



Educating and Empowering Advocates to Speak about the National Health Service Corps

ACU's 2023 Conference
July 26th, 2023

Financial Disclosure



No relevant relationships to disclose

Agenda

1. Priorities
2. NHSC Overview
3. Congressional Meetings
4. Hill Day Materials
5. Questions





ACU Policy and Advocacy Priorities

The Association of Clinicians for the Underserved's policy priorities are guided by our mission as a nonprofit, transdisciplinary organization of clinicians, advocates, and healthcare organizations united in a common mission to improve the health of America's underserved populations and to enhance the development and support of the health care clinicians serving these populations.

Advocating in support of the nation's clinical and non-clinical workforce serving the underserved, the organizations that employ them, and the patients they care for is at the center of our policy and advocacy efforts.

- 1. Strengthening & Growing Workforce Programs – NHSC, NurseCorps, THCs**
 - a. Funding
 - b. Expanded Eligibility
 - c. Health Center CENTERED Pathways

- 2. Improving Coverage & Access to Care**
 - a. Medicaid – Unwinding Process
 - b. Telehealth

- 3. Health Equity**
 - a. Transformation & Innovation

National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Overview

NHSC Overview



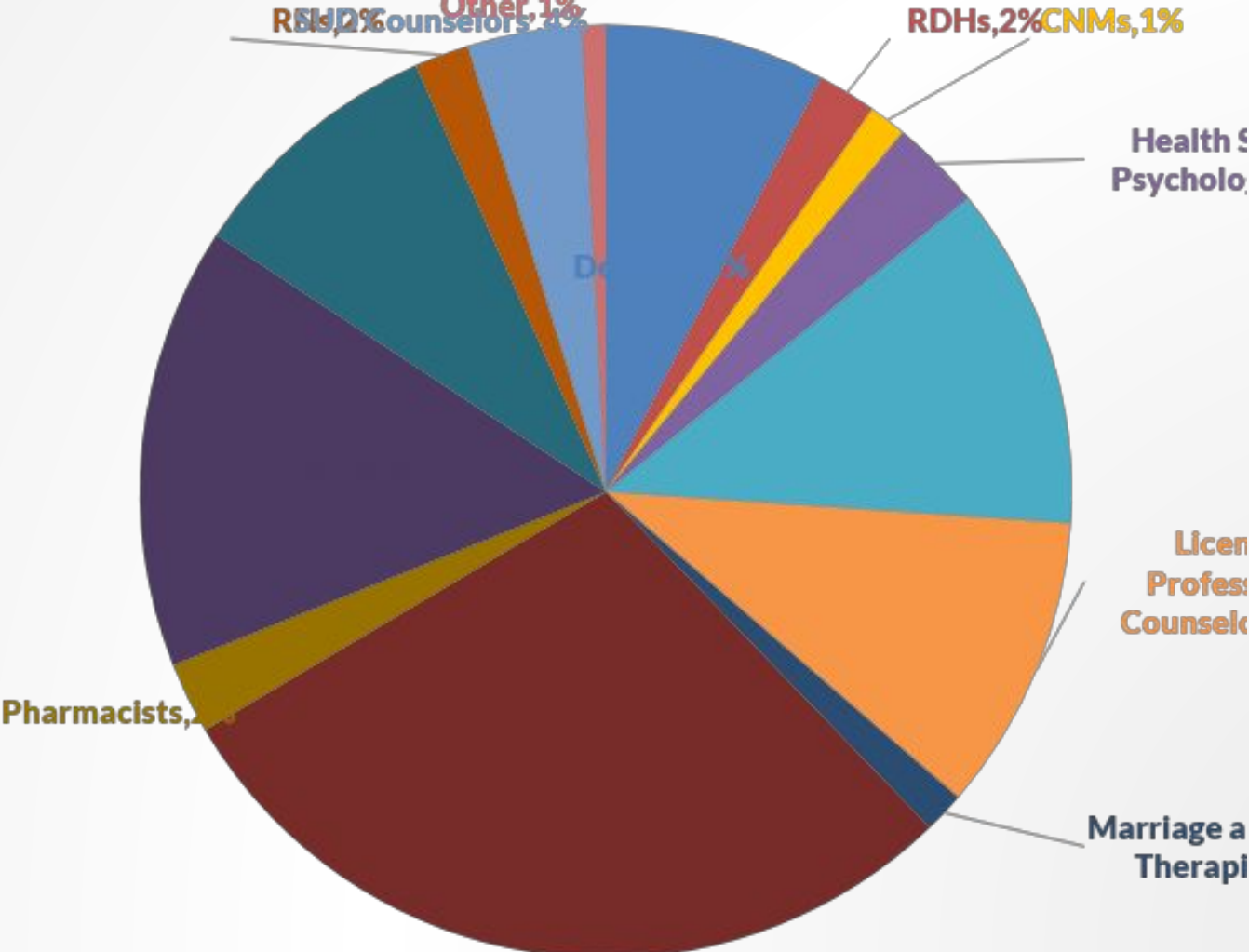
- When was the NHSC founded?
 - 1972
- What is the purpose of the NHSC?
- What are the 6 NHSC programs?
 - 1) Scholarship Program
 - 2) Loan Repayment Program
 - 3) Rural Community LRP
 - 4) State LRP (SLRP)
 - 5) Student to Service LRP
 - 6) Substance Use Disorder Workforce LRP
- How is the NHSC connected to ACU?

NHSC Overview



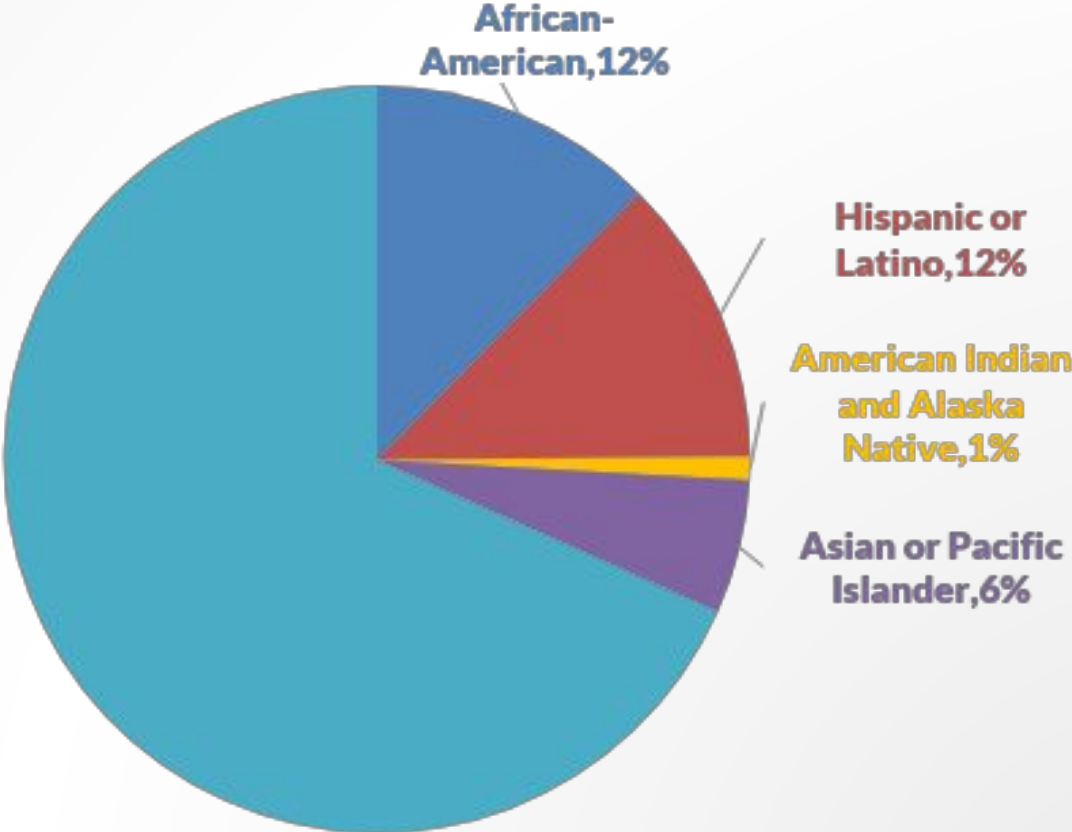
FIELD STRENGTH BY PROFESSION

20,660 TOTAL PROVIDERS AS OF 9/30/22



DIVERSITY OF PROVIDERS

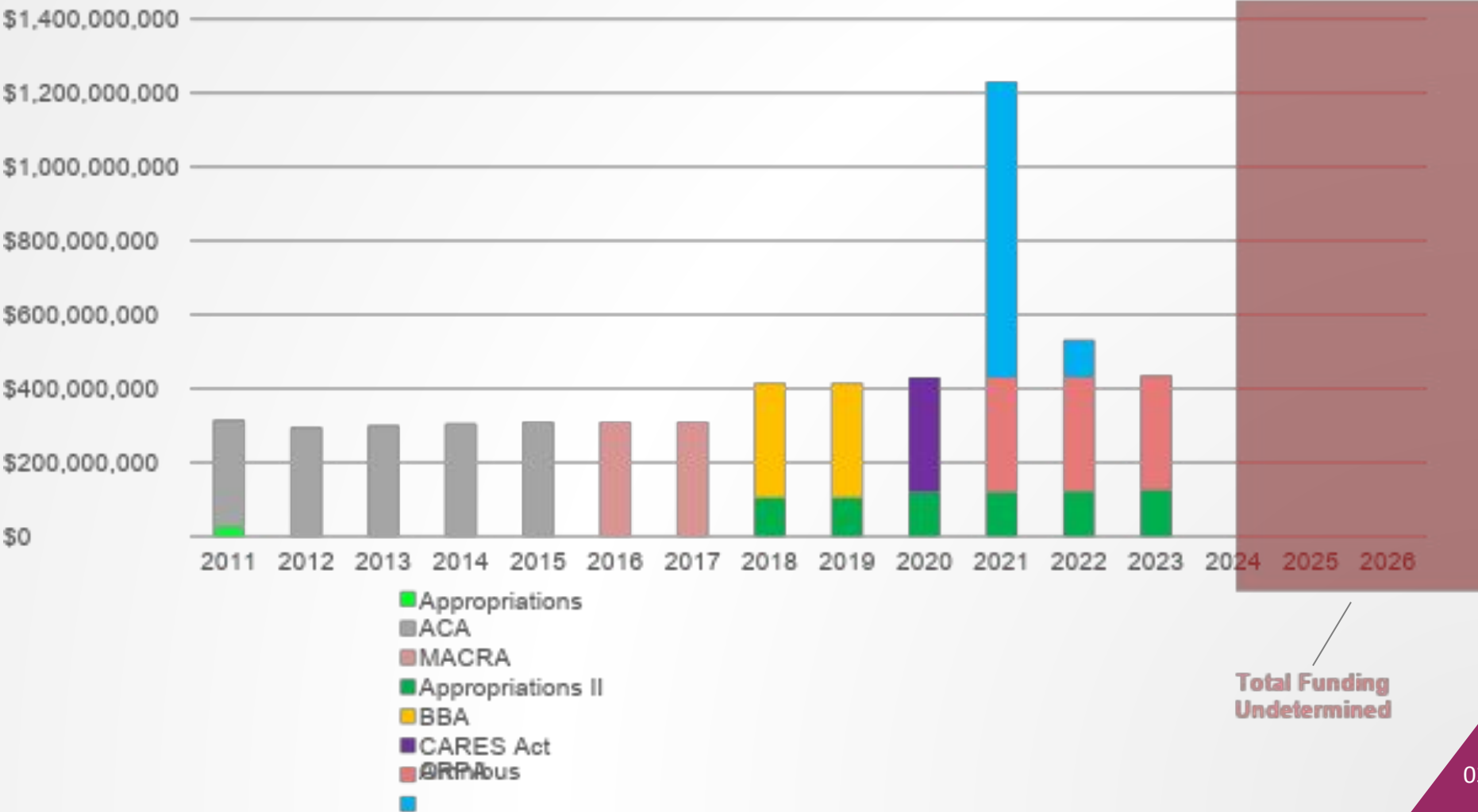
20,660 TOTAL PROVIDERS AS OF 9/30/22



Funding History



National Health Service Corps Funding History by Source



What are we advocating for?



House Legislation:

- Cosponsor H.R.3080 - Health Center Service Expansion and Provider Shortage Reduction Act

Senate Legislation:

- Cosponsor S.862 - Restoring America's Health Care Workforce and Readiness Act

Optional Legislation (if time allows):

- S.940/H.R.1711 - Rural America Health Corps Act

Congressional Meetings Overview

Step 1: Pre-Meeting



Know Your Member of Congress:

- House of Representatives Member (1)
- U.S. Senators (2)
- Read Biographical Material
- Review Congressional Website
- Read Recent Social Media Posts
- Review National and Local Media Coverage
- **Use this Information to Connect!**

Step 1: Pre-Meeting



Know Your Congressional Staffers

- Chief of Staff
- Deputy Chief of Staff
- Legislative Director
- Policy Advisor
- Legislative Assistant
- Legislative Aide
- Legislative Correspondent
- Staff Assistant

Hill Day Materials

Becoming an ACU NHSC/Workforce Advocate

What's in Your Packet?



ACU Hill Day Talking Points:

- General Talking Points
- Justification & Urgency for National Health Service Corps Funding
- Specific Asks for Members of Congress and their staff
- Data to Support Extending & Increasing Funding for the NHSC
- NHSC Stakeholder Letter in Support of S. 862 to Extend & Increase Funding
- Meetings Schedule
- Map of Senate and House Buildings

Step 2: Introductions



Introduce yourself to the Member of Congress and/of their Staff:

- Keep it short and sweet – your introduction is meant to lead into issues.
- You are a constituent/NHSC participant, recruiter, advocate, etc.
- Who are you representing and what's their goal?
- NHSC Introduction
- Share Your Story!

Step 3: NHSC Background



Justification & Urgency for National Health Service Corps Funding:

- NHSC retention
- NHSC impact
- Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)
- Reiterate Purpose of Meeting
- Inadequate Current Funding Level
- How the Member/Staffer Can Help

Step 4: Hill Day Asks



House Legislation:

- Cosponsor H.R.3080 - Health Center Service Expansion and Provider Shortage Reduction Act

Senate Legislation:

- Cosponsor S.862 - Restoring America's Health Care Workforce and Readiness Act

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Funding Increase Benefits



Data to Support Extending & Increasing Funding for the NHSC (part a)

	FY20	FY21
Funded NHSC Applications	59%	80%
NHSC Scholarship Program	251 new awards	1192 awards
NHSC SP Obligated Funds	\$59,392,862	\$292,425,317

NHSC Funding Issue



Data to Support Extending & Increasing Funding for the NHSC (part b)

	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Total NHSC Funding	\$430M	\$750.6M	\$783.6M	<u>\$564.6M</u>	\$435.6M (if flat-funding is approved)	?
Scholarship Program (SP)						
(% of eligible applicants funded)	11.6%	<u>60.1%</u>	46.7%	Less than FY22	Less than FY23	?
Loan Repayment Program (LRP)						
(% of eligible applicants funded)	66.1%	<u>86.2%</u>	71.2%	Less than FY22	Less than FY23	?

Meetings Schedule



Alaska (AK)

Participants:

- Emily Oliver – Chief of Optometry
- Katie Regan – Optometrist

Schedule:

8:00am

Coffee with Rep. Mary Peltola and her staff
Office of Representative Mary Peltola (D-AK-At-Large)
153 Cannon House Office Building
simone.auger@mail.house.gov
202-225-5765

10:00am

Sara Berkemeier Bell, Policy Adviser
Office of Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK)
302 Hart Senate Office Building
sara_berkemeier-bell@sullivan.senate.gov
202-224-3004

Map of the Senate and House



Hill Day: Perfect Timing



- Keeping the Momentum Up
- Don't forget to have fun and take pictures!
- Hill Meeting Recap
- Pre-Meeting Research
- Introduction with General Talking Points
- Urgency for NHSC Funding
- Specific Legislation to Cosponsor
- Data to Justify Asks
- If you have an answer, defer to me for follow-up

CONTACT ME



After four years on Capitol Hill, I joined ACU to focus on working in support of the underserved and for health centers. I've enjoyed getting to meet so many incredible people across a variety of organizations. As you all continue to be amazing advocates and community, I would be happy assist in your efforts. ACU is here to help and support you – please, stay in touch!



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Questions?