



TITLE VIII NURSING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act¹ dedicates federal funding for Nursing Workforce Development Programs administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). These programs support the full nursing workforce pipeline, including education, faculty development, and workforce entry and retention. Title VIII programs represent the primary federal investment specifically dedicated to nursing workforce development in the U.S.

■ There are [nearly 6 million](#) registered nurses (RNs) throughout the U.S.², and the field is growing faster than the average profession, with an average of [189,100 openings](#) for registered nurses projected each year over the decade.³ At the same time, Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Midwives, and Nurse Practitioners [will grow by 35%](#) – much faster than the national average.⁴ As the demand for nurses grows, the national [nurse faculty vacancy rate](#) remains elevated at 7.2%, with 80% of open positions requiring advanced degrees.⁵

Ascend Learning annually partners with more than 60% of the nation's nursing programs, 300,000 nursing students, 250,000 allied health professionals, 150,000 first responders, 145,000 fitness professionals, and 100,000 medical students.



NURSING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

- **[Nurse Faculty Loan Program \(NFLP\)](#)**: increases the number of nursing faculty by providing low-interest loans for nurses studying to be nurse faculty, in addition to loan and accrued interest cancellation for those who work as full-time faculty.
- **[Nurse Education, Practice, Quality, and Retention Programs \(NEPQR\)](#)**: creates pathways from academic training to clinical practice, encourages academic-practice partnerships, supports recruitment and retention of nurse faculty and preceptors, and expands experiential learning opportunities, including simulation-based technology.
- **[Nurse Corps Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs](#)**: offers loan repayment to nurses who work in health care facilities experiencing a critical shortage of nurses, along with scholarships to students pursuing nursing degrees.
- **[Nursing Workforce Diversity Program](#)**: expands nursing education opportunities for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds through project grants to accredited schools of nursing, nurse-managed health clinics/centers, academic health centers, or state or local governments.
- **[Advanced Nursing Education Program \(ANE\)](#)**: supports advanced nursing education programs for registered nurses (RNs) to become nurse practitioners, nurse-midwives, nurse anesthetists, and nurse administrators.



CURRENT POLICY STATUS

TITLE VIII REAUTHORIZATION

The Title VIII programs were last reauthorized in 2020 through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

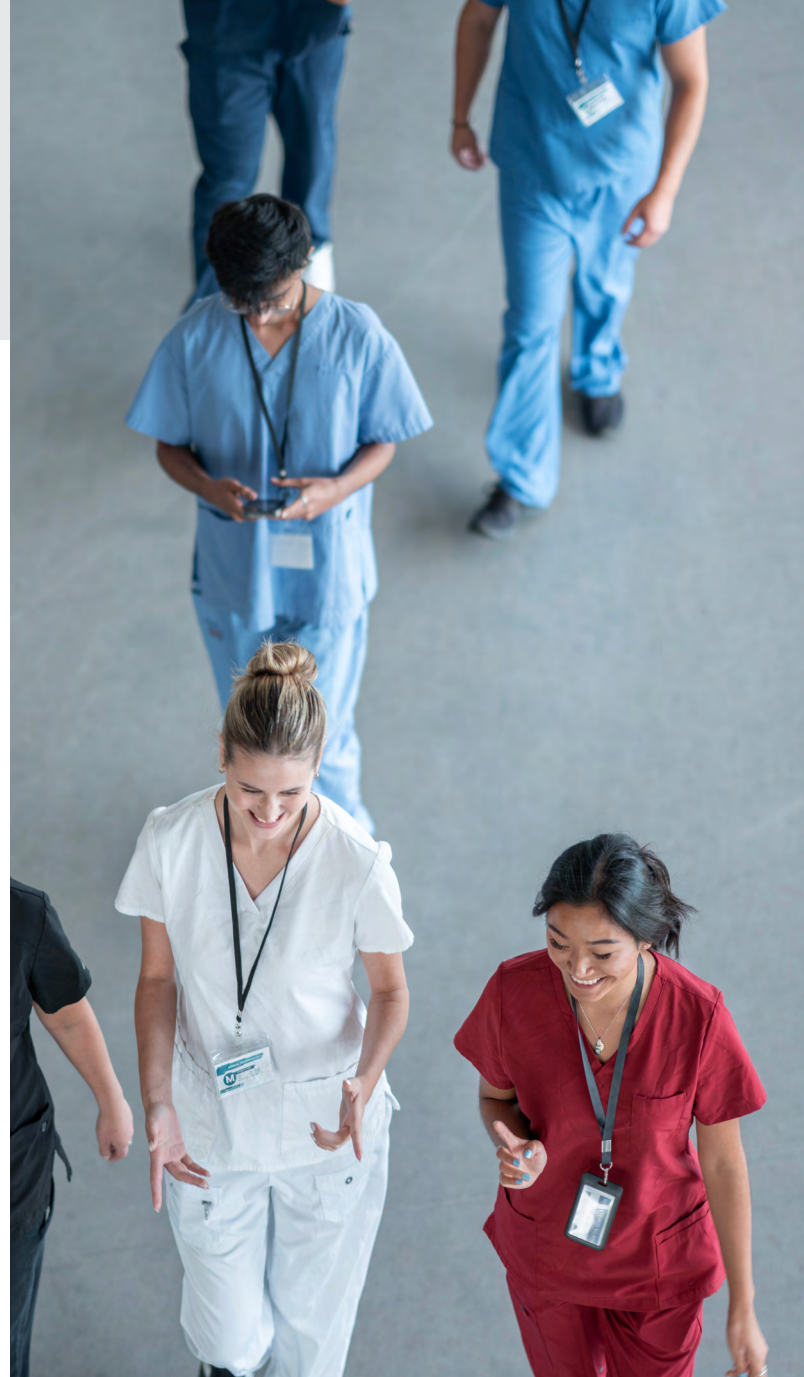
Bipartisan legislation, the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2025 ([S.1874](#) / [H.R. 3593](#)), has been introduced in the 119th Congress to reauthorize and extend funding to the programs through 2030.

FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2027 APPROPRIATIONS

In [FY 2026](#): \$305.471 million for all Title VIII programs

For FY2027, Ascend Learning is advocating for:

- \$346 million total for all Nursing Workforce Development programs.
- Within the total: \$57 million for the Nurse Faculty Loan Program (doubling from FY26's \$28.5M) to support nurse faculty and address nurse faculty hiring bottlenecks.
- Report language being included that directs HRSA to prioritize faculty conversion and retention and clinical site expansion (especially in rural/underserved areas).



REFERENCES

- 1 42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.
- 2 National Council of State Boards of Nursing. *Aggregate RN Active Licenses Table*. Chicago: NCSBN. Accessed June 9, 2026. <https://www.ncsbn.org/NND/Statistics/Aggregate-RNActiveLicensesTable.pdf>.
- 3 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. "Registered Nurses." *Occupational Outlook Handbook*. Accessed June 9, 2026. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>.
- 4 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. "Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Midwives, and Nurse Practitioners." *Occupational Outlook Handbook*. Accessed June 9, 2026. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/nurse-anesthetists-nurse-midwives-and-nurse-practitioners.htm>.
- 5 American Association of Colleges of Nursing. "Nursing Faculty Shortage." *Fact Sheets*. Accessed June 9, 2026. <https://www.aacnnursing.org/news-data/fact-sheets/nursing-faculty-shortage>.