

On February 12, 2003, Congress approved a three-fold increase for Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) Program.

Despite tight budget allocations and other pressing considerations, Congress approved \$6 million for psychology education and training in the Bureau of Health Professions: \$3 million to continue the GPE Program overall, and an additional \$3 million to support graduate training in geropsychology within the GPE. This initiative has been the top legislative priority for the APA Education Directorate and Education Advocacy staff and the culmination of tremendous grassroots efforts.

It is especially noteworthy that the GPE program advances the recognition of psychology as an essential health profession of national significance within the BHPr, which is charged with "coordinating, evaluating, and supporting the development and utilization of the Nation's health personnel."

GPE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) program provides funds to train health service psychologists to work with other health professionals in the provision of services to underserved populations (e.g., children, rural persons, chronically ill, and victims of abuse and trauma). In addition, funding to train geropsychologists who provide health care services to older persons will be established in 2003. Funding is provided through a competitive grant process to APA accredited doctoral, internship (or postdoctoral residencies if allowed by the agency) for basic or advanced training. Allowable use of funds is likely to include trainee stipends, clinical teaching psychologists, faculty and curriculum development, model demonstration programs and technical assistance.

Last year approximately 65 applications were received for 18 grants. The request for proposals (RFP) was announced on April 2nd, 2002 in the Federal Register and application materials were made available at the Bureau of Health Professions website with links from the APA website.

Technical assistance was provided through a series of conference calls arranged following the Federal Register announcement. In addition, a Peer Review Panel made up of psychologists from around the country met in the summer to review the grant applications. Funds for FY 2002 were disbursed on September 30, 2002 (the last day of the fiscal year). A similar schedule is expected for the FY2003 funding cycle.

Further information about the GPE grant program can be found at the BHPr website <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov>. In addition, Education Advocacy staff will send out announcements on various psychology training listservs, and provide updates and information about GPE funding on its own website <http://www.apa.org/ppo/edppo.html>.