

National Health Service Corps

The purpose of the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Program (LRP) is to recruit and retain medical, nursing, dental, and behavioral/mental health clinicians in eligible communities of need designated as health professional shortage areas. NHSC is a federal program administered by the Bureau of Clinician Recruitment and Service (BCRS) in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). All program requirements can be found in federal statute-Section 338B of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act (42 United States Code Section 254l-1), as amended; Section 331(i) of the PHS Act (42 United States Code Section 254d(i)), as amended.

The Office of Primary Care Access provides technical assistance to applicants applying to NHSC and to sites who want to become NHSC approved.

NHSC Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be a U.S. Citizen or U.S. National
- Participate or be eligible to participate as a provider in the Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program
- Not have any outstanding service obligations or be in breach of a service obligation
- Practices good fiscal responsibility (i.e. no federal liens or defaults on loans)
- Not be excluded, debarred, suspended or disqualified by a Federal agency
- Have qualifying educational loans
- Must be working in a health professional shortage area at an NHSC approved site

NHSC Eligible Provider Types:

(All eligible provider types must meet the licensure and certification requirements as outlined in the NHSC loan repayment application)

- Primary Care Physicians (Family Medicine, OB/GYN, General Internal Medicine, Geriatrics, General Pediatrics, and Psychiatry)
- Primary Care Physician Assistants
- Primary Care Certified Nurse Practitioner
- Certified Nurse-Midwives
- General Dentists
- Pediatric Dentists
- Dental Hygienists
- Health Service Psychologists
- Licensed Clinical Social Workers
- Psychiatric Nurse Specialists
- Marriage and Family Therapists

- Licensed Professional Counselors

NHSC Eligible Site Types:

- Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)
- FQHC Look-Alike
- Rural Health Clinic
- Hospital-affiliated Primary Care Out Patient Clinic
- Indian Health Service, Tribal Clinic, and Urban Indian Health Clinic (ITU)
- Private Practice (solo/group)
- State or Federal Correctional Facility
- Other Health Facilities:
 - Community Mental Health Facility
 - Community Outpatient Facility
 - Critical Access Hospital
 - Free Clinic
 - Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Health Service Corps
 - Mobile Unit
 - School-based Health Program
 - State and County Department of Health Clinic

Sites applying to become NHSC approved must be located in a Health Professional Shortage Area and fulfill the following requirements:

- Provides primary care medical, dental, or mental and behavioral health services
- Ensures access to ancillary, inpatient, and specialty referrals
- Provides services regardless of a patient's ability to pay
- Accepts patients covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). A six-month billing summary is required before a site can apply; Private Practices (Solo/Group) must submit a 12-month summary.
- Does not discriminate in the provision of services
- Uses a provider credentialing process when hiring
- Agrees not to reduce a provider's salary due to NHSC support and provides a supportive environment
- Provides sound fiscal management
- Provide services on a free or reduced fee schedule basis to individuals at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.

For more information contact:

Temi Oshiyoye

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Health Systems and Infrastructure Administration

Office of Primary Care Access

300 West Preston Street

Baltimore, MD 21201

Phone: 410-767-4467

temi.oshiyoye@maryland.gov