

# CORPS CONNECTIONS

IN-SERVICE  
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.

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

The [SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions](#) (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.

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### 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 you as a provider from being sued 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](http://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](http://www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation).

# Clinica Campesina Family Health Services: A Patient-Centered Approach to Care

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.](#)



## Leaving Your Community, Site, or Changing Jobs? What You Need to Know about Transfers

We understand that situations may arise where completing your service commitment at your approved site isn't possible. However, the NHSC must approve any transfers, even to another approved site. To avoid breaching your contract, do not resign from your site without the approval of the NHSC.

If you are considering a change in location or adding a location please contact the NHSC in writing to gain the program's approval, prior to executing any change(s).

### You can make your request by:

- Submitting the request online through the Customer Service Portal: <https://programportal.hrsa.gov/extranet/landing.seam>
- Contacting NHSC at 1-800-221-9393

Once your request has been received, an NHSC Service Specialist will review the request and determine what additional documentation and information is required to complete the transfer.

# NHSC Launches New Web Site

This month NHSC launched its new Web site. The redesigned Web site offers more information to assist you as an active Corps member, including information about your Corps commitment, 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](http://www.nhsc.hrsa.gov)



## 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 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

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## NHSC Launches NHSC 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.

Please help spread the word about the NHSC Alumni Network and consider participating in it once you have completed your NHSC service.

For more information check out our Web site that now includes a special section for our alumni: <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/alumni/index.html>.

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## Questions or Comments?

If you have ideas or suggestions for future issues, please send them to [info@nhscrtsc.net](mailto:info@nhscrtsc.net).



### Contact NHSC

Call 1-800-221-9393 or  
visit [NHSC.hrsa.gov](http://NHSC.hrsa.gov)

### Share and Follow

