

Transforming Healthcare Through Nursing Education & Innovation

Massachusetts faces pressing health care challenges: an aging, more diverse population, more chronic conditions, rising costs, more people insured, and a shortage of providers. The Massachusetts Action Coalition (MAAC) is providing leadership to address these challenges by advancing the role of nurses as trusted professionals who work on the frontline of health care, conduct research to validate best practices and inform healthcare policy through evidence-based practice.

The MAAC is one of 51 coalitions working nationwide, part of the Campaign for Action, to advance nursing and improve the health of individuals and communities. We are recognized by national partners such as the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the AARP Foundation for our leadership on issues such as academic progression and increasing diversity in the workforce, and are now focused on building a Culture of Health in every community in the Commonwealth.

Through the leadership of the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education and the Organization of Nurse Leaders and a diverse network of healthcare employer and education partners, we have built a solid reputation as a statewide convener and advocate for this critical agenda.

Partnerships Help Build a Culture of Health in Every Community

Recognizing that everyone has a stake in building healthy communities, the MAAC is forging partnerships with public health nurses, school nurses, community health centers, and more employers and businesses to improve the health and healthcare for every resident and community in the Commonwealth.

Building a More Educated & Diverse Nursing Workforce for Massachusetts

As evidence confirms, patient outcomes are better when nurses providing care have higher levels of education. To increase the number of nurses educated at the bachelor's degree (BSN) or higher, the MAAC is advancing initiatives to:

- Expand opportunities for nurses at all levels to advance their education.
- Promote the transfer of credits across nursing degree programs.
- Engage healthcare employers to provide incentives for academic advancement.
- Increase nursing faculty through recruitment/retention initiatives.

Nursing schools in Massachusetts and nationwide report a shortage of qualified faculty. The MAAC has successfully completed several efforts to better understand and expand faculty capacity, including creation of a Centralized Clinical Placement Faculty Database to connect faculty with vacant nursing education positions.

Strengthening our Base of Public & Private Support

The MAAC's work has been supported by competitive national grants from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and AARP and by a growing base of members in the healthcare, nursing, and business sectors. Our efforts also have been supported through annual state funding for the DHE Nursing and Allied Health Workforce Development Initiative, which awarded 18 nursing education and innovation grants to address the critical shortage of nurses and nursing faculty.

Nurses comprise the largest segment of the MA health care workforce. RNs are the state's most in-demand occupation. Demand for these skilled workers is projected to grow by 19% by 2022.

Based on progress over the past five years, Massachusetts is on a trajectory to meet its goal of 66% of nurses educated to the BSN degree or higher by 2020.