



Guide to the National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program



Contents:

[What is the National Health Service Corps?](#)

[What is the Scholarship Program?](#)

[What does the scholarship include?](#)

[Who is eligible?](#)

[Where can I serve?](#)

[What is the application process?](#)

[When does service begin?](#)

[How can I prepare for the application?](#)

What is the National Health Service Corps?

National Health Service Corps (NHSC) programs provide scholarships and student loan repayment for primary care providers in the medical, dental, and behavioral health fields who agree to practice in areas of country that have health professional shortages (HPSAs).

More than 63,000 primary care medical, dental, and mental and behavioral health professionals have served in the National Health Service Corps since its inception in 1972.

Today, more than 16,000 NHSC members provide culturally competent care to more than 17 million people. In addition to Corps providers currently providing care, more than 1,500 additional members are in school or residency, preparing to practice.

The NHSC is administered by the Bureau of Health Workforce in the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Health Department and Health and Human Services.

What is the NHSC Scholarship Program?

The purpose of the NHSC's Scholarship Program is to provide scholarships to students pursuing primary care health professions training in return for a commitment to provide primary health services in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA).

The scholarship pays tuition, fees, other educational costs, and provides a living stipend in return for a commitment to work at least 2 years at an NHSC-approved site in a medically underserved community.

For each year of financial support (up to four years), the student agrees to serve on year (minimum two years) at an NHSC-approved site in a high-need urban, rural, or frontier community.

What does the scholarship include?

The scholarship includes tax-free payment of tuition, required fees, other reasonable educational costs, and a monthly living stipend (taxable).

When in service, scholars earn a market-rate salary, paid by the employing facility. Scholarship payments other than the living stipend are federal income tax-free.

Who is eligible?

You can apply to the Scholarship Program if you are committed to primary care and accepted to or enrolled in an accredited U.S. school in one of the following primary care disciplines:

- Physicians (MD or DO)
- Dentists
- Nurse Practitioners (post-graduate degree with clinical practice focus)
- Certified Nurse-Midwives
- Physician Assistants

You must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. national, and a full-time student at an accredited school.

Where can I serve?

NHSC Scholars must practice at an NHSC-approved site in a HPSA with a minimum score that is determined annually. NHSC sites are located in 50 states, DC, and territories and may be one of the following:

- Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)
- FQHC Look-alike
- Rural Health Clinic
- Hospital-affiliated Primary Care Outpatient Clinic
- Indian Health Service, Tribal Clinic, and Urban Indian Health Clinic (ITU)
- State or Federal Correctional Facility
- Private Practice (Solo/Group)
- Other Health Facilities:
 - Community Mental Health Facility
 - Community Outpatient Facility
 - Critical Access Hospital
 - Free Clinic
 - Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Health Service Corps
 - Mobile Unit
 - School-based Health Program
 - State and County Department of Health Clinic

What is the Application Process?

To be notified when the Scholarship Program application cycle opens in the spring, sign up to get an e-mail on the [Health Resources & Services Administration Website](#).

To apply for the Scholarship Program, applicants are to complete the online application, which consists of the following sections:

- Eligibility Screening
- General Information
- Degree Information
- Background Information
- Letters of Recommendation

Applicants must also provide the following required supporting documentation:

- Proof of Citizenship or U.S. National Status
- Authorization to Release Information Form
- Acceptance Report/Verification of Good Standing
- Resume/CV
- Essays

- Transcript
- Current Tuition and Fee Schedule

For more detailed information about the application process, visit the [Health Resources and Services Administration scholarship web page](#).

When does service begin?

Services begins upon graduation (and completion of primary care residency training for doctors and dentists). The NHSC helps scholars find a practice site that's right for them.

How can I prepare for the application?

- Visit the [Health Resources and Services Administration scholarship web page](#) for the most up- to-date Application and Program Guidance.
- Check your eligibility
- Understand the service commitment
- Review types of NHSC sites
- Gather supporting documents
- Participate in technical assistance webinars/calls
- Submit application by deadline

For additional assistance, practice sites/employers can contact Kansas Office of Rural Health and Primary Care at ruralhealth@ks.gov or primarycare@ks.gov .

This resource is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$ \$179,193 with 0% financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit [HRSA.gov](https://www.hrsa.gov).