



National Association for Geriatric Education

Geriatrics Work Force Enhancement Programs (GWEPs)

A network of 44 Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Programs (GWEPs) in 29 states provide best practice and evidence-based geriatric education to healthcare professionals, students and caregivers with an emphasis on: 1. Interprofessional primary care providers, 2. Community healthcare partners, and 3. Alzheimer's education to healthcare providers and caregivers.

GWEP Programs:

- In the 2015-2016 Academic Year, the GWEPs provided: 1,650 different continuing education courses to approximately **94,000** health care professionals and students from disciplines including medicine, nursing, allied health, health services administration, social work, and psychology. With the ballooning number of older adults in this country, it is critical for GWEPs educate a healthcare workforce that is prepared to provide appropriate, competent and cost-effective care.
- GWEPs also provide education in many rural and underserved areas.
- GWEP's Goals Include:
 - continuing education programs in geriatrics for practicing health professionals from all disciplines;
 - didactic and clinical training opportunities in geriatrics for health professional students and promotion of interprofessional, team-based approaches to care and care coordination;
 - collaboration with acute care, long-term care and community-based service providers on Evidence-Based Practice Programs designed to reduce rates and improve outcomes of care relating to delirium, depression, falls, pain, and diabetes in older adults;
 - 160-hour interprofessional Faculty Development Programs to prepare faculty to teach geriatrics and interprofessional team-based care;
 - opportunities for healthcare providers in underserved, rural and remote areas of the country to learn from and consult with top experts in geriatric care through Interactive Televideo (ITV) and synchronous Webcasts;
 - develop and make available online geriatric education programs that healthcare professionals can access 24-hours per day.

Funding/Budget:

- For FY 2010, the President recommended and the House provided \$41.997 million, unfortunately the final bill included only \$34 million. Funding between FY 2014 and FY 2016 has varied because of sequestration on other congressional action, but has been steady at \$38.7 million for the past two years.

- GWEPs are funded under Title VII & Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act. In December 2014, HRSA combined the existing Title VIII Comprehensive Geriatric Education Program and the Title VII Geriatric Academic Career Award, Geriatric Education Centers, and Geriatric Training for Physicians, Dentists and Behavioral and Mental Health Providers programs into the Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program. The FY 2016 Omnibus appropriations bill also consolidated these programs, citing HRSA's combined competition for the program. This resulted in the total appropriations of \$38.7 million from the combined Title VII program funds of \$34.2 million and the Comprehensive Geriatric Education funds of \$4.5 million.

- NAGE, the Eldercare Workforce Alliance, and the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations support at least \$51 million in Fiscal Year 2018 to support geriatrics workforce training under the Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).