
DATE: June 30, 2026

TO: Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget

FROM: HRSA Information Collection Clearance Officer; Office of Planning,
Analysis and Evaluation

Request: The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW) requests approval for non-substantive changes to the National Health Service Corps Students to Service Loan Repayment Program (NHSC S2S LRP) and the National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program (NHSC SP) Disadvantaged Background Form, which are included in the BHW Scholarship Programs Information Collection Request (OMB #0915-0146, expiration date 3/31/2029).

Purpose: The purpose of this request is to make changes to the previously approved “Disadvantaged Background” Form by replacing the word “disadvantaged” with “vulnerable” and replacing “environmental” with “geographic” to align with the Administration’s priorities.

Collection of this information provides accurate data reporting on several key measures, allowing HRSA to adhere to the program’s intent of providing scholarship and loan repayment assistance to scholars from vulnerable backgrounds.

Through the NHSC S2S LRP and NHSC SP, HRSA seeks to support individuals from a broad range of backgrounds, including those whose geographic, economic, or educational circumstances may have affected their pathway to a health professions career. These proposed changes are consistent with the intent of the authorizing statute while incorporating more current terminology.

Changes: Changes to the previously approved “Disadvantaged Background” form include replacing the term “disadvantaged” with “vulnerable” and replacing “environmental” with “geographic” to align with the Administration’s priorities.

These changes will take effect beginning with the fiscal year 2027 application cycles for the NHSC S2S LRP and the NHSC SP. The

application process will continue to include documentation necessary to assess an applicant’s eligibility and qualifications for program participation, including information regarding economic or geographic vulnerability. Applicants who choose to provide this information would submit a signed Certification of Vulnerable Background form indicating that they come from an economically or geographically vulnerable background.

Instruments: The Certification Regarding Vulnerable Background form (formerly the Certification Regarding Disadvantaged Background form) updates the terminology, using “vulnerable” in place of “disadvantaged,” and “geographically” in place of “environmental.”

These changes are needed to align the form with updated terminology that is more inclusive, person-centered, and specific, aligning with Administration priorities. These updates were made throughout the form to improve consistency and help ensure that applicants and reviewers understand the criteria using current terminology.

Time Sensitivity: The data collection changes must be completed in a timely manner to ensure that the survey data collection schedule will not experience significant delay. Approval of these changes is needed by July 10, 2026, to implement the changes in the data collection instruments and to prepare for the timely collection of data critical to HRSA reviewers.

Burden: It is anticipated that the revisions included herein will not impact the burden of the SP or S2S LRP application processes or the Certification of Vulnerable Background Form, as no new forms will be required and the changes will be inserted into the larger, already-approved SP and S2S LRP applications, including the Certification of Vulnerable Background Form (formerly the Disadvantaged Background form).

PROPOSED CLARIFICATIONS AND NON-SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES:

Table A – NHSC S2S LRP

Instrument	Change implemented	Rationale
Certification Regarding Disadvantaged Background	Changed instrument title from “Certification Regarding Disadvantaged Background” to “Certification Regarding Vulnerable Background”.	To align with the Administration’s priority of reinforcing programs that direct resources to areas of greatest need and improve health outcomes.

Instrument	Change implemented	Rationale
Certification Regarding Disadvantaged Background	Changed “disadvantaged background” to “vulnerable background”	To align with the Administration’s priority of reinforcing programs that direct resources to areas of greatest need and improve health outcomes.
Certification Regarding Disadvantaged Background	Changed “economically disadvantaged background” to “economically vulnerable background”	To align with the Administration’s priority of reinforcing programs that direct resources to areas of greatest need and improve health outcomes.
Certification Regarding Disadvantaged Background	Changed “environmentally disadvantaged background” to “geographically vulnerable background”	To align with the Administration’s priority of reinforcing programs that direct resources to areas of greatest need and improve health outcomes.

Table B – NHSC SP

Instrument	Change implemented	Rationale
Certification Regarding Disadvantaged Background	Changed instrument title from “Certification Regarding Disadvantaged Background” to “Certification Regarding Vulnerable Background”.	To align with the Administration’s priority of reinforcing programs that direct resources to areas of greatest need and improve health outcomes.
Certification Regarding Disadvantaged Background	Changed “economically disadvantaged background” to “economically vulnerable background”	To align with the Administration’s priority of reinforcing programs that direct resources to areas of greatest need and improve health outcomes.
Certification Regarding Disadvantaged Background	Changed “economically disadvantaged background” to “economically vulnerable background”	To align with the Administration’s priority of reinforcing programs that direct resources to areas of greatest need and improve health outcomes.
Certification Regarding Disadvantaged Background	Changed “environmentally disadvantaged background” to “geographically vulnerable background”	To align with the Administration’s priority of reinforcing programs that direct resources to areas of greatest need and improve health outcomes.

Attachments:

1. National Health Service Corps Students to Service Loan Repayment Program Verification of Vulnerable Background Status Form (All changes and additions are tracked in the attached document)
2. National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program Verification of Vulnerable Background Status Form (All changes and additions are tracked in the attached document)