



# NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS

## Choosing an NHSC Site

When you selected a health professions school several years ago, you likely had to weigh what was most important to you in a training program. Choosing an NHSC-approved site and a community where you'll be practicing and living for at least two years is similar.

As you search for a site and begin to interview, consider your priorities. These questions may help you as you begin to weigh your options. Decide what your two or three "must haves" are in a site and community, and then begin to rank the "nice to haves" as you explore these questions.

### Site Location

- In which three to five states would I like to live?
- Do I want to work in an urban, rural, or frontier area?
- Would I like to be a certain distance from the city, mountains, or beach?
- Do I want to be near a family member or close to where I studied?
- Am I willing to accept a long work commute, and what kind of transportation options are available?

### Site Size and Patient Population

- Will I thrive in a large, mid-size, or small environment?
- Do I want a site that has satellite locations or mobile vans that are also NHSC-approved where I can spend some of my time?
- What population groups (e.g., homeless, migrants) would I like the opportunity to work with more?
- Do I have additional language skills that I want to use?
- What disease areas are of particular interest to me (e.g., diabetes, HIV/AIDS)?

### Organizational Support

- Does the site's mission and goals align with mine?
- Do I want a site that already has a health information technology system or one that is just beginning to transition to an electronic system?
- Is having on-site ancillary services such as laboratory, pharmacy, and x-ray important to me?
- What kinds of resources are most important to me—certain clinical support or administrative staff?
- Are there opportunities to support my continued medical education training?
- What are the opportunities for growth?

### Work Schedule

- What type of on-call schedule can I manage?
- Does it matter if I work Monday through Friday, or would I prefer a non-traditional schedule?
- What kind of flexibility do I need so I can fulfill my personal responsibilities and needs?

### Family Considerations

- What kind of community amenities are a priority for my family (e.g., places of worship, housing, schools, day care, leisure and cultural activities, special medical needs)?
- Are there employment opportunities for my spouse or partner?

