

NATIONAL HEALTH  
**SERVICE**  
CORPS 



# AGENDA

- Overview of the National Health Service Corps
  - Loan repayment program
  - Scholarship program
  - NHSC-approved sites
- NHSC Site Policies
- Review of the site application process



# 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.
- Provides financial support to providers in the form of loan repayment and scholarship in exchange for working at NHSC-approved sites.
- Today is a network of more than 9,000 providers and 12,000 sites.



# NHSC LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

UP TO  
**\$60,000\***  
**2 YEARS**

UP TO  
**\$170,000\***  
**5 YEARS**

The full-time program offers up to \$60,000\* in tax-free loan repayment for **2 YEARS** of service, and up to \$170,000\* for a **5-YEAR** service commitment.

With continued service beyond 5 years, health care providers may be able to pay off all their student loans.

*\* Amounts may change; see Application and Program Guidance for each application cycle.*



# PROVIDERS RECEIVE LOAN REPAYMENT IN ADDITION TO A COMPETITIVE SALARY FROM THEIR EMPLOYERS: NHSC-APPROVED SITES



**YEARS OF  
SUPPORT**

**=**

**YEARS OF  
SERVICE**

Scholars commit to serve in the Corps upon completion of their training – one year for each year of support (at least 2 years).



# NHSC APPROVED SITES

- Located in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)
- Agree to Corps requirements:
  - ✓ See all patients regardless of ability to pay
  - ✓ Provide services on a discount fee schedule
  - ✓ Accept patients covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program
  - ✓ Documented sound fiscal management
  - ✓ Have capacity to maintain a competitive salary, benefits, and malpractice coverage package for providers



Recruit providers and residents dedicated to working where they are needed most

Post clinical vacancies on the NHSC online national recruitment database

Network with other NHSC-approved sites

## BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP FOR SITES

Receive community and site development assistance

Establish an integrated system of care that includes the uninsured and underinsured

Develop linkages with academic institutions and other organizations

# PREVIOUS NHSC SITE POLICY

- CAHs have limited eligibility as NHSC service sites
  - ✓ ONLY the outpatient clinic eligible to be an NHSC-approved site
  - ✓ Clinicians' time in the inpatient hospital generally not counted towards fulfilling their service obligation
  - ✓ Some time (~ 8 hrs.) could be counted, but only as an "alternative setting"



# NEW NHSC SITE POLICY UNDER 3-YEAR PILOT

- NHSC will approve entire CAH as a service site
  - ✓ Including the ER, swing bed unit, skilled nursing facility (SNF)
- Clinicians' time in the inpatient setting will now count towards service obligation
  - ✓ In general, 24 hrs. of the minimum 40 hrs. of full-time practice
  - ✓ 12 hrs. in the case of half-time practice.



# NHSC SITE ELIGIBILITY

- Be located in a designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)
  - ✓ Call State Primary Care Office for assistance getting a HPSA designation
- Demonstrate an affiliation with an outpatient, ambulatory care clinic
- Provide comprehensive primary care and related inpatient services
- See all patients, regardless of ability to pay
- Accept Medicare, Medicaid & Children's Health Insurance Program beneficiaries
- Utilize a sliding fee scale or a "charity care" policy for low-income patients
  - ✓ Must have a financial assistance plan in place for those below 200% of poverty
    - ❖ Services at no charge, or a nominal charge, for those below 100% of poverty
    - ❖ Schedule of discounts for those between 100% and 200% of poverty
  - ✓ The NHSC can provide you with examples



# RECRUITING NHSC PROVIDERS

- May only recruit the following disciplines under pilot program:
  - ✓ Physicians
  - ✓ Physician Assistants
  - ✓ Nurse Practitioners
  - ✓ Certified Nurse Midwives
- Specialties include: family practice, general internal medicine, pediatrics, geriatrics, obstetrics/gynecology, and psychiatry
- Allowed maximum of 10 NHSC providers over 3-year pilot period



# PROVIDER SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

- Full-time providers serving at CAH (40 hrs/wk)
  - ✓ Minimum of 16 hrs/wk must be spent in outpatient clinic
  - ✓ 24 hrs/wk can be spent in the inpatient setting, including the swing bed unit, ER or SNF, teaching, or doing administrative tasks
    - No more than 8 hrs/wk spent teaching AND
    - No more than 8 hrs/wk spent on administrative tasks
- Half-time providers serving at CAH (20-39 hrs/wk)
  - ✓ Minimum of 8 hrs/wk must be spent in outpatient clinic
  - ✓ 12 hrs/wk can be spent in the inpatient setting, teaching, or doing administrative tasks
    - No more than 4 hrs/wk spent teaching OR on administrative tasks



# NHSC SITE APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applicant submits a site application online
  - ✓ Visit [www.nhsc.hrsa.gov/communities](http://www.nhsc.hrsa.gov/communities) and review the Service Site Guide
  - ✓ Determine if you are in a HPSA
  - ✓ Go to the “Apply” tab on the web site to begin the online application
- Primary Care Offices (PCOs) review applications and make a recommendation
- BCRS Regional Offices review and provide final recommendation



# BECOMING AN NHSC-APPROVED SITE

- Online application available for CAHs early October 2011
- To be approved CAH sites will need to:
  - ✓ Meet all NHSC site eligibility requirements
  - ✓ Demonstrate affiliation (either through direct ownership or affiliation agreements) with an outpatient, ambulatory care clinic
  - ✓ Demonstrate that site provides comprehensive primary care and related inpatient services



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