Meet Elizabeth Shibahara...

Elizabeth Shibahara faced considerable socio-economic barriers to attending college. Without funds from the Nursing Student Loan (NSL) program, it would have been impossible for Elizabeth to follow her dream of enrolling in nursing school and becoming a nurse. Had it not been for the NSL program, she would have needed to work full-time, and would still not have had enough money to cover her education, let alone her living expenses. Elizabeth graduated from Oregon Health and Sciences University and is now a nurse in Salem, Oregon.

“With nursing, I should not only be able to get out of poverty. I will be able to give back to my community and improve lives of people through health care.”

About the Program

- The Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs provide a federal focus to the supply and distribution of qualified nurses.
- The Title VIII NURSE Corps Loan Repayment and Scholarship Programs provide support to both current students and recent graduates.
- The NURSE Corps Loan Repayment program repays up to 85% of nursing student loans in return for at least three years of practice in a designated health care facility with a shortage of Registered Nurses (RNs).
- The NURSE Corps Scholarship program offers individuals who are enrolled or accepted for enrollment as full-time nursing students the opportunity to apply for scholarship funds. Upon graduation, nurses are required to work in a health care facility with a critical shortage of RNs for at least two years. In FY 2012, 1452 students were supported through this program.

The Effect of Funding Cuts...

- Our country has a critical shortage of nurses. It is expected that in the coming years more than a million new nurses will be needed to fill vacant and emerging positions.
- Curtailing access to nursing education for students facing financial challenges is counterproductive to ending the workforce shortage.
- Without Title VIII funding for this program, low-income students interested in pursuing a career in nursing will face greater barriers in accessing education. With appropriations updated for the new millennium, this program could serve an even greater number of students.