



Increase Fiscal Year (FY21) Appropriations for Critical Psychology Workforce Training Programs

This funding is key to reducing health disparities and improving health care outcomes for high-need, underserved populations in rural and urban communities.

The Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) Program and Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) are critical to addressing our nation’s treatment gap in mental and behavioral health care, which is the disparity between the number of individuals in need of mental health care and those who actually receive treatment. Providing robust funding for both programs in FY21 will increase the nation’s supply of health service psychologists (clinical, counseling, and school psychologists) trained to provide culturally-competent, integrated mental and behavioral health services.

Health service psychologists provide health care services, engage in evidence-based practice that is patient-centered, culturally competent, effective and informed by population-based data. They are skilled in collaboration with other health professionals, and demonstrate a commitment to lifelong learning and continuous quality improvement in their practice. They are not only critical consumers of psychological research, but are able to conduct scientific research, especially practice-based outcomes research and program evaluation.

Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) Program

FY20 Funding: \$18 million	FY21 Request: \$23 million
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Administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the GPE Program supports the education and training of doctoral level health service psychologists. An exemplary “two-for-one” federal activity, GPE provides grants to accredited psychology doctoral, internship and postdoctoral training programs to support the interprofessional training of psychology graduate students while also providing mental and behavioral health services to underserved populations in rural and urban communities, such as older adults, children, individuals with chronic illness, veterans, victims of abuse, and those affected by natural disasters.

In Academic Year 2018-2019, the GPE Program provided stipend support to 267 graduate students participating in practica or pre-degree internships in health service psychology. The majority of students who received a stipend were trained in underserved communities (97 percent) and/or a primary care setting (87 percent). In addition, GPE grantees partnered with 184 sites (e.g., hospitals, ambulatory practice sites, and academic institutions) to provide 1,003 clinical training experiences for psychology graduate students as well as 2,631 interprofessional team-based care trainees who participated in clinical training along with the psychology graduate students. Approximately 88 percent of these training sites were located in medically underserved communities and 85 percent were primary care and/or rural settings. Approximately 48 percent of the sites offered substance use treatment services and 38 percent offered telehealth services.

Minority Fellowship Program (MFP)

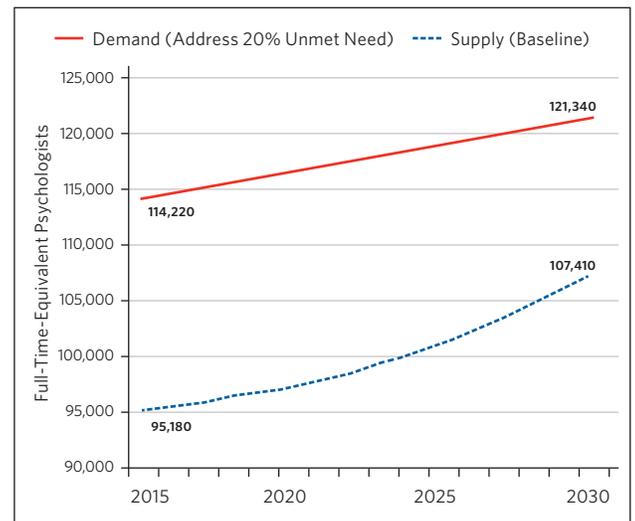
FY20 Funding: \$14.2 million

FY21 Request: \$15.7 million

Administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), MFP provides funding for training, career development, and mentoring for mental and behavioral health professionals to work with ethnic minorities. The MFP facilitates the entry of racial and ethnic minorities, and individuals dedicated to minority behavioral health, into careers in the behavioral health field. Specifically, the program focuses on training students, postdoctoral fellows, and residents to be culturally and linguistically competent to adequately address the needs of minorities in underserved areas. The program supports trainees in psychology, nursing, social work, psychiatry, addiction counseling, professional counseling and marriage and family therapy. Since its inception, the APA MFP has helped to support the training of 2,094 psychology fellows at the master's, doctoral, postdoctoral, and early career levels.

The Psychology Workforce Shortage

The U.S. is facing a serious shortage of mental and behavioral health providers, including psychologists.¹ According to results from SAMHSA's 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, approximately 20 percent of the population with any mental illness had unmet mental health needs during the previous year, including 39 percent of the population with serious mental illness.² Research from the American Psychological Association indicates that from 2015 to 2030, the supply of psychologists is projected to be insufficient to address this unmet need. When unmet need is examined, the national demand of psychologists is projected to increase by 26,160 FTEs, or 27%, to 121,340 FTEs in 2030.³ **This research projects a shortage of 13,930 psychologists by 2030.**⁴ Separate research conducted by HRSA demonstrates similar findings.⁵



Proposed Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Subcommittee Report Language for FY 2021

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
Interdisciplinary Community-Based Linkages

Mental and Behavioral Health

The Committee recommendation includes \$23 million for the interprofessional Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) Program to increase the number of health service psychologists trained to provide integrated services to high-need, underserved populations in rural and urban communities. In addressing the opioid epidemic, the Committee recognizes the growing need for highly trained mental and behavioral health professionals to deliver evidence-based behavioral interventions for pain management. The Committee encourages HRSA to help integrate health service psychology trainees at federally qualified health centers (FQHCs).

REFERENCES

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2. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). (2017). Results from the 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed Tables. [Table 8.53B]. Retrieved from https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH-DetTabs-2016/NSDUH-DetTabs2016.htm#intro_ftn16
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