Congress Passes FY 2014 Budget Deal

On December 12, 2013, the House of Representatives approved by a vote 332-94 the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (H.J. Res. 59). The deal was negotiated by a bicameral Budget Conference Committee led by House Budget Committee Chairman Representative Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Senate Budget Committee Chairman Senator Patty Murray (D-WA). Announced on December 10, 2013, just days before the December 13 deadline, H.J. Res. 59 would set discretionary spending for FY 2014 at $1.012 trillion. This is a compromise between the Senate budget level of $1.058 trillion and the House budget level of $967 billion. In total, the deal provides $85 billion in savings and $23 billion in deficit reduction.

Non-defense discretionary (NDD) programs would be allocated $491.8 billion in FY 2014 and $492.5 billion in FY 2015. Programs of interest to AACN members such as the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs, National Institutes of Health, and National Institute of Nursing Research are funded through the NDD budget authority. The budget deal will partially remove the impact of sequestration through offsets in the budget and provides “$63 billion in sequester relief” over two-years (split equally between the defense and NDD programs).

On December 17, 2013, the chamber reached the required 60 votes to pass cloture (to limit time to debate) on the bill, and on December 18 passed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 by a vote of 64-36. Given that the continuing resolution currently funding government activities is set to expire on January 15, 2014, it is unlikely that House and Senate appropriation subcommittees will have enough time to pass individual spending bills, and therefore it is likely these bills will be combined into a larger omnibus package.

AACN thanks our vocal grassroots network who recently sent nearly 750 messages to federal lawmakers through two action alerts expressing their concern over the impact sequestration has on health, education, and research programs. For more information, see AACN’s Appropriations Advocacy.

For more information on the budget deal, see the
Senate Budget Committee Press Release on Budget Approval
House Budget Committee Press Release on Budget Approval
Summary of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013
Section by Section Analysis of the Bipartisan Budget Act
House Budget Charts
House Q&A

HRSA Announces Title VIII Funding Opportunities for Fiscal Year 2014

Please see the following Fiscal Year 2014 funding announcements from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) regarding five of the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs. These funding announcements are listed in order by deadline:
Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship Program (NAT)
Announcement Number: HRSA-14-068

This application has a two-tier process.
Tier 1 - Application due in Grants.gov, December 19, 2013
Tier 2 - Supplemental information due to HRSA, January 14, 2014

This program provides traineeship support for licensed registered nurses enrolled as full-time students in a master’s or doctoral nurse anesthesia program. Traineeships will pay all or partial costs of the tuition, books, fees, and the reasonable living expenses (stipends) of the individual trainee during the period for which the traineeship is provided. For more information, including eligibility requirements, visit: http://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppId=249059.

Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship (AENT) Program
Announcement Number: HRSA-14-067

Applications due January 16, 2014

The AENT program supports increases in the number of primary care providers by offering traineeships to nurses who are pursuing advanced degrees as primary care nurse practitioners or nurse-midwives. For more information, including eligibility requirements, visit: http://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppId=249058.

Nursing Workforce Diversity (NWD) Program
Announcement Number: HRSA-14-069

Applications due January 24, 2014

NWD grants are awarded to increase nursing education opportunities for individuals who are from disadvantaged backgrounds. The program assists underrepresented students throughout the educational pipeline to become registered nurses, facilitates diploma or associate degree registered nurses becoming baccalaureate-prepared registered nurses, and prepares practicing registered nurses for advanced nursing education. For more information, including eligibility requirements, visit: http://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppId=248755.

Advanced Nursing Education (ANE) Program
Announcement Number: HRSA-14-066

Applications due January 28, 2014

This announcement solicits applications from advanced nursing education programs that address the healthcare needs of persons with multiple chronic conditions. Eligible applicants should describe how their advanced nursing education programs will be incorporated into an interprofessional education (IPE) model. Projects must engage other graduate health professionals and demonstrate the integration of IPE into the nursing curriculum. Applications that include behavioral health and substance use, and those that focus on the health of veterans and their families are encouraged. For more information, including eligibility requirements, visit: http://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppId=248953.

Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention (NEPQR) Program - Interprofessional Collaborative Practice
Funding Announcement HRSA-14-070

Applications due February 3, 2014

For FY 2014, the Division of Nursing will solicit three-year cooperative agreements proposing innovations in Interprofessional Collaborative Practice (IPCP). IPCP environments are comprised of high-functioning diverse professionals with a collective identity who collaborate and communicate effectively to increase access to care and achieve high quality patient and population-centered outcomes. The overarching goal of the program is to support the development of collaborative practice environments that deliver patient and population-centered health care that is safe, efficient, effective, and equitable. The program also promotes interprofessional team work and coordinated team-based care by increasing the number of nurses skilled in IPCP. For more information, including eligibility requirements, visits: http://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppId=248734.
AACN Board Member David Vlahov Speaks at IOM Event

David Vlahov, PhD, RN, FAAN, a member of the AACN Board of Directors, spoke at the prestigious Institute of Medicine’s (IOM) Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Lecture on December 11, 2013. The event commemorated the three-year anniversary of the landmark IOM report *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*. Nursing leaders gathered at the lecture to celebrate the progress made in implementing the report’s recommendations and to plan for the continued success of efforts to advance the profession.

Dr. Vlahov served on a panel of speakers that included Carmen Alvarez, PhD, RN, NP-C, CNM, the Julio Bellber Postdoctoral Fellow at The George Washington University Department of Health Policy; Linda Burnes Bolton, DrPH, RN, FAAN, Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Initiative on the Future of Nursing; Susan Hassmiller, PhD, RN, FAAN, Senior Advisor for Nursing at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Study Director at the Committee on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Initiative on the Future of Nursing; and Darrell Kirch, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Association of American Medical Colleges. The event’s keynote address was given by Donna Shalala, PhD, FAAN, President of the University of Miami and Chair of the Committee on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Initiative on the Future of Nursing.

AACN is committed to employing our expertise, data resources, and extensive network of academic nursing leaders to advance the IOM report recommendations to better meet the health needs of our nation. The report’s recommendations centered around the importance of four facets of the healthcare delivery system: removing scope of practice barriers, seamless academic progression, better data collection, and recognizing nurses as full partners with other healthcare professionals in redesigning health care. These have been instrumental in shaping AACN’s Federal Policy Agenda initiatives that drive our association’s advocacy efforts in nursing education, research, and practice.


U.S. Public Health Service Announces New Chief Nursing Officer

Rear Admiral (RADM) Sylvia Trent-Adams, PhD, MS, RN, was recently appointed as the new Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. RADM Trent-Adams brings decades of experience in public health to this important nursing leadership position. She also serves as the Deputy Associate Administrator of the HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau, where she manages the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, as well as a program funded by the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. RADM Trent-Adams has also worked as a nurse researcher and served in the U.S. Army as a nurse.

In the role of CNO, RADM Trent-Adams leads the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (Corps) Nurse Professional Affairs, and advises the Office of the Surgeon General and the Department of Health and Human Services on the recruitment, assignment, deployment, retention, and career development of Corps nurse professionals.
For further biographical information on RADM Trent-Adams and the vital work conducted by the Chief Nursing Officer, see: [http://www.usphs.gov/profession/nurse/cpo.aspx](http://www.usphs.gov/profession/nurse/cpo.aspx).

Linda Spoonster Schwartz Approved by Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee

Linda Spoonster Schwartz, MSN, RN, DrPH, FAAN, presidential nominee for Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning at the Department of Veterans Affairs, received unanimous approval from the Senate Veteran’s Affairs Committee on November 19, 2013. Her nomination must now pass through the full Senate to confirm her appointment. Dr. Schwartz is currently Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs, a position she has held for a decade after becoming the first woman to lead the Department. A retired Air Force nurse, Dr. Schwartz would bring first-hand experience on the challenges facing today’s wounded veterans to this role. AACN and its colleagues submitted a letter to the Senate urging they support the nomination of Dr. Schwartz. If her nomination is approved by the full Senate, she will oversee efforts to streamline the Department’s activities and maximize resources, ensuring that all of our nation’s veterans receive the care and services they deserve.

MSNBC Article Addresses Scope of Practice Issues

MSNBC recently published an article [Millions are about to get health insurance. Will they get care?](http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/articles/1169073337245) highlighting the increasing demand for primary care services, and offered advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) as a viable solution to the provider shortage. With an anticipated seven million newly-insured Americans by March of 2014, and 13.1 million Americans newly eligible for Medicaid in 2014, our healthcare delivery system will require the removal of scope of practice barriers to maximize non-physician clinicians – including APRNs.

“Fortunately, training more physicians isn’t the only solution, or even the best solution, to this problem. Decades of research show that nurse practitioners and other “advance-practice” RNs can handle 70% to 90% of our medical needs—often achieving better outcomes than doctors at significantly lower cost. Nurses already care for millions of patients in the nation’s 1,200 community health centers, independently diagnosing and treating a range of chronic illnesses, and they have the potential to care for millions more.”

The article points to other publications echoing this sentiment, including a study from the RAND Corporation describing how utilization of nurse practitioners to close the gap in primary care providers and expanding nurse-managed health centers could effectively meet the need for services.

Author Geoffrey Cowley makes the case that the care delivery model needs to expand to include more interprofessional collaboration and allow APRNs to practice to their full scope. Currently, 17 states and the District of Columbia allow nurse practitioners to practice independently, without a physician’s supervision, but legislation in other states has been proposed to modernize statute and support the role of APRNs. This is in direct alignment with recommendations put forth in the Institute of Medicine’s 2010 report on the [Future of Nursing](http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2010/The-Future-of-Nursing/index.aspx).

Recent HRSA Reports

*Projecting the Supply and Demand for Primary Care Practitioners Though 2020*

In November, HRSA’s National Center for Health Workforce Analysis published its most recent report on the looming primary care provider shortage. The report, *Projecting the Supply and Demand for Primary Care Practitioners Though 2020*, predicts the demand for primary care services will continue to increase through 2020 as...
the population ages. HRSA estimates the nation will face a shortage of 20,400 primary care physicians by 2020 if fundamental changes are not made to the healthcare system. However, the supply of nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician’s assistants (PAs) is expected to expand over the coming years. The report includes AACN data citing that over 14,400 nurse practitioner students graduated at the master’s or post-master’s level in academic year 2012, and that the number of NP graduates has more than doubled between 2002 and 2012. The report concludes, therefore, that the primary care provider shortage could be dramatically reduced if NPs and PAs were fully incorporated into the primary care delivery system. To read the full report, see: http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/healthworkforce/supplydemand/usworkforce/primarycare/projectingprimarycare.pdf.

The U.S. Health Workforce Chartbook
The National Center for Health Workforce Analysis has also released an extensive collection of data on 35 health occupations, including nursing, titled The U.S. Health Workforce Chartbook. The publication includes estimates of the number of people working in each field, demographic data on them, the most common work settings, and graphics showing how workers are distributed across the country. The health sector is a vital part of our economy; the occupations covered in the report represent approximately 10 percent of America’s workforce. To view the chartbook, see: http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/healthworkforce/supplydemand/usworkforce/chartbook/index.html.

AHRQ Video Illustrations Life with Multiple Chronic Conditions
The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), as part of its work to improve care for people with multiple chronic conditions (MCC), has produced a video to raise awareness of the challenges these patients face. The video, “Multiple Chronic Conditions: A Day in the Life,” follows Mae, an animated woman struggling to manage three chronic conditions, each involving different healthcare providers and care plans. The video promotes a focus on healthcare teams who create individualized, holistic care plans for patients with MCC. These plans would be formulated collaboratively by all of a patient’s care providers and produce a plan to manage all the conditions at once, rather than each independently.

To watch the video or learn more about work being done at AHRQ to support patients with MCC, see: http://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/prevention-chronic-care/decision/mcc/.

2014 Student Policy Summit Reaches Registration Capacity!

Thanks to the enthusiasm of our member schools, the 2014 AACN Student Policy Summit (SPS) has reached its registration capacity. The fifth annual SPS will be held March 23-25, 2014 in Washington, DC. Please note that students who wish to register for the SPS will be placed on a waitlist at this time.

There are still a few opportunities available to sponsor the fifth annual Student Policy Summit. Depending on the level of support, sponsors can receive complimentary student registrations, place personalized items or information in the conference bags given to attendees, have their logos printed on Summit water bottles, and more.

For a complete list of sponsorship packages available, please see: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/2014-SPS-Sponsor-Packages.pdf. Summit sponsorship opportunities are limited and awarded on a first-come-first-served basis. Requests to sponsor must be received by Friday, January 17, 2014.

To find out more or to become a sponsor, contact AACN Government Affairs Manager Lauren Inouye at linouye@aacn.nche.edu or 202-463-6930 ext. 271.