Investing In Tomorrow’s Workforce. Improving Health.

How HRSA’s Title VII and Title VIII Health Professions Programs Help Shape the Health Care Workforce

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Overview

• Goals of the Title VII Program

• Recent Changes in Title VII – Dental Programs

• State of Dental Care and Title VII

• University of Florida College of Dentistry

• Member of Original HRSA Primary Care Advisory Committee and Involvement in Five Title 7 Grants
Title VII – Goals of the Program

• To meet the nation's needs to increase the supply of primary medical and dental care providers, public health and allied health professionals.

• To educate and train more health professionals in fields experiencing shortages, such as dentistry, public health, and allied health.
Title VII – Goals of the Program

• To improve the geographic distribution of health professionals.

• To increase access to health care for underserved populations.

• To enhance minority representation in the practicing health professional workforce.

• To enhance the education of trainees in areas such as cultural competency.
Recent Changes in Title VII

- Prior to passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), funding for dental programs were available for general and pediatric dental residency programs.

- The ACA changed the program. Dentistry had been part of “Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry.” It now has its own funding under “Training in General, Pediatric and Public Health Dentistry.”

- The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced the new grants for dentistry for predoctoral training, postdoctoral training, faculty development, and primary care dental faculty loan repayment on April 29, 2010 and the first grantees were announced on September 17, 2010.
In 2000, *The Surgeon General’s Report on Oral Health* stated that a “silent epidemic of oral diseases is affecting our most vulnerable citizens - poor children, the elderly, and many members of racial and ethnic minority groups.” Now, ten years later, significant financial and geographic barriers to care still remain.

- Title VII programs in dental schools help provide services to underserved communities.

- The increased funding will expand access to care, while providing students and residents with additional or innovative training they need to serve the changing demographics of the United States.
Dental Care & Title VII

- The American public is growing, aging, and becoming more diverse and Title VII funds can be used to enhance student education and experiences in these areas.

- Title VII funds help dental schools recruit under-represented minorities to promote the education of a dental workforce that better reflects the public at large.

- Title VII programs increase the number of individuals in the health care workforce and expand access to care, especially in underserved communities.
Dental Care & Title VII

- The nation needs additional dentists to care for the population. Of the 180,000 practicing dentists, the average age is 55 years and 20 percent (36,000) are expected to retire within the next 10 years.

- Additionally, demand has increased. In 1993, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) reported that there were 792 dental health professional shortage areas (Dental-HPSAs) in need of 1400 dentists. In September 2009, HRSA reported that there were 4,230 Dental HPSAs in need of 9,642 dentists.
Florida Has Some Unique Needs

- Florida is on the leading edge of the changing demographics of the US- increasing minority population, especially Latino.
- Significant increase in aging population with special health area needs (20% of population over 65)
- Large number of DHPSAs (approximately 300) - very underserved
Pediatric Dentistry - Needs

• While Pediatric Dentistry is a specialty of dentistry, it is considered a primary care discipline similar to medical Pediatrics.

• There are not enough pediatric dentists to take care of all the children.

• We want to make sure that pediatric dentistry trainees are sensitive to the needs of vulnerable, underserved, poor, and culturally diverse patients.
Pediatric Dentistry-Solutions

- Increased the number of residency positions
- Introduced course work in cultural competency.
- Created a new rotation with experiences in more underserved patients.
The New Grants

- Enhancement of Predoctoral Dental Education with a focus on public health, behavioral sciences/cultural competency and ethics. (Gainesville)

- Residency training in pediatric dentistry and public health dentistry. (Gainesville and Naples)

- Increase in our general dentistry residency program with an emphasis on diversity and cultural competency (Hialeah)
Enhanced Predoctoral Dental Education

- Enhancement of behavioral sciences curriculum
- Enhancement of the public health curriculum
- Enhancement and increase in Summer of Learning
- Implementation of Infant Oral Health Clinic
- Retention of AHEC Tobacco Education Program
- Enhancement of Community Based Education
- Evaluation of changes in cultural competency and ethical sensitivity
Residency Training in Pediatric Dentistry and Public Health Dentistry

- Public Health Dentistry - patient is the community, not the individual
- Unique health care needs of children
  - Early Childhood Caries
  - Very amenable to public health, large scale approaches, i.e., in Head Start, schools
  - Policy issues
Increase in Our General Dentistry Residency Program with an Emphasis on Diversity

• Increased from 8 residents in a one year program to 12 residents in a two year program. (Thus 24 residents in program)

• Focused on internationally educated dentists who need two years of US training to obtain licensure

• Almost all Latino and almost all from a lower socioeconomic group
Contact ADEA’s Center for Public Policy and Advocacy for More Information

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