FY19 Funding Request for Programs within the Department of Health and Human Services

Position

The International Association for Forensic Nurses (IAFN) requests the following funding levels to address nursing workforce, nursing research, and prevention efforts within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for FY2019:

- $266 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA) Nursing Workforce Development Programs with at least $10 million to address clinical education training for Sexual Assault Nurse-Examiners.
- $170 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)
- $150 million for Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) within the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s Injury Center’s budget for Intentional Injury Prevention
- $160 million for the Preventive Health & Health Services Block Grant (PHHSBG) with at least $7 million for Rape Services and Prevention
- $175 million for the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA)

Background

For over 50 years, the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs have helped to build the supply and distribution of qualified nurses, including forensic nurses, to meet our nation’s healthcare needs. Title VIII programs provide students and practicing nurses exposure to caring for
underserved populations. With over 65.9 million individuals living in HRSA-designated primary care Health Professional Shortage Areas, these programs are vital to sustaining and creating access.

As one of the 27 Institutes and Centers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), NINR funds research that lays the groundwork for evidence-based nursing practice. NINR’s research examines a variety of topics that will help nurses and other health professionals to make informed decisions about patient treatment. Our country must look toward the prevention aspect of health care as the vehicle for saving our system from further financial burden, and the work of NINR embraces this endeavor through research related to care management of patients during illness and recovery, reduction of risks for disease and disability, promotion of healthy lifestyles, enhancement of quality of life for those with chronic illness, and care for individuals at the end of life.

The 2016 survey of rape crisis centers found that almost 40% of programs had a waiting list for a month or longer for prevention programs. High profile cases of sexual assault on campuses, our military bases, military academies, and professional sports have resulted in unprecedented media attention. This has also resulted in a tremendous increase in sexual assault survivors seeking assistance from local rape crisis centers and educators as well as community organizations requesting prevention and training services. The media attention also points to the need for comprehensive community responses to sexual violence.

Please retain the block grant funding that supports local rape crisis centers providing services, statewide training, and technical assistance to increase capacity to assist rape victims and prevent future victimization. We must have the resources to meet the demands for education and prevention. Victims deserve support, our young people deserve to grow up safely, and research tells us that appropriate and early intervention and prevention can mitigate the costs and consequences of sexual violence and prevent that violence from occurring in the first place. The best way to prevent victimization is to prevent the first-time perpetration.
The FVPSA program is the only federal funding source dedicated to domestic violence shelters and programs, and it supports lifesaving services including emergency shelters, crisis hotlines, counseling, and programs for underserved communities throughout the United States and territories. Despite FVPSA's great promise, community-based domestic violence programs report that they cannot meet the overwhelming demand for services.

Please contact Patrick Cooney at Patrick@federalgrp.com or 202-347-0034 x101 with any questions you might have regarding this issue.