

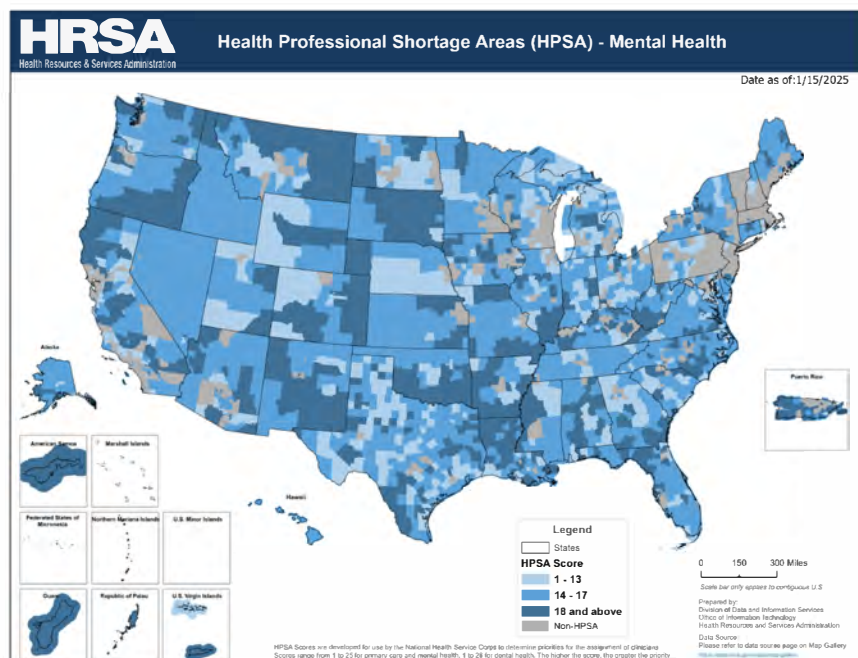
Increase Funding for the Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) Program

The Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) Program is the nation's primary federal program dedicated to the interdisciplinary education and training of doctoral-level psychologists. It aims to bolster the psychology workforce by preparing graduate students, doctoral interns, and postdoctoral residents to provide integrated, interdisciplinary behavioral health services in rural and urban underserved communities. GPE is funded through the annual federal appropriations process. In Fiscal Year 2026, APA Services is requesting \$30,000,000 for the program, \$5,000,000 over the FY2024 enacted level.

Program	FY2023 (in millions)	FY2024 Enacted	FY2025 APA Services Request	FY2025 Enacted	FY2026 APA Services Request
Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) Program	\$25.0	\$25.0	\$30.0	TBD	\$30.0

Workforce Shortages

As the demand for mental and behavioral health services continues to outpace the available workforce, increased funding for GPE remains critical to addressing the pressing mental health needs of the nation. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) estimates that over **122 million people** live in a designated mental health professional shortage area. Every state, territory, and district in the country has at least one shortage area, and **73.56%** of the mental health need in the United States is unmet. In order to fully meet the mental health needs of our population, we would need an additional **6,200 mental health practitioners**. These shortages are especially acute in rural and other underserved areas.



HRSA's Graduate Psychology Education Program

Administered by HRSA, GPE contributes to the growth of the psychology workforce, making behavioral health services more accessible, especially for underserved populations. This includes older adults, children, individuals with chronic illness, veterans, victims of abuse, and those affected by natural disasters. It provides grants to accredited doctoral, internship, and postdoctoral training programs to support education and training, and also provides supervised mental and behavioral health services to underserved communities.

By focusing on cultural competence, the program helps reduce disparities in behavioral health care and ensures that psychologists are better equipped to serve diverse patient populations. It also encourages interprofessional collaboration, which enhances the quality and comprehensiveness of patient care, improving all health outcomes.

Impact

In Academic Year 2021-2022, the GPE Program provided stipend support to **373 graduate students** participating in practica or pre-degree internships in health service psychology.

Of GPE's 121 graduates who reported employment data:



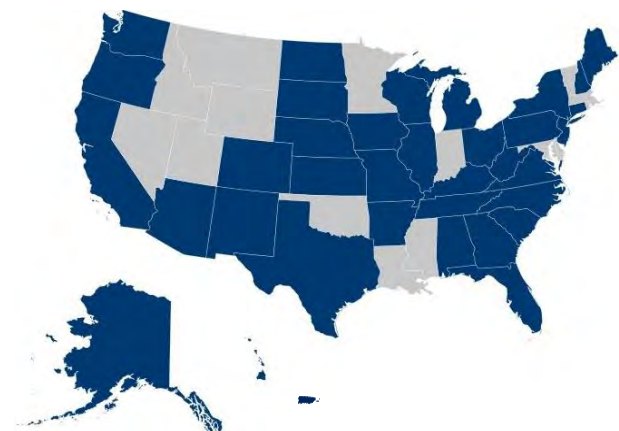
64 percent were already working in medically underserved communities

Of the 135 prior graduates with one-year follow-up data:



55 percent currently work or train in medically underserved communities.

Currently, there are 66 GPE grants across the United States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, shown in the below map:



Recommended Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Subcommittee Report Language for FY 2026

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

Mental and Behavioral Health

Graduate Psychology Education [GPE].—Within the total for Mental and Behavioral Health programs, the Committee includes \$30,000,000 for the inter-professional GPE program to increase the number of health service psychologists trained to provide integrated services in underserved communities, especially in rural areas which are more than twice as likely to lack mental and behavioral health providers. Recognizing the growing need for highly trained mental and behavioral health professionals to deliver evidence-based behavioral interventions for pain management in addressing the opioid epidemic and CDC data showing a mental health crisis among youth and adolescents, the Committee directs HRSA to strengthen investments in the training of health service psychologists.