

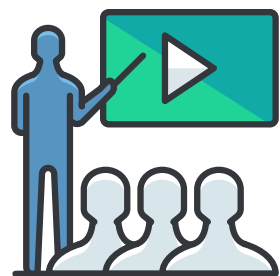
# Virginia's Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program



## Virginia's GWEP addresses a critical national priority.

Through statewide partnerships, healthcare providers, caregivers, and support personnel—particularly in underserved and rural areas—receive training to deliver improved care, aligned with HHS and HRSA goals. This work advances federal investments in workforce development geriatric care delivery.

We are preparing an educated, interprofessional workforce to care for our rapidly aging population.



**The Virginia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program is set to receive \$5 Million in HRSA Funding from July 2024 until June 2029.**

### Key Education



Medication Safety



Dementia



Caregiving



Lifelong Disabilities



Dentistry



Falls & More

**In Virginia, our VGEC and GWEP train about 5,000 professionals every year with critical knowledge and skills.**

### Last year alone, Virginia GWEP provided geriatric training with critical knowledge and skills to:

- **4,000+** physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, physical therapists, social workers and other health professionals to better care for their older adult patients, resulting in improved health and longevity across the state of Virginia.
- **1,000+** health professions students, including medical, dental, nursing, pharmacy, social work and physical therapy students to better prepare them to enter into the geriatric field across the state of Virginia and beyond.



**GWEP targets areas of the state which are medically underserved, such as rural communities.**

## Equipping older adult caregivers in our communities is essential.



Virginia GWEP also provided training to hundreds of caregivers, to better equip them to take care of their loved ones, and directly to hundreds of older adults living in the communities, to help them learn how to take care of themselves physically and mentally.



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Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers are uniquely poised to implement de-escalation techniques and help with early identification and referral for those who have been identified as living with dementia. Yet – they receive little to no formalized training in the care of older adults in their standardized curriculum.

We partnered with EMS providers throughout the state to provide training in appropriate techniques for working with those living with dementia during emergency response. Our training has been well-received throughout the state and to expand this work, we are conducting focus groups with rural EMS agencies to better understand their needs related to caring for older adults in their communities. We plan to expand the available training to EMS providers based on this needs assessment.



## Voices from the Field

Scholars from multiple health professions backgrounds have graduated from the *Creating Interprofessional Readiness for Complex & Aging Adults* or CIRCAA, VGEC/GWEP's 8-month faculty / clinician development program.

Their interprofessional knowledge and geriatric experience have increased significantly through the CIRCAA training and they have used what they learned from the CIRCAA to teach many other health professionals across the state of Virginia and beyond.

"[CIRCAA provided] areas of expertise that I have where I can mentor others and continue to learn. It's absolutely been career [and] life changing."

"Being able to bring that education and awareness to our community is really important, especially in the spaces that are beyond what the tribe can offer to our elders.

We do try to provide these services, but it's not always enough. You know, we don't necessarily have enough employees to be able to keep up with the demand.

And then we also have, unfortunately, a high instance of dementia and Alzheimer's within our community. It allows the voices of our elders in our community to be heard."

- **Lindsey Johnson, Chickahominy Indian Tribe**



**Watch Interview**



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