

FY2015 INVESTMENTS IN THE HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE

The 2015 President's Budget proposes major new investments to build the health care workforce and improve the delivery of health care services, particularly primary care services, across the nation. These investments are part of a larger set of proposals that will show how we can invest in the things we need to grow our economy, create jobs, increase skills training and improve education—while continuing long-term deficit reduction. The President's FY2015 budget:

Expands Residency Slots for Primary Care and Modernizes Graduate Medical Education:

Primary care providers are critical for ensuring better coordinated care and better health outcomes for all Americans. To meet the health needs of Americans, the Obama Administration has made the recruitment, training and retention of primary care professionals a priority. To encourage and enhance training of primary care practitioners, and other physicians in high-need specialties, the Budget proposes \$5.23 billion over ten years to support training 13,000 new residents over ten years through a new competitive graduate medical education program that incentivizes high-quality, community-based physician training.

Under this new program, new funding would be provided through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to train more physicians and place them in high-need areas. This investment builds on efforts underway through the Affordable Care Act to use a greater number of the residency positions that are funded under Medicare to train primary care physicians, especially in high-need communities. In these competitively awarded residency slots, priority would be given to hospitals and other community-based health care entities that provide a broad range of training experiences, with an emphasis on community-based ambulatory care training in underserved areas, including rural settings. In addition, recipients of the residency slots would need to demonstrate that they train and retain physicians in primary care and use team-based models of care that enable all providers to work at the full extent of their abilities, and adopt new models of care such as Patient-Centered Medical Home or Accountable Care Organizations.

Grows the National Health Service Corps: The Budget expands the National Health Service Corps to increase the availability of providers in those areas across the country that need them most. Over the next 6 years, the Administration will invest \$3.95 billion in mandatory funds to the National Health Service Corps which will greatly expand the number of NHSC health care providers in underserved areas from fewer than 8,900 to an annual field strength of 15,000 providers for each year from 2015 through 2020. The National Health Services Corps provides scholarships and loan repayments to health care providers in return for their practicing areas of the country that need them most. These primary care providers will serve in high-need rural, urban, and frontier areas across the U.S.

This investment continues the Administration's previous efforts to build and strengthen the National Health Service Corps. As a result of this Administration's investments through the Affordable Care Act and the Recovery Act, the number of providers serving in the National Health Service Corps has more than doubled from 3,600 in 2008 to 8,900 in 2013, providing care for millions more patients.

Extends Medicaid Primary Care Increase Through CY 2015: To continue encouraging primary care provider participation during the Medicaid expansion transition, the Budget extends increased payments for primary care services delivered by certain physicians by one year, through 2015, with modifications to expand provider eligibility to additional primary care providers, including physician assistants and nurse practitioners, and better target primary care services. This extension is estimated to cost \$5.44 billion.