Thank you for joining today’s webinar. We will begin promptly at 2:00 pm Central.

How to Apply to Become a National Health Service Corps Site

Your First STOP for Rural Health INFORMATION

How to Apply to Become a National Health Service Corps Site
Housekeeping

- Slides are available at www.ruralhealthinfo.org/webinars/nhsc-site-applications
- Technical difficulties please visit the Zoom Help Center at support.zoom.us

If you have questions…
Featured Speakers

**Tom Morris**, Associate Administrator for Rural Health, Health Resources and Services Administration

**Mike Shimmens**, Executive Director, 3RNET

**Clark Conover**, Supervisor, Division of Regional Operations (DRO), HRSA’s Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW)

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**Bureau of Health Workforce**

**NHSC New Site Application Cycle and Clinician Recruitment Programs**

*April 13, 2022*

**Clark Conover, MHA, Supervisor**
Division of Regional Operations (DRO) – Kansas City
Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW)

**Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People**
Agenda

- Introduction to the Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW)
- National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment and Scholarship Programs
- Partnering with rural communities
- 2022 NHSC New Site Application cycle
- Contact information
- Questions

Bureau of Health Workforce

MISSION Improves the health of underserved populations by
  - strengthening the health workforce
  - connecting skilled professionals to communities in need

EDUCATION TRAING SERVICE
American Rescue Plan of 2021

- $800M  National Health Service Corps | Sec. 2602
- $330M  Teaching Health Centers Graduate Medical Education | Sec. 2604
- $200M  Nurse Corps | Sec. 2603
- $100M  Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training | Sec. 2711
- $80M   Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Training for Health Care Professionals, Paraprofessionals, and Public Safety Officers | Sec. 2703
- $40M   Grants for Health Care Providers to Promote Mental Health Among their Health Professional Workforce | Sec. 2705
The National Health Service Corps – 50th Anniversary!

For nearly 50 years, the NHSC has worked to:

• **Build healthy communities by supporting qualified health care providers** dedicated to working in areas of the United States and its territories with limited access to primary health care, regular dental and behavioral health care, and preventive screenings.

• **Improve access to these crucial services** by practicing in health professional shortage areas across the country.

• **Help clinicians pay of their health professional student loan debt in exchange for their service in high-need areas** through scholarships and loan repayment programs.

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National Health Service Corps: Now

**PERCENTAGE OF CLINICIAN TYPES**

- 47% Behavioral Health Providers
- 19% Nurse Practitioners
- 13% Physicians
- 9% Dentists
- 8% Physician Assistants
- 2% Registered Hygienists
- 1% Certified Nurse Midwives
- <.4% Registered Nurses
- <.6% Pharmacists
NHSC Loan Repayment Program

Up to $50,000 for 2 Years of Service

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

Providers receive loan repayment in addition to a competitive salary from their employers.

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

Applicants working at NHSC-approved sites with higher HPSA scores are given priority.
NHSC Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Program

Expands and improves access to quality opioid and substance use disorder treatment in underserved areas nationwide

- Awards up to $75,000 for a 3-year service commitment
- Must be trained and licensed to provide SUD treatment at NHSC-approved SUD treatment facilities
RURAL COMMUNITY LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

NHSC Rural Community Loan Repayment Program

Expands and improves access to quality opioid and substance use disorder treatment in rural areas

► Awards up to $100,000 for a 3-year service commitment
► Must be trained and licensed to provide SUD treatment at NHSC-approved SUD treatment facilities
► Rural Designation (HRSA vs CMS)
NHSC Students to Service Loan Repayment Program

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.

**Initial Award Amounts**

- **UP TO $120,000** FOR 3 YEARS Full-time
- **UP TO $120,000** FOR 6 YEARS Half-time
NHSC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

NHSC Scholarship Program

Students pursuing careers in primary health care can receive a Scholarship now and serve later

Must be pursuing:
- A degree in medicine (allopathic or osteopathic);
- A degree in dentistry; or
- A postgraduate degree or postgraduate certificate from a school or program in nurse-midwifery education, physician assistant (PA) education, or nurse practitioner (NP) education specializing in adult medicine, family medicine, geriatrics, pediatrics, psychiatric-mental health, or women’s health.

Apply now to the 2022 Scholarship Program application through May 5, 7:30 p.m. ET.
OTHER LOAN REPAYMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Other Loan Repayment and Scholarship Programs

State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)

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

- Eligible disciplines vary, but may include:
  - Physicians,
  - Nurse practitioners,
  - Physician assistants,
  - Dental professionals,
  - Registered nurses,
  - Mental, behavioral health professionals,
  - Pharmacists, and
  - Substance use disorder counselors.
HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS

Shortage Areas

HPSA
Health Professional Shortage Area

Providers

MUA/P
Medically Underserved Area / Population

Services

Primary Care

Primary Care

Dental Health

Facility Type

Population Group

Geographic Area

Population Group

Setting

Geographic Area

Population Group

Field

Mental Health

Population Group

R
State Primary Care Office (PCO) Contacts

PCOs are units of state or territorial governments that provide healthcare workforce and shortage designation analysis, technical assistances, and liaison, with federal, state and local partners.

Visit: https://bhw.hrsa.gov/workforce-shortage-areas/shortage-designation/contact-state-primary-care-office

A PARTNERSHIP WITH RURAL AMERICA
Rural Health Workforce

National Health Service Corps and Nurse Corps
support primary care and mental health providers
>7,600 serve in rural communities

Advanced Nursing Education—Nurse Practitioner Residency Program
prioritizes projects that benefit rural populations
40% of training sites in rural areas

Rural Residency Planning and Development Program
helps expand the physician workforce
>50% of residency at rural sites

Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program
trains in community-based outpatient settings
>93% train in medically underserved or rural communities

Behavioral Health Workforce Development Programs
enhance training for professionals and paraprofessionals
52% gain experience in treating substance use disorders

BECOMING AN NHSC- APPROVED RURAL HEALTH CENTER
NHSC-Approved Sites & Participants

**Apply now** to the NHSC New Site Application cycle, open **through May 10, 11:59 p.m. ET**.

**NHSC-Approved Sites**
- Provide outpatient, primary health care services
- Serve people who reside in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)

**NHSC Participants**
- Provide comprehensive primary medical, dental, and behavioral and mental health services
- Serve people who live in rural, urban, and tribal communities

**NHSC Eligible Site Types**

- Federally Qualified Health Centers
  - Community Health Center
  - Migrant Health
  - Homeless Program
  - Public Housing Program
  - School-Based Program
  - Mobile Clinic
- FQHC Look-Alikes
- Indian Health Service Facilities
- **Certified Rural Health Clinics**
- Correctional or Detention Facilities
  (Federal/State/Immigration and Customs Enforcement)
- Critical Access Hospitals
- Community Mental Health Centers
- State or Local Health Departments
- Community Outpatient Facilities
  - Hospital Affiliated
  - Non-Hospital Affiliated
- Private Practices (Solo & Group Practice)
- School-Based Clinics
- Mobile Clinics
- Free Clinics
- Substance Use Disorder Treatment Facilities
Customer Service Portal

customer.hrsa.gov/connector

1. Policies on Non-Discrimination;
2. Sliding Fee Discount Program Documents:
   a. Policy on the Sliding Fee Discount Program;
   b. Sliding Fee Schedule (SFS);
   c. Patient Application for the Sliding Fee Discount Program;
   d. Signage Notifying Patients about the Sliding Fee Discount Program
      i. Posted signage; and
      ii. Online signage (if applicable);
3. Proof of Access to Ancillary, Inpatient, and Specialty Care;
4. NHSC Site Data Table;
5. NHSC Comprehensive Behavioral Health Services Checklist and Supporting Documentation;
6. SUD Documentation; and
7. Clinician Recruitment and Retention Plan.
NHSC Sliding Fee Discount Program

NHSC-approved sites are required to offer a Sliding Fee Discount Program to ensure that patients have access to all primary care services regardless of their ability to pay.

The requirements of the program stipulate, “the entity shall prepare a corresponding schedule of discounts (including, in appropriate cases, waivers) to be applied to the payment of such fees or payments. In preparing the schedule, the entity shall adjust the discounts on the basis of the patient’s ability to pay.”

(https://nhsc.hrsa.gov/sites/eligibility-requirements)

NHSC Sliding Fee Discount Program

Specifically, the sliding fee discount program must include:

• A schedule of fees for services;
• A corresponding schedule of discounts for eligible patients based on the patient’s ability to pay (based on family size and income); and
• Policies and operating procedures, including those around applying for the discount program.
• Cannot take into account assets or credit card balances when determining eligibility;
• Cannot request proof of citizenship; and
• Cannot require Medicaid denial letters as a requirement for sliding fee scale discount program eligibility.
BECOMING A CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL (CAH) APPROVED SITE

NHSC Approved CAHs

Since the 2012 NHSC LRP application cycle, the Critical Access Hospital (CAH) NHSC Site Pilot Project allowed CAHs to apply to be NHSC-approved practice sites.
Sliding Fee Discount Program Requirements

Requirements Unique to CAHs

Must utilize the NHSC-approved SFS, at a minimum, for low-income patients in:
- Emergency room and
- Affiliated outpatient clinic(s)

Requirements do not extend to:
- CAH inpatient fee structure (i.e., CAH in-house discounted fee schedule or charity care program for other settings)
- For requirements necessary to meet Medicare certification requirements

NHSC-Approved CAHs

In addition, a CAH must demonstrate affiliation (*either through direct ownership or affiliation agreements*) with an outpatient, ambulatory care clinic.
NHSC-Approved CAHs – Eligible Clinicians

- **Physician (MD or DO)** specializing in family medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, general internal medicine, geriatrics, general pediatrics, and psychiatry;
- **Physician Assistant** specializing in adult, family, pediatrics, psychiatry, mental health, geriatrics, and women’s health;
- **Nurse Practitioner** specializing in adult, family, pediatrics, psychiatry, mental health, geriatrics, and women’s health; and
- **Certified Nurse Midwife**.

NHSC-Approved CAHs – Eligible Clinicians

- Full-time participants must work a minimum of 40 hours per week.
  - Within the 40 hours, a **minimum** of 16 hours must be spent providing patient care at the affiliated outpatient clinic.
  - The remaining 24 hours can be spent providing care at the NHSC-approved CAH, the affiliated skilled nursing facility or swing bed unit, the affiliated outpatient clinic, teaching, or conducting practice-related administrative activities.
  - No more than 8 hours can be spent teaching.
  - No more than 8 hours can be spent on practice-related administrative activities.
NHSC-Approved CAHs – Eligible Clinicians

Half-time participants must work a minimum of 20 hours / week.
- Within the 20 hours, a minimum of 8 hours must be spent providing patient care at the affiliated outpatient clinic.
- The remaining 12 hours can be spent providing care at the NHSC-approved CAH, the affiliated skilled nursing facility or swing bed unit, the affiliated outpatient clinic, teaching, or conducting practice-related administrative activities.
- No more than 4 hours can be spent teaching or conducting practice-related administrative activities.

NOTE: For both full- and half-time participants, time spent “on call” will not be counted towards the service requirements (similar to the requirement for all LRP participants).

FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS (FQHC) AND RURAL HEALTH CLINICS (RHC)
How RHCs & CAHs Differ from FQHCs

• Not HRSA Section 330 grantees
• No governance requirement
• No FTCA coverage
• Independents not 340B drug discount program eligible
• Can be for-profit
• Fewer preventive services required
• Not required to provide dental or mental health services
• Not required to have a sliding fee scale or accept uninsured patients
• Medicare RHC payment cap
• No Medicare Advantage supplemental payment
• No Medicare Advanced Primary Care Practice Demo (PCMH)
• No Medicare PPS planned

Support – DRO Regional Offices

Support for Providers

• Find your contact on the NHSC website.
Contact Us

Clark Conover, MHA | Supervisor
Division of Regional Operations (DRO) – Kansas City
Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW)
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
Phone: 816-914-3882
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Website: https://www.bhw.hrsa.gov
Connect with HRSA

Learn more: HRSA.gov

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Questions?
Thank you!

• Contact us at ruralhealthinfo.org with any questions

• Please complete webinar survey

• Recording and transcript will be available on RHIhub website