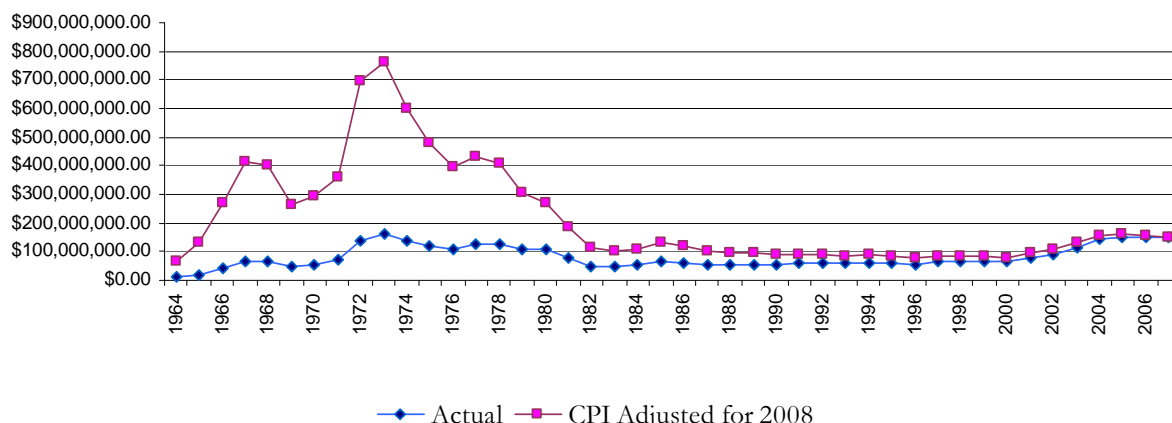
- Becoming nurse faculty
- Working in an underserved area
- Working with a vulnerable population



Increased Funding for Title VIII: Reversing the Nursing and Nurse Faculty Shortage

During the nursing shortage of the 1970s, Congress addressed the problem by providing increased levels of funding for Title VIII programs. Specifically, in 1973 Congress appropriated \$160.61 million to the authorities; the largest appropriation of funds Title VIII has ever received. In today's dollars this would be a commitment of over \$763 million. Currently, Title VIII receives \$156.05 million to focus on a similar, critical national nursing shortage. Compounding the impact of this low appropriation level is the stagnant nature of Title VIII funding in the face of escalating education costs. In FY 2006 and 2007, \$149.68 million was appropriated to Title VIII. This allocation supported 75,946 nursing students and nurses in 2006 while only 71,729 in 2007, due in part to increased tuition costs and inflation.

Historical Funding for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs (in millions)



Source: HRSA, Division of Nursing, 2008 & U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Inflation Calculator, 2008

At a Glance: Students Supported by Title VIII

Fiscal Year	Appropriations (millions)	Students or Nurses Supported
2006	\$149.68	91,198 [°]
2007	\$149.68	71,729 [°]
2008	\$156.05	74,781*
2009 (Community Request)	\$200.00	95,843*

[°] Source: HRSA, Division of Nursing, 2008 *Projected data based on the number of students supported in FY 2007
 These calculations do not include the Nursing Student Loan Program (Sec. 835), which is a revolving fund that has not been appropriated additional dollars since 1983.

Section	Title VIII Program	Students or Nurses Directly Supported in FY 2007	Students Enrolled in Grant Programs in FY 2007
811	Advanced Education Nursing Program	0	5,978
811	Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship Program	0	7,941
811	Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship Program	0	2,173
821	Nursing Workforce Diversity Program	0	32,847
831	Nurse Education, Practice and Retention Program	0	21,145
846	Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program	586	0
846	Nursing Scholarship Program	173	0
846A	Nurse Faculty Loan Program	729	0
855	Comprehensive Geriatric Education Program	0	157
TOTAL		1,488	70,241

Source: HRSA, Division of Nursing, February 12, 2008

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