The Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) is an alliance of over 60 national organizations (listed on back of brochure) representing schools, programs, health professionals and students dedicated to ensuring the health care workforce is trained to meet the needs of our diverse population.
The Health Professions Programs and Their Missions

The health professions and nursing education programs, authorized under Title VII and VIII of the Public Health Service Act, are essential components of the nationwide health care safety net, bringing health care services to our rural and underserved communities. The health professions programs support the training and education of health care providers, enhancing the supply, diversity, and distribution of the workforce and filling the gaps in the supply of health professionals not met by traditional market forces.

Through loans, loan guarantees, and scholarships to students, as well as grants and contracts to academic institutions and non-profit organizations, the Title VII and Title VIII health professions programs are the only federal programs designed to train providers in interdisciplinary settings to meet the needs of special and underserved populations, as well as increase minority representation in the health care workforce.

These programs include:

- **Minority and Disadvantaged Health Professions:**
  Increases minority representation in the health professions and includes the Centers of Excellence (COE), Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP), faculty loan repayment and fellowships, and Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS).

- **Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry:**
  Expands the primary care provider workforce; includes programs in general pediatrics, general internal medicine, family medicine, osteopathic medicine, general and pediatric dentistry and physician assistants.

- **Interdisciplinary, Community-Based Linkages:**
  Supports community-based training of various health professions in rural and urban underserved areas through Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) and geriatric, allied health, and other programs.

- **Health Professions Workforce Information and Analysis:**
  Supports the compilation and analysis of data on the nation’s health workforce.

- **Public Health Workforce Development:**
  Supports public health training, preventive medicine residencies, and dental public health programs.

- **Nursing Workforce Development:**
  Provides federal focus to the supply and distribution of qualified nurses via various programs: advanced education nursing; workforce diversity nursing; nursing faculty loan programs; nurse education, practice and retention; comprehensive geriatric education; and loan repayment and scholarships.

- **Student Financial Assistance:**
  Assists health professions students—primary care loans (PCL), health professions student loans (HPSL), and loans for disadvantaged students (LDS).

**HPNEC recommends $600 million to sustain and strengthen the existing Title VII and Title VIII programs in FY 2011.**

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**Title VII and Title VIII Programs Strengthen the Health Workforce Across Disciplines and Education Levels**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>K-12 Education</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Health Professions Schools</th>
<th>Residency Training</th>
<th>Health Professions Faculty</th>
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<td>HCOP, COE, AHEC</td>
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<td>COE, AHEC, Primary Care, Faculty Loan Repayment, Geriatrics, Public Health, Nursing Faculty Loan Program</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Strengthen**

- the Supply of health professions workforce
- the Diversity of health professions workforce
- the Distribution of health professions workforce
Approximately 8,000 students graduate from HRSA-supported institutions each year. 1 in 3 of those goes to work serving the disadvantaged.

“Underserved communities and populations are the ones at greatest risk when the ranks of the health professions grow thin. So rebuilding the workforce has to be a top priority.”

~ Mary Wakefield, PhD, RN, Administrator, HRSA

Compared to other graduates, graduates of Title VII and Title VIII programs…

- Show greater preparedness in cultural competency
- Are more likely to practice in low-income communities
- Are significantly more likely to work in Community Health Centers or participate in the National Health Service Corps
- Are 67 percent more likely to be underrepresented minorities and 47 percent more likely to work in a rural health clinic than other physician assistant graduates
- Are significantly more likely to practice as general dentists than dental specialists
- Are two to four times more likely than other primary care graduates to serve in medically underserved communities
- Practice preventive medicine in underserved communities at a rate four times the average for all health professions

Title VII and Title VIII Programs…

- Graduate four to seven times more minority and disadvantaged students than other programs
- Graduate twice as many family physicians as other programs
- Decrease the time needed to eliminate HPSAs
- Supported the recruitment and education of more than 77,000 nurses in FY 2008
- Help mitigate faculty shortages and facilitate additional clinical placement settings—two impediments to admitting more students

8. HRSA, National Workforce Center.
The Need for Title VII and Title VIII Programs: Addressing Provider Shortages

According to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the country is facing existing and looming provider shortages across many health disciplines and populations.

Minorities
Though 25 percent of the U.S. population is comprised of underrepresented minorities, they constitute less than 7 percent of the health professions workforce. Minorities have long been underrepresented in the health professions workforce, which contributes to racial and ethnic health care disparities across the country. The Title VII and Title VIII diversity programs promote the recruitment, education, training, and mentorship of minority candidates across the health professions to ensure that the health workforce is prepared to serve patients of every background. The diversity programs have succeeded in recruiting minority and disadvantaged students, enhancing their academic skills, and supporting their preparation, entry, and graduation from health professions programs. Funding for health professions programs supports the education and training of more than 10,000 minority students, graduates, residents, and faculty each year.

Underserved Areas
Approximately 62 million Americans live in rural areas of the country, but only 9 percent of the health workforce practices in non-metropolitan areas. Both rural and urban communities suffer from shortages of health professionals across all disciplines. The health professions programs, such as the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) program, seek to remedy the provider shortages in these areas through training opportunities in migrant, inner-city, and rural community health clinics and health departments working with medically underserved populations. Funding for the AHEC program has placed more than 45,000 health professions students in medically underserved communities in 2007–2008 alone. The health professions programs establish a link between academic health programs and communities, expand the health care workforce, and facilitate distribution into underserved areas.

Primary Care Physicians
By 2020, there will be a shortage of up to 200,000 physicians, 46,000 of which will be primary care professionals. Currently, 56 million Americans don’t have access to primary care due to provider shortages, and one of every five Americans lives in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA). Title VII programs improve Americans’ access to primary care physicians through community-based, primary care-focused education of students and residents, and through preparation of faculty. The primary care programs also increase the quality, quantity, and diversity of the primary care workforce with a special emphasis on increasing capacity to care for the underserved.

Physician Assistants
With Title VII assistance, the PA profession is expected to grow 39 percent between 2008 and 2018, supplying almost 30,000 new physician assistants to the health care system, especially in rural and underserved areas that have difficulty attracting other health professionals. Title VII offers the only opportunity for PA programs to apply for federal competitive funding and fills a critical need for curriculum and faculty development otherwise unsustainable without tuition increases. Title VII also allows PA programs a unique opportunity to fund innovative programs that focus on educating a culturally competent workforce as well as support clinical training and education sites emphasizing the needs of rural and underserved areas.

Dentistry
More than 48 million children and adults live in areas without enough dentists to provide routine oral health care. Sixty percent of rural counties are dental HPSAs and the rate of dentists per 100,000 people has been steadily declining over the past decade. The Title VII dentistry programs provide graduate-level training to primary care general and pediatric dentists, as well as provide funds to develop and implement new curricula, new models of care delivery, and new methods of faculty and fellowship development. The programs have increased access to dental care for medically compromised patients, patients with special needs, geriatric patients, and indigent populations and have directly resulted in more general dentistry residency programs and greater diversity in the profession. Federal support for general dentistry has helped increase 59 new residencies and more than 560 new positions in the past 23 years—representing 80 percent of such growth—and more than 160 pediatric dentistry positions in the past 10 years.

Public Health and Preventive Medicine
By 2020, there will be a shortage of 250,000 public health workers. And starting in 2012, more than 100,000 government public health workers will be eligible to retire. The supply of preventive medicine specialists is shrinking as well. The Title VII public health and preventive medicine programs provide grants to support training programs and support traineeships in fields where there is a severe shortage of public health and preventive medicine professionals including epidemiology, environmental health, toxicology, biostatistics, nutrition, and maternal and child health. The Title VII programs also have a longstanding goal of increasing the number of graduates in underserved areas and the number of underrepresented minorities in these professions.

Mental Health
There are currently 80 million Americans living in mental health shortage areas. With a total of 3,291 mental health HPSAs, we need at least 5,338 new mental health professionals to remove the current shortage designation. The Title VII Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) program supports the training of psychology graduate students with other health professions while they provide supervised mental & behavioral health services to underserved populations such as older adults, children, the chronically ill, and victims of abuse and trauma, especially in rural and urban underserved communities. The GPE program has supported more than 2,500 graduate students of psychology and has doubled the number of students trained to provide mental and behavioral health services to the underserved.

Geriatrics
By 2030, the country will need 36,000 geriatricians to care for the elderly population. In 2008, there were only 7,590. The National Institute on Aging has also predicted a need for up to 70,000 geriatric social workers by the year 2020. Today, only about 4 percent of social workers specialize in geriatrics—one-third the needed number. With an already severe shortage of health professionals with geriatric training and a projected doubling of the elderly population over the next 20 years, the geriatric workforce will be woefully inadequate in its capacity to meet the large demand for health services to older Americans. Title VII programs help meet this critical need by preparing the United States health care workforce for our aging baby boomers. Since inception, the Title VII Geriatric Education Center program alone has trained more than 425,000 health practitioners to treat aging Americans in more than 27 health disciplines and has delivered distance learning programs to more than 37,000 physicians in rural and underserved areas.

Pharmacy
Over 38,000 pharmacists will be needed by 2030 to meet the growing demand. Over the next two decades, the projected annual increase in demand for pharmacists will grow by 1.4 percent per year, due to population growth and the aging of the baby boomer population. Increased consumption of pharmaceuticals could add another 2 percent to this annual growth. The current supply of pharmacists is not meeting this growing demand and significant geographic disparities exist in access to pharmaceutical services. Title VII funding helps schools of pharmacy create more inter-professional residency programs, develop educational programs, and implement faculty development programs to foster quality inter-professional research, education, and patient care delivery in order to help meet the health care needs of a growing and aging America.

Nursing
A shortage of over 1,000,000 nurses is predicted by 2020. With baby boomers aging, many nurses nearing retirement, and nursing schools struggling to expand enrollment levels to keep up with demand, the United States is facing an unprecedented shortage in the nursing workforce. Title VIII provides the largest source of federal funding for nursing education, offering financial support for nursing education programs, individual students, and more. The Title VIII nursing programs address all aspects of the nursing shortage, from bolstering education from entry-level through graduate study to providing support for institutions that educate nurses for practice in rural and medically underserved communities. Between FY 2005 and FY 2008, Title VIII supported more than 276,000 nurses and nursing students, as well as numerous academic nursing institutions and health care facilities.
Federal Funding for Health Professions and Nursing Education
Under Titles VII & VIII of the Public Health Service Act
FYs 2008-2009

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Source: Bureau of Health Professions, HRSA
Members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition

Academic Pediatric Association
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physicians Assistants
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
American College of Osteopathic Internists
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Society
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society of Radiologic Technologists
Association of Academic Health Centers
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of Departments of Family Medicine
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association of Professors of Medicine
Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses
Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine
Coalition of Urban Serving Universities
College of American Pathologists
Community-Campus Partnerships for Health
Council on Social Work Education
National AHEC Organization
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association of Geriatric Education Centers
National Association of Minority Medical Educators, Inc.
National Association of Social Workers
National Athletic Trainers Association
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions
National Hispanic Health Foundation
National Hispanic Medical Association
National League for Nursing
National Network of Health Career Programs in Two-Year Colleges
National Rural Health Association
North American Primary Care Research Group
Oncology Nursing Society
Physician Assistant Education Association
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society for Pediatric Research
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine

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