

# **NHSC 101**



## THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS

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.

The NHSC is part of HRSA's Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW).

**BHW** improves the health of underserved populations by strengthening the health workforce and connecting skilled professionals to communities in need.



27% of BHW funding supports the NHSC and other programs that improve the distribution of health professionals to underserved areas.

#### NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS: THEN

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1970 <sup>s</sup>	1980 <sup>s</sup>	1990 <sup>s</sup>	2000 <sup>s</sup>	2010 <sup>s</sup>
<ul> <li>NHSC created first scholarships</li> <li>Grew from 181 providers to over 1,800</li> <li>Budget 10 times larger by end of decade</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Loan Repayment Program launched</li> <li>Predicted physician surplus: budget reduced</li> <li>Field strength at 1,500 by 1989</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Early 1990s: Only 1,000 providers serve</li> <li>Mental health disciplines added to LRP</li> <li>Over 2,500 providers in service by end of decade</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Recovery Act and Health Care Reform: increased funding</li> <li>Unprecedented growth in field strength</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Recovery Act and Health Care Reform: increased funding</li> <li>More than 9,600 providers in service*</li> <li>*As of September 30, 2015</li> </ul>

#### NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS: NOW\*



#### **IMPACT OF THE NHSC**

# more than 9,600

NHSC members are currently providing care to more than...

# **10 MILLION**

**PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES** 

 $87^{\%}$  of NHSC members continue to serve in areas of greatest need after completing their service obligation.



#### LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

### UP TO \$50,000 FOR 2 YEARS SERVICE

Offers fully trained primary care clinicians loan repayment in exchange for service in an area of greatest need, called a Health Profession Shortage Area (HPSA).



#### Higher Score = Higher Need

Applicants working at NHSC-approved sites with higher HPSA scores are given priority.

#### PROVIDERS RECEIVE LOAN REPAYMENT IN ADDITION TO A COMPETITIVE SALARY FROM THEIR EMPLOYERS





Watch the NHSC Site Video on the "HRSATube" YouTube channel.



Find positions at NHSC-approved sites using the NHSC Jobs Center: http://nhscjobs.hrsa.gov

#### LOAN REPAYMENT AWARD

The **NHSC Loan Repayment Program** offers priority funding to applicants who work at NHSC-approved sites in high-need areas, as defined by a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) score.



In FY15, awards were given to applicants working at sites with HPSA scores of 14 and above.



#### ELIGIBILITY

Nurse practitioner (primary care)

Certified nurse-midwife

Physician assistant

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**Dental hygienist** 

Psychologist (health service)

**Psychiatrist** 

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- Psychiatric nurse specialist
- Marriage and family therapist
- Licensed professional counselor



- Lucia Lopez, Physician Assistant, Winston Salem, NC



"I'm working, I'm getting my salary, I'm getting loan repayment, and I'm doing what I love."



### 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)



educational costs (books,

Some other tax-free

etc.)



A monthly living stipend (taxable)



#### NHSC SITES



Service begins upon graduation (and completion of any required primary care residency). **The NHSC helps Scholars find a practice site** that's right for them. When in service, Scholars earn a competitive salary paid by their site.

#### 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)





- Jasser Khairallah, Osteopathic Student Kirksville, MO



"To have someone say we believe that you can be a doctor, and support your endeavors in becoming a physician is just unfathomable."



#### STUDENTS TO SERVICE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM – <u>NOW</u> <u>ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS THROUGH</u> <u>OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup> AT 7:30 PM.</u>

#### STUDENTS TO SERVICE AWARD





UP TO \$120,000 FOR 6 YEARS Part-time Service

The NHSC offers **Up to \$120,000** in tax-free loan repayment for 3 years of full-time service 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 final year at an accredited school, pursuing a degree in Medicine (MD or DO) or Dentistry (DDS or DMD).
- 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



- Dr. Brian Freeman, Fairfax, VA



"I want to be a health coach who guides my patients through any challenges that they may have."

#### **STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM**

Provides cost-sharing grants to states to operate their own loan repayment programs for primary care providers in underserved areas.

**37 STATES** 

**ARE GRANTEES** 

Eligible disciplines vary but may include physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, dental professionals, registered nurses, mental health professionals, and pharmacists.



# SUPPORT & RESOURCES

#### SUPPORT FOR PROVIDERS





Dedicated BHW staff located in 10 regional offices provide dedicated contacts for your area.

SUPPORT FOR YOU AT YOUR SITE

NHSC Ambassadors help educate and inform current and prospective members.

#### **RESOURCES FOR PROVIDERS**



#### NHSC JOBS CENTER http://www.nhscjobs.hrsa.gov

- View job vacancies at thousands of NHSC-approved sites nationwide.
- Google Maps technology allows users to view the surrounding community (e.g., schools, restaurants, parks, places of worship, shops)
- Narrow your job search by:
  - o Field of Practice
  - Specialty
  - HPSA Score
  - o Site Name
  - Zip Code
  - Sites with Open Positions

#### FUTURE NHSC EFFORTS

#### BETWEEN FY 2017 AND FY 2020

NHSC will receive \$2.8 billion in investments to address health professional shortages in underserved areas across the country.



In FY 2017, NHSC will receive \$380 million in funding to expand access to mental health care and training to address drug abuse.



## Karen Guarin

Public Health Analyst Health Resources and Services Administration **Bureau of Health Workforce Division of Regional Operations Region 1- Boston** JFK Federal Building, Rm 1826 kguarin@hrsa.gov 617-565-1456