



The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

Investing in Our Nation's Health Care Workforce

Currently, 65 million Americans live in communities where they cannot easily access a primary care provider, and an additional 16,500 practitioners are required to meet their needs. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will address shortages in primary care and other providers by making necessary investments in our nation's health care workforce.

Invest in the National Health Service Corps

- ✓ The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will increase funding for the National Health Service Corps, a program which provides scholarships and loan repayments to encourage primary care providers to practice in underserved areas.

Reauthorize and Improve Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs

- ✓ The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will invest in and improve upon grants, scholarship, and loan repayment programs in fields such as primary care, dentistry, pediatrics, nursing, and mental health.
- ✓ Loan repayments will be provided to nursing faculty to address the educational bottleneck contributing to our current nursing shortage.
- ✓ The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will reauthorize and expand geriatric education programs to focus on caring for our aging population.

Increase Workforce Diversity

- ✓ Twice as many Latino, African American and Native American graduating medical students report intentions to practice in underserved communities compared to Whites, but they only comprise six percent of practicing physicians.
- ✓ The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will invest in programs to improve the diversity of our nation's workforce, including Centers of Excellence and targeted scholarship and loan repayment programs.

Develop Workforce Planning and Analysis

- ✓ In order to meet the health care needs of our nation, we need to better examine workforce constraints and develop priorities and courses of action.
- ✓ The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will establish a national workforce commission to gather information on the health care workforce and better coordinate and implement workforce planning and analysis.
- ✓ A new competitive state health care workforce development grant program will support comprehensive planning and activities leading to coherent and comprehensive health care workforce development strategies at the State and local levels.

Incentivize Primary Care and Practice in Underserved Areas

- ✓ One of the reasons that providers are less likely to choose primary care is the lower salary compared to specialty fields.
- ✓ The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act provides a 10 percent payment bonus for primary care services.
- ✓ It also provides 10 percent payment bonuses for general surgery services provided in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA).
- ✓ The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will also establish a re-distribution policy under Medicare to encourage more training of primary care providers and authorizes new resources for primary care training at teaching health centers.