

Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP)

As our nation ages and our eldercare workforce shortage worsens, we must increase support for the only federal program dedicated to geriatric workforce training.

Did you know? By 2030, 20% of the US population will be over the age of 65, totaling more than 70 million people. Currently, nearly 18 million people serve as an unpaid caregiver to an older loved one.

However:

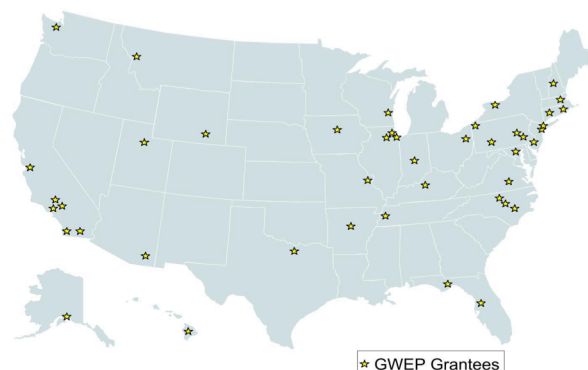
- Only **3%** of medical students take even one class in geriatrics.
- Less than **4%** of social workers and psychologists specialize in geriatrics or gerontology.
- Less than **1%** of RNs, pharmacists, physician assistants, and physical therapists are certified in geriatrics or gerontology.
- By 2030, **3.5 million additional** health care professionals and direct-care workers will be needed to care for our aging society.

The Title VII and VIII Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) is the **only** federal program that develops a health care workforce that maximizes patient and family engagement while improving health outcomes for older adults.

The program:

- Integrates geriatrics and primary care to transform clinical training environments to provide more coordinated and comprehensive care
- Develops providers who can assess and address the needs of older adults and their families/caregivers
- Creates and delivers community-based programs that provide patients, families, and caregivers with the knowledge and skills to improve health outcomes and the quality of care for older adults
- Provides Alzheimer's disease and related dementia education to families, caregivers, direct care workers, and health professions students, faculty, and providers

In July 2015, HRSA announced 44 three-year grant funded programs located in 29 states.



In FY2018, we urge a \$51 million funding level to close current geographic and demographic gaps in geriatrics workforce training. The increased funding could support 8 additional GWEP sites and the reestablishment of the Geriatrics Academic Career Awards (GACAs).

The positions of the Eldercare Workforce Alliance reflect a consensus of 75 percent or more of its members. Statements reflect the consensus of the Alliance and do not necessarily represent the position of individual Alliance member organizations.