

# National Health Service Corps and Indian Health Service

*Working Together to Provide Health Care to  
American Indian and Alaska Native Communities*



The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) and the Indian Health Service (IHS) offer primary care providers and students financial support in the form of loan repayment and scholarships to cover the cost of their medical, dental, or mental and behavioral health education. Through both programs, providers have the opportunity to work in American Indian and Alaska Native communities and experience unique cultures and traditions, while helping to improve the physical, mental, social, and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

## NHSC Program

NHSC providers practice at NHSC-approved sites. With more than 150 NHSC sites that are a part of the Indian Health Service, NHSC members have the opportunity to experience new cultures, or return home to serve family and friends.

- **Loan Repayment.** The NHSC offers loan repayment support with an initial award of up to \$60,000 for 2 years of full-time service. After the initial 2-year commitment, providers may be eligible to receive up to \$170,000 in loan repayment for completing a 5-year service commitment. With continued service beyond 5 years, providers may be able to pay off all eligible student loans.
- **Scholarships.** NHSC Scholarships are awarded to students pursuing training in certain primary care specialties. Scholarships include payment of tuition, required fees, and other reasonable costs, as well as a taxable monthly stipend. To receive a scholarship, students must commit to completing a 2- to 4-year service commitment at an NHSC-approved site upon completion of their training.

Further information about the NHSC program can be found at: [NHSC.hrsa.gov](http://NHSC.hrsa.gov)

## IHS Program

IHS health professionals are committed to working in American Indian and Alaska Native communities with limited access to health care. Preference is given to American Indian and Alaska Native applicants. For many, this means that the financial support offered allows them to come home and help the communities in which they were once patients themselves.

- **Loan Repayment.** The IHS offers an initial service award of \$40,000, plus \$8,000 for taxes, for a 2-year, full-time service commitment, with the option of additional loan repayment for continued years of service. Loan repayment recipients can choose to work in priority facilities of the more than 230 health clinics and 48 hospitals, which also include NHSC-approved sites in facilities operated by the Indian Health Service, tribal organizations, and the Urban Indian Health Program.
- **Scholarships.** Eligibility for the IHS Scholarship is limited to American Indian and Alaska Natives. Scholarship recipients receive full tuition, fees, and other reasonable costs for a 2- to 4-year obligation, as well as a taxable monthly stipend. Upon completion of their training, scholars work in IHS-designated facilities, which are located in a designated Health Professional Shortage Area.

Further information about the IHS programs can be found at: [www.loanrepayment.ihs.gov](http://www.loanrepayment.ihs.gov) and [www.scholarship.ihs.gov](http://www.scholarship.ihs.gov)

