

NHSC Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Program – Do You Qualify?

By the Health Resources and Services Administration



For nearly 50 years, the Health Resources and Services Administration's National Health Service Corps (NHSC) has awarded scholarships and loan repayment to health care providers dedicated to working in areas with limited access to care. NHSC is now building upon this tradition—providing quality care to those who need it most—with a new program to address the opioid epidemic.

The NHSC Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Workforce Loan Repayment Program (LRP) offers student loan repayment awards of up to \$75,000 to qualified clinicians in exchange for three years of service at an NHSC-approved site providing SUD services. These sites are located in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) around the country in rural, urban, and frontier communities.

NHSC-approved sites are generally outpatient facilities providing primary medical, dental, and/or mental and behavioral health services. These facilities may be federally qualified

health centers, rural health clinics, state or federal correctional facilities, or free clinics. The full list of site types is available on the program's web page (www.nhsc.hrsa.gov).

Applicants from an NHSC-approved SUD treatment facility may receive priority for the NHSC SUD Workforce LRP if they have a DATA 2000 waiver to administer medication-assisted treatment (MAT); serve in an opioid treatment program; or are certified in substance use disorder interventions, such as Master's-level substance use disorder counselors.

HRSA is opening this loan repayment opportunity to a broader pool of eligible disciplines and specialties, including substance use disorder counselors, physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants who are eligible to administer MAT, behavioral health professionals, registered nurses, and pharmacists.

Clinicians accepted to the program will ensure individuals living with the disease of addiction have access to quality health care. Without these clinicians, some individuals would not have the resources they need to recover.

Even within our current field, NHSC is helping to address mental and behavioral health needs in the nation's underserved communities. More than one-third of current NHSC clinicians are mental and behavioral health providers who help combat the opioid crisis our nation is currently facing, as well as work to address serious

Getting Started

Step 1: Verify your current employer is an eligible facility by searching HRSA's Health Workforce Connector at <https://connector.hrsa.gov>.

Step 2: While on the Connector, create your clinician profile so interested sites can search for and recruit you based on your experience and job criteria.

Step 3: Network with potential employers during HRSA's next Virtual Job Fair on November 28, 2018. Visit jobfair.hrsa.gov for more information.

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the primary federal agency for improving health care to people who are geographically isolated, economically or medically vulnerable. HRSA programs help those in need of high quality primary health care, people living with HIV/AIDS, pregnant women, and mothers. HRSA also supports the training of health professionals, the distribution of providers to areas where they are needed most and improvements in health care delivery.

mental health issues more broadly. Moreover, one in three NHSC clinicians serve in rural communities.

The NHSC builds healthy communities by providing financial awards to health care providers committed to serving in the nation's high-need, rural, and tribal areas. NHSC has provided scholarships and loan repayment for more than 50,000 recipients, helping communities recruit and retain quality primary care clinicians committed to providing care where they are needed most.

We encourage eligible addition professionals passionate about helping those with SUD to apply.

For the latest information and to sign up for email updates, visit www.nhsc.hrsa.gov.