

Overview of Legislative Issue:

FY 2011 Funding for the Graduate Psychology Education Program

Nina G. Levitt, EdD
Associate Executive Director
Education Government Relations Office

American Psychological Association Education Directorate



What is GPE?

- Federal Grant Program
  (Bureau of Health Professions)
- Accredited Graduate Psychology Programs
  (Doctoral/Post-Doctoral and Internships)
- Interdisciplinary
- Underserved Populations
- Students in Need of Federal Aid

What Federal Agency Oversees GPE?

- The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services'(DHHS) Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) 's

  Bureau of Health Professions (BHPr)

- New Administrator, Mary Wakefield, PhD, RN

How Many GPE Grants Have Been Awarded?

- Since 2002 the GPE Program has received nearly $27 million
- Awarded 89 grants in 32 states, including the District of Columbia
- Trained 100 graduate psychologists annually, with a majority of graduates entering practice in underserved communities



What Are the GPE Target Populations?

✓The GPE Program is targeted at underserved populations in rural and urban communities

✓ Ongoing targeted populations include:

older adults, children, chronically ill, victims of abuse/trauma

✓ Special Focus for FY2011 on:

Veterans and their families; unemployed persons, and

Integrating psychologists into Community Health Centers

✓Monday Panel Presentation: Veterans/Military and Unemployed

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How Have GPE Funds Been Used – An Example

University of Colorado Health Sciences Center

One of the 1st GPE grants (2003), which enabled them to:

- ❑ Increase the number of interns from 5 to 7
- ❑ Expand time for interns on an Indian reservation
- ❑ Add a rotation for work with deaf and hard of hearing persons including learning sign language
- ❑ Also add rotations for corrections, maltreated children, developmental disabilities, and underserved in primary care settings
- ❑ Includes training in screening new refugees from war-torn countries



History of GPE Funding and Where Are We Now?

- FY 2002 - Created with $2 million
- FY 2003 - Increased to $4.5 Million
- FY 2004 & 2005 – Flat-funded
- FY 2006 - Reduced to $2 million
- FY 2007 & FY 2008 - Reduced to $1.8 million
- FY2009 - Up slightly to $2 million
- FY 2010 - Up to $3 million

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Current Status:
FY 2011 GPE Appropriations

- ✓ GPE in President's Budget
- ✓ House Bill: Full Request of $7 Million
- ✓ Senate Bill: At Least Current Level of $3 Million

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FY 2011 "Ask" for GPE Funding?

Ask the Representative/Senator to
SUPPORT the House funding level of :

$7.0 Million

- Reinstate geropsychology grants
- Special focus on veterans and their families
- New focus unemployed persons
- Integration of psychology trainees at Federally Qualified Health Centers (e.g., Community Health Centers)

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Authorizing/Appropriations Bills… What's the Difference?



Authorizing Bills

- Establish federal programs
- Set funding limits
- May be introduced in the House or Senate
- Can take many years for passage

Appropriations Bills

- Determine precise amount of money for each federal program
- May mandate use of funds
- Originate in the House
- Must be Passed Annually



GPE Authorizing Efforts

- Graduate Psychology Education Act of 2009

  S. 811 – Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI)

  H.R. 2066 – Reps. Gene Green (D-TX) & Tim Murphy (R-PA)

- Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act of 2010 (P.L.111-148)

  H.R. 3962 – Affordable Health Care for America Act

  S. 3590 – Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

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WHAT'S THE MESSAGE?

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The Message is…

House: *Thank House Members for the $7 Million and urge them to stand firm; protect GPE!*

Senate: *Urge Senate Members to Accept House Level of $7* Million FY 2011 for GPE.

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Hill Visit Talking Points Exercise:

FY 2011 Funding for the Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) Program

- Introduction/ Purpose of Visit
- Provide Anecdotal Information
- Provide Expert Information
- Summarize Key Points
- Request Support – The “Ask”
- Conclusion/Appreciation



Remember:

You Already Have What You Need To Make A Difference

- Personal Life Experience
- Professional Expertise
- Knowledge of Local Issues/Needs
- Constituent Status (You Vote)

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Question…

Are ELC Hill Visits Important?

Yes…especially this one!

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What Else is Important?

Congressional Receptions!

