

FY2015 ELDERCARE WORKFORCE APPROPRIATIONS

As the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education funding is being considered, the Eldercare Workforce Alliance (EWA) urges adequate funding for programs designed to increase the number of health care professionals prepared to care for America's growing senior population and to support family caregivers in the essential role they play in this regard.

The number of Americans over age 65 is expected to reach 70 million by 2030, representing a 71% increase from today's 41 million older adults. That is why the Health Resources and Services (HRSA) Title VII and Title VIII geriatrics programs and the Administration for Community Living (ACL) programs that support family caregivers are so critical to ensure that there is a skilled eldercare workforce and knowledgeable, well-supported family caregivers available to meet the complex and unique needs of older adults.

We hope you will support a total of \$44.7 million in funding for geriatrics programs in Title VII and Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act and \$172.9 million in funding for programs administered by the ACL that support the vital role of family caregivers in providing care for older adults, and \$3 million to support a decennial White House Conference on Aging. While our below requests take into account the current fiscal constraints, EWA believes increased funding to these programs is essential to meet the needs of older adults today and in the future.

TITLE VII GERIATRICS HEALTH PROFESSIONS (\$39.7 million)

Title VII Geriatrics Health Professions programs are the only federal programs that increase the number of faculty with geriatrics expertise in a variety of disciplines who provide training in clinical geriatrics, including the training of interdisciplinary teams of health professionals. These offer critically important geriatrics training to the entire healthcare workforce. These programs include:

Geriatric Academic Career Awards (GACA): This program promotes the development of academic clinician educators in geriatrics. In the Academic Year 2012-2013, the GACA program funded 62 full-time junior faculty. These awardees delivered over 1,100 interprofessional continuing education courses specific to geriatric-related topics to over 53,000 students and providers. The number of instructional hours delivered by GACAs during Academic Year 2012-2013 was over 90,000. Additionally, they presented on research and other topics at 215 local, state and national conference and published 108 peer-reviewed publications. **\$5.5 million request**

Geriatric Training Program for Physicians, Dentists, and Behavioral and Mental Health Professions (GTPD): This program supports inter-professional training designed to develop additional faculty in medicine, dentistry, and behavioral and mental health so that they have the expertise, skills and knowledge to teach geriatrics and gerontology to the next generation of health professionals in their disciplines. In Academic Year 2012-2013, a total of 64 physicians-including psychiatrists-, dentists, and psychologists, were supported through this fellowship program. Fellows delivered over 275 courses to 5,600 trainees. **\$8.9 million request**

Geriatric Education Centers (GEC): GECs provide quality interdisciplinary geriatric education and training to practicing health care professionals of multiple disciplines, health care professions students. In Academic Year 2012-2013, the 45 GEC grantees developed and provided over 1,650 different continuing education and clinical training offerings to nearly 136,500 health professionals, students, faculty, and practitioners, significantly exceeding the program's performance target. Three quarters of the continuing education offerings were interprofessional in focus. Of the sites that offered clinical training sessions, 2 out of every 5 of these sites were in a medically underserved community and/or Health Professional Shortage Area. **\$20 million request**

Alzheimer's Disease Prevention, Education, and Outreach Program (GECs): These funds supports Geriatric Education Center providing interprofessional continuing education to health professionals on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. **\$5.3 million request**

TITLE VIII GERIATRICS NURSING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAMS (\$5 million)

These programs, are the primary source of federal funding for advanced education nursing, workforce diversity, nursing faculty loan programs, nurse education, practice and retention, comprehensive geriatric education, loan repayment, and scholarship.

Comprehensive Geriatric Education Program (CGEP): This program provides quality geriatric education to individuals caring for the elderly and supports additional training for nurses who care for the elderly; development and dissemination of curricula relating to geriatric care; and training of faculty in geriatrics. It also provides continuing education for nurses practicing in geriatrics. In Academic Year 2012-2013, a total of 18 Comprehensive Geriatric Education Program (CGEP) grantees provided a variety of services, including over 150 different continuing education courses to over 11,600 trainees. This program supports additional training for nurses who care for the elderly; development and dissemination of curricula relating to geriatric care; training of faculty in geriatrics; and continuing education for nurses practicing in geriatrics. **\$5 million request**

Traineeships for Advanced Practice Nurses: Through the ACA, the Comprehensive Geriatric Education Program is being expanded to include advanced practice nurses who are pursuing long-term care, geropsychiatric nursing or other nursing areas that specialize in care of elderly. In Academic Year 2012-2013, a total of 74 grantees were awarded traineeships. One in every 4 grantee is considered an underrepresented minority in their prospective profession. **There is currently no additional funding for this program outside of CGEP.**

ADVOCATING
TEAM CARE
FOR OLDER
ADULTS



**Eldercare
Workforce
Alliance**

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.

WEBSITE: www.eldercareworkforce.org

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/eldercarealliance

TWITTER: [eldercareteam](https://twitter.com/eldercareteam)

The Eldercare Workforce Alliance is a project of The Advocacy Fund

FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT (\$172.9 million)

These programs support caregivers, elders, and people with disabilities by providing critical respite care and other support services for family caregivers, training and recruitment of care workers and volunteers, information and outreach, counseling, and other supplemental services.

Family Caregiver Support Services: This program provides a range of support services to approximately 1,307,427 family and informal caregivers annually in States, including counseling, respite care, training, and assistance with locating services that assist family and informal caregivers in caring for their loved ones at home for as long as possible. **\$154.5 million request**

Native American Caregiver Support: This program provides a range of services to Native American caregivers, including information and outreach, access assistance, individual counseling, support groups and training, respite care and other supplemental services. In FY2014 more than 32,000 units of services were provided. **\$6.4 million request**

Alzheimer's Disease Support Services: One critical focus of this program is to support the family caregivers who provide countless hours of unpaid care, thereby enabling their family members with dementia to continue living in the community. Funds will go towards evidence-based interventions and expand the dementia-capable home and community-based services, enabling additional older adults to live in their residence of choice. The program provided direct services to 35,000 individuals with Alzheimer's disease and their family caregivers in FY2014. **\$9.5 million request**

Lifespan Respite Care: This program funds grants to improve the quality of and access to respite care for family caregivers of children or adults of any age with special needs. **\$2.5 million request**

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING (\$3 million)

The President's FY2015 budget includes funding to the Administration for Community Living for the convening of a White House Conference on Aging. The decennial event will bring together stakeholders and consumers from across the country to discuss the range of aging issues facing America. **\$3 million request**