



ARN Supports Increased FY 2026 Funding for the Nursing Workforce Development Program at HRSA

The Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN) is a professional nursing organization representing more than 4,500 rehabilitation nurses and more than 14,000 certified rehabilitation registered nurses (CRRN). ARN promotes and advances professional rehabilitation nursing practice through education, advocacy, collaboration, and research to enhance quality of life for those affected by disability and chronic illness.

Meeting the Demand for Nursing Care

According to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the demand for nurses is expected to grow 11% by the year 2035. In addition, implementation of the Affordable Care Act has added to the need for a well-trained and highly-skilled nursing workforce. The National Academy of Medicine, formerly the Institute of Medicine, released the following recommendations on how to help the nursing workforce to meet these new demands:

- Nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training;
- Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression;
- Nurses should be full partners, with physicians and other health care professionals, in redesigning health care in the United States; and
- Effective workforce planning and policy making require better data collection and information infrastructure.

HRSA Nursing Workforce Development Programs

The Title VIII Nursing Workforce Programs are essential to train the number of nurses and nurse faculty necessary to meet the growing demands for nursing care of an aging population.

- *Advanced Education Nursing Grants:* These grants help schools of nursing, academic health centers, and other nonprofit entities to improve the education and practice of advance practice registered nurses.
- *Workforce Diversity Grants:* This program awards grants and contract opportunities to schools of nursing, nurse-managed health centers, and academic health centers looking to increase access to nursing education for disadvantaged students, including racial and ethnic minorities under-represented among RNs.
- *Nurse Education and Retention Grants:* These grants help schools of nursing, academic health centers, nurse-managed health centers, and health care facilities to strengthen programs that provide nursing education.
- *Nurse Faculty Loan Program:* This program provides up to 85% loan forgiveness to students who agree to teach at a school of nursing.
- *NURSE Corps:* This program provides financial assistance or up to 85% loan forgiveness to nurses who serve in a rural or underserved community setting for two or three years.
- *Comprehensive Geriatric Education Grants:* This program provides support for the individuals training to provide direct care for the elderly, the development and dissemination of geriatric curriculum, and continuing education for nursing faculty and students.

Recommendation: ARN joins the Nursing Community in asking for the reinstatement of any cut programs and funding them at the level of \$530 million in FY 2026 for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Programs at HRSA.

If you have additional questions about these issues please contact ARN's Health Policy Associate, Jeremy Scott (202/872-6734 or jscott@dc-crd.com).