



AMERICA'S AFFORDABLE HEALTH CHOICES ACT

QUALITY AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

HEALTH REFORM AT A GLANCE: STRENGTHENING THE NATION'S HEALTH WORKFORCE

Expansions in coverage will strain an already stressed health workforce. Under America's Affordable Health Choices Act, existing scholarship, loan repayment, and training grant programs are strengthened to address the need for primary care, nursing, and public health professionals. The primary care workforce is also enhanced by expanding the National Health Service Corps and creating a new primary care loan program. Nursing workforce expansions are focused on advanced practice nurses who can deliver primary care services and train the next generation of nurses. A new generation of public health workers will be trained through a new loan repayment and scholarship program modeled on the National Health Service Corps. Finally, improved data and advisory systems, coupled with improved diversity and interdisciplinary programs, will provide ongoing surveillance and flexibility to ensure that workforce policies address the needs of a modern U.S. health system.

WORKFORCE:

PRIMARY CARE WORKFORCE (INCLUDING PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS AND DENTAL WORKFORCE)

- Increase funding for National Health Service Corps to address workforce shortages in high need areas. Allow flexibility for part-time service.
- Create a new scholarship and loan repayment program for health care providers in areas of moderate need.
- Enhance student loan and faculty loan repayment programs for primary care providers.
- Strengthen grant programs for primary care training institutions.
- Expand general and pediatric dentistry, dental hygienists, and dental health programs.
- Encourage training for primary care physicians, encourage training outside the hospital where most primary care is practiced, and ensure that physicians are trained with the skills needed to practice health care in the 21st century.

NURSING WORKFORCE (INCLUDING PRIMARY CARE NURSING)

- Expand education, practice, and retention programs for nurses.
- Enhance existing student loan, scholarship, and loan repayment programs.
- Enhance development of advanced practice nurses, including those who deliver primary care services.
- Expand existing loan repayment programs to increase number of nursing faculty.

PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE

- Create a scholarship and loan repayment program for public health workers, modeled after the National Health Service Corps.
- Strengthen programs for recruitment, training, and retention.
- Strengthen existing preventive medicine programs.

ADAPTING WORKFORCE TO EVOLVING SYSTEM NEEDS

- Strengthen existing programs to promote diversity in the health workforce.
- Authorize grants to promote interdisciplinary and community-based training.
- Establish broad interdisciplinary commission to examine workforce issues.
- Establish study center to gather better data on workforce needs.