

State

POST- BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM

Request: AMS requests \$750,000 per year for two years to support its Post-Baccalaureate (Post Bac) Program. The Governor included \$264,000 in this year's budget for minority medical education. However, \$264,000 will not fully fund the program. In fact, it would result in over half of the current students not being able to enroll and complete the program. As such, AMS is requesting an increase in funding to \$750,000 to support the Post Bac Program. \$750,000 will allow AMS to continue to provide educationally and economically disadvantaged students the opportunity to enter medical school while increasing the number of students in the program.

Background: Projections by the U.S. Bureau of Health Programs in the Federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) indicate a continued need for programs to assure increased representation of individuals from minority and disadvantaged backgrounds in medicine, as well as to provide adequate manpower to meet health care needs of an increasing disadvantaged population.

A systemic problem in society is a failure of underrepresented minority enrollment and achievement across all disciplines. New York's medical schools are doing their part to remedy this problem but there is still more work to be done and few resources. African-Americans constitute 15.9 percent of the population in New York State but only eight percent of the medical school enrollment and graduates. New York's Hispanic communities constitute 15.1 percent of the State population but only five percent of the enrollment (Sources: AMS, AAMC, U.S. Census 2000).

In the tradition of the AMS mission to support quality health care in New York State through the continual strengthening of medical education, the AMS Post-Baccalaureate Program (Post-Bac Program) in Science and Mathematics provides college students who have applied to medical schools one year of individualized post-baccalaureate study to enhance their academic

performance before they enter medical school. The program is based on the premise that there is a pool of students with the intellectual capability for medical school, but their academic performance has been compromised for a variety of reasons, including: inadequate education, poverty, and low personal and societal expectations. Since its inception, 229 students have participated in the program; 194 (85 percent) of whom have matriculated in medical school.

The Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) and Centers for Excellence (COE) have been cut by 89 percent and 65 percent, respectively. It is imperative that the Post-Bac Program survive in order to increase the number of qualified under-represented minority doctors in New York. By increasing this pool of qualified doctors, and improving health care delivery to the population, the title "under-represented" can be removed from our societal lexicon.