

College of Medicine obtains grant to care for senior citizens

Emily Erdmier, Contributing Writer 7:35 p.m. EDT July 22, 2015



(Photo: FSU News Press Release)

The FSU College of Medicine was one of 44 organizations in 29 states to receive a 3-year, \$2.25 million grant from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration. The national Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program is hard at work educating institutions like FSU to harness their efforts towards the care of the growing elderly population. With this funding, FSU's ultimate goal is to "enhance the workforce — nurses, social workers, primary-care physicians and the public" in order to plan for the future and create solutions for diversifying needs, according to a press release.

Florida has the largest percentage of older residents compared to any other state in the nation. With the baby boomer generation growing older, the elderly population is predicted to drastically rise to as high as eight million in the coming decades. Not only does the College of Medicine recognize the shift in need, but they are proactively adjusting to better care for the population that will be residing in the state of Florida.

There are a number of projected issues that the College of Medicine is preparing to tackle with this funding. The demographic of caretakers tending to older citizens is aging as well; so adjusting student curricula to educate on geriatric care will be increased. For having the largest elderly population in the nation, Florida ranks 47th in the number of geriatricians per capita. Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) in Florida will be able to adopt a model that FSU creates to help educate the public on geriatric care as well as improve their own practices. Primary care and young physicians will also be taught geriatric care so they can help the inevitable patients they encounter in their careers.

The College of Medicine's partnership with FSU's College of Nursing and Social Work will help to holistically conquer the growing need in the upcoming years. Gaps in health care will be closed, and the proper education and training will start the cascade of great care. The grant will provide the College of Medicine with the proper resources to practice necessary and qualified care that the aging population deserves.

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