

PROGRAM HISTORY AND STRATEGY

Public health nursing has traditionally been the backbone of maternal and child health (MCH) services. Nurses' training was first supported by the Children's Bureau with funds made available through the Sheppard-Towner Act of 1922. In supporting



training for nurses at the state level, the Children's Bureau was attempting to lower the high infant mortality rate. Although the health of children and families has improved since the first nurse-training projects were initiated,

unmet health care needs still exist that threaten the well-being of the MCH population. The Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) nursing training program continues to fund training projects in public and nonprofit institutions of higher learning. The goal of these projects is to prepare MCH nursing leaders for key positions in education, service, research, administration, and advocacy.

PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

The nursing program has two components: leadership education in maternity nursing and leadership education in pediatric nursing.

The maternity nursing component provides funds to train nurses and nurse midwives in two domains: faculty development and continuing education and development. Faculty development comprises leadership education for maternity-nursing and nurse-midwifery faculty, to enhance the level of scholarship, research, and leadership skills in the field.

Continuing education focuses on leadership development, scholarship, clinical practice, academics, and specific issues such as clinical assessment of health risk factors and access to primary care.

The pediatric nursing component provides funds to train nurses in three domains: graduate education, faculty development, and continuing education and development. Graduate education focuses on leadership development, scholarship, clinical practice, and academics for graduate pediatric nurse trainees. The faculty development and continuing education domains focus on enhancing scholarship, research, education, and skills of MCH nurse trainees.

HIGHLIGHTS

Faculty/Trainees. Participating faculty have demonstrated leadership skills, expertise in maternity/obstetrical nursing, nurse midwifery, and pediatric nursing, and experience in integrating nursing services in local and state health care systems. The trainees supported by these projects are registered nurses working toward a graduate degree in nursing with an emphasis on the MCH population.

Curriculum. The nursing training program curriculum includes graduate education at the master's and doctoral levels with an emphasis on preventive, diagnostic, treatment/management, and follow-up care for the MCH population. Course content and philosophy aim to prepare trainees to assume leadership roles in the development, improvement, and integration of nursing in health care systems. Nurse training sites also function as regional/national resources for the health professional community by hosting workshops and by providing technical assistance and consultation in an effort to improve

services in the field and to enhance trainee education.

PROGRAM PROFILE

- In FY 1999, MCHB funded six nursing training program projects, with annual grant awards totaling about \$953,000.
- The grant awards range from \$53,000 to \$213,000 per year, with a mean award amount of \$159,000.

Present Grant Recipients

STATE	GRANTEE
CO	University of Colorado Health Sciences Center
MA	Boston University
MN	University of Minnesota (2 grants)
OH	Case Western Reserve University
WA	University of Washington

BIBLIOGRAPHY

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau. 1998. *Leadership Education Excellence in Maternal and Child Health Nursing: Application Guidance*. Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

