



ASAM American Society of
Addiction Medicine

MORE TRAINING NEEDED TO ADDRESS ADDICTION WORKFORCE SHORTAGE

HRSA Program Adds Addiction Specialist Physicians to Underserved Communities

Program	Approps Bill	Agency	FY24 Enacted	FY26 ASAM Request
Addiction Medicine Fellowship (AMF) Program*	Labor-HHS	Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)	\$25 million (FY25 CR thru September 2025)	\$30 million

**Note: In FY24, Congress appropriated funding for this program, by name, within HRSA's Mental and Substance Use Disorder Workforce Training Demonstration Program.*

Treating nearly 50 million people with a substance use disorder (SUD), including 28.9 million with an alcohol use disorder and 27.2 million with a drug use disorder, will require training that is too often lacking in our nation's current medical workforce.ⁱ While there are shortfalls at all levels, one of the most serious is among addiction medicine fellowships accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). As of March 2025, there were only 105 ACGME-accredited addiction medicine fellowship programs in the nationⁱⁱ – less than the recommended goal of 125 fellowships by 2022 set by the President's Commission on Combating Drug Abuse and the Opioid Epidemic in 2017.

Addiction medicine and addiction psychiatric fellowships are critical to ensuring that adults and adolescents have access to SUD treatment. These fellowships provide advanced training opportunities to a wide range of specialists, including those in family medicine, internal medicine, psychiatry, pediatrics, and emergency medicine. In February 2022, the Stanford-Lancet Commission on the North American Opioid Crisis recommended expanding the number of such fellowships, noting that it was critical to meeting the enormous need for addiction treatment.ⁱⁱⁱ

Funding Recommendation: ASAM recommends \$30 million in FY26 for the Addiction Medicine Fellowship Program, which fosters robust community-based clinical training of addiction medicine or addiction psychiatry physicians in underserved, community-based settings who see patients at various access points of care and provide addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery services across health care sectors. The Addiction Medicine Fellowship Program is one of the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training programs within the Health

Resources and Services Administration. In FY24, Congress funded the Addiction Medicine Fellowship Program, by name, as one component of the Mental and Substance Use Disorder Workforce Training Demonstration Program.

Justification: There are too few physicians with the requisite knowledge and training to prevent, diagnose, and treat addiction. The AMF program trains over half of all addiction medicine specialists and addiction psychiatry specialists in the United States.^{iv} During the academic years (AY) 2020-2023, the AMF program resulted in a 158% increase in addiction medicine specialists and an 11% increase in addiction psychiatry specialists compared to AY 2018-2020.^{iv} Nearly 60% of fellows who graduated due to the AMF program went to work in a medically underserved community.^{iv}

Eligible Applicants: U.S.-based sponsoring institutions of accredited addiction medicine or addiction psychiatry fellowship programs that provide opportunities for fellows to train in community-based settings that integrate primary care with mental and substance use disorders prevention and treatment services, or a consortium consisting of at least one domestic teaching health center and one U.S.-based sponsoring institution of an addiction medicine or addiction psychiatry fellowship program. The first AMF program awardees included sites in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the following states: Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia.^v

About ASAM: Founded in 1954, the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) is a professional society representing over 8,000 physicians, clinicians, and associated professionals in the field of addiction medicine. ASAM is dedicated to increasing access and improving the quality of addiction treatment, educating physicians and the public, supporting research and prevention, and promoting the appropriate role of physicians in the care of patients with addiction.

Contact: Kelly M. Corredor, Chief Advocacy Officer, American Society of Addiction Medicine; kcorredor@asam.org

ⁱ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2024). Key substance use and mental health indicators in the United States: Results from the 2023 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (HHS Publication No. PEP24-07-021, NSDUH Series H-59). Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2023-nsduh-annual-national-report>

ⁱⁱ American College of Academic Addiction Medicine. <https://www.acaam.org/finding-and-applying-to-fellowships>

ⁱⁱⁱ Humphreys, K., Shover, C.L., Andrews, C.M. et al. Responding to the opioid crisis in North America and beyond: recommendations of the Stanford-Lancet Commission. *The Lancet Commissions*. (2022) <http://www.thelancet-press.com/embargo/OpioidCommission.pdf>

^{iv} HRSA. Addiction Medicine Fellowship Program Evaluation. Academic Years 202-2023. Accessed April 1, 2025. <https://bhw.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/bureau-health-workforce/data-research/amf-evaluation.pdf>

^v FY 2020 Addiction Medicine Fellowship Awards | Bureau of Health Workforce. Hrsa.gov. Published March 29, 2022. Accessed April 1, 2025. <https://bhw.hrsa.gov/funding/addiction-medicine-fellowship-fy2020-awards>