

# Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs

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 current and future workforce.

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) is the national voice for academic nursing representing more than 875 member schools throughout the country.

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AACN member schools educate more than 540,000 students and employ more than 53,500 faculty.

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## TITLE VIII NURSING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT 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.

### IMPACT AND VALUE OF TITLE VIII PROGRAMS

#### Strengthen Education and Practice

Title VIII strengthens nursing education pathways and supports nurse faculty who are vital to the nursing students' educational journeys. 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.<sup>1</sup> In addition, from Academic Year 2017 through 2022, 6,906 advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) graduated from the Advanced Nursing Education Workforce Program.<sup>2</sup>

#### 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-level degree.<sup>3</sup>

#### 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.<sup>4</sup>

#### 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.<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup>

### FOOTNOTES

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.

# Securing the Future of Nursing: The Necessity of Title VIII Programs

Congress can strengthen the nursing workforce by ensuring sustained and enhanced support for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs, which expand educational pathways, build faculty capacity, support advanced practice preparation, and encourage service in communities with the greatest need. Given that employment of registered nurses is projected to grow around 5% from 2024 to 2034, with about 189,100 openings annually across the decade,<sup>1</sup> it is more important than ever to support Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs.

## Protect Critical Federal Infrastructure That Supports Nursing

To ensure federal support for nursing education and workforce continues as directed by Congress, AACN requests that Congress urge the Administration to reverse the cancellation of grants or programs that support nursing students, faculty, and clinicians, such as the Nurse Faculty Loan Program.

Additionally, during the recent government shutdown, there were unconfirmed reports that staff in the Division of Nursing and Public Health at HRSA were laid off.<sup>2</sup> We are thankful that the Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2026 (P.L. 119-37) provided for the reinstatement of these critical employees who implement Title VIII Programs.<sup>3</sup> Moving forward, we ask Congress to ensure that these civil servants are back to work and remain in their positions delivering vital support to the nursing profession.

## Fully Fund Title VIII Nursing Workforce Programs

Title VIII Programs received \$305.472 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. While a Continuing Resolution was passed for FY 2025 (P.L. 119-4) maintaining FY 2024 funding, some Title VIII Nursing Workforce Programs grant competitions were cancelled (e.g., Nurse Faculty Loan Program), resulting in a lapse in funding for those essential nursing programs.<sup>4</sup>

In early 2025, the President's FY 2026 budget proposed elimination of all Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs, except the Nurse Corps.<sup>5</sup> The House Appropriations Committee advanced their spending bill, which substantially cut Title VIII funding by \$46.843 million (-15.34%), and eliminated some Title VIII Programs.<sup>6</sup>

AACN supports the bipartisan Senate Appropriations Committee proposal that preserved all Title VIII Programs, with only a slight \$2 million reduction, for a total of \$303.472 million in FY 2026.<sup>7</sup>

## Pass The Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2025 (S.1874/H.R.3593)

Bipartisan, bicameral legislation has been introduced to reauthorize the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs through Fiscal Year 2030 at current funding levels. This legislation strengthens the nation's nursing workforce by allowing existing grant funding to support clinical education and preceptorships, investing in nurse education technologies, expanding student and faculty capacity, and fostering partnerships between nursing schools and health facilities. As the largest source of dedicated federal funding for nursing education and workforce development, Title VIII Programs are essential to addressing current and projected nurse shortages and ensuring patients nationwide continue to receive high-quality care. This reauthorization effort is backed by broad bipartisan support, including 13 Senators, 5 Representatives, and all leaders of the House Nursing Caucus.<sup>8,9</sup>

### FOOTNOTES

1. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Occupational Outlook Handbook; Registered Nurses, 2024-2034. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>
2. American Association of Colleges of Nursing. AACN Alarmed by Reports of Sweeping Layoffs Across Federal Agencies Impacting Nursing Education and the Healthcare Workforce. Retrieved from: <https://www.aacnursing.org/news-data/all-news/article/aacn-alarmed-by-reports-of-sweeping-layoffs-across-federal-agencies-impacting-nursing-education-and-the-healthcare-workforce>.
3. H.R.5371 - Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026. Retrieved from: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/5371>.
4. H.R.1968 - Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025. Retrieved from: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1968/>
5. American Association of Colleges of Nursing. Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Appropriations. Retrieved from: <https://www.aacnursing.org/Portals/0/PDFs/Policy/FY26-Funding-Chart-for-House-Bill.pdf>
6. Ibid
7. Ibid
8. Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2025 (S.1874). Retrieved from: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/1874>
9. Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2025 (H.R.3593). Retrieved from: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/3593>