The National Health Service Corps

An Introduction

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Director, Division of the National Health Service Corps
June 26, 2014
BUREAU OF HEALTH WORKFORCE

• 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
- Nearly 8,900 providers serving at over 5,100 sites*

*As of September 30, 2013
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS TODAY

• More than 45,000 clinicians have served in the NHSC
  ➢ Expanding access to health care
  ➢ Improving the health of people who live in urban and rural areas, where health care is often scarce

• NHSC consists of nearly 8,900 clinicians currently working in underserved communities, more than double the 3,600 serving in 2008

• The NHSC has supported nearly 14,000 health care providers between 2009 and 2013.

• NHSC Programs
  ➢ Student to Service Loan Repayment (S2S)
  ➢ Loan Repayment (NHSC LRP)
  ➢ Scholarships (NHSC SP)
  ➢ State Loan Repayment (SLRP)
Nearly 8,900 NHSC primary care providers serving at over 5,100 sites and provide care to more than 9.3 million people in the United States.
NHSC FIELD STRENGTH*

*FY 2011 included clinicians funded through the Recovery Act, Base Appropriations, and the Affordable Care Act
LRP AWARD HISTORY 2011-2013: A COMPARISON BY DISCIPLINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>MBH</th>
<th>Dentist/DH</th>
<th>MD/DO</th>
<th>Nurse/PA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1400</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- MBH
- Dentist/DH
- MD/DO
- Nurse/PA
## FY 2013 APPLICATION STATS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Awarded</th>
<th>Not Awarded</th>
<th>Total Applicants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Professional Counselor</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Clinical Social Worker</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Service Psychologist</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage and Family Therapist</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatric Nurse Specialist</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Applicants</strong></td>
<td>1,296</td>
<td>1,007</td>
<td>2,303</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FY 2014 NHSC FUNDING

- $283.04 Million - ACA funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Projected Awards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S2S Loan Repayment Program</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHSC Loan Repayment Program</td>
<td>4,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHSC Scholarship Program</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Loan Repayment Program</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Supporting 285 clinicians
- 2,070 new & 2,140 continuations
- 171 new & 14 continuations
Loan Repayment Program
The full-time program offers up to $50,000 in tax-free loan repayment for 2 YEARS of service.

With continued service, health care providers may be able to pay off all their student loans.
LOAN REPAYMENT AWARD

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</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Score of 14+</td>
<td>Up to $50,000</td>
<td>Up to $25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sites with HPSA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Score of 0-13</td>
<td>Up to $30,000</td>
<td>Up to $15,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE QUALITY SERVICES THAT PROMOTE WELLNESS & BALANCE OF MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT FOR THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE.

The NATIVE Project was incorporated in 1989 as a 501 (c) 3 non-profit agency offering safe & fun activities to youth in the greater Spokane area. Addressing an alarming trend of alcohol and substance abuse issues in the community, the NATIVE Project quickly evolved into an adolescent youth, outpatient treatment center. By 1999, the NATIVE Project became the parent company to an I.H.S. contracted, Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) called NATIVE Health of Spokane. Since our incorporation, we have served over 217 Federally recognized Tribes from across the US & over 16,000 patients. We're a multidisciplinary team agency that includes chemical dependency, mental health, dental, pharmacy and primary care treatment. In the clinic alone, we have 1 MD, 2 ARNPs, 2 RNs, 1 LPN, 2 HCAs, 1 RD/CDE, 1 LICSW/CDS, 1 LMHC, 1 Clinical Case Manager, 1 Clinic Manager, 2 Schedulers, 2 Patient Registration, 1 Clinical Applications Coordinator, 1 Researcher & an on-site contracted pharmacy.

Contact Info
1803 W. Maxwell
Spokane, WA 99201
(509) 483-7535

Days/Hours of Operation
Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm Federal Holidays
Off

Relevant Links
- NATIVE Project

Site Brochure
View Site Brochure
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
DICIPLINES

• 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
Students pursuing a career in primary care can apply for a scholarship once accepted to an accredited health professions program and during any year in school.

The scholarship* includes:

- Payment of tuition and required fees (tax-free)
- Other tax-free educational costs (instruments, books, etc.)
- A monthly stipend allowance (taxable)

*available for up to 4 years
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 (2 year minimum).
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 specialties only
Scholars choose where they will serve from a list of sites in high-need rural, urban, and frontier areas.
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. 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 last 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
State Loan Repayment Program
The NHSC provides matching funds to more than 30 states to operate their own loan repayment programs for primary care providers.
FY 2013 STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM GRANTEES
• 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, long-term care facilities, 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
Learn more at:
http://www.nhsc.hrsa.gov
Questions?

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