

CORPS CONNECTIONS

SITES
November 2011

Successful First Corps Community Day!

The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) celebrated the first Corps Community Day on October 13, 2011 and announced 10,000 NHSC providers are now working in underserved communities, the largest Corps in history.



A total of 75 events and activities were planned in 46 States and Puerto Rico to celebrate the occasion. From a health fair and press conference at the Maria de los Santos Health Center in Philadelphia to a student health profession career fair in Kaneohe, Hawaii, these events highlighted the leadership and dedication of the NHSC providers, sites and partners, and the importance of access to primary care.

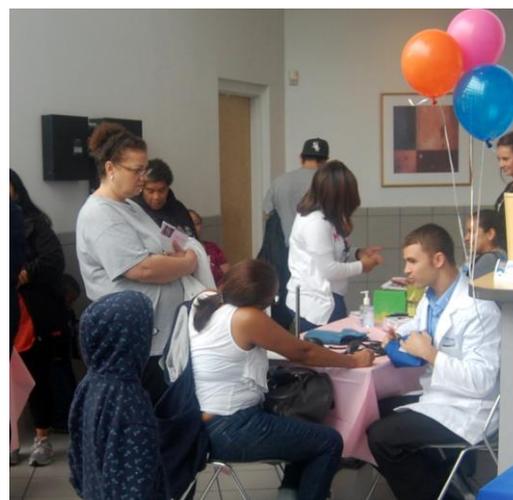
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The impact of the Corps was underscored by the announcement that, through the Affordable Care Act, Recovery Act, and annual appropriation, more than 10,000 primary care providers are now supported through the NHSC. Together, these clinicians are providing health care services to more than 10 million people a year.



NHSC provider Kolleen Simons, MSW, LCSW CCDP-D and The Right Solution Counseling Services in Eureka, Missouri sponsored the “Get Fit for Your Mental Health” event in support of Corps Community Day. More than 40 individuals participated in this fitness-based fundraising event for Bring Change 2 Mind, a non-profit organization that provides services and education for those affected by mental illness.



Delaware Valley Community Health provider Scott Anderman volunteered with other providers to offer free blood pressure and blood sugar screenings at the Corps Community Day Wellness Event at Maria de los Santos Health Center in Philadelphia.

Countermeasures Injury Compensation Program and National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program

Have you ever had a patient who had a serious adverse reaction after receiving a vaccine? If yes, the Federal government has two injury compensation programs that may protect providers from being sued (in most cases) by patients. Both of these programs are “no-fault” which means that patients do not have to prove that their provider did something wrong in order for them to be compensated. Also, these programs may pay the medical expenses of uninsured or underinsured patients if their injuries are found to be caused by a covered vaccine or countermeasure.

The Countermeasures Injury Compensation Program (CICP) is a Federal program that provides benefits to individuals who are seriously injured as a result of an adverse reaction to a covered countermeasure used to prevent, treat, or diagnose certain illnesses that the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declares to be a present or future public health emergency. Death benefits may also be paid to family members. Examples of currently covered countermeasures are certain U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved vaccines, drugs, and devices used to prevent, treat or diagnose 2009 pandemic H1N1 influenza, smallpox, anthrax, botulism, and acute radiation syndrome. Additional covered countermeasures and emergencies can be added by the Secretary at any time. More information on the CICP can be obtained by visiting their Web site at www.hrsa.gov/countermeasurescomp or calling 1-855-266-CICP (2427).

The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) is a separate Federal government program. It provides compensation to individuals (no matter what age) whose injuries may have been caused by vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for routine use in children (including seasonal flu vaccines). More information on the VICP can be obtained by calling 1-800-338-2382 or visiting their Web site at www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation.

Free NHSC Provider Resources Available through the SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions

The [SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions](http://www.samhsa.gov/CIHS) (CIHS) promotes the development of integrated primary and behavioral health services to better address the needs of individuals with mental health and substance use conditions, whether seen in specialty behavioral health or primary care provider settings. The CIHS is run by the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare under a cooperative agreement from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and is funded jointly by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Health Resources and Services Administration.

NHSC providers can access helpful, [free resources on a variety of health care topics](#), including the following webinars: Peer Support Wellness Respite Centers; Implementing Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) in Clinical Settings; Person-Centered Health Homes; Introduction to Effective Behavioral Health in Primary Care and Establishing Smoking Cessation Initiatives in Health Centers.

NHSC Site – Clinica Campesina Family Health Services Featured in NEJM Article

The NHSC recently hosted its New Scholar Orientation Conference, October 27-29, 2011 in New Orleans, LA. One of the most well-received sessions of the conference was the working lunch plenary – “Clinica Campesina Family Health Services: A Patient-Centered Approach to Care”. The interactive session featured Pete Leibig, President and CEO of Clinica Family Health Services and two of his clinicians who were also former NHSC scholars, Maria Somerset, D.O. and Catherine Salaguero, PA-C. During the discussion, the panelists discussed the challenges and benefits they experienced when they changed Clinica’s care model to a patient-centered medical home. They also addressed how these policies can be sustained and how care can be standardized, as well as the importance of co-location, workflows, and standing orders in this model.

Learn more about [Clinica Campesina](#) and read more about changes to the care model in the *New England Journal of Medicine* article [“Lessons from the Trenches — A High-Functioning Primary Care Clinic”](#) by [Thomas Bodenheimer, M.D.](#)



NHSC Launches Alumni Network

The NHSC Alumni Network officially launched this month. NHSC has thousands of alumni who have made a significant contribution to the health of the nation’s underserved communities. The Alumni Network provides a means for the NHSC to connect with its alumni and enables them to connect with one another. Alumni who participate will receive periodic email updates from the NHSC about upcoming events, activities, and announcements on the latest NHSC news. They will also have opportunities to be more involved by attending events, speaking to current or prospective NHSC members, or participating in other Corps initiatives.

Please help spread the word about the NHSC Alumni Network at your sites. We welcome your feedback! If you have questions or any suggestions for improving this new initiative, please send an email to nhscalumni@hrsa.gov. Also be sure to check out our Web site that now includes more information for sites and a special section for our alumni: <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/alumni/index.html>.

NHSC Launches New Web Site

This month the NHSC launched its new Web site. The redesigned Web site offers more information to assist you as an active NHSC site, including information about NHSC clinicians, answers to your frequently asked questions, and direct links to the Customer Service Portal, local resources, and PrimaryCareForAll.org. You can also find the latest news and information from the NHSC.

The site also highlights the important work of some of our NHSC sites, scholars, and loan repayment recipients through stories and videos.

Check it out today: www.nhsc.hrsa.gov

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services | www.hhs.gov

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS CORPS

THE CORPS EXPERIENCE | LOAN REPAYMENT | SCHOLARSHIPS | SITES | Search NHSC

Offering financial support to PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS

Learn more about how you can pay back your student loans while giving back to your community.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Resources for

- Current Members
- Ambassadors
- NHSC Alumni
- NHSC Partners

LOAN REPAYMENT
Primary care providers can pay off student loans while serving in communities with limited access to health care.

SCHOLARSHIPS
Students pursuing careers in primary care can receive scholarships for serving communities in need upon graduation and completion of residency.

NHSC SITES
Clinical practice sites can recruit and retain qualified providers by becoming an NHSC-approved site.

Application Status
Loan Repayment
Next application cycle opens fall 2011. Already applied for the 2011

Share Your NHSC Story!

The NHSC recently began highlighting the many accomplishments and great work that our providers are doing across the country in [Stories from the Field](#), on the [NHSC Facebook Page](#). NHSC encourages you to read more about your fellow NHSC providers and their communities.

Do you know an outstanding NHSC member who should be profiled in Stories from the Field? [Email us](#) and nominate them! Be sure to tell us why you think their contributions to their community and the NHSC make them an exceptional member!

Do you want to be featured in Stories from the Field? [Email us](#) and tell us your story. What does being part of the NHSC mean to you? Let us know!



Event Calendar



NHSC Loan Repayment Program Guidelines Webinar
November 30, 2011
8:00 p.m. ET

NHSC Awardee Conference
December 8-10, 2011
Los Angeles, CA

17th Annual Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Conference
December 14-16, 2011
New Orleans, LA

Tell Colleagues about NHSC Programs and Encourage Them to Apply

Do you have colleagues working at your site who would also benefit from loan repayment? Or do you know someone who is a fourth-year medical student? Please share these important deadlines with them!

- **Students to Service Loan Repayment Pilot Program** – Now accepting applications; submission deadline: December 14, 2011
- **Loan Repayment Program** – Opens December 6, 2011; submission deadline: May 15, 2012

New Changes to the NHSC Site Portal

NHSC sites now have the ability to conduct much of their business through the site portion of the Customer Service Portal. You should be aware of two new significant process changes:

- **New 90-day “Open Position” Expiration Deadline:** As of October 1, any open positions that were not created by site administrators in the Customer Service Portal (i.e., they existed before Portal launched) will expire on December 31, 2011 unless the site administrator extends it using the Portal. Site administrators who have not done so already are urged to create a Portal account, login, and begin managing their open positions to avoid the December 31 automatic expiration of their openings. In addition, sites must be aware that positions created after October 1 in the Portal will automatically expire within 90 days unless the site administrator proactively extends the deadline.
<https://programportal.hrsa.gov/extranet/landing.seam>
- **Six-Month Verifications:** Beginning in January 2012, 6-month verifications will be handled through the online Customer Service Portal, instead of using the current paper-based process. If you have not yet created a Portal account, NHSC encourages you to do so.
<https://programportal.hrsa.gov/extranet/landing.seam>

Questions or Comments?

If you have ideas or suggestions for future issues, please send them to info@nhscrtsc.net.



This publication lists non-federal resources in order to provide additional information to consumers. The views and content in these resources have not been formally approved by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) or the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Listing these resources is not an endorsement by HHS or HRSA.