



NAFC FY2020 Appropriations Requests

FREE CLINICS MEDICAL MALPRACTICE COVERAGE

Agency: Health and Human Services

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Subaccount: Free Clinics Medical Malpractice

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This program allows us to continue to recruit quality volunteers to serve at our clinics around the country. This is critical since our clinics run on such small operating budgets and do not have the financial resources to provide medical malpractice coverage to those who volunteer to practice at free and charitable clinics.

FTCA coverage was expanded to include Free Clinic staff but the expansion did not cover the Free Clinic entity and it did not cover the Charitable Clinic staff or entity. We are seeking to expand FTCA coverage to charitable clinics and charitable pharmacies as well as to the free and charitable clinic entities.

PROGRAMMATIC REQUEST

FY2020 Amount Requested: \$1 million

FY2019 Appropriation: \$1 million; FY2019 PBR: \$1 million

DIABETES AND THE UNDERSERVED PILOT PROGRAM

Agency: Health and Human Services

Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research (AHQR)

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This language would encourage AHRQ to fund a pilot program focusing resources on safety net clinics who serve large numbers of uninsured and underserved patients with diabetes. Federal funding continues to be expanded for Community Health Centers but other members of the safety net who provide critical care are being ignored. This language encourages the creation of a pilot program focused on diabetes that would allow these important safety net clinics the ability to access important resources.

JUSTIFICATION

1.5 million Americans are diagnosed with diabetes every year. In 2015, 30.3 million Americans, or 9.4% of the population, had diabetes. In 2015, 84.1 million Americans age 18 and older had prediabetes. The total costs of diagnosed diabetes in 2017 in the United States was \$327 billion, \$237 billion in direct medical costs and \$90 billion in reduced productivity. Diabetes remains the 7th leading cause of death in the United States in 2015.



NAFC FY2020 Appropriations Requests

REPORT LANGUAGE REQUEST

“...The Committee provides \$2 million to AHRQ to fund a pilot program for safety net health clinics that are not currently receiving 330 funds focused on lowering A1c levels to under 7 in a 12-month period for medically underserved low health literacy populations.”

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Agency: Corporation for National and Community Service

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Our request encourages Congress to continue funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service. Our clinics currently participate in several of their programs, including Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) and AmeriCorps.

JUSTIFICATION

Free and Charitable Clinics currently have 160,000 volunteers including 30,000 medical providers, 21,000 nurses and almost 71,000 non-medical volunteers who are serving our nation’s most vulnerable patients at clinics around the country. This dedication in giving back to communities should be celebrated and encouraged.

PROGRAMMATIC REQUEST

We urge Congress to continue funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service at no less than the final FY2019 appropriated level.

TITLE X: FUNDING FOR BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING

Agency: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
Title X, Family Planning

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Many Free and Charitable Clinics are currently receiving Title X funding to provide breast and cervical cancer screening to uninsured low-income patients. Our request would continue funding for these critically important screenings funded through the Title X program. Our patients benefit from this funding because it allows our clinics to be able to provide vital breast and cervical cancer screenings if funding was eliminated. By providing necessary screenings, we are saving in healthcare costs by diagnosing and treating illnesses earlier and saving lives. This funding allows Free and Charitable Clinics to provide critical screenings to low income patients all over the country.



NAFC FY2020 Appropriations Requests

PROGRAMMATIC REQUEST

We urge Congress to continue funding for the Title X at no less than the final FY2019 appropriated level.

NURSE CORPS LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

Agency: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
Bureau of Health Workforce

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Nurse Corps Loan Repayment Program allows registered nurses (including advanced practice registered nurses and nursing faculty) to help to create healthy communities in poor urban and rural areas as they build their own careers by paying off 60 percent of their unpaid nursing student loans in just 2 years – plus an additional 25 percent of the original balance for an optional third year. In return, NURSE Corps members fulfill a service obligation at one of the eligible entities located in designated mental health or primary medical care Health Professional Shortage Areas across the United States. This program allows nurses who want to work in our clinics the opportunity to have their loans repaid.

PROGRAMMATIC REQUEST

We urge Congress to continue funding for the Nurse Corps Loan Repayment Programs at no less than the final FY2019 appropriated level.