

Help Alleviate the Nursing Shortage

Support Increased Funding for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs

The need for a robust investment in the nursing workforce is as critical today as it was eleven years ago when the current shortage was first documented. As the nation continues to discuss a reformed health system that will increase access to quality care and decrease cost, Registered Nurses (RNs) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) are key providers who will help implement these overarching changes. Yet the ongoing shortage of RNs and APRNs will significantly hinder the ability of the nation to meet these reform goals.

The Nursing Shortage: Linking the Facts

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) reports that in academic year 2009, 54,991 qualified applications were turned away from baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs due to an insufficient number of qualified faculty, state budget cuts, a lack of clinical sites, and insufficient classroom space.

The demand for RNs and APRNs continues to climb. Dr. Peter Buerhaus and coauthors found that the U.S. nursing shortage is projected to grow to 260,000 registered nurses by 2025. A shortage of this magnitude would be twice as large as any nursing shortage experienced in this country since the mid-1960s.

Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs: Breaking the Shortage Chain

The 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 healthcare needs. Over the last 46 years, Title VIII programs have addressed each aspect of the 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 2008, these programs provided loans, scholarships, traineeships, and programmatic support to **77,395 nursing students and nurses**.

AACN and the Nursing Community respectfully request \$267.3 million for the Title VIII programs in FY 2011.

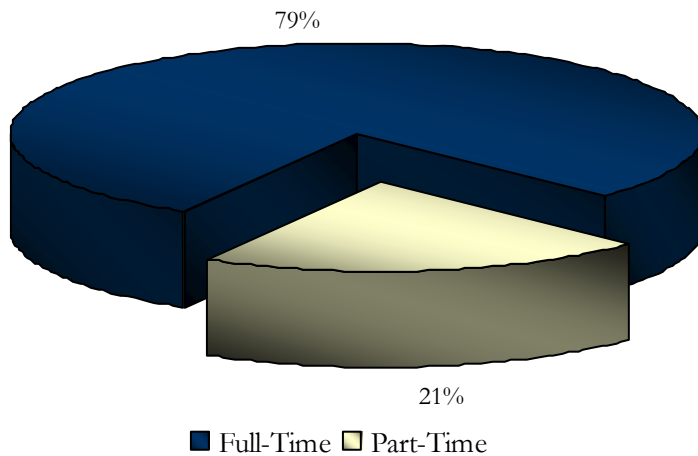
The Loan Repayment and Scholarship and Nurse Faculty Loan programs directly support nursing students, and the increases they received in FY 2010 are vital to these programs' success. The Nursing Community supports their current funding level and recommends that Advanced Education Nursing, Nursing Workforce Diversity, Nurse Education, Practice, and Retention, and Comprehensive Geriatric Education programs, which are complementary programs that expand nursing school capacity and increase patient access to care, receive the 10% increase requested in FY 2011. These programs have not kept pace with inflation since FY 2005.

Title VIII Funding

Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs	FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act	FY 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act	FY 2011 President's Budget
Advanced Education Nursing Grants	\$64.44 million	\$64.44 mil	\$64.44 mil
Workforce Diversity Grants	\$16.11 million	\$16.11 mil	\$16.11 mil
Nurse Education, Practice, and Retention Grants	\$37.29 million	\$39.90 mil	\$39.90 mil
Loan Repayment and Scholarship Programs	\$37.13 million	\$93.86 mil	\$93.86 mil
Nurse Faculty Loan Program	\$11.50 million	\$25 mil	\$25 mil
Comprehensive Geriatric Education Grants	\$4.57 million	\$4.57 mil	\$4.57 mil
TOTAL	\$171.03 million	\$243.87 mil	\$243.87 mil

A Portrait of Title VIII Students

Results from AACN's 2009-2010 Title VIII Student Recipient Survey shows that three-quarters of the students receiving Title VIII funding are attending school full time. By supporting full-time students, the Title VIII programs are helping to ensure that students enter the workforce without delay.

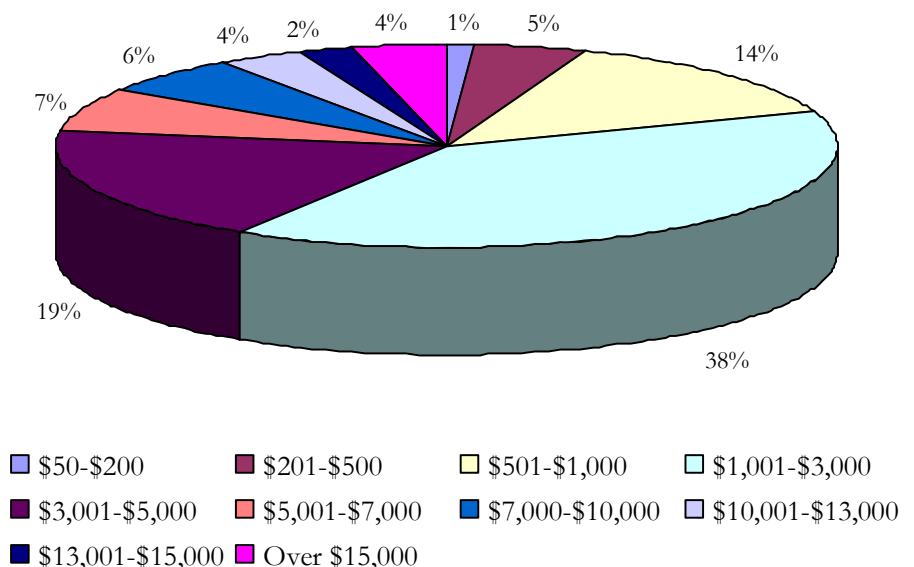


Of the Title VIII student recipients surveyed, 38% reported that they received between \$1,001-\$3,000 in funding over one year. Sixty-seven percent reported that this funding supported a portion of their tuition, and 35.6% reported that the funding was dedicated to books and educational materials.

Fifty-two percent of the students responded that the Title VIII funding paid for 25% or less of their total student loans. Of those students, 26% stated that the funding paid for less than 5% of their total nursing student loans.

A high percentage of the students surveyed (48.9%) reported that their career goal is to become a nurse practitioner. Given the demand for primary care providers, the Title VIII funds are helping to support the next generation of these essential practitioners.

The nurse faculty shortage continues to inhibit the ability of nursing schools to increase student capacity and address the shortage. Of the students who responded to the survey, 40.6% stated their ultimate career goal was to become nurse faculty.



For more information, contact the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, One Dupont Circle, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036

Phone: (202) 463-6930 • Fax: (202) 785-8320 • Web Address: www.aacn.nche.edu

Updated March 10, 2010