

## LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAMS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS AND OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

The following is an announcement for two loan repayment plans offered by the US Department of Health and Human Services and administered by the National Health Service Corp and the Bureau of Clinician Recruitment and Service.

[U S Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, National Health Service Corp](#)

### ***Now Accepting Applications:***

\$200 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds will double the NHSC field strength this year.

The ***National Health Service Corps*** recruits primary care medical, dental and behavioral and mental health clinicians who are dedicated to providing care to the Nation's underserved people. In return, they can reduce or eliminate their health professions student debt by providing care at a National Health Service Corps-approved site.

The Full-Time Program starts with an initial award of \$50,000 for 2 years of service. The new Half-Time Pilot Project starts with an initial award of \$50,000 for 4 years of service. Participants may apply to extend their service until their debt is paid.

When you join the National Health Service Corps, you become part of a network of more than 10,000 dedicated clinicians and sites caring for the most medically underserved people in the U.S.

### ***Am I Eligible?***

- U.S. citizen or national
- Trained and licensed in one of the following primary care disciplines:
  - Allopathic (MD) or Osteopathic (DO) Physician
  - Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
  - Certified Nurse-Midwife
  - Primary Care Physician Assistant
  - Dentist
  - Dental Hygienist
  - Health Service Psychologist
  - Licensed Clinical Social Worker
  - Psychiatric Nurse Specialist
  - Marriage and Family Therapist
  - Licensed Professional Counselor
- Working or applying to work at a site that is approved by or has applied to become approved by the NHSC
- Unpaid government of commercial loans for school tuition, reasonable educational and living expenses that are not consolidated with non-educational debts

### ***What is the Service Commitment?***

NHSC loan repayors are committed to serve 2 years (full time) or 4 years (part time) at an approved site in a designated Health Professional Shortage Area.

You can apply if you are already working at an approved site or seeking employment at a site that is either approved or meets site eligibility requirements and plans to become approved by applying for Recruitment and Retention Assistance (for more information, see Communities).

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Many types of health care facilities are approved NHSC sites. About half of NHSC clinicians fulfill their service commitment at federally-supported health centers. Health center clinicians can be granted medical malpractice liability protection through the Federal Tort Claims Act.

Other types of NHSC approved sites include rural health clinics, Indian Health Service clinics, public health department clinics, hospital-affiliated primary care practices, managed care networks, prisons, and U.S. Immigration and Customs and Enforcement sites. Loan repayors negotiate their salaries with the employing site.

- Full-Time Service: Apply by July 29, 2010
- Part-Time Service: Apply by May 25, 2010
- Help with the Application Conference Call: May 20, 2:30 to 4:30 pm ET, 1-888-889-0974, passcode 8360318

This National Health Service Corp announcement can be found at: <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment/>

### U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration Bureau of Clinician Recruitment and Service (BCRS)

The **Bureau of Clinician Recruitment and Service (BCRS)** addresses the nationwide shortage of health care providers through scholarship and loan repayment programs that help underserved communities and shortage facilities recruit and retain qualified health professionals.

Each year, BCRS accepts applications from students and clinicians and selects qualified individuals to receive financial assistance in exchange for service where they are needed most.

#### **Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program**

The 2010 application cycle is closed but you may sign up to be notified by e-mail when the 2011 application cycle opens. <http://www.hrsa.gov/about/organization/bureaus/bcrs/index.html>

**The Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program (NELRP)** eases the student debt burden of registered nurses who work in health centers, rural health clinics, hospitals and other types of facilities currently experiencing a critical shortage of nurses. NELRP repays 60 percent of the outstanding balance in exchange for 2 years of full-time service at an eligible facility. Participants may be eligible to receive an additional 25 percent of the original loan balance for an additional year of full-time service in a critical shortage facility. A funding preference is given to RNs with the greatest financial need.

Nurse Scholarship Program

#### **The Nurse Scholarship Program (NSP)**

The 2010 application cycle is closed but you may sign up to be notified by e-mail when the 2011 application cycle opens. <http://www.hrsa.gov/about/organization/bureaus/bcrs/index.html>

**The Nurse Scholarship Program** offers scholarships to individuals attending accredited registered nurse (RN) training programs located in the U.S. in exchange for at least 2 years of service upon graduation at anyone of a number of types of health care facilities currently experiencing a critical shortage of nurses. A funding preference is given to qualified applicants who have zero Expected Family Contribution (EFC) on the Free Application for Federal Student Assistance (FAFSA) and who are enrolled full-time in an undergraduate nursing program.

Faculty Loan Repayment Program

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### **The Faculty Loan Repayment Program (FLRP)**

The 2010 application cycle is closed but you may sign up to be notified by e-mail when the 2011 application cycle opens. <http://www.hrsa.gov/about/organization/bureaus/bcrs/index.html>

**The Faculty Loan Repayment Program** is a loan repayment program for health professions from disadvantaged backgrounds who serve as faculty at an eligible health professions college or university. In exchange for at least 2 years of service, the Federal government pays up to \$40,000 of the outstanding principal and interest on the individual's health professions education loans. The employing institution matches the loan repayment unless it is determined the matching requirement would impose an undue financial hardship on the institution.

### **Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program (NHHSP)**

The 2010 application cycle is open.

**The Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program** improves the health of the Native Hawaiian population by supporting Native Hawaiian health professions students in return for their service after graduation in a medically underserved area in the state of Hawai'i. The scholarship pays tuition, books, other education costs and provides a monthly stipend.

Those interested in applying for the 2010-2011 scholarship year are encouraged to do so immediately. The Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program (NHHSP) provides funding to Native Hawaiians who are pursuing the following degrees as full time students enrolled at accredited universities:

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Clinical Psychology (PhD & PsyD)             | 8. Pharmacist                         |
| 2. Dentistry (DMD & DDS)                        | 9. Nutritionist                       |
| 3. Physician (MD & DO, with select specialties) | 10. Social Work (MSW)                 |
| 4. Masters In Public Health (MPH)               | 11. Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) |
| 5. Nurse Midwife                                | 12. Ophthalmology                     |
| 6. Nursing (ADN, BSN, MSN, NP)                  | 13. Optometry                         |
| 7. Physicians Assistant                         | 14. Dental Hygiene (DH)               |

If you are:

1. Native Hawaiian
2. Enrolled Full-Time
3. Pursuing one of the above professions at an accredited college or university
4. Willing to relocate anywhere within the State of Hawaii to complete your service obligation

Then we encourage you to apply. If you are interested in applying for the 2010-2011 Scholarship year, you will need to complete the following to be eligible for the Scholarship:

1. Apply online. <http://www.nhhsp.org/>
2. Download, print, complete, and mail in the supplemental documents packet.
3. Complete an interview

These Bureau of Clinician Recruitment and Service (BCRS) announcements can be found at: <http://www.hrsa.gov/about/organization/bureaus/bcrs/index.html>