



# Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP): The National HCOP Academy

**CDC Clinical Laboratory Improvement Advisory Committee**

*November 6, 2019*

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**Division of Health Careers and Financial Support  
Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW)**

**Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People**



# National HCOP Academy Overview

## Purpose:

To assist individuals from economically or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds with entering and graduating from an allied health or health professions program.



# National HCOP Academy Overview

## Goals:

- Develop skills needed to successfully compete for, enter, and graduate from an allied health or health professions school.
- Improve retention, matriculation, and graduation rates by implementing tailored enrichment programs designed to address the academic and social needs of trainees from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Provide opportunities for community-based health professions training, emphasizing experiences in underserved communities.



# National HCOP Academy Overview

## Eligible Entities:

- Accredited health professions schools (medicine, public health, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, pharmacy, allied health, chiropractic, and podiatric medicine);
- Public and non-profit schools that offer graduate programs in behavioral and mental health;
- Programs for the training of physician assistants; and
- Other public or private nonprofit health or educational institutions, including community, technical and tribal colleges.



# National HCOP Academy Overview

## Legislatively Authorized Activities (PHS Act, Section 739)

1. Recruitment
2. Facilitating Entry
3. Counseling, Mentoring, and Other Services
4. Preliminary Education and Health Research Training
5. Financial Aid Information Dissemination
6. Primary Care Exposure Activities
7. Develop a More Competitive Applicant Pool
8. Stipends
9. Scholarships



# National HCOP Academy Overview

## Program Requirements

- HCOP National Ambassador Program
- Provide academic and social supports to students from disadvantaged backgrounds (0.5 FTE Case Manager)
- Data management and tracking (0.5 FTE Data Manager)
- Formalized Partnerships (Articulation Agreements) within university and with community partners
- Design activities to support students through degree completion and into employment in a primary care setting in a rural area and/or medically underserved community



# National HCOP Academy Overview

## Program Requirements

- Structured programs that include:
  - Stipend
  - Curricula that includes but is not limited to:
    - Preliminary education, such as standardized test preparatory training, study skills trainings, math and science enrichment courses;
    - Health research training on current and emerging issues; and
    - Specialized training in:
      - ✓ Primary care, community-based settings, and
      - ✓ Rural and medically underserved communities



# National HCOP Academy Overview

## Structured Programs

- HCOP National Ambassador Program (**Required**)
- HCOP Summer Program
- HCOP Saturday Academy
- HCOP Pre-Matriculation Program
- HCOP Post-Baccalaureate Program
- HCOP Adult/Non-Traditional Students (including Veterans)





# National HCOP Academy Overview

## HCOP National Ambassador Program

- Must include a formal application process with defined eligibility criteria
- At a minimum, must establish a cohort of at least 25 students each year from disadvantaged backgrounds to matriculate through completion or graduation from a health professions degree or certificate program
- This program's goal is to lead to matriculation into the applicant or partner organization's 2- or 4-year college/university, health or allied health professions school, or employment in primary care settings in rural and underserved communities
- The HCOP National Ambassador Program must have a defined curriculum helping students prepare for meeting the admissions requirements for the next level of the educational pipeline trajectory
- The curriculum should integrate educational activities such as trainings and research projects that focus on the clinical areas of opioid abuse and mental and behavioral health, when applicable



# National HCOP Academy Overview

## Target populations

(Grantees choose at least three.)

- Rising high school juniors/seniors
- Undergraduate freshman and/or sophomores enrolled in two-year programs
- Undergraduate students in their 2nd, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 4th year
- Adult/non-traditional students (including veterans)
- Students in Health Professions Degree Programs



# National HCOP Academy Overview

## National HCOP Academy: Snapshot

- Project period September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2023
- FY 2019 Funding – \$13.3 Million
  - Up to \$645,100 per grantee
- 21 grantees
- Nine HHS Regions Represented
- 15 States and the District of Columbia



# National HCOP Academy Overview

## Program Characteristics: *Academic Year 2017-2018*

Program Name	Grantees	Trainees	Trainee Characteristics				Program Completers
			Underrepresented Minority (URM)		Disadvantaged		
HCOP	17	5,017	3,597	71.7%	4,602	91.7%	2,868
HCOP: Para-Professionals	6	683	524	76.7%	674	98.7%	332

\*\*HCOP: Skills Training and Health Workforce Development of Paraprofessionals\*\*



# National HCOP Academy Overview

## National HCOP Academy: Research-Related Activities of Current Grantees

- Emory University (GA) – includes a health research training component
- Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai (NY) – includes a biomedical research component



# National HCOP Academy Overview

## National HCOP Academy Grantees: Recruiting Laboratory-Related Trainees

- Columbus State Community College (OH) – medical laboratory technology
- George Washington University (DC) – medical laboratory science
- Mount Wachusett Community College (MA) – medical laboratory technician



# Questions



# Contact Us

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