

# Corps Community Month Media Fact Sheet

## Backgrounder

### ***What is Corps Community Month?***

**Corps Community Month** is an annual observance celebrated each October since 2011. This year's Corps Community Month will be celebrated with a wide variety of scheduled events throughout the month of October.

Corps Community Month is an opportunity to:

- Raise awareness about the vital role of the primary care workforce
- Highlight the impact the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) has in increasing access to primary care in underserved communities with limited access to health care
- Promote NHSC programs and the various benefits of participation

For additional information on the initiative refer to the Corps Community Month website: <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/corpscommunitymonth>.

### ***Who sponsors Corps Community Month?***

**Corps Community Month** is sponsored by the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA), within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Grassroots events are planned by with hundreds of NHSC clinical sites, NHSC clinicians, Ambassadors, alumni, and partners (including many health professions schools) across the nation who represent local, state, and national organizations dedicated to provide primary care in communities with limited access to medical, dental, and mental and behavioral health services.

### ***What is this year's Corps Community Month theme?***

This year **Corps Community Month** celebrates its sixth anniversary. This year's theme - "**Share Your Service**" - provides a month-long platform to celebrate the impact of so many on the health of their communities. We want to highlight stories from across the nation, including NHSC scholars and clinicians, who are not only completing their service commitment but who currently or plan to continue investing in the health of their communities as leaders at their sites, mentors, ambassadors, educators or public health advocates.

### ***What events occur during Corps Community Month?***

Events, ranging from presentations on campuses, health fairs in communities, open houses at NHSC clinical sites, and online webinars, promote the need to increase primary care workforce in communities with limited access to care. Corps Community Month events are posted on

<http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/corpscommunitymonth/events/index.html>, where you can find events in your region.

Partners include:

- NHSC clinicians;
- NHSC clinical sites;
- NHSC alumni;
- Health care organizations;
- Health professions schools;
- State and local organizations; and
- Community members

### ***Who can participate in these local events?***

Anyone who has an interest in increasing the primary care workforce is welcome to join the events. Health professions students, residents, or clinical providers already in practice might find the information at the events most helpful.

Health profession students and clinical providers who are eligible for NHSC programs include must be licensed (or planned to be licensed) in one of the following disciplines:

- Medicine (MD/DO)
- Physician Assistant (primary care)
- Nursing (Nurse Practitioner, Certified Nurse-Midwife, Psychiatric Nurse Specialist)
- Dentistry (DDS, DMD); DentalHygienist
- Mental and Behavioral Health (Health Service Psychologist, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Professional Counselor, Marriage and Family Therapist)

### ***Also follow us on social media #Share Your Service***

### ***What are the benefits of the National Health Service Corps?***

The NHSC removes financial barriers for clinicians and students interested in practicing a primary care discipline, enabling them to pursue a fulfilling, mission-driven, community-based career. Through the NHSC, primary care clinicians receive scholarships and loan repayment in return for committing to practice in areas of the country that have too few health care professionals to serve the people who live there.

Refer to the NHSC “About Us” page, <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/corpsexperience/aboutus>, for additional background information.