

Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS)

Academic Years 2014-2019

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is the primary federal agency for improving health care to people who are geographically isolated or economically or medically vulnerable. HRSA programs help those in need of high quality primary health care by supporting the training of health professionals – focusing in particular on the geographical distribution of providers to areas where they are needed most.

HRSA's Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW), Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS) grant program increases diversity in the health professions workforce by providing awards to eligible health professions schools. These schools award scholarships to students from disadvantaged backgrounds who have financial need. SDS aims to increase enrollment and retention of full-time students from disadvantaged backgrounds and the number of graduates practicing in primary care and working in medically underserved communities.ⁱ

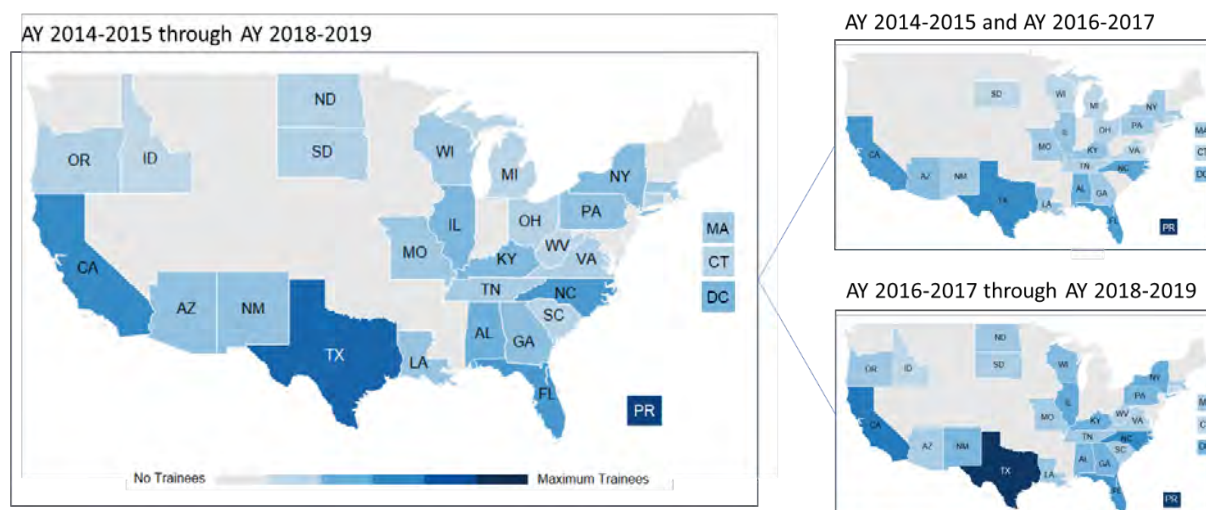
This report analyzes data from Academic Years (AY) 2014 through 2019. This covers the final two years of the 2012 to 2016 project period and the first three years of the 2016 to 2020 project period.

Improving Distribution, Diversity, & Supply of Primary Care Providers

Distribution:

- Between AYs 2014 and 2019, **27 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico** received SDS grant award funding. At the start of the new project period, AY 2016-2017, BHW improved the geographic distribution of grantees, specifically in the west and mid-west (see Figure 1).
- 12,356 students** received SDS scholarships and training over the five-year period (see Table 1).

Figure 1: Distribution of SDS Grantees and Summary of Trainees



Note: States and U.S. territories not shown on the map did not receive SDS funding. The scale applies to all figures.

Diversity:

- **100 percent** of SDS trainees and **100 percent** of graduates¹ across all five years were from environmentally, economically, or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds (see Table 1).
- **64 percent** of trainees and **60 percent** of graduates were underrepresented minorities.

Table 1: SDS Grantee, Trainee, and Graduate Data (AY 2014-2019)

Academic Year (AY)	Number of Grantees	Number of Trainees	Number of Disadvantaged Trainees	Number of Underrepresented Minority Trainees	Number of Graduates	Number who left Prior to Completion
2012-2016 Project Period						
Year 3: AY 2014-2015	99	5,285	5,285	3,352	2,091	114
Year 4: AY 2015-2016	99	4,615	4,615	2,993	2,151	106
2016-2020 Project Period						
Year 1: AY 2016-2017	82	2,811	2,811	1,794	621	76
Year 2: AY 2017-2018	79	3,047	3,047	1,945	1,051	129
Year 3: AY 2018-2019	79	3,155	3,155	2,005	1,392	93
Five-Year Totals[^]	--	12,356	12,356	7,892	7,306	518

[^]Five-year totals represent unduplicated counts of trainees and program completers.

Supply:

- Between AY 2014 and AY 2019, **over 7,300** scholarship recipients completed the program, graduating and receiving degrees in health professions.
- **93 percent** of those who exited the program (n=7,824) over the five year period were graduates.
- With only about 500 students leaving the program prior to completion, SDS achieved a **96 percent** retention rate.
- **52 percent** of the 7,306 SDS program completers reported intentions to work in primary care. One year later, **41 percent** of the 3,793 who provided follow-up employment data were already working in a primary care setting.

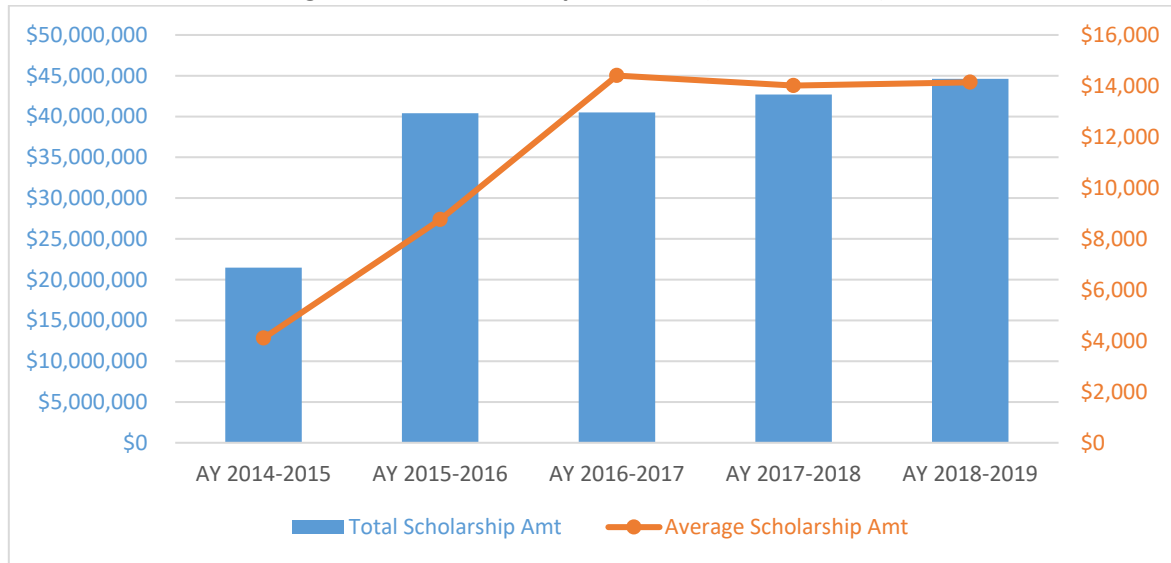
Improving & Strengthening the Health Professions Workforce by Assisting Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds into those Professions

Scholarships:

- In AY 2016-2017, BHW increased the maximum scholarship amount from \$15,000 to \$30,000 per student per year to better support and retain students. As a result, the total scholarship dollars awarded **more than doubled from over \$21 million** in AY 2014-2015 to **nearly \$45 million** in AY 2018-2019. The average scholarship amount **more than tripled from approximately \$4,000 to over \$14,000 during that same timeframe** (see Chart 1).
- **For the five year period, nearly \$190 million** in scholarship dollars were invested in SDS trainees with an average scholarship amount of **\$6,284.05** for AY 2014-2016 and **\$14,181.57** for AY 2016-2019. **80 percent** of graduates received funding for one to two years.

¹ All SDS trainees are scholarship award recipients. All SDS program completers are graduates of degree programs.

Chart 1: Total and Average Trainee Scholarship Amounts (AY 2014-2019)



Academic and Social Support:

- SDS successfully improved the percentage of trainees who received at least one type of support from **89 percent** of trainees in AY 2015-2016 to **96 percent** in AY 2018-2019 (see Table 2).
- Between AY 2015 and AY 2019, **92 percent** of trainees received one or more types of academic support and **76 percent** of trainees received one or more types of social support.
- **Faculty- or staff-led sessions** were the most common academic and social support types offered to SDS trainees for all four years.

Table 2: Percentage of Trainees who Received Support, by Type (AY 2015-2019*)

Type of Support Received	AY 2015-2016 (n=4,615)	AY 2016-2017 (n=2,811)	AY 2017-2018 (n=3,047)	AY 2018-2019 (n=3,155)
Academic Support	%	%	%	%
One or more Academic Support	88.5%	94.2%	93.9%	94.5%
Faculty- or Staff-Led Advising Session	74.6%	83.0%	83.2%	84.0%
Academic Support Program	35.4%	33.3%	38.9%	41.9%
Academic Coaching	27.5%	29.0%	31.9%	33.3%
Other Academic Support Services	20.5%	30.8%	32.6%	32.1%
Study Skills Training	39.7%	30.1%	26.9%	27.5%
Time Management Training	34.3%	25.9%	23.8%	26.5%
Group Tutoring	33.3%	29.6%	25.9%	26.5%
Individual Tutoring	29.7%	19.8%	21.5%	20.0%
Social Support	%	%	%	%
One or more Social Support	80.3%	75.5%	74.4%	71.5%
Faculty- or Staff-Led Counseling Session	63.3%	54.3%	53.5%	53.4%
Service Learning Opportunities	41.7%	35.2%	38.1%	35.2%
Peer Support Groups	30.7%	32.2%	34.0%	33.8%
Other Social Support Services	29.5%	24.8%	24.6%	26.9%
Peer Support Advisors	29.6%	21.0%	25.2%	23.9%
Overall Support	%	%	%	%
Either Academic or Social Support	89.2%	96.0%	95.0%	96.1%
Both Academic and Social Support	79.6%	73.7%	73.4%	69.9%

*Data on academic and social supports were not collected in AY 2014-2015

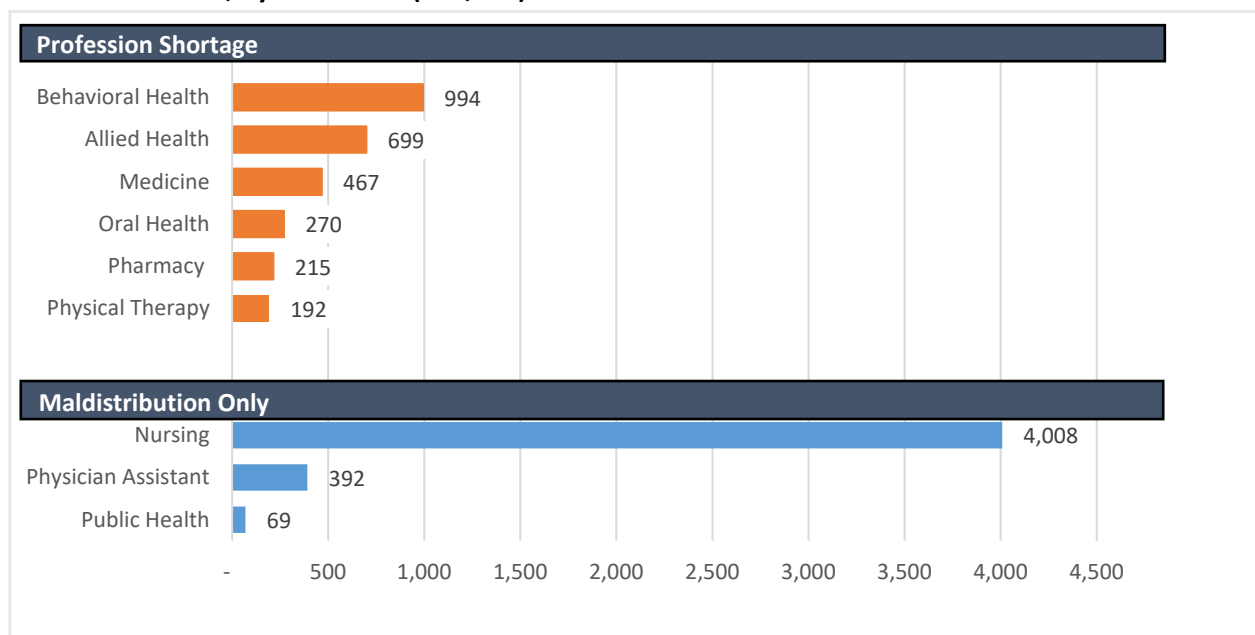
Health Professions:

- SDS successfully improved the percentage of trainees awarded scholarships in profession shortage areas from **40 percent** in AY 2014-2015 to **47 percent** in AY 2018-2019 (see Table 3). During that time, scholarships in the field of behavioral health **more than tripled** to address the growing need.
- Between AY 2014 and AY 2019, **2,837** SDS students earned degrees in professions with shortages. This represents **39 percent** of graduates for this time period (see Chart 2). Other professions showed maldistribution indicating short supply in underserved and rural areas based on National Center for Health Workforce Analysis Projection Reports².

Table 3: Number and Percentage of Trainees Awarded Scholarships by Profession (AY 2014-2019)

Profession	AY 2014-2015 (n=5,285)		AY 2015-2016 (n=4,615)		AY 2016-2017 (n=2,811)		AY 2017-2018 (n=3,047)		AY 2018-2019 (n=3,155)	
Profession Shortage	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Behavioral Health	441	8.3%	422	9.1%	667	23.7%	774	25.4%	827	26.2%
Medicine	329	6.2%	320	6.9%	231	8.2%	238	7.8%	238	7.5%
Allied Health	813	15.4%	645	14.0%	132	4.7%	137	4.5%	169	5.4%
Oral Health	155	2.9%	140	3.0%	129	4.6%	126	4.1%	104	3.3%
Physical Therapy	154	2.9%	124	2.7%	112	4.0%	95	3.1%	99	3.1%
Pharmacy	224	4.2%	180	3.9%	32	1.1%	33	1.1%	30	1.0%
Total	2,116	40.0%	1,831	39.7%	1,303	46.4%	1403	46.0%	1,467	46.5%
Maldistribution Only	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Nursing	2,851	53.9%	2,424	52.5%	1,368	48.7%	1,508	49.5%	1,555	49.3%
Physician Assistant	265	5.0%	295	6.4%	117	4.2%	113	3.7%	117	3.7%
Public Health	53	1.0%	65	1.4%	23	0.8%	23	0.8%	16	0.5%
Total	3,169	60.0%	2,784	60.3%	1,508	53.6%	1,644	54.0%	1,688	53.5%

Chart 2: Summary of SDS Scholarship Recipients who Completed the Program and Earned their Degree between AY 2014 and 2019, by Profession (n=7,306)



² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, 2016-2017. National Center for Health Workforce Analysis, Health Workforce Projections. <https://bhw.hrsa.gov/health-workforce-analysis/research/projections>.

Improving Quality and Access to Healthcare to Individuals in Medically Underserved Communities

Medically Underserved Communities:

- Each year, between AY 2014-2019, **50 percent or more** of experiential training sites were in medically underserved communities (see Chart 4). Providing hands-on training to students in medically underserved areas improves access to care in those communities and encourages the students to pursue careers in these locations after they graduate.
- **68 percent** of the 7,306 SDS graduates reported intention to work in medically underserved communities. One year later, **51 percent** of the 3,793 who provided follow-up employment data were already working in medically underserved communities.

Chart 4: Total Number of Experiential Training Sites and the Percentage in Medically Underserved Communities (AY 2014-2019)



ⁱ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, 2016. Scholarship for Disadvantaged Students, Notice of Funding Opportunity. <https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/find-funding/hrsa-16-069>