

Over 14 Years of Success & Wins for the APA Education Government Relations Office



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION
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DIRECTORATE

2009-2010 – Health Care Reform Workforce Development Provisions: The Education Government Relations Office (GRO) successfully advocated for provisions in the Senate and House Health Care Reform bills on psychology education and training. The final legislation P.L. 111-148 that became law on March 23, 2010 contains the Senate provision that provides funding for doctoral, internship, postdoctoral, and residency training in psychology for up to \$10 million per year.

2008 - Primary Care Association Initiative – In 2008 the Education GRO successfully launched an initiative with the California Psychological Association to collaborate with the California Primary Care Association to hire psychologists and utilize psychology trainees in their community health centers. The Education GRO has targeted the federally supported Primary Care Associations because they represent the Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) in each state. The FQHC \$2.2 billion program, with approximately 7,000 sites nation wide, provides health care to our nation's uninsured and underinsured persons.

Higher Education Action Reauthorization: The bill reauthorizing the Higher Education Act was signed into law on August 14, 2008 and contains many provisions of interest to members of APA. This includes language that maintains the integrity and independence of the accreditation process and APA's definition for "teaching skills" with minor modifications. HEA also now includes a new discretionary loan forgiveness program: the Loan Forgiveness for Service in Areas of National Need. Psychologists and other mental health professionals are eligible to participate in this program. A recipient could receive \$2,000 of an outstanding loan forgiven for each year employed in a specified field, with a maximum amount forgiven of \$10,000.

Department of Defense Center for Deployment Psychology (CDP): The Center for Deployment Psychology (CDP) was incorporated into the newly established Department of Defense Center of Excellence (DCoE) for Psychological Health and

Traumatic Brain Injury – the military arm for training health professionals for meeting the mental health needs of returning military personnel and their families. As an established permanent program, the CDP is expected to receive continued annual funding as part of the DCoE.

2007 – SAMHSA Workforce Initiative: Education GRO has been instrumental in bringing the issue of workforce development to the forefront of Congressional efforts to reauthorize the Substance Abuse/Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Currently there are no legislative provisions on workforce development except for data collection and analysis. Education GRO took the lead and became a negotiating player in the debate. If successful, it will be a tremendous victory for APA.

2006 – Defense Graduate Psychology Education (D-GPE) Program Appropriations: The D-GPE Program, renamed the Center for Deployment Psychology, was launched with an FY 2007 appropriation of \$2.9 million by Congressman Bill Young (R-FL), Chair, House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. The training will be administered through the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences with ten satellite training centers nationwide. Military psychology students as well as licensed military and civilian psychologists are being trained to treat returning military personnel suffering from post traumatic stress disorder and other severe medical injuries.

2005 – Federal Community Health Centers Program: There was significant progress in our efforts to promote the inclusion of psychologists and psychology interns in the provision of integrated health care services through the Federal Qualified Health Center Program. The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) agreed to work with APA to promote the hiring of psychologists and psychology interns. NACHC invited APA to present at their annual conference and to write an article in their newsletter.

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2004 – Youth Suicide Prevention Act Signed Into Law; Includes Campus Mental Health

Provisions: The Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act, which contains provisions from the APA developed Campus Care and Counseling Act that were introduced and passed in both chambers with bipartisan support, was signed into law on October 21st. The legislation represents an important first step in establishing critical and needed support for mental and behavioral health services to students on college campuses.

2003 – Graduate Psychology Education (GPE)

Program Funds More than Doubled : For FY 2003, Education advocates successfully gained an appropriation of \$4.5 million for the GPE Program, a significant increase in funding over the FY 2002 level of \$2 million. Administration for the program was moved to the Division of Medicine/Dentistry and will be renamed to include psychology.

2002 – Psychology Expanded in National Health Service Corps (NHSC) and Community Health Centers:

With the passage of the Health Safety Net Act, psychologists are now defined in federal law as “health service providers” and listed as “primary care providers”. Psychology graduate students are now also eligible for the NHSC scholarship program. The federal Community Health Centers Program was also given authority to hire psychologists.

2001 – Graduate Psychology Education (GPE)

Program Established: The GPE Program was established within the Bureau of Health Professions with a \$2 million appropriation, resulting in 18 awards nationwide. This was the first federal program solely dedicated to the support of psychology education and training.

Federal Education Advocacy Coordinators

(FEDAC) Network Established: Efforts to establish FEDAC began with the appointment of 14 volunteers in ten regions. The first gathering of FEDAC Regional Coordinators for advocacy training and hill visits took place in Washington, D.C. in the spring.

2000 – Older Americans Act Includes Mental Health Training:

The Older Americans Act was signed into law with a new provision to fund graduate programs in psychology, as well as establish multidisciplinary centers of gerontology with a special emphasis on mental health services.

National Health Service Corps Mental Health

Summits: One million dollars was appropriated to expand the NSHC Grant Incentive Program on Mental Health. This program supported three summits that were designed to assist 26 states in developing plans to increase mental and behavioral health services to underserved communities.

1999 – Gained Protections for Psychologists on Campuses in the Higher Education Negotiated

Rulemaking: In order to protect client-counselor confidentiality, Education advocacy staff was involved in the negotiated rulemaking -- successfully advocating for the exemption of psychologists from reporting about their counseling sessions for a report on campus crimes.

1998 – Psychology Gains Role in Health

Professions Education Act: A separate authority for funding of graduate programs in mental health (i.e., psychology) as well as expanded eligibility in the Minority & Disadvantaged Programs and the Interdisciplinary Community-based Linkages Programs were gained.

Increased Access for Psychology Graduate

Students in the Higher Education Act: Gained access for psychology graduate students to the Federal Work Study Program and the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need, as well as expanded the Minority Science Improvement Program for minority students to the graduate level.

1997 – Protection for the VHA Psychology

Internship Program: Report Language was secured in both the 1997 House and Senate Appropriations bills; Education Advocacy also attempted to get Report Language in the 1998 Appropriations bills that stated it is the “intent of Congress” to have the VHA continue the Psychology Internship Program. The Report Language also included a statement by the Congress to recognize the importance of psychologists in the provision of primary care to veterans.

1996 – National Health Service Corps Includes

First Psychologists : After two years and the placement of twelve psychologists, Dr. Don Weaver, Director of the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), announced a special initiative targeting mental health providers in underserved areas. APA provided information for a brochure on psychologists to be distributed by the NHSC to their regional offices and community health centers.