



FY2026 Funding Request for Investment in the Primary Care Workforce

Recommendation

Invest in innovation to revitalize our nation's primary care physician workforce by including \$59 million for fiscal year (FY) 2026 for Title VII Health Professions Primary Care Training & Enhancement (PCTE) grants administered by HRSA, to allow for a robust competitive grant cycle. Include report language on PCTE grants. Current funding levels are at \$49 million.

Overview

Title VII primary care programs are among the federal government's most effective, evidence-based tools for strengthening the primary care physician workforce. These programs support medical schools and residency programs in recruiting, training, and retaining physicians who practice primary care, particularly in rural, underserved, and high-need communities. Despite demonstrated success, funding has not kept pace with workforce needs, limiting the program's reach and impact.

The Workforce Challenge

The primary care physician workforce faces mounting pressure:

- In [2019](#), more than one-quarter of primary care physicians were age 60 or older
- The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) projects a shortage of 17,800–48,000 [primary care physicians by 2034](#)
- Demand continues to rise due to population aging, increasing chronic disease, and persistent health inequities
- A [2021 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine report](#) found that primary care is the only health system component where increased supply is linked to better population health and equity.
- The [PCTE](#) program supports proven training strategies that increase entry into and retention in primary care, including outpatient training, community preceptors, mentorship, pipeline programs, and faculty development. Current funding levels limit the ability of departments of family medicine to innovate and meet evolving workforce needs

Evidence of Value

Multiple evaluations demonstrate the program's impact:

- In its [19th Report](#), the Advisory Committee recommended \$200 million for primary care and dental training programs.
- Research shows [Title VII investments](#) improve patient outcomes, increase primary care workforce production, and advance health equity, particularly for underserved populations.

Conclusion

Primary care health professions training grants under Title VII are vital to developing and sustaining a workforce equipped to meet the evolving health care needs of the 21st century. We urge your support for \$59 million in FY 2026 to strengthen primary care training, expand workforce capacity, and improve access to high-quality care across the country.