

Friends of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

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The Friends of HRSA Requests \$7.65 Billion for HRSA for Fiscal Year 2012

The Friends of HRSA is a non-profit and non-partisan alliance of more than 180 national organizations, collectively representing millions of public health and health care professionals, academicians and consumers. The coalition's principal goal is to ensure that HRSA's broad health programs have continued support in order to reach the populations presently underserved by the nation's patchwork of health services.

HRSA, "The Access Agency," is a safety net for medically underserved individuals and families, including the 86.7 million Americans who were uninsured for some or all of 2007-2008; 50 million Americans who live in neighborhoods where primary health care services are scarce; more than one million people living with HIV/AIDS, and 40 million vulnerable mothers and children, including children with special health care needs. The agency's overarching mission is to provide national leadership, program resources and services to improve access to culturally competent, quality health care; eliminate health disparities; and rebuild the public health and health care infrastructure. Some of the major health care initiatives conducted by HRSA include:

- Health Professions programs support the education and training of primary care physicians, nurses, dentists, optometrists, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, public health personnel, mental and behavioral health professionals, pharmacists, and other allied health providers; improve the distribution and diversity of health professionals in medically underserved communities; and ensure a sufficient and capable health workforce able to provide care for all Americans and respond to the growing demands of our aging and increasingly diverse population. In addition, the Patient Navigator Program helps individuals in underserved communities, who suffer disproportionately from chronic diseases, navigate the health system.
- Primary Care programs support more than 7,000 community health centers in every state and territory, improving access to preventive and primary care in geographically isolated and economically distressed communities. In addition, the health centers program targets populations with special needs, including migrant and seasonal farm workers, homeless individuals and families, and those living in public housing.
- Maternal and Child Health Flexible Maternal and Child Health Block Grants, Healthy Start and other programs provide services, including prenatal and postnatal care, newborn screening tests, immunizations, school-based health services, mental health services, and well-child care for more than 40 million uninsured and underserved women and children not covered by Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program, including children with special needs.
- HIV/AIDS programs provide assistance to metropolitan and other areas most severely affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic; support comprehensive care, drug assistance and support services for people living with HIV/AIDS; provide education and training for health professionals treating people with HIV/AIDS; and address the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on women and minorities.
- Family Planning Title X programs provide reproductive health care and other preventive services for more than 5 million low-income women at over 4,500 clinics nationwide. These programs improve maternal and child health outcomes, prevent unintended pregnancies and reduce the rate of abortions.
- Rural Health programs improve access to care for the more than 60 million Americans who live in rural areas. Rural Health Outreach and Network Development Grants, Rural Health Research Centers, Rural and Community Access to Emergency Devices Program, and other programs are designed to support community-based disease prevention and health promotion projects, help rural hospitals and clinics implement new technologies and strategies, and build health system capacity in rural and frontier areas.
- Special Programs include the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network, the National Marrow Donor Program, the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program, and National Cord Blood Inventory. Strong funding would facilitate an increase in organ marrow and cord blood transplantation.

In the best professional judgment of the members of the Friends of HRSA, to respond to this challenge and meet the public health needs of our nation, the agency requires a funding level of at least \$7.65 billion for Fiscal Year 2012.

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