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

- 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?

1. Advocated for inclusion of language authorizing the program in HCR (March 2009-March 2010)
2. Program authorized in final HCR law (March 2010)
3. Discussions with HRSA on vision for program (March-Oct 2010)
4. HRSA discusses program at APM (Oct 2010)
5. Advocated for funding to be included in FY 2012 President’s Budget Request (Oct-Dec 2010)
6. First time funding proposed in FY 2012 President’s Request (Feb 2011)
7. Lobbied Congress for inclusion in FY 2012 appropriations bills (Feb-Dec 2011)
8. First time funding included in FY 2012 appropriations bills (Dec 2011)
9. Work with HRSA on design of first solicitation (Feb 2012-present)
10. Continued funding proposed in FY 2013 President’s Budget Request (Feb 2012)
11. Advocate for funding in FY 2013 appropriations bills (Ongoing)
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Obligations ($000)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Debt Reduction Program (EDRP)</td>
<td>$17,777</td>
<td>$25,608</td>
<td>$26,533</td>
<td>$31,333</td>
<td>$40,933</td>
<td>$4,800</td>
<td>$9,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Incentive Scholarship Program (EISP)</td>
<td>$1,891</td>
<td>$2,040</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA Nursing Education for Employees Program (VANEED)</td>
<td>$11,260</td>
<td>$14,864</td>
<td>$14,573</td>
<td>$14,573</td>
<td>$14,573</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nat'l Nursing Education Initiative (NNEI)</td>
<td>$18,162</td>
<td>$17,909</td>
<td>$17,049</td>
<td>$17,049</td>
<td>$17,049</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Professional Scholarship Program (HPSP)</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$3,506</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$3,506</td>
<td>$5,614</td>
<td>$3,506</td>
<td>$2,108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Impairment Education Assistance Program</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$450</td>
<td>$450</td>
<td>$900</td>
<td>$900</td>
<td>$450</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$49,090</td>
<td>$63,858</td>
<td>$60,605</td>
<td>$69,361</td>
<td>$81,069</td>
<td>$8,756</td>
<td>$11,708</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How Did We Get Here?

- Identified Congressman Rodriguez as a champion for the program *(Jan 2009)*
- Advocated for language in veterans health bills reinstating the scholarship program *(Jan 2009-May 2010)*
- Program authorized in the *Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010* *(May 2010)*
- Engage with VA about next steps for implementing the program *(May 2010-present)*
- Funding proposed in the FY 2012 President’s Budget Request *(Feb 2011)*
- Funding not allocated in FY 2012 due to budget constraints *(Dec 2011)*
- Funding proposed in the FY 2013 President’s Budget Request *(Feb 2012)*
- Advocate for funding in the FY 2013 appropriations bills *(Ongoing)*
- Implementation of the program expected to begin *(2012)*
Economy and Budgets

- House Republicans emphasizing deficit reduction and downsizing 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
# Budget Outlook

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(in millions)</th>
<th>FY 2012 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2013 Request</th>
<th>Request vs. FY 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HRSA Title VII</td>
<td>268.2</td>
<td>228.1</td>
<td>-15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAMHSA MFP</td>
<td>5.706</td>
<td>4.372</td>
<td>-23.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>30,698</td>
<td>30,698</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA Scholarship</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3.506</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.
MEMORANDUM TO THE NEXT PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATION:
A VISION FOR SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

November 2016

The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) is a recognized national organization that serves as the professional and educational association for social work educators, students, practitioners, and other professionals working with diverse populations and settings. CSWE is dedicated to promoting excellence in social work education and practice.

SOCIAL WORK: A CAPITAL VENTURE

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

CHALLENGES

The social work profession faces numerous challenges at all levels of society. These challenges include providing services to children and families, addressing issues of poverty and inequality, addressing the needs of older adults, and working with communities to address issues of social justice and equity.

Social work education is vital in preparing a diverse and competent workforce to meet these challenges. Social work educators must prepare students to be effective practitioners in a rapidly changing social services landscape.

The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) is committed to advancing the social work profession and ensuring that social work education continues to meet the needs of society.

For more information, please visit www.cswe.org.
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...