NHSC 101
Commander Richard Brantley
Team Lead, Atlanta Regional Office, Division of Regional Ops.
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.
### NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS: THEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1970s</th>
<th>1980s</th>
<th>1990s</th>
<th>2000s</th>
<th>2010s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NHSC created first scholarships</td>
<td>Loan Repayment Program launched</td>
<td>Early 1990s: Only 1,000 providers serve</td>
<td>increased funding supported unprecedented growth in field strength</td>
<td>Increased funding has grown our numbers to more than 10,400 providers in service*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grew from 181 providers to over 1,800</td>
<td>Predicted physician surplus: budget reduced</td>
<td>Mental health disciplines added to LRP</td>
<td>Over 2,500 providers in service by end of decade</td>
<td>*As of September 30, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget 10 times larger by end of decade</td>
<td>Field strength at 1,500 by 1989</td>
<td>Over 2,500 providers in service by end of decade</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS: NOW*

*As of September 30, 2016

- **Physician Assistants**: 11%
- **Dentists**: 12%
- **Nurse Practitioners**: 19%
- **Physicians**: 24%
- **Mental Health Providers**: 30%
- **Nurses Midwives**: 2%
- **Dental Hygienists**: 2%

*As of September 30, 2016*
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS: NOW* DIVERSITY

As of September 30, 2016

- Caucasian: 64%
- African American: 14%
- Hispanic: 12%
- American Indian or Alaska Native: 3%
- Asian or Pacific Islander: 7%

*As of September 30, 2016
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS: NOW* DIVERSITY

*As of September 30, 2016
**A new figure as of 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Workforce</th>
<th>National Health Service Corps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>17.2% African-American Physicians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>18.2% Latino Physicians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.6%</td>
<td>19.3% **Asian Dentists</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IMPACT OF THE NHSC

MORE THAN 10,400 NHSC members are currently providing care to more than...

11 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES

88% of NHSC members continue to serve in areas of greatest need after completing their service obligation.
AGENDA

1 LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM
2 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
3 STUDENTS TO SERVICE PROGRAM
4 VIDEO SERIES
5 STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM
6 SUPPORT AND RESOURCES
1

LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM
UP TO $50,000 FOR 2 YEARS SERVICE

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

Applicants working at NHSC-approved sites with higher HPSA scores are given priority.
Providers find a job at an NHSC-approved site

Then

Apply to the NHSC for loan repayment

Watch the NHSC Site Video on the "HRSATube" YouTube channel.

Find positions at NHSC-approved sites using the Health Workforce Connector: https://connector.hrsa.gov/
The **NHSC Loan Repayment Program** offers priority funding to applicants who work at NHSC-approved sites in high-need areas, as defined by a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) score.

**INITIAL AWARD AMOUNTS**

- **Up to $50,000 for 2 years** for full-time.
- **Up to $25,000 for 2 years** for half-time.

In FY16, awards were given to applicants working at sites with HPSA scores of 14 and above.
ELIGIBILITY

- U.S. citizen or national
- Currently work, or applying to work, at an NHSC-approved site
- Have unpaid government or commercial loans for school tuition, reasonable educational expenses, and reasonable living expenses, segregated from all other debts
- Licensed to practice in state where employer site is located

Must be licensed in one of the following eligible disciplines:

- Physician (MD or DO)
- Nurse practitioner (primary care)
- Certified nurse-midwife
- Physician assistant
- Dentist (general or pediatric)
- Dental hygienist
- Psychiatrist
- Psychologist (health service)
- Licensed clinical social worker
- Psychiatric nurse specialist
- Marriage and family therapist
- Licensed professional counselor
“I’m working, I’m getting my salary, I’m getting loan repayment, and I’m doing what I love.”

- Lucia Lopez, Physician Assistant, Winston Salem, NC
2
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
STUDENTS PURSUING CAREERS IN PRIMARY CARE CAN RECEIVE A SCHOLARSHIP NOW AND SERVE LATER

THE SCHOLARSHIP* INCLUDES:

- Payment of tuition and required fees (tax-free)
- Some other tax-free educational costs (books, etc.)
- A monthly living stipend (taxable)

*Available for up to 4 years
YEARS OF SUPPORT = YEARS OF SERVICE

Scholars commit to serve at an NHSC-approved site in a high-need area upon completion of their training: at least two years of service.
Service begins upon graduation (and completion of any required primary care residency). The NHSC helps Scholars find a practice site that’s right for them. When in service, Scholars earn a competitive salary paid by their site.
ELIGIBILITY

U.S. citizen or national

Full-time student at an accredited school, pursuing a degree in:

- Medicine (DO or MD)
- Dentistry (DMD or DDS)
- Nurse practitioner
- Certified nurse-midwife
- Physician assistant (primary care)
“To have someone say we believe that you can be a doctor, and support your endeavors in becoming a physician is just unfathomable.”
3

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.
## ELIGIBILITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. citizen or national</td>
<td>Full-time student in the final year at an accredited school, pursuing a degree in Medicine (MD or DO)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Planning to complete an accredited primary medical care residency in an NHSC-approved specialty (Internal Medicine, Family Practice, Pediatrics, OB/GYN, Psychiatry and Geriatrics)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Have unpaid government or commercial loans for school tuition, reasonable educational expenses, and reasonable living expenses, segregated from all other debts</td>
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"I want to be a health coach who guides my patients through any challenges that they may have."

- Dr. Brian Freeman, Fairfax, VA
WOMAN: THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS PROVIDES LOAN REPAYMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS TO PRIMARY CARE CLINICIANS. IN TURN, THESE CLINICIANS COMMIT TO SERVING AT AN NHSC-APPROVED SITE LOCATED IN AN AREA WITH A SHORTAGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS. LET'S REVIEW HOW AWARDS ARE DETERMINED FOR THE NHSC LOAN REPAYMENT, SCHOLARSHIP, AND STUDENTS TO SERVICE PROGRAMS.


NOW LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND THE STUDENTS TO SERVICE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM. EACH YEAR, THESE TWO PROGRAMS RECEIVE MANY ELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS, SO IT'S A COMPETITIVE AWARD PROCESS. ONCE THE APPLICATION CYCLE CLOSES, THE REVIEW PROCESS BEGINS. IF AN APPLICANT MEETS ALL THE NECESSARY PROGRAM CRITERIA, THE APPLICATION IS EVALUATED THROUGH AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW PROCESS. PRIORITY IS GIVEN TO STUDENTS WHO HAVE PERFORMED WELL ACADEMICALLY, ARE FROM A DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUND, AND ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO SERVE IN A HIGH-NEED AREA ONCE THEIR NHSC SERVICE COMMITMENT IS COMPLETE. ADDITIONAL FACTORS SUCH AS ESSAYS AND LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION ARE ALSO CONSIDERED. APPLICATIONS ARE EVALUATED FOR ELIGIBILITY AND COMPLETENESS. AFTER UNDERGOING AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW PROCESS, THEY ARE SCORED AND RANKED BASED ON THESE FACTORS. FOR ALL NHSC PROGRAMS, THE NUMBER OF AWARDS ARE BASED ON THE LEVEL OF FUNDING AVAILABLE THAT YEAR. FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.NHSC.HRSA.GOV.
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 health professionals, and pharmacists.
6
SUPPORT & RESOURCES
SUPPORT FOR PROVIDERS

SUPPORT FOR YOU IN YOUR REGION

Dedicated BHW staff located in 10 regional offices provide dedicated contacts for your area.

SUPPORT FOR YOU AT YOUR SITE

NHSC Ambassadors help educate and inform current and prospective members.
RESOURCES FOR PROVIDERS

Health Workforce Connector
https://connector.hrsa.gov/

- Google Maps technology allows users to view the surrounding community (e.g., schools, restaurants, parks, places of worship, shops)

- Narrow your job search by:
  - Field of Practice
  - Specialty
  - HPSA Score
  - Site Name
  - Zip Code
  - Sites with Open Positions
WHAT IS A VIRTUAL JOB FAIR?

• An innovative tool allowing NHSC-approved sites and NURSE Corps Critical Shortage Facilities to promote job opportunities to a targeted audience of primary care clinicians who are interested in serving communities with limited access to health care

• **Benefits:**
  • Sites advertise to a wider audience
  • Connecting sites and job-seekers virtually, with no travel costs
  • Clinicians connect with sites in targeted areas where they are looking to work
  • Clinicians explore jobs at sites they may not have been aware of for consideration
WHAT HAPPENS IN THE VIRTUAL JOB FAIR?

• Using Adobe Connect and conference call lines, sites have 15 minutes in a “virtual” breakout room (10 minutes for presentation, 5 minutes for Q&A)

• Presentations include information about the site, local community and population served, position(s) available, salary and benefits

• 3 to 3 ½ hours long and can accommodate up to 60 sites

• Virtual breakout rooms can be configured with up to 6 breakout rooms and 10 consecutive presentations
OUTREACH AND PROMOTION PLATFORMS

• NHSC website

• Targeted emails through contact management database

• Social media, including Facebook and Twitter
OTHER LOAN REPAYMENT & SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

BUREAU OF HEALTH WORKFORCE

NURSE CORPS:
Loan Repayment Program
Scholarship Program

Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program
Faculty Loan Repayment Program
Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students
Connect With Us

Commander Richard Brantley
Team Lead, Atlanta Regional Office, Division of Regional Operations
Bureau of Health Workforce
Health Resources and Services Administration
Phone: 404-626-5466

- Web: nhsc.hrsa.gov
- *Workforce Connections* newsletter: www.hrsa.gov/subscribe
- Health Workforce Connector: https://connector.hrsa.gov/

- LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/national-health-service-corps
  www.linkedin.com/company/nurse-corps
- Twitter: twitter.com/HRSAgov
  twitter.com/NHSCorps
- Facebook: facebook.com/HHS.HRSA
  facebook.com/nationalhealthservicecorps
  facebook.com/HRSANURSECorps