

Nursing Priorities During the Pandemic



Increase Funding for Nursing Education and Workforce Infrastructure

- Fully fund NURSE CORPS scholarships to recruit and retain nurses to practice in medically underserved communities areas or U.S. regions experiencing a health professional shortage.
- Invest in nursing education infrastructure and practice to allow institutions to move into distance education – online learning and simulation labs.
- Close the nursing experience gap by creating residency and fellowship programs to help graduates transition into practice.



Support Clinician Resiliency and Mental Health

- Dedicate a funding stream that invests in nurses combating COVID-19, which may include retraining furloughed nurses and supporting mental health needs for those responding to this pandemic.
- Establish a grant program within the Department of Health and Human Services to allow health care employers or facilities to confidentially assess and treat the mental health of health care workers on the front lines of treating COVID-19 patients.



Promote Innovation and Telehealth

- Increase access to care by making permanent the waivers CMS made to allow nurse practitioners and certified nurse specialists to practice the full scope of their licensure and training. This allows patients to remain in their homes and decreases potential exposure to harmful viruses or other complications from delays in care.
- Expand the ability for health care organizations and providers to use telehealth to increase the numbers of patients they can see through virtual health and reduce potential exposure to COVID-19 patients for health care professionals and the public.