

New York Receives Nearly \$10 Million in Health Workforce Resiliency Grants

New York institutions and organizations were awarded nearly \$10 million in grants from the federal government to reduce burnout and promote mental well-being in the health workforce.

The Health Resources and Services Administration, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, last week announced \$103 million in funding from the American Rescue Plan to address health care workforce resiliency.

The money provides three years of funding for the Health and Public Safety Workforce Resiliency Training and the Promoting Resilience and Mental Health Among Health Professional Workforce programs, and it establishes a Health and Public Safety Workforce Resiliency Technical Assistance Center.

Institutions were invited to apply in the summer last year. Grantees were notified of awards earlier this month.

The Health and Public Safety Workforce Resiliency Training Program disbursed more than \$68 million to 34 grantees. New York recipients got \$6.7 million of that amount, including the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (\$2.1 million), the Research Foundation for SUNY Stony Brook (\$2.2 million) and SUNY Amherst (\$2.2 million).

The Promoting Resilience and Mental Health Among Health Professional Workforce Program awarded more than \$28 million to 10 grantees. La Casa de Salud, a federally qualified health center in the Bronx, was the sole New York recipient, with \$3 million.

The funding couldn't have come at a better time, said Dr. Jonathan Ripp, chief wellness officer at Icahn.

"Health workforce burnout and mental health had been well-recognized even before the pandemic," Ripp said. "When Covid hit, it shone a spotlight on this issue further."

Icahn plans to use the funds to develop mental health support and educational training for units hardest hit by the pandemic, he said, plus training for midlevel leaders to improve workforce efficiency and develop tools for self-care, as well as developing communication strategies to offer support.

With the shortage of staff right now, it becomes easy for health care workers to feel there is no support out there for them, Ripp said. There has been voiced encouragement from the public and hospital leaders appreciating essential workers' efforts, but further action is needed, he said.

"We don't want to just craft nice messages," he said. "We plan to find ways that will actually help with our workforces' day-to-day challenges."

The Health and Public Safety Workforce Resiliency Technical Assistance Center, a \$6 million initiative, was awarded to George Washington University.