

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

FY 2014 Appropriations Request



- *HACU requests a line-item appropriation of \$20 million for HSIs for the Health Professions Bureau/Division of Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for faculty development, research and capacity building for FY 2014.*

Funding History: HACU administered a small health professions capacity development project with limited discretionary funds available beginning FY 1999, and continued through October 2011.

This highly successful initiative provided HSI faculty and graduate students with an opportunity to enhance their research expertise through collaborative working relationships with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on issues relevant to minority health disparities and general health care for Hispanics. Limited NIH research funds for FY 2012 and FY 2013 resulted in discontinuing support for the capacity building HSI-NIH program. Without a direct appropriation for HSIs within the NIH budget, the ability of HSIs to provide the same level of research and teaching for students attending HSIs available at larger higher education research institutions.

Need:

- Hispanics are persistently under-represented in health care and human services fields, especially in biomedicine and other developing medical technologies. These fields are becoming crucial in the face of heightened safety and security concerns that are focusing on issues such as the threat of bio-terrorism.
- Additionally, health care disparities are multiplying in areas ranging from traditionally high adult onset diabetes rates among Hispanics, high tuberculosis rates, lack of health nutrition and immunizations, and many other aspects of health care directly exacerbated by disproportionate poverty and a corresponding lack of access to adequate health care suffered by Hispanic Americans.
- HSIs are located in communities with the largest concentrations of Hispanic populations suffering significant health care disparities. These institutions are best situated, and culturally sensitive, to respond to increasing health disparities by providing more health care professionals, focused faculty research and outreach.

HISPANIC ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

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