NHSC Update

Presenter:

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Health Resources and Services Administration
Bureau of Health Workforce
Division of Regional Operations
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.
Overview

1. What are the benefits of being an NHSC site?

2. Is my site eligible?

3. How do I apply?

4. NHSC Opioid Treatment Expansion
Benefits of Being an NHSC Site

• **Recruitment and Retention of Providers**
  – NHSC Loan Repayment Program
    • MD/DO, NP, PA, CNM, DDS/DMD, RDH, HSP, LCSW, PNS, MFT, LPC
  – NHSC Scholarship Program
    • MD/DO, DDS/DMD, NP, PA, CNM
  – NHSC Students to Service Loan Repayment Program
    • MD/DO or DDS/DMD
  – Health Workforce Connector and Virtual Job Fairs

• **Networking and Resources**
  – NHSC Site Network
  – Primary Care Offices, Division of Regional Operations
Is My Site Eligible to Apply?

- Located in and serves a federally-designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)
- Is a primary care outpatient facility (medical, dental, or behavioral)
- Utilizes and prominently advertises a qualified discounted/sliding fee schedule for individuals at or below 200% of the federal poverty level
- Does not deny services based on inability to pay or enrollment in Medicare, Medicaid, and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- Ensures access to ancillary, inpatient, and specialty care
- Credentialing process includes query of National Practitioner Data Bank
- Meets all requirements listed in the NHSC Site Agreement

Eligible Site Types*

Regular Application Process:
1. Certified Rural Health Clinics
2. State or Local Health Departments
3. State Prisons
4. Community Mental Health Centers
5. School-Based Clinics
6. Mobile Units/Clinics
7. Free Clinics
8. Critical Access Hospitals (CAH)
9. Community Outpatient Facilities
10. Private Practices

**Newly eligible SUD site types**
1. Opioid Treatment Program (OTP)
2. Office-based Opioid Agonist Treatment (OBOT)
3. Non-Opioid SUD treatment sites
Eligible Site Types*
(Continued)

Auto-Approval Process:

1. Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)
2. FQHC Look-Alikes
3. American Indian Health Facilities: Indian Health Service Facilities, Tribally-Operated 638 Health Programs, and Urban Indian Health Programs (ITU)
4. Federal Prisons
5. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

* All NHSC sites must deliver comprehensive primary care (medical, dental, and/or mental/behavioral health) on an outpatient basis, with exception of CAHs and IHS hospitals.
NHSC Awards & HPSA Scores

Loan Repayment Program: 2018 HPSA Requirements & Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HPSA Tier Requirements</th>
<th>2 Years Full-time Award</th>
<th>2 Years Half-time Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tier 1 – Sites with HPSA Score of 14+</td>
<td>Up to $50,000</td>
<td>Up to $25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 2 – Sites with HPSA Score of 13 or below</td>
<td>Up to $30,000</td>
<td>Up to $15,000</td>
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</tbody>
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Please note that HPSA Tier Requirements can change!!

Annual Scholar and Students to Service (S2S) HPSA Requirements

- 2018 Scholar Class → Minimum HPSA score is 18 (updated annually)
- 2018 S2S Class → Minimum HPSA score is 14

NHSC.hrsa.gov
New This Year – SUD Awards

• Provides up to $75,000 in loan repayment in exchange for three years of service at an evidence-based SUD approved site

• Applicants serving at NHSC-approved SUD sites to apply under either the mental health or primary care HPSA score, whichever is higher; option not available for the traditional NHSC Loan Repayment Program

• Members of the SUD integrated treatment team who qualify for NHSC SUD expansion include: physicians; nurse practitioners; physician assistants who are eligible to administer MAT; and substance use disorder counselors
NHSC Opioid Treatment Expansion At A Glance

**Appropriations**
- $105,000,000 to expand and improve access to quality opioid and substance use disorder treatment in rural and underserved areas nationwide
- $75,000,000 for NHSC LRP to expand Nationwide for SUD trained clinicians
- $30,000,000 for NHSC LRP collaboration with the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) and the Rural Communities Opioid Response initiative

**Goals**
- Strengthen workforce to increase access to treatment for substance use disorder, with an emphasis on opioids
- Collaborate and align with health center and rural health investments
- Support entire treatment team – substance use disorder counselors

**Strategy**
- Enhance policies and processes to support the Nationwide Expansion for Substance Abuse Treatment in three phases:
  - NHSC Sites
  - NHSC LRP application
  - Monitoring & Support
- Utilize enhancements to support the collaboration with FORHP
- Use data and lessons learned from FY19 to improve the programs and to better fulfill our goals in FY20.

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Additional Resources & Reminders

Additional Information & Questions:

- NHSC website: [www.nhsc.hrsa.gov](http://www.nhsc.hrsa.gov)

- Customer Care Center: 1-800-221-9393 (TTY:1-877 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, except holidays

- State Primary Care Offices: [http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/hpsas/primarycareoffices.html](http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/hpsas/primarycareoffices.html)

- DRO Contacts: [https://nhsc.hrsa.gov/sites/helpfullcontacts/drocontactlist.pdf](https://nhsc.hrsa.gov/sites/helpfullcontacts/drocontactlist.pdf)
Questions?