

GAO: HHS Needs Plan To Ensure Development of Adequate Health Care Workforce

By Administrator

Tuesday, 12 January 2016 06:32 -

RALEIGH, (SGRToday.com) - Will the United States have enough skilled workers to meet the health care demands of a growing and aging population? The Government Accountability Office (GAO) says the Health and Human Services agency needs a plan to do just that.

GAO's report finds:

“The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) engages in some planning for the 72 health care workforce programs administered by its agencies, but lacks comprehensive planning and oversight to ensure that these efforts meet national health care workforce needs.

HHS's

current strategic plan includes broad strategies—such as improving access to comprehensive primary and preventive medical services in historically underserved areas and supporting federally funded health centers—to which department officials said the health care workforce programs relate. However, these strategies do not explicitly reference workforce issues or specify how these programs contribute towards

HHS's

current strategic goals and performance targets. The health care workforce performance measures tracked by

HHS

and its agencies are specific to individual workforce programs and do not fully assess the overall adequacy of the department's workforce efforts.”

The full report can be found at gao.gov.