Increase FY22 Appropriations for Critical Psychology Workforce Training Programs

Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) Program

| FY21 Funding: $19 million | FY22 Request: $25 million |

Funded through HRSA's *Mental and Behavioral Health* budget line, the GPE Program supports the education and training of doctoral level health service psychologists. Established in 2002, GPE provides grants to accredited psychology doctoral, internship and postdoctoral training programs to support the interprofessional training of psychology graduate students while also providing mental and behavioral health services to vulnerable populations in underserved communities.

In Academic Year 2018-2019, the GPE Program provided stipend support to 267 graduate students participating in practica or pre-degree internships in health service psychology. The majority of students who received a stipend were trained in underserved communities (97 percent) and/or a primary care setting (87 percent). In addition, GPE grantees partnered with 184 sites (e.g., hospitals, ambulatory practice sites, and academic institutions) to provide 1,003 clinical training experiences for psychology graduate students as well as 2,631 interprofessional team-based care trainees who participated in clinical training along with the psychology graduate students. Approximately 88 percent of these training sites were located in medically underserved communities and 85 percent were located in primary care and/or rural settings. Approximately 48 percent of the sites offered substance use treatment services and 38 percent offered telehealth services.

Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) Program

| FY21 Funding: $53 million | FY22 Request: $90 million |

Funded through HRSA’s *Behavioral Health Workforce Development* budget line, BHWET supports pre-degree clinical internships and field placements for doctoral-level psychologists students, master’s-level social workers, school social workers, professional and school counselors, psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioners, occupational therapists, behavioral pediatrics, training programs in psychiatry, substance use disorder prevention, and marriage and family therapists.

In Academic Year 2018-2019, the BHWET Program supported training for 6,209 individuals. Of the total students supported, 3,213 graduate-level social workers, psychologists, school and clinical counselors, psychiatric nurse practitioners, and marriage and family therapists were trained as well as 2,996 students training to become behavioral health paraprofessionals. BHWET grantees partnered with 2,355 training sites (e.g., hospitals, ambulatory practice sites, and academic institutions) to provide 7,985 clinical training experiences for BHWET student trainees. Approximately 70 percent of these training sites were located in medically underserved communities where trainees provided over 1.3 million hours of behavioral health services to patients and clients.
Minority Fellowship Program (MFP)

| FY21 Funding: $16.2 million | FY22 Request: $20.2 million |

Administered by SAMHSA, MFP provides funding to train mental and behavioral health professionals to work with ethnic minorities. The MFP facilitates the entry of racial and ethnic minorities, and individuals dedicated to minority behavioral health into careers in the behavioral health field. Specifically, the program focuses on training students, postdoctoral fellows, and residents to be culturally and linguistically competent to adequately address the needs of minorities in underserved areas. The program supports trainees in psychology, nursing, social work, psychiatry, addiction counseling, professional counseling and marriage and family therapy. Since its inception, the APA MFP has helped to support the training of 2,138 psychology fellows at the master’s, doctoral, postdoctoral, and early career levels.

Program for Education and Training in Pain Care

| FY21 Funding: -- | FY22 Request: $10 million |

Authorized by the SUPPORT Act under Section 759 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 294i), this program would provide grants for the development and implementation of programs to provide education and training to health care professionals in pain care. Psychologists provide evidence-based, non-pharmacological treatments to assist with managing pain, which can reduce or eliminate the use of prescription opioids and improve patient functioning and recovery. Funding for this program would strengthen current efforts to expand the non-pharmacological pain management workforce and help reduce the incidence of opioid use disorders.

Proposed Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Subcommittee Report Language for FY 2022

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Interdisciplinary Community-Based Linkages

Mental and Behavioral Health

The Committee recommendation includes $23 million for the interprofessional Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) Program to increase the number of health service psychologists trained to provide integrated services to high-need, underserved populations in rural and urban communities. The Committee recognizes the severe impact of COVID-19 on Americans’ mental and behavioral health and urges HRSA to strengthen investments in the training of health service psychologists to help meet these demands.

Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training

Within the total for the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training, $90 million for the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) Grant Program. The Committee encourages HRSA to ensure the equitable distribution of funding across all eligible entities, including master’s-level social work; school social work; doctoral and master’s-level psychology; school counseling or professional counseling; marriage and family therapy; psychiatric nursing; occupational therapy; behavioral pediatrics; psychiatry; and SUD prevention and treatment. HRSA is encouraged to maintain the integrity of this program through an open competition for all eligible entities.

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