THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS (NHSC) builds healthy communities by supporting qualified health care providers dedicated to working in areas of the United States with limited access to care.
More than 9,200 primary health care professionals serving at nearly 5,000 sites*

*As of September 30, 2014
The NHSC is part of HRSA’s Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW).

The BHW coordinates the recruitment and retention of health professionals to work in medically underserved communities.
HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS

A Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) is a designation, determined by the HHS Secretary, of a health workforce or provider shortage. A HPSA designation can be made for a geographic area, population group or health care facility. There are 3 types of HPSA designations:

- Primary Care
- Dental
- Mental Health

- Many Federal and State programs use HPSA designations in determining eligibility.

- National Health Service Corps and NURSE Corps clinicians must complete their service obligation at approved sites with a HPSA designation. Priority funding is given to clinicians working at a site with a HPSA score of 14 or higher, which corresponds to greater need.
The NHSC was created in response to the health care crisis that emerged in the United States in the 1950s and 1960s when retiring physicians left many areas of the country without medical services.
1970s
- NHSC created
- First scholarships
- Grew from 181 providers to over 1,800
- Budget 10 times larger by end of decade

1980s
- Loan Repayment Program (LRP) launched
- Predicted physician surplus—budget reduced
- Field strength at 1,500 by 1989

1990s
- Early 1990s — Only 1,000 providers serve
- Mental health disciplines added to LRP
- Over 2,500 providers in service by end of decade

2000s
- Recovery Act and Health Care Reform—increased funding
- Unprecedented growth in field strength
- More than 9,200 providers serving at nearly 5,000 sites*

*As of September 30, 2014
NHSC FIELD STRENGTH*

More than 9,200 NHSC primary care providers serving at nearly 5,000 sites.

*As of September 30, 2014
FAST FACTS

✓ NHSC members are currently providing care to more than 9.7 million people in the United States

✓ Networking and other educational resources are available to support NHSC providers during their service

✓ The number of providers in service has more than doubled since 2008

✓ See https://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/topics/nhsc.aspx for current field strengths
Loan Repayment Program
An opportunity to pay off student loans while providing care to communities in need
Offers both full-time and part-time options
“At the end of the day when I leave the office, I get a sense of satisfaction that I have made a difference in the lives of my patients.”

— Patrick Antoine, NHSC member
The full-time program offers up to $50,000 in tax-free loan repayment for 2 YEARS of service.

With continued service beyond 5 years, health care providers may be able to pay off all their student loans.
Providers receive loan repayment in addition to a competitive salary from their employers: NHSC-approved sites

1. Providers find a job at an NHSC-approved site
2. Apply to the NHSC for loan repayment
NHSC JOBS CENTER: HEALTH WORKFORCE CONNECTOR

✓ Job seekers search NHSC-approved sites, including those with current job openings

✓ Online site profiles showcase languages spoken by patients, services offered, patients served annually, optional photos and much more

✓ Google based mapping makes it easy for job seekers to find schools and other community amenities

✓ https://connector.hrsa.gov/s near a site
The NHSC Loan Repayment Program offers two levels of funding, based upon the need of the community in which a provider works, as defined by Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) score.

### Initial Award Amounts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2 Years Full-time</th>
<th>2 Years Half-time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sites with HPSA Score of 14+</td>
<td>Up to $50,000</td>
<td>Up to $25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sites with HPSA Score of 0-13</td>
<td>Up to $30,000</td>
<td>Up to $15,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

• A portion of service obligation can be fulfilled by teaching

• Face-to-face and virtual networking opportunities provide support from other providers and community resources

• Rewarding patient relationships
An opportunity to be part of something bigger than yourself
ELIGIBILITY

✓ U.S. citizen or national

✓ Currently work, or applying to work, at an NHSC-approved site

✓ Have unpaid government or commercial loans for school tuition, reasonable educational expenses, and reasonable living expenses, segregated from all other debts

✓ Licensed to practice in state where employer site is located
Must be licensed in one of the following ELIGIBLE DISCIPLINES
• Physician (MD or DO)
• Nurse practitioner (primary care)
• Certified nurse-midwife
• Physician assistant
• Dentist (general or pediatric)
• Dental hygienist
• Psychiatrist
• Psychologist (health service)
• Licensed clinical social worker
• Psychiatric nurse specialist
• Marriage and family therapist
• Licensed professional counselor
HOW TO APPLY?

1. Review the Application and Program Guidance

2. Find a job at an NHSC-approved site or find out if your current job is at an NHSC-approved site

3. Apply online at NHSC.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment

nhscjobs.hrsa.gov
Learn more at:
http://www.nhsc.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment/
Scholarship Program
Students pursuing careers in primary care can receive a scholarship now and serve later.

The scholarship* includes:

✓ Payment of tuition and required fees (tax-free)
✓ Some other tax-free educational costs (books, etc.)
✓ A monthly living stipend (taxable)

*available for up to 4 years
“We bring health care to people who otherwise wouldn’t have access. That’s what inspired me. It’s filling a void. It’s filling a need that is very much there.”

— Kristen Frank, NHSC Scholar
YEARS OF SUPPORT = YEARS OF SERVICE

Scholars commit to serve in the Corps upon completion of their training — one year for each year of support (at least 2 years).
Scholars choose where they will serve from a list of sites in high-need rural, urban, and frontier areas.
ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

• A portion of service obligation can be fulfilled by teaching

• Face-to-face and virtual networking opportunities provide support from other providers and community resources

• Rewarding patient relationships
An opportunity to be part of something bigger than yourself
ELIGIBILITY

✔ U.S. citizen or national

✔ Full-time student at an accredited school, pursuing a degree in:
  • Medicine (DO or MD)
  • Dentistry (DMD or DDS)
  • Nurse practitioner
  • Certified nurse-midwife
  • Physician assistant (primary care)
HOW TO APPLY

1. Review the Application and Program Guidance

2. Apply online at NHSC.hrsa.gov
Learn more at:

http://www.nhsc.hrsa.gov/scholarships/
Students to Service Loan Repayment Program
The NHSC offers up to $120,000 in tax-free loan repayment for 3 years of full-time or 6 years of half-time service to MD/DO or DDS/DMD students in their final year of school for a return in commitment. Loan repayment begins during residency.

With continued service, eligible providers may be able to pay off all their student loans.
ELIGIBILITY

✓ U.S. citizen or national

✓ Full-time student in the final year at an accredited school, pursuing a degree in Medicine (MD or DO)

✓ Planning to complete an accredited primary medical care residency in an NHSC-approved specialty (Internal Medicine, Family Practice, Pediatrics, OB/GYN, Psychiatry and Geriatrics)

✓ Have unpaid government or commercial loans for school tuition, reasonable educational expenses, and reasonable living expenses, segregated from all other debts
ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

• A portion of service obligation can be fulfilled by teaching

• Face-to-face and virtual networking opportunities provide support from other providers and community resources

• Rewarding patient relationships
HOW TO APPLY

1. Review the Application and Program Guidance

2. Apply online at NHSC.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment/students toservice.htm
Learn more at:
http://www.nhsc.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment/studentstoservicprogram/
NHSC Sites
http://www.nhsc.hrsa.gov/sites/index.html
Health care practice sites apply to the NHSC to participate in the NHSC loan repayment and scholarship programs.
NHSC-approved sites enable NHSC providers to fulfill their service obligations.
“The NHSC clinicians working here are some of the most committed, dedicated, mission-driven people I have ever worked with in my life.”

— Larry Gottlieb, Site Administrator at NHSC-approved Site
Recruit providers and residents dedicated to working where they are needed most

Post clinical job openings on the NHSC Jobs Center and participate in Virtual Job Fairs

Connect with other NHSC-approved sites

Receive community and site development assistance

Establish an integrated system of care that includes the uninsured and underinsured

Develop linkages with academic institutions and other organizations
Eligible Types of Sites


• Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)
• American Indian Health Facilities: Indian Health Service Facilities, Tribally-Operated 638 Health Programs and Urban Indian Health Programs (ITU)
• FQHC Look-Alikes
• Correctional or Detention Facilities
• Certified Rural Health Clinics (RHC)
• Critical Access Hospitals (CAH)
• Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC)
• State or County Health Departments
• Community Outpatient Facilities
• Private Practices
• School-Based Clinics
• Mobile Units/Clinics
• Free Clinics
ELIGIBILITY

• Site must be

  ✓ Located in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)
    • A geographic area, population group, or health care facility that has been designated by HRSA as having a shortage of health professionals

  ✓ See all patients regardless of ability to pay

  ✓ Provide services on a discount fee schedule
WHY ARE HPSAs IMPORTANT?

- HPSAs determine funding priorities
  - NHSC makes awards by descending HPSA score
    - Awardees working in sites with HPSA scores of 14 and higher receive higher funding than other awardees
    - The State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) requires participants to work in a HPSA, but are not required to prioritize by HPSA score

- HPSAs guide placement opportunities
  - Students to Service Loan Repayment program participants serve in sites with HPSAs of 14 or higher
  - Scholars have a limited number of placement opportunities and the statute directs them to serve in areas of greatest shortage
ELIGIBILITY

• Site must
  ✓ Accept patients covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children’s Health Insurance Program
  ✓ Not discriminate in the provision of services
  ✓ Document sound fiscal management
  ✓ Have capacity to maintain a competitive salary, benefits, and malpractice coverage package for providers
HOW TO APPLY

1. Determine HPSA Status; enlist State Primary Care Office
2. Complete and submit the Site Application
3. Complete and submit the Site Profile Form
Learn more at:

http://www.nhsc.hrsa.gov/sites/
Life in the Corps
SUPPORT NETWORK

NHSC Providers

BHW STAFF
Headquarters staff • Regional office staff

COMMUNITY
Primary Care Office
• Primary Care Association
• Area Health Education Centers • State Offices of Rural Health • Ambassadors and other providers

RESOURCES
Customer Service Portal
• Call Center • NHSC Web site
• Facebook • Twitter
RESOURCES

Customer Service Portal

- Allows NHSC members to access their information and complete transactions online, at any time
- Corps members can:
  - View payment information
  - View tax information
  - Update contact information
  - Ask BHW a question
  - Request to defer start date
COMMUNITY SUPPORT

NHSC Ambassadors

• Ambassadors help:

  ✓ Increase awareness of NHSC loan repayment and scholarship programs

  ✓ Increase pool of applicants for the NHSC programs

  ✓ Provide opportunities for peer-to-peer interactions for potential Corps members
COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Primary Care Offices (PCOs)

• State level offices that facilitate and participate in activities to improve access to health care services for residents of their state

• PCOs:
  ✓ Know the needs and barriers to primary care in each state
  ✓ Know providers and sites in their state—including NHSC-approved sites
  ✓ Help members identify available jobs at NHSC-approved sites
  ✓ Assist sites with the NHSC application process
COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Primary Care Associations (PCAs)

• Non-profit organizations located in states that provide training and technical assistance to community, migrant health, homeless, and other safety net providers

• PCAs:
  ✓ Assist in planning for growth of health centers in their states
  ✓ Help develop strategies to recruit and retain health center staff
  ✓ Help members identify available jobs at NHSC-approved sites
  ✓ Assist sites with the NHSC application process
COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Area Health Education Centers (AHECs)

• AHEC programs help recruit, train, and retain a health professions workforce committed to underserved populations

• AHECs:
  ✓ Understand where the need for health care professionals in the state and communities exists
  ✓ Link to community and academic educational partnerships
  ✓ Connect NHSC members to educational opportunities, continuing education, and rotations for residents
COMMUNITY SUPPORT

State Offices of Rural Health (SORHs)

• SORHs work to improve access to health care in rural and underserved areas to reduce health disparities

• SORHs:
  ✓ Provide access to tools and resources for those serving in rural areas
  ✓ Know about job opportunities at rural NHSC-approved sites
  ✓ Offer networking opportunities with other rural providers
Other Resources

www.facebook.com/nationalhealthservicecorps
Twitter.com/NHSCorps
www.youtube.com/HRSAtube
www.youtube.com/HRSAtube
State Loan Repayment Program
BHW provides matching funds to more than 30 states to operate their own loan repayment programs for primary care providers.
• The State Loan Repayment Program provides cost-sharing grants to states to operate their own educational loan repayment programs for primary care providers working in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) within their state.

• State grantees have the option to expand eligible disciplines in their programs to include registered nurses and pharmacists, and expand eligible site types to include critical access hospitals, and state mental facilities, providing greater flexibility than is available through the NHSC loan repayment program.

• SLRP varies state to state as compared to the NHSC in:
  ✔ Approved disciplines
  ✔ Length of service commitment
  ✔ Amount of contract offered
  ✔ Ability to utilize alternative funding sources
MT NHSC STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (SLRP)

Eligible Disciplines:

• Primary Care Physicians (MD or DO) includes Psychiatrists
• Certified Nurse Practitioner
• Certified Nurse Midwife
• Primary Care Physician Assistant
• Clinic or Counseling Psychologist
• LSCW, LCPC, Mental Health Counselor, Marriage and Family Counselor
• Dentist and Dental Hygienist
• Nurse
• Pharmacist
MT NHSC STATE LOAN REPAYMENT DETAILS:

- $75,000 Federally matched with $75,000 State money
- Federal $ can be matched by an organization
- Up to $30,000 for a 2 year service commitment/obligation
- Application Cycle opens To Be Determined based on Federal NHSC Award Cycle
- Must be employed at a currently approved NHSC site

http://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/primarycare/SLRP.aspx
Learn more at:
http://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/primarycare
OTHER LOAN REPAYMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS
BUREAU OF HEALTH WORKFORCE

• NURSE Corps
  – Loan Repayment Program
  – Scholarship Program

• Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program

• Faculty Loan Repayment Program