



Solving Today's Pressing Healthcare Issues: Nursing's Impact

Nursing Education

The Nursing Community respectfully requests that the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs receive \$244 million in FY 2016.

Meeting the demand for Registered Nurses (RNs) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) as well as the care they provide remains a challenge. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, the RN workforce is one of the leading occupations that will add the most positions by 2020. It is expected that the number of practicing nurses will grow from 2.74 million in 2010 to 3.45 million in 2020, an increase of 712,000 or 26%.ⁱ The projections further explain the need for 495,500 replacements in the nursing workforce bringing the total number of job opening for nurses due to growth and replacements to 1.2 million by 2020. BLS also projects that employment of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, Certified Nurse-Midwives and Nurse Practitioners is expected to grow 31% from 2012 to 2022.ⁱⁱ For over 50 years, the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]) have helped to meet the nation's demand for highly-educated nurses.

Nursing Research

The Nursing Community respectfully requests that the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) receives \$150 million in FY 2016.

As one of the 27 Institutes and Centers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), NINR funds research that establishes the scientific basis for quality patient care. The requested increase in funding for NINR would help expand the nurse scientist community and the number of research initiatives, while allowing for more complex studies focused on health promotion and disease prevention. *The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research is requesting at least \$32 billion for NIH, and the request level for NINR denotes the same percentage increase for NIH applied to NINR.*

Nursing Practice

Ensure Veterans Have Access to High Quality Care

Please contact the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to express support for the modernization of the Veterans Health Administrations (VHA) Nursing Handbook, and urge the agency to finalize and implement it. Do not support efforts to oppose modernization of the VHA Nursing Handbook.

The Veterans Health Administration's modernization of its Nursing Handbook specifically recognizes APRNs (including nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives, certified registered nurse anesthetists and clinical nurse specialists) as Full Practice Providers. This will further facilitate timely delivery of high-quality health care to our nation's service men and women.

ⁱ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2014). Occupational Outlook Handbook. *Registered Nurses*. Retrieved from: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>.

ⁱⁱ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2014). Occupational Outlook Handbook. *Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Midwives, and Nurse Practitioners*. Retrieved from: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/nurse-anesthetists-nurse-midwives-and-nurse-practitioners.htm#tab-6>.