



ANNA Supports Increased Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Funding for the Nursing Workforce Development Programs at HRSA

The American Nephrology Nurses' Association (ANNA) is a professional nursing organization of more than 10,000 registered nurses practicing in nephrology, transplantation, and related therapies.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are currently 2.7 million registered nurses in the United States. A report issued by the Bureau of Health Professions at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) entitled *Projected Supply, Demand, and Shortages of Registered Nurses: 2000-2020* predicts that the percentage of unfilled nursing positions will increase 29% by 2020.

In 2008, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the Institute of Medicine (IOM) launched a two-year initiative to respond to the need to transform the nursing profession. In October, 2010, the IOM released a report entitled *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*, which included the following recommendations on how to help the nursing workforce to meet new demands:

- Nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training.
- Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression.
- Nurses should be full partners with physicians and other healthcare professionals in redesigning healthcare in the United States.
- Effective workforce planning and policy making require better data collection and information infrastructure.

The Nursing Workforce Development Programs at HRSA supported the recruitment, education, and retention of an estimated over 450,000 nurses and nursing students between fiscal years 2006 and 2012 and provide the largest source of federal funding to address the national nursing shortage. According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing *Enrollment and Graduations Survey*, nursing schools were forced to turn away more than 100,000 qualified applicants in 2012 and 2013. Increased funding of these programs will help our country to recruit and educate the next generation of America's nurses.

Recommendation: ANNA strongly supports the national nursing community's request of \$244 million in funding for the Nursing Workforce Development Programs at HRSA in FY 2016.

Overview of the Nursing Workforce Development Programs

- **Advanced Education Nursing Grants:** Provide funds to help schools of nursing, academic health centers, and other nonprofit entities improve the education and practice of nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, nurse anesthetists, nurse educators, nurse administrators, public health nurses, and clinical nurse specialists.
- **Workforce Diversity Grants:** Increase disadvantaged students' access to nursing education through awards to schools of nursing, nurse-managed health centers, and academic health centers.
- **Nurse Education and Retention Grants:** Strengthen nursing education programs at schools of nursing, academic health centers, nurse-managed health centers, and health care facilities that provide nursing education.
- **Nurse Faculty Loan Program:** Provide for cancellation of up to 85% of educational loans for students who agree to teach at a school of nursing.
- **Comprehensive Geriatric Education Grants:** Help to provide geriatric nursing training.
- **Nurse Loan Repayment and Scholarship Programs:** Provide for the cancellation of up to 85% of educational loans for nursing students who agree to practice in a designated nursing shortage area for at least three years.

If you have additional questions about these issues please contact ANNA's Washington Representative Jim Twaddell (202/230-5130, jim.twaddell@dbr.com).