



VA Education Mission NIHB Conference

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What is the VHA Mission?



Honor America's Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being.

Education is one of VA's 4 Statutory Missions (38 USC 7302)

(a) ... **in order to assist in providing an adequate supply of health personnel to the Nation**, the Secretary— to the extent feasible without interfering with the medical care and treatment of veterans, shall develop and **carry out a program of education and training of health personnel;**

“To Educate for VA and the Nation”

- Largest provider of health care training in the Nation – 120,000 annually
- Second largest federal funder of GME
- Office of Academic Affiliations GME direct support ~ \$950,000,000 annually

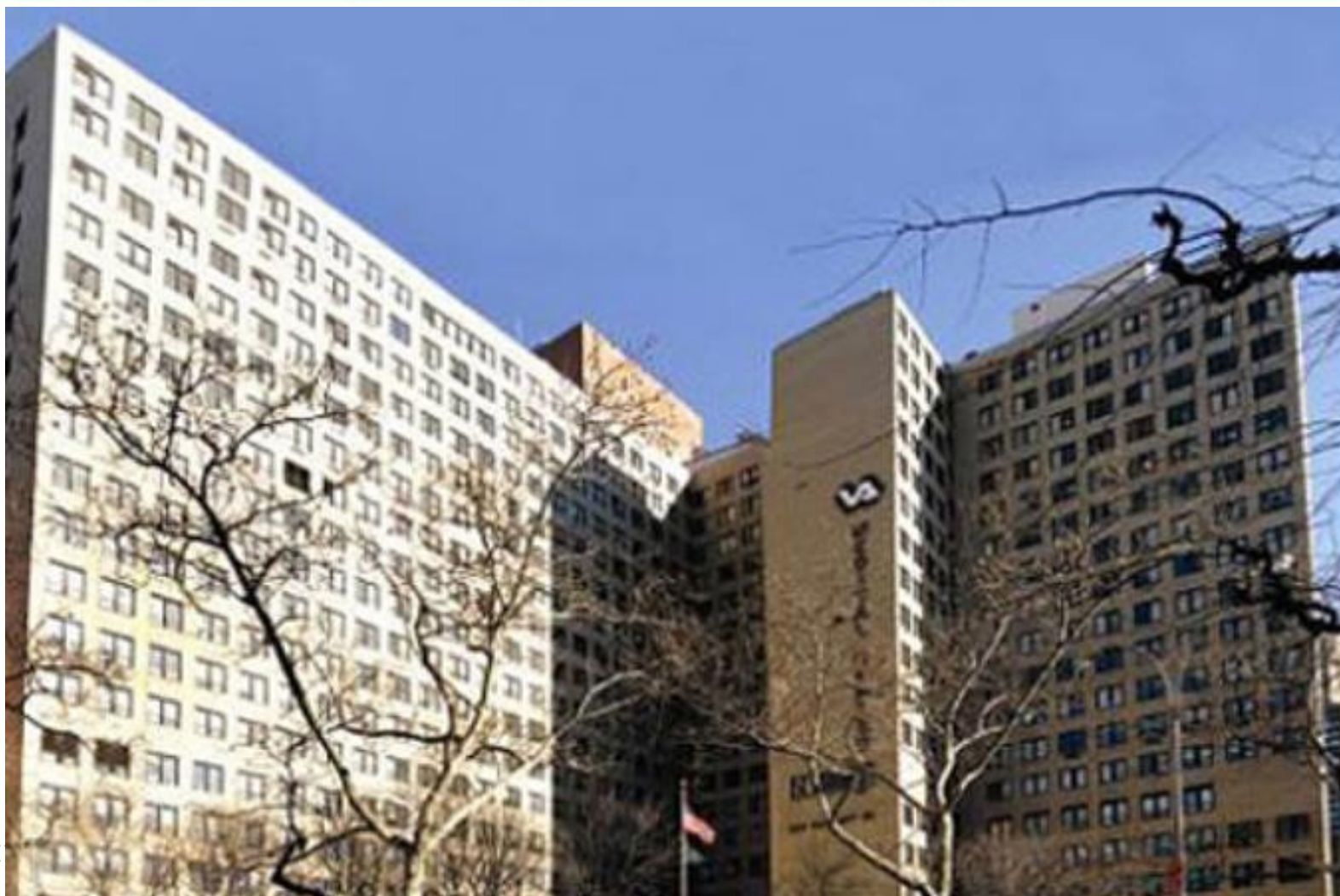
Medical Education Scope

- OAA GME support:
 - 11,000 positions
 - Over 43,000 individual residents
- 24,000 medical students receive clinical training in VA each year
- Almost all programs sponsored outside of VA through Affiliation Agreements (3 exceptions)

Scope of Affiliations (AY2016-17)

- 144 of 149 allopathic medical schools
- 34 of 34 osteopathic medical schools
- 40+ health professions
 - 1,800+ colleges and universities
 - 7,200+ program agreements

VA NY Harbor Healthcare



Catskill and Bainbridge CBOCs

Catskill



Bainbridge

Veterans Access, Choice, & Accountability Act (VACAA)

- PL 113-146: Enacted by Congress & signed by the President on August 7, 2014 – Section 301(b)
 - Provision to expand VA GME by “up to 1,500 positions” over 5 years beginning 1 year after signing. Now extended to 10 years
 - Funding priorities defined in law
 - 1055 Positions now awarded

Funding Priorities in VACAA

Facility Characteristics

- A shortage of physicians
- No prior GME
- Areas with a “high concentration of Veterans”
- Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) as defined by HRSA

Program Characteristics

- Primary Care
- Mental Health
- Other specialties “the Secretary deems appropriate” (interpreted as those specialties having excessive wait times for care)

MISSION Act 2018 - Public Law 115-182

- Four sections of this comprehensive bill will have a direct impact on VA's clinical education mission (Sections 301, 303, 304, and 403).
- Other sections concerning community care referral and payment authorities are anticipated to have secondary effects on VA's health professions education effort.

SECTION 301 - *Designated Scholarships for Physicians and Dentists Under the VA Health Professions Scholarship Program*

- Directs the development of a designated component within HPSP for medical and dental students.
- 50 scholarships annually to medical and dental students.

Section 301

- Scholarships are for a period of 2-4 years.
- Awardees are obligated to serve as full time employees in the Veterans Health Administration for a period of 18 months for each school year or portion of a year that they receive HPSP benefits.
- VA is permitted to give preference to Veterans



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SECTION 303 - *VA Specialty Education Loan Repayment Program*

- Establishes the Specialty Education Loan Repayment Program (SELRP) which is intended to help VA attract physicians in medical specialties that the Secretary determines are difficult to recruit for or retain personnel in.
- Participants must have outstanding loan balances that were used to pay for the education that qualified them for specialty training (i.e. tuition, books, fees, reasonable living expenses).

Section 303

- VA may give preference to applicants who are Veterans or will participate in residency programs in health care facilities that are: 1) located in rural areas; 2) operated by Indian tribes, tribal organizations, or the Indian Health Service; or 3) affiliated with underserved VA health care facilities.



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Section 303

- No more than \$40,000 per year may be disbursed to awardees for a total of 4 years (\$160,000).
- Following specialty training, SELRP participants are required to serve as full-time VA clinical practice employees for 12 months for every \$40,000 in benefits received.

SECTION 304

Veterans Healing Veterans Medical Access and Scholarship Program -VMAS

- VA will fund the medical education of 18 eligible Veterans at the following covered institutions:
- 1) Texas A&M University; 2) East Tennessee State University; 3) Wright State University; 4) Marshall University; 5) University of South Carolina; 6) Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science; 7) Howard University; 8) Meharry Medical College and 9) Morehouse School of Medicine.

Section 304

- Each participating VMAS medical student will get: 1) tuition for four years; 2) books, fees, and technical equipment; 3) fees associated with the National Residency Match Program; 4) two away rotations in fourth year of medical school to VA health care facilities; and 5) a monthly stipend during their four years enrolled in medical school in an amount determined by VA.

Section 304 – Each participant must

- have acceptable academic standing;
- complete post-graduate training that leads to eligibility for board certification in a medical specialty applicable to VA;
- secure a state license to practice medicine;
- agree to serve for four years as a full-time VA clinical practice employee

SECTION 403 - *Pilot Program on Graduate Medical Education*

- Establish physician residency positions authorized under Public Law 113-146 (i.e. the Choice Act) at the following “covered facilities” through August 7, 2024:
- 1) VA health care facilities;
- 2) Health care facilities operated by a tribal organization;
- 3) Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities;
- 4) Federally qualified health centers;
- 5) Department of Defense health care facilities;
- 6) Other health care facilities deemed appropriate by the Secretary.

Section 403

- Directs VA to consider physician specialty and geographic location shortages when determining the covered facilities where residents are placed.
- VA will determine clinical need by using the six factors identified in the statute.



Section 403

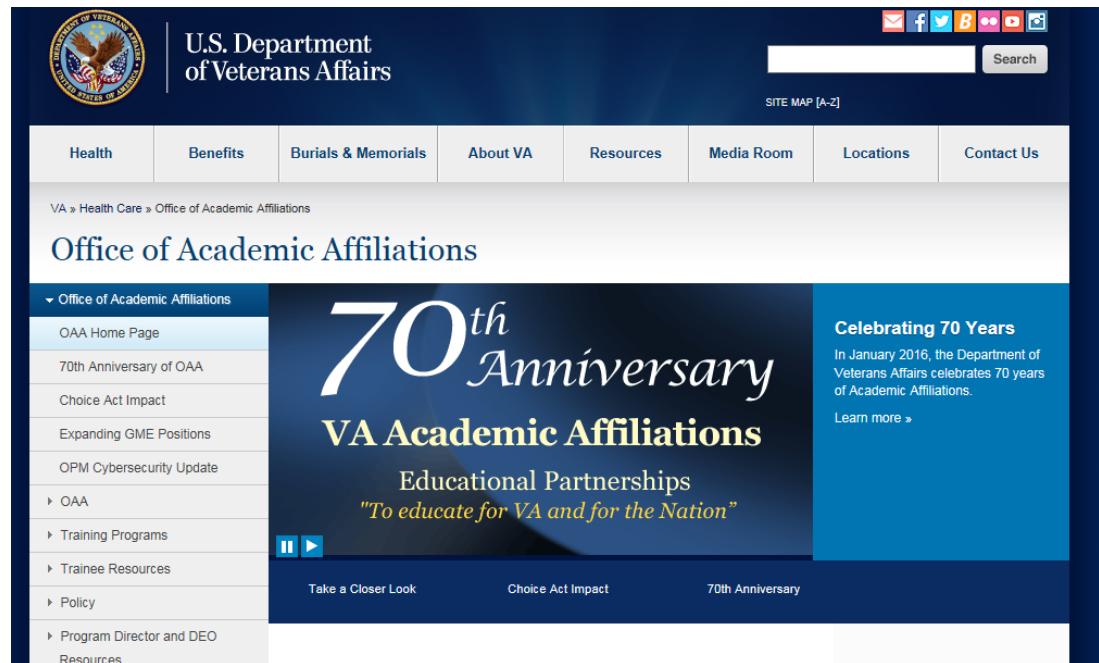
- Place at least 100 residents in the following subcategories of covered facilities: 1) IHS facilities; 2) health care facilities run by an Indian tribe or tribal organization; or 3) those located in communities that VA designates as underserved using the criteria established in Section 401 of The MISSION Act.
- Allows VA to pay for the stipends and benefits of physician residents in the pilot program regardless of whether they provide care in a VA or non-VA “covered” setting.

Section 403

- If new residencies are established in the pilot VA will reimburse the institution for the following costs:
- 1) curriculum development;
- 2) faculty recruitment and retention;
- 3) ACGME accreditation expenses;
- 4) the portion of faculty salaries attributable to the pilot;
- 5) the expenses related to educating physician residents in the pilot.
- An extensive Congressional reporting requirement is mandated for the pilot

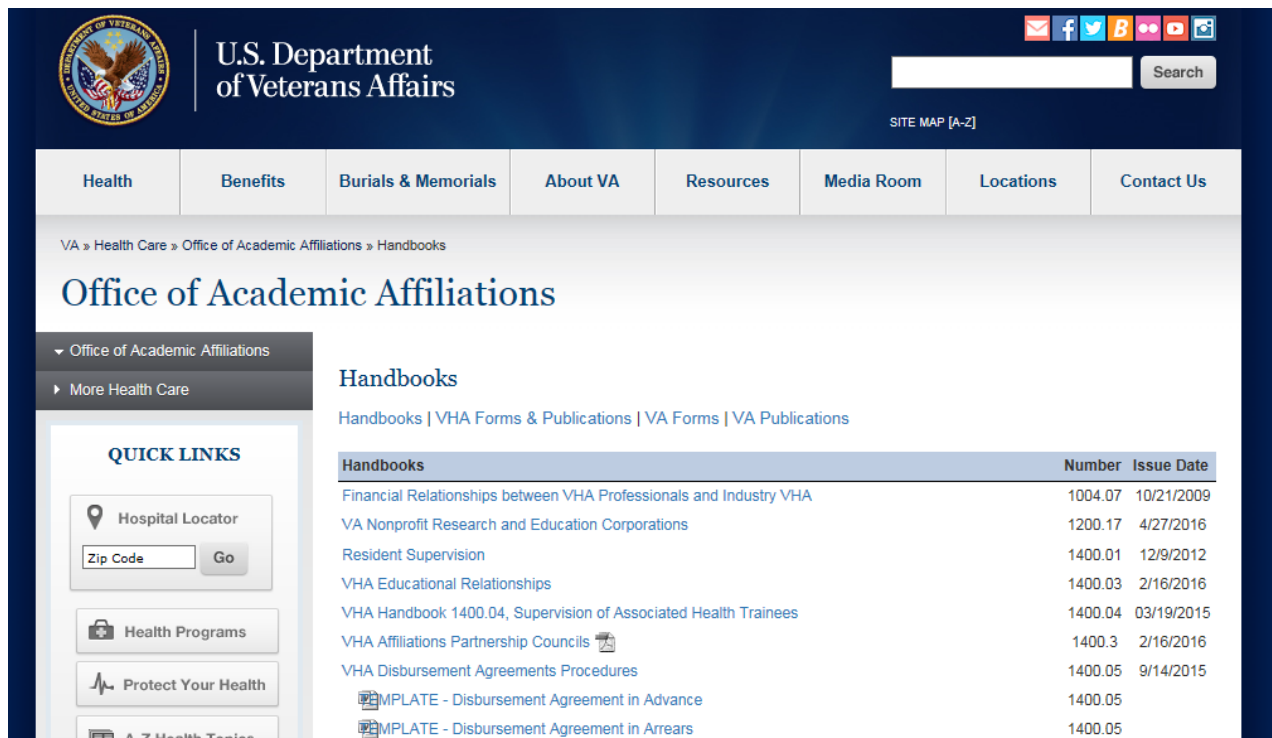
Office of Academic Affiliations

- <http://www.va.gov/OAA/index.asp>
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Link to VA Handbooks/Policies

- <http://www.va.gov/oaa/handbooks.asp>



The screenshot shows the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website. The header includes the VA seal, the text "U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs", and a search bar. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: Health, Benefits, Burials & Memorials, About VA, Resources, Media Room, Locations, and Contact Us. The main content area is titled "Office of Academic Affiliations" and "Handbooks". A sidebar on the left contains "QUICK LINKS" such as "Hospital Locator", "Health Programs", "Protect Your Health", and "A-Z Health Topics". The main content area lists various handbooks with their numbers and issue dates.

Handbooks	Number	Issue Date
Financial Relationships between VHA Professionals and Industry VHA	1004.07	10/21/2009
VA Nonprofit Research and Education Corporations	1200.17	4/27/2016
Resident Supervision	1400.01	12/9/2012
VHA Educational Relationships	1400.03	2/16/2016
VHA Handbook 1400.04, Supervision of Associated Health Trainees	1400.04	03/19/2015
VHA Affiliations Partnership Councils	1400.3	2/16/2016
VHA Disbursement Agreements Procedures	1400.05	9/14/2015
MPLATE - Disbursement Agreement in Advance	1400.05	
MPLATE - Disbursement Agreement in Arrears	1400.05	

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