National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Program

Approximately 53 million people live in communities without access to primary health care. The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) works to change this by helping communities located in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) recruit and retain primary care clinicians, including dental, mental and behavioral health professionals, to serve in their community.

The Scholarship Program is available to full-time students enrolled in fully accredited U. S. medical schools who commit to practice in a HPSA upon completion of education or training. Applicants who are selected to participate receive payment of tuition & fees, books, supplies, equipment and a monthly stipend. For each year of support received, one year of service in an approved HPSA practice site is required. There is a minimum service commitment of 2 years which must begin upon completion of training or primary care residency.

The first step in applying for the Loan Repayment Program is to locate a community that needs you by finding a sponsor located in a HPSA. Two excellent sources are the NHSC website’s Opportunities List and the National Rural Recruitment & Retention Network (3RNET). The employer must then submit a Recruitment & Retention Assistance Application directly to NHSC. The application is logged and then sent to the State Office of Rural Health (SORH) for review and recommendation. Once the site is approved, the loan repayment applicant completes and submits an application for Loan Repayment. While employment at an eligible site is a requirement to qualify for the Program, it is not a guarantee of an award. Clinicians who serve in areas with the greatest need are given award priority. The clinician must practice a minimum of two years in return for up to $50,000.00 in loan repayment funds.

The NHSC also serves as a recruitment & retention center and employers in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) may submit an application to join the NHSC and post vacancies on the NHSC Opportunities List.

To find out more, visit the NHSC website:  http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov
NHSC Helpline:  1-800-221-9393
National Rural Recruitment & Retention Network website:  www.3rnet.org