



NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS

INFORMATION FOR COMMUNITIES AND SITES

The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) is dedicated to improving the health of the Nation's neediest communities. Over the past 35 years, we have brought thousands of dedicated clinicians to communities that need them most. Our efforts have fostered commitments from clinicians and communities to meet the unique health care needs of millions of people.

Recruitment and Retention Assistance

The NHSC helps communities recruit and retain caring health professionals who are committed to serving in the communities that need them most. The NHSC seeks clinicians who demonstrate a strong personal commitment to service and an appreciation for the unique needs of the underserved. Some of these health professionals have committed to serve in community-based systems of care in return for scholarship or loan repayment support. Currently, two-thirds of NHSC clinicians remain in underserved communities after fulfilling their NHSC service commitments. We encourage an interdisciplinary team approach to health care delivery. Primary health care teams are made up of health professionals who combine their skills to meet their patients' needs. The NHSC can help as you consider your staffing needs for primary care services. We help communities recruit:

- Primary care physicians (family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology, and general psychiatry)
- Primary care nurse practitioners
- Primary care physician assistants
- Certified nurse-midwives
- Dentists and dental hygienists
- Mental and behavioral health professionals (clinical psychologists, clinical social workers, licensed professional counselors, marriage and family therapists, and psychiatric nurse specialists)

Getting Started

Support from NHSC often involves developing and preparing sites and communities by helping them identify innovative solutions. The NHSC can help:

- Build partnerships and relationships in the community to mobilize local resources
- Design and implement a discounted fee schedule or other means for providing affordable care
- Maximize revenue from Federal programs such as the Rural Health Clinic and Federally Qualified Health Center Programs
- Identify ways to support uncompensated care through other grant programs (State and/or Federal) to ensure that the site remains fiscally sound
- Establish an integrated system of care that includes the uninsured and underinsured
- Link with other communities and sites that have "done it"

For sites that meet the eligibility requirements, a simple two-page application is all that's needed to get started.

Benefits of Working With the NHSC

Sites and communities benefit from working with the NHSC in a number of important ways, including opportunities to:

- Post vacancies and site profiles on the NHSC Web site
- Receive referrals of clinicians seeking employment in their area
- Develop linkages to academic institutions and other organizations and resources
- Receive community and site development assistance
- Network with other NHSC sites

In addition, communities with the greatest need may also have opportunities to recruit clinicians participating in the NHSC Scholarship Program or utilize the NHSC Loan Repayment Program to recruit or retain health professionals.

Eligibility Requirements for NHSC Assistance

- Located in a federally designated health professional shortage area (HPSA)* (A HPSA is a geographic area, population group, or medical facility that has been designated by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services as having a shortage of health professionals.)
- Urban or rural communities serving high-need populations
- Accept Medicaid/Medicare assignments
- Maintain a discounted fee schedule that assures there is no financial barrier to care for those who are at or below 200 percent of the federally designated poverty level
- Function as part of a system of care that assures access to the full continuum of services (referral and hospitalization)
- Maintain full-time practice hours

*To determine if your community or area in which the site is located is already designated as a HPSA, go to <http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov/>. If there is no designation in place, please contact the State Primary Care Office (PCO) about submitting a request for a designation. The State PCO directory is located at <http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov/resources/info/pco.asp> or contact the Shortage Designation Branch analyst for your state at the Shortage Designation Branch of Office of Workforce Evaluation and Quality Assurance in the Bureau of Health Professions at 1-800-400-2742.

Together, We Build Healthier Communities

For more information on how your community can get involved, call our toll-free help line or visit our Web site.

National Health Service Corps

Toll-Free Help Line:

1-800-221-9393

<http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov>

The National Health Service Corps is part of the Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). HRSA improves the Nation's health by assuring equal access to comprehensive, culturally competent, quality health care for all.