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UPDATED: MARCH 2022

# Increase FY23 Appropriations and Authorizations for Psychology Workforce Development

Developing the workforce of health service psychologists (clinical, counseling, and school psychologists) is key to reducing health disparities and improving health care outcomes for high-need, underserved populations, especially those disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

The Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) Program and Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) are critical in 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 in FY23, as well as supporting the reauthorization<sup>i</sup> of both programs, will increase the nation's supply of health service psychologists trained to provide culturally competent, integrated mental and behavioral health services.

## Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) Program

**FY21 Funding: \$19 million**

**FY22 Funding: \$20 million**

**FY23 Request: \$30 million**

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 2019-2020, the GPE Program provided stipend support to 251 graduate students participating in practica or pre-degree internships in health service psychology.

- 93% of stipend recipients were trained in underserved communities
- 77% of stipend recipients were trained in primary care settings
- Grantees partnered with 210 sites (e.g., hospitals, ambulatory practice sites, and academic institutions) to provide 829 clinical training experiences for psychology graduate students as well as 3,358 interprofessional team-based care trainees who participated in clinical training along with the psychology graduate students
- 77% of sites offered substance use treatment, and 83% offered telehealth services

**Recommended Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Subcommittee Report Language for FY 2023**

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 \$30 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. The Committee recognizes the severe impact of COVID-19 on Americans’ mental and behavioral health and urges HRSA to strengthen investments in the training of health service psychologists to help meet these demands.

**Proposed Reauthorization Language for FY 2023 – FY2027**

Section 756 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 294e– 1) is amended—

“(2) accredited doctoral, internship, and post-doctoral residency programs of health service psychology (including clinical psychology, counseling, and school psychology) for the development and implementation of interdisciplinary training of psychology graduate students for providing behavioral health services, including substance use disorder prevention and treatment services, as well as the development of faculty in health service psychology;

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this grants described in section (a)(2), there is authorized to be appropriated \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2023, \$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2024, \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2025, \$45,000,000 for fiscal year 2026, and \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2027.”

<b>Minority Fellowship Program (MFP)</b>	<b>FY21 Funding: \$16.2 million</b>
	<b>FY22 Funding: \$16.2 million</b>
	<b>FY23 Request: \$25 million</b>

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 individuals of color. The MFP facilitates the entry of people of color, 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 underserved areas. The program supports trainees in psychology, nursing, social work, psychiatry, addiction counseling, professional counseling, and marriage and family therapy.

MFP fellows have gone on to prominent positions in behavioral health services and policy development. Wizdom Powell, PhD, was an MFP fellow between 2000-02 and is now the director of the Health Disparities Institute and associate professor of psychiatry at UConn Health. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, PhD, was an MFP fellow between 1990-93 and is currently the assistant secretary for mental health and substance use for SAMHSA.

Another MFP fellow, Samuel J. Ocasio-Dominguez, PhD, explained the importance of the program in his own words: “The financial support I received after being awarded the MHSAS fellowship allowed me for the first time in my life, to be able to focus on my studies and clinical practices without having to have a side job to cover my expenses....The MFP support helped me to stay on track, and being an MFP Fellow has continued to open doors for me, as an emerging practitioner focusing on the mental health of Latinx+ college student’s mental health in the USA.”

## **Proposed Reauthorization Language for FY2023-2027**

### **(a) In general**

The Secretary shall maintain a program, to be known as the Minority Fellowship Program, under which the Secretary shall award fellowships, which may include stipends, for the purposes of

- (1) increasing the knowledge of mental and substance use disorders practitioners on issues related to prevention, treatment, and recovery support for individuals who are from racial and ethnic minority populations and who have a mental or substance use disorder;
- (2) improving the quality of mental and substance use disorder prevention and treatment services delivered to racial and ethnic minority populations; and
- (3) increasing the number of culturally competent mental and substance use disorders professionals who teach, administer services, conduct research, and provide direct mental or substance use disorder services to racial and ethnic minority populations.

### **(b) Training covered**

The fellowships awarded under subsection (a) shall be for postbaccalaureate training (including for master's and doctoral degrees) for mental and substance use disorder treatment professionals, including in the fields of psychiatry, nursing, social work, psychology, marriage and family therapy, mental health counseling, and substance use disorder and addiction counseling.

### **(c) Authorization of appropriations**

To carry out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027.

## **References**

- i. The Graduate Psychology Education [GPE] (42 U.S.C. §294e-1) and Minority Fellowship Program [MFP] (42 U.S.C. §2901l) were last reauthorized as part of the 21st Century Cures Act (Pub.L. 114-255).