

Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs

Last reauthorized in 2020 as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Title VIII Programs are vital to nursing education and the workforce.

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) is the national voice for academic nursing representing more than 890 member schools throughout the country.

AACN member schools educate more than 570,000 students and employ more than 58,000 faculty.

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SUPPORT OUR CURRENT AND FUTURE NURSING WORKFORCE THROUGH TITLE VIII PROGRAMS

Administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]) address all aspects of nursing workforce demand, including education, practice, recruitment, and retention. Title VIII Programs ensure that nursing pathways remain strong and that patients across the country can continue to have access to high-quality nursing care.

Request: Invest in Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs in Fiscal Year 2027

Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs received \$305.472 million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026.¹ While this funding reflects Congress' recognition of the importance of strengthening the nursing workforce, it falls short of the level needed to fully address persistent nursing shortages and growing healthcare demands across the country. This is especially true given that the need for registered nurses is projected to grow around 5% from 2024 to 2034, with about 189,100 openings annually across the decade,² and for most APRNs by 35%.³ **Therefore, we urge Congress to support \$610 million in FY 2027 for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs.**

Request: Cosponsor and Pass the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2025 (H.R.3593/S.1874)

- Bipartisan, bicameral legislation has been introduced to reauthorize the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs through Fiscal Year 2030 at current funding levels.
- The legislation strengthens the nation's nursing workforce by:
 - Helping address current and projected nurse shortages;
 - Allowing existing grant funding to support clinical education and preceptorships;
 - Investing in nurse education technologies;
 - Expanding student and faculty capacity in nursing programs; and
 - Fostering partnerships between nursing schools and healthcare facilities.
- This reauthorization effort is backed by broad bipartisan support, including 16 Senators, 12 Representatives, and all members of the Nursing Community Coalition.^{4,5,6}

1. American Association of Colleges of Nursing. Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Appropriations. Retrieved from: [H.R.1968 - Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025](https://www.congress.gov/bills/119th/congress-house-bill/1968/appropriations-and-extensions-act-2025). Retrieved from: <https://www.congress.gov/bills/119th/congress-house-bill/1968/appropriations-and-extensions-act-2025>

2. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Occupational Outlook Handbook; Registered Nurses, 2024-2034. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>

3. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2026). Occupational Outlook Handbook- Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Midwives, and Nurse Practitioners. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/nurse-anesthetists-nurse-midwives-and-nurse-practitioners.htm>

4. Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2025 (S.1874). Retrieved from: <https://www.congress.gov/bills/119th/congress-senate-bill/1874>

5. Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2025 (H.R.3593). Retrieved from: <https://www.congress.gov/bills/119th/congress-house-bill/3593>

6. National Community Coalition Support for Title VIII Reauthorization. Retrieved from: https://www.thenursingcommunity.org/_files/ugd/148923_819c22119e06468aa4049de908df021f.pdf

IMPACT AND VALUE OF TITLE VIII NURSING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Strengthen Education and Practice

Title VIII strengthens nursing education pathways and supports nurse faculty who are vital to each nursing student's educational journey. For example, 74% of Nurse Faculty Loan Program graduates were in faculty positions one year later, with the majority teaching at the bachelor's level or higher.¹ In addition, from Academic Year 2017 through 2022, 6,906 advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) graduated from the Advanced Nursing Education Workforce Program.²

Increase Access to Nursing Education

Title VIII helps individuals enter and progress within the nursing profession by reducing barriers to education and supporting career advancement for nurses with diplomas to become baccalaureate-prepared registered nurses (RNs) or graduate-prepared nurses and APRNs. In fact, Title VIII Program outcomes showed 57% of recipients earned a bachelor's degree, 9% earned a master's degree, and 7% earned a doctoral degree.³

Expand the Nursing Workforce

Title VIII bolsters the supply of qualified nurses across all levels of education by supporting the development of nursing students, nurse educators, and the nursing workforce to meet the nation's growing healthcare needs. Title VIII initiatives prepare nurses to deliver healthcare in an array of settings, including rural communities. For example, in Academic Year 2022-2023, the Nurse Education, Practice, Quality, and Retention Programs trained 10,342 nurses and nursing students.⁴

Support Rural and Underserved Communities

Title VIII prepares nurses to serve in rural and underserved areas to expand access to high-quality, evidence-based nursing care in evolving healthcare settings. For example, 72% of Advanced Nursing Education recipients work in underserved areas, and 60% work in medically underserved and/or rural areas one year after graduation.⁵ In addition, more than three-quarters of Nurse Corps providers were employed in community-based settings and 20% were in rural communities as of September 30, 2023.⁶

1. Health Resources and Services Administration. Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Justification. Page 155. Retrieved from: <https://web.archive.org/web/20250308124649/https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/about/budget/budget-justification-fy2025.pdf>

2. Ibid, 144.

3. Ibid, 148.

4. Ibid, 152.

5. Ibid, 144.

6. Ibid, 157.