



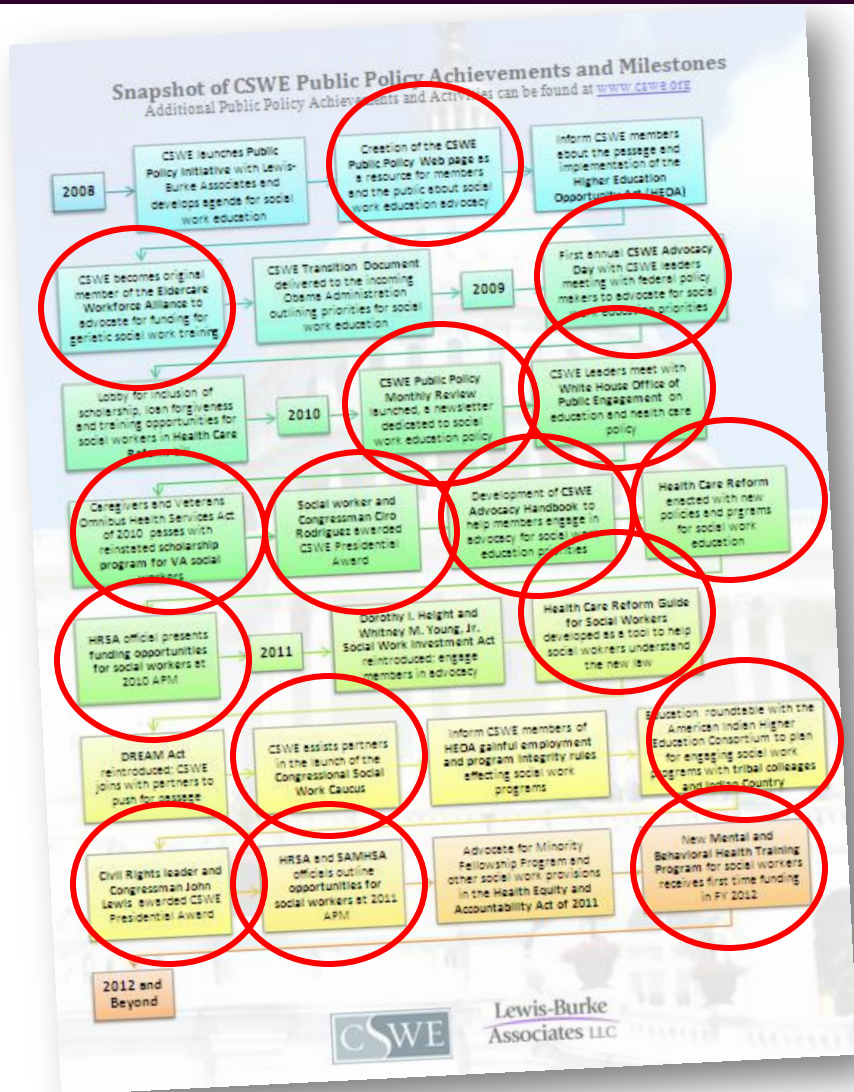
Government Relations for Research & Education

Update on Federal Policies and Activities Impacting Social Work Education

Wendy Naus, Lewis-Burke Associates LLC

April 3, 2012

Accomplishments



- New Mental and Behavioral Health Education Grants Program
- Veterans Scholarship Program
- Tools and Resources
- Champions for Social Work Education



The social work education community has a seat at the table in federal policy discussions and is seen as a reliable resource and valuable partner with federal policy makers.

Mental and Behavioral Health Education and Training Grants



Alert to CSWE Accredited Programs \$10 Million for New Training Program Expected Soon

March 14, 2012

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to alert CSWE members to a new source of federal grant funding, expected to be announced very soon, that will help in your efforts to expand capacity. It is our hope that you will use this information to begin your preparations for writing a grant proposal when the announcement is issued by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in early April. Once announced, the program's submission window is likely to be very compressed—perhaps only 30 to 45 days.

HRSA plans to use approximately \$10 million in already appropriated fiscal year 2012 funds to initiate a new program authorized in Sec. 756 of the recent healthcare reform law.

The funding announcement is currently being drafted in the agency, but we expect it to be called the Mental and Behavioral Health Education and Training Grant program. Its aim is to help close the gap in access to mental and behavioral health care services by increasing the number of adequately prepared mental and behavioral health providers, including social workers. All grants will be peer-reviewed and awarded before the end of the current fiscal year, September 30, 2012. Review scoring will be used as the basis for rankings and funding decisions by HRSA staff. HRSA currently plans to devote at least another \$5 million to the new program next year. In addition to social work, psychology programs will also be eligible. It is not clear whether the grants will be funded on a multiyear basis.

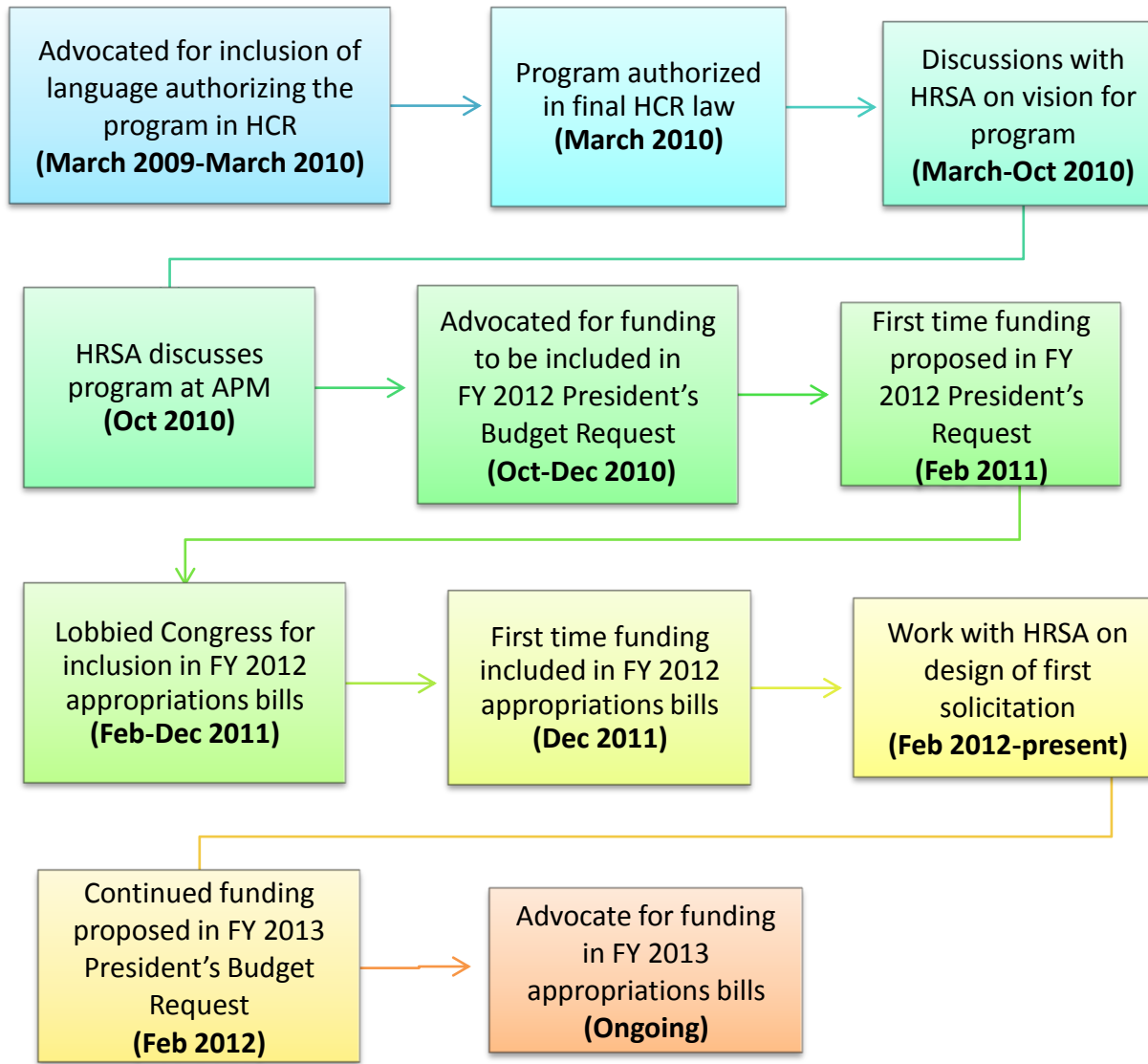
The focus of this effort will likely be on expanding training in accredited social work programs. Although the final HRSA program may be slightly different from what is described in the law, the following language from Sec. 756 is offered as a guide to your initial thinking about this opportunity:

(d) PRIORITY.—

(1) In selecting the grant recipients in social work under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall give priority to applicants that—

- Authorized in ACA, funding appropriated in FY 2012
- HRSA FOA expected in next few weeks
- \$10 million to spend before Sept. 30
- Only program targeting social work (psychology also included)
- Priority to underserved populations – rural/urban, veterans, children, etc.
- BSW and MSW may be eligible
- Award size likely \$250,000-\$350,000
- **Quick submission turnaround – 30-45 days**

How Did We Get Here?



VA Health Professional Scholarship Program

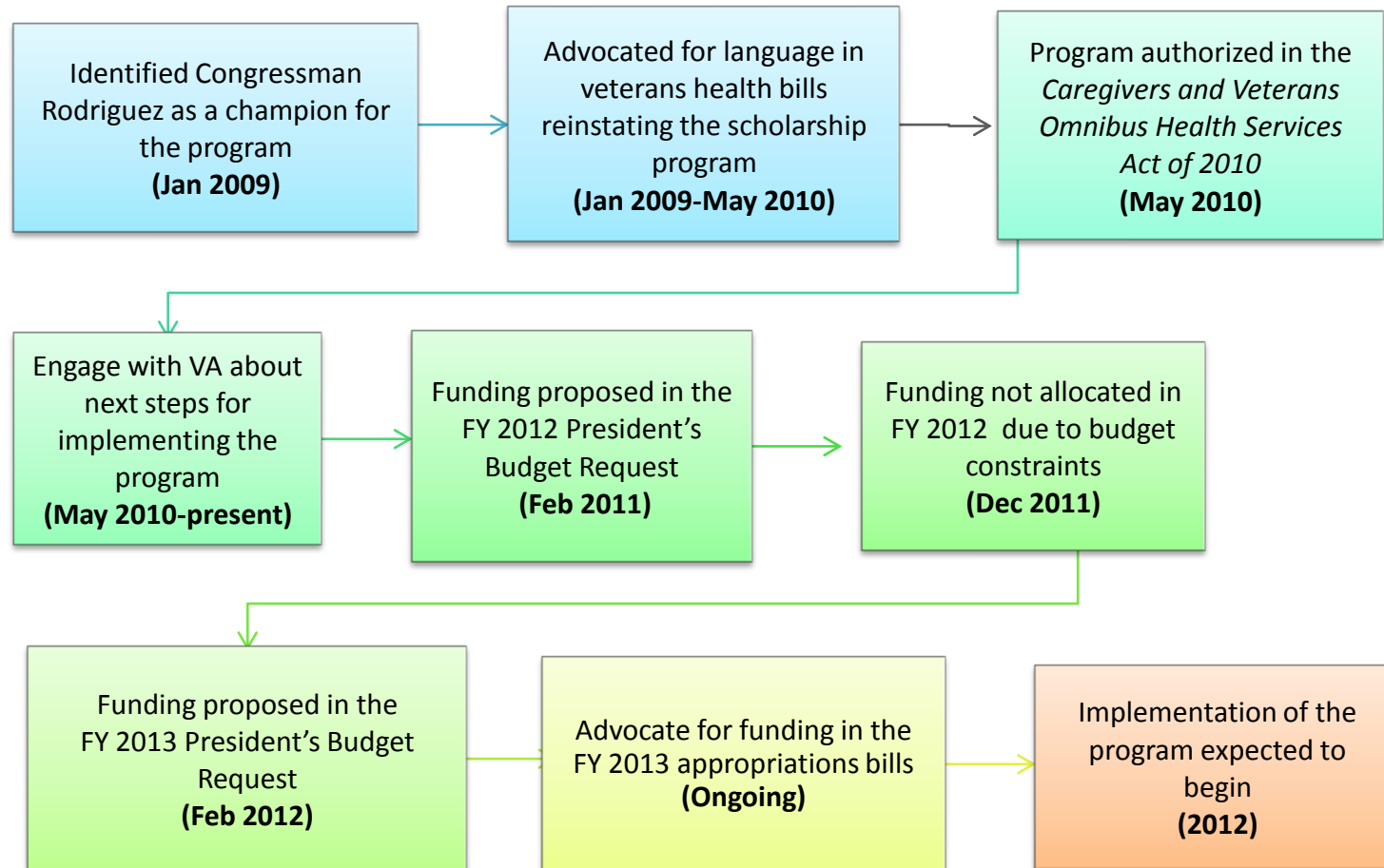


- Authorized in 2010 Veterans Omnibus Health bill
- Tuition assistance, monthly stipend, and other education costs (up to \$35,000/yr) for each year of a graduate/training program leading to a career in a VA facilities
- Minimum 2 year service pay back with VHA in a permanent, full-time position.
- Regulatory process to be completed in 2012

Health Professional Educational Assistance Program (HPEAP)

	2011 Actual	2012		2013 Estimate	2014 Advance Approp.	2012-2013 Increase / Decrease	2013-2014 Increase / Decrease
		Budget Estimate	Current Estimate				
Obligations (\$000)							
Education Debt Reduction Program (EDRP).....	\$17,777	\$25,608	\$26,533	\$31,333	\$40,933	\$4,800	\$9,600
Employee Incentive Scholarship Program (EISP).....	\$1,891	\$2,040	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	\$0
VA Nursing Education for Employees Program (VANEEP).....	\$11,260	\$14,864	\$14,573	\$14,573	\$14,573	\$0	\$0
Nat'l Nursing Education Initiative (NNEI).....	\$18,162	\$17,390	\$17,049	\$17,049	\$17,049	\$0	\$0
Health Professional Scholarship Program (HPSP).....	\$0	\$3,506	\$0	\$3,506	\$5,614	\$3,506	\$2,108
Visual Impairment Education Assistance Program	\$0	\$450	\$450	\$900	\$900	\$450	\$0
Total.....	\$49,090	\$63,858	\$60,605	\$69,361	\$81,069	\$8,756	\$11,708

How Did We Get Here?



Economy and Budgets



- House Republicans emphasizing deficit reduction and down-sizing the federal government – Discretionary programs
- Legislative gridlock in Congress, only progress to be made is at agencies
- Little progress being made on non-spending bills in this political environment
- Sequestration looming

Lewis-Burke
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**Analysis of the
President's FY 2013 Budget Request
for Federal Education, Training and
Research Programs**

Prepared for the Council on Social Work Education
by Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
February 13, 2012



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ASSOCIATES

Budget Outlook



(in millions)	FY 2012 Enacted	FY 2013 Request	Request vs. FY 2012
HRSA Title VII	268.2	228.1	-15.0%
SAMHSA MFP	5.706	4.372	-23.3%
NIH	30,698	30,698	--
VA Scholarship	0	3.506	--

2012 Elections



- Extremely polarized political environment in Washington – elections further the discord
- Senate races – One-third up for reelection
 - Currently:
 - 51 Democrats
 - 47 Republicans
 - 2 Independents
 - Up for grabs:
 - 21 Democratic seats
 - 10 Republican seats
 - 2 Independent seats
- House races – All members up for reelection
 - Republicans hold a 241-198 majority
 - Redistricting



Time to start thinking about how to position social work education in 2013 and beyond.



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION
STRENGTHENING THE PROFESSION OF SOCIAL WORK
Leadership in Research, Career Advancement

MEMORANDUM TO THE NEXT PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATION
A VISION FOR SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION
November 2008

The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) is a nonprofit national association of more than 3,000 individual members as well as 650 graduate and undergraduate programs in social work education. Founded in 1952, this partnership of educational and social welfare agencies, and private citizens is recognized by the Council on Accreditation (CHEA) as the sole accrediting agency for social work education. Social work education focuses students on leadership and direct practice in families, groups, and communities by creating new opportunities that empower contributing members of their communities.

OUR VISION

The reach of social work stretches across all sectors of society, from business and social services, and beyond. Social work education teaches students—all its dimensions and complexities of social interactions. It also helps nurture the leaders in every sector. Our vision for the future is one in which every student, to understand these interactions, is equipped with the skills needed to be a leader in society, and also gains an understanding of the importance of social work to their educational career. It's a vision that goes beyond addressing the need for and allows all persons to gain an understanding and appreciation for the interaction across gender, generation, race, social status, culture, and belief. We believe the recommendations contained in this memorandum bring us closer to fulfilling this vision.

CHALLENGES

The next President of the United States faces domestic challenges at all levels of society. Middle class working people and their families are coping with difficult economic times. Vulnerable populations from all walks of life—defined here as children and adults with physical or mental disabilities, those living in poverty, trauma victims, aging individuals, returning veterans, individuals under stress or facing coping challenges both temporary and permanent, and segments of society needing assistance to adjust to changing circumstances or overcome injustices—are faced with hurdles which for some cannot be overcome alone.

Social workers help vulnerable populations in society be as healthy and productive as possible by working with them to navigate societal and personal challenges. Social workers are employed in schools, hospitals, VA facilities, rehabilitation centers, social service locations, child welfare organizations, assisted living centers, nursing homes, and faith-based organizations. Given the breadth of the profession, there are simply too few social workers to keep pace with the demand.

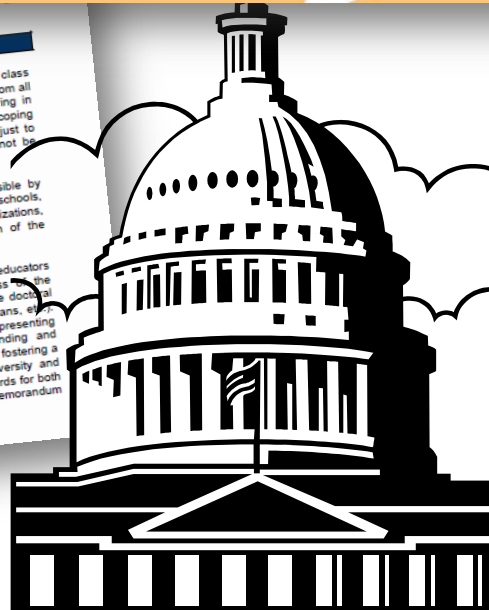
It is generally accepted throughout the profession—among social work practitioners and educators alike—that recruitment and retention poses the most significant challenge to the success of the profession. This is true across all sectors (public and private), at all levels (from BSW to the doctoral level), and in all fields of practice (child welfare, public health, mental health, geriatrics, veterans, etc.). Organizations like the National Association of Social Workers, a membership organization representing professional social workers, provide leadership in creating metrics for better understanding and articulating this deficiency. CSWE focuses its efforts on the educational needs associated with fostering a sustainable and competent social work workforce, such as recruitment and retention, diversity and accessibility, and maintaining integrity in higher education through sound accreditation standards for both the baccalaureate and master's level education. The recommendations made within this memorandum address these needs.

COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, DC

58th ANNUAL PROGRAM MEETING • NOV. 9-12, 2012

SOCIAL WORK: A CAPITAL VENTURE



Associates

Macro Higher Ed Topics



- President Obama vocal about college costs – popular election-year issue.
- Student debt load becoming front-page issue, along with scheduled interest rate increase from 3.4% to 6.8%.
- Pressure on universities to demonstrate value, ensure students graduate on time, and enhance transparency.
- Bipartisan commitment to maintain Pell grant maximum award, but a shortfall looming in 2014.

HEA Implementation



- Implementation of regulations on gainful employment and program integrity per the 2008 HEA reauthorization
 - Federal definition of a credit hour
 - State authorization for distance education program – For-profits sued ED, judge put a hold on the implementation.
- NACIQI
 - Charged with advising ED on accreditation issues for 2013 reauthorization
 - NACIQI finalizing recommendations:
 - Linking accreditation and Title IV eligibility
 - Coordinating fed, state, and accrediting agency authority
 - Collecting and using data
- Federal discussions do not yet impact professional accrediting organizations or CHEA, but we're watching!



The task before us is tall, but together we can achieve even greater successes for social work education in the years and decades ahead...