

# National Health Service Corps Program

## *Fact Sheet*

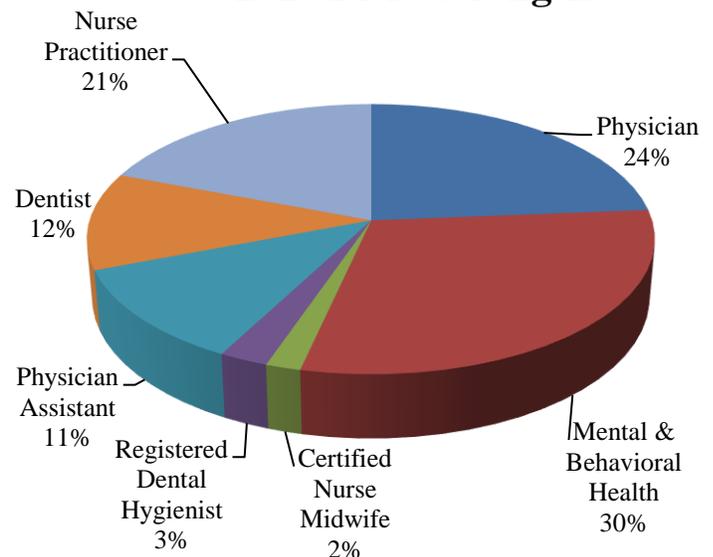
Founded in 1972, the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) is designed to bring primary care health workers to the most underserved communities of the country, designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). In exchange for their medical expertise, the Corps helps these professionals alleviate the financial burden accumulated during the course of their education. The NHSC programs include:

- **Scholarship program (SP)** – Provides a full scholarship for eligible students in exchange for service after their training in high need HPSAs.
- **Loan Repayment Program (LRP)** – Helps students repay school loans in exchange for service.
- **State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)** – The program provides matching funds for certain state loan repayment programs.
- **Students to Service program (S2S)** – Provides loan repayment for medical school students in their last year of training who choose primary care in exchange for service.

### FIELD STRENGTH

- More than 50,000 providers have served in the NHSC since its founding.
- Today, 10,493 clinicians provided culturally competent care to underserved communities through the NHSC program:
  - 437 NHSC Scholarship recipients served in the field
  - 8,593 participants received NHSC loan repayment funding
  - 1,378 participants in the State LRP
  - 85 providers were in the field under the S2S program
- NHSC clinicians provide medical, dental, and mental and behavioral health care in urban, rural, and frontier areas at more than 16,000 NHSC-approved health care sites across the country.
- Today, more than 11 million people rely on care delivered by a NHSC clinician.

### 2016 Field Strength



## **ELIGIBILITY**

- NHSC placements are made at approved sites providing primary medical, dental and/or mental and behavioral health services
- Facilities include:
  - Federally-Qualified Health Centers
  - Indian Health Facilities
  - Correctional or Detention Facilities
  - Certified Rural Health Clinics
  - Critical Access Hospitals
  - Community Mental Health Centers
  - State or Local Health Departments
  - School-Based Clinics
  - Certain Private Practices
  - Mobile Units
  - Free Clinics
- More than 66 million people live in designated primary care shortage areas.
- More than 51 million people live in designated dental health care shortage areas.
- More than 106 million people live in designated mental and behavioral health care shortage areas.

## **FUNDING HISTORY**

- Starting in 1972, the NHSC was traditionally funded through the annual appropriations process. In FY2008, total funding for the program was \$124 million.
- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided \$300 million over two years to expand the number of NHSC placements.
- The Affordable Care Act (ACA) provided a five year trust fund through FY16 to further expand program placements in light of the overwhelming need for primary care services.
- In FY2011, Congress decreased the base appropriation by nearly \$100 million, dramatically reducing the impact of the ACA trust fund.
- In FY2012, Congress eliminated the base appropriation for the NHSC and the program became entirely dependent on the ACA trust fund.
- The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) of 2015 extended the trust fund for FY2016 and FY2017 at \$310 million.
- The NHSC trust fund expires on September 30, 2017.