

*Federal*

## HEALTH PROFESSIONS FUNDING

**Position:** AMSNY supports increased funding for Title VII and VIII health professions programs. As the nation's health care system undergoes rapid and dramatic changes, an appropriate supply and distribution of health professionals has never been more essential to the public's health. The Title VII and VIII programs are critical to help institutions and programs respond to these current and emerging challenges and to insure that all Americans have access to appropriate and timely health services.

**Background:** Title VII authorizes a variety of grants for students, programs, and institutions to improve racial and ethnic diversity, geographic distribution, and the quality of the health care workforce. The health professions and nursing education programs, authorized under Titles VII and VIII of the Public Health Service Act, are essential components of the nationwide health care safety net, bringing health care services to our rural and underserved areas. Published evaluations have demonstrated that exposure to curriculum supported by Title VII funding and attending an institution with Title VII funding, independently increased the likelihood that graduates would practice in rural or low-income communities. (Krist, 2005) Another study published in the *Journal of Rural Health*, finds that up to 83% of family medicine residents and 80% of nurse practitioners who went through a Title VII or Title VIII program chose to practice in a medically underserved or health professions shortage designated setting. Minority and Disadvantaged Health Professions programs increase minority representation in the health professions. These include the Centers of Excellence (COE), Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP), faculty loan repayment and fellowships and Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS).

For FY 2008, the Administration is recommending: \$10 million for all of the Title VII programs, a 94.6% cut from FY 2007; a 29.7% cut in funding for Title VIII nursing programs; additionally, there is no proposed restoration of other severely cut or eliminated programs, including the COE, HCOP, Rural Training, and Workforce Information and Analysis. As this poses an enormous risk for medical schools and universities that rely on this funding, AMSNY urges ongoing support of the Title VII and VIII health professions programs.