

National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program 2013 Application and Program Guidance Overview March 2013

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Health Resources and Services Administration
Bureau of Clinician Recruitment and Service
Division of the National Health Service Corps

The National Health Service Corps (NHSC)

The purpose of the scholarship program is to provide financial support to health professional students who are committed to practicing primary care in communities across the country with limited or no access to health care.



The NHSC Scholarship Program

NHSC Scholars commit to practice a minimum of two years at NHSC-approved sites located in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) upon graduation or completion of training and licensure.



NHSC SP Benefits

Service: Provides an opportunity to join thousands of NHSC clinicians across the country who provide primary care services to underserved communities.

Tuition: Provides cost of tuition, required fees and an annual payment for Other Reasonable Educational Costs (ORC) for up to 4 years of full time enrollment in school (nontaxable)

Stipend: Monthly stipend for living expenses (taxable)



Eligibility Requirements

1. U.S. citizen or U.S. National
2. Full-time student (*will not pay more courses unrelated to qualifying degree program & will not count towards hours toward full time status*)
3. Enrolled or accepted to a fully accredited school (located in: a State, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. territory) for any of the following programs:
 - › Physician – MD or DO
 - › Dentist – DDS or DMD
 - › Nurse Practitioners
 - › Nurse-Midwife
 - › Physician Assistant
4. No judgment liens arising from Federal debt
5. No existing service obligation
 - Exception: Individuals in a Reserve component of the Armed Forces including the National Guard are eligible to participate
6. Not excluded, debarred, suspended, or disqualified by a Federal agency



Applicants are ineligible if:

- Enrolled in a Physician Assistant (PA) program other than primary care
 - › For example: P.A. programs with a surgical or emergency room focus
- Are in the pre-professional phase of their health profession education.
 - › For example, taking undergraduate and/or pre-requisites (post bac) courses for admission
- Enrolled in a Nursing Bridge program
 - › For example, RN-MSN, BSN-MSN, Direct Entry, Graduate Pre-specialty or Entry to Practice programs;
- Pursuing Doctoral Degree in Nursing



Applicant Selection Factors

- Commitment to pursuing a career in primary care and working in underserved communities
- Academic performance that demonstrates the ability to excel and maintain good academic standing
- History of fulfilling all legal obligations



Funding Preferences

By statute, priority for funding is given to eligible applicants that are:

1. **Students of Exceptional Financial Need (EFN):**
Applicants claiming EFN status must provide written documentation from their school's financial aid official.
2. **Students from Disadvantaged Backgrounds (DAB):**
Applicants claiming disadvantage backgrounds must provide written documentation from their school's financial aid official certifying that their participation in, or eligibility.
3. Applicants who display a higher likelihood of continuing to serve in a HPSA once service obligation is completed.



NHSC SP Award

Scholarships may be awarded for a maximum of four (4) years to full time students only

- **In school:** Full payment of tuition, fees, and other educational costs (ORC), monthly stipend, connect to a mentor, extensive preparation for service
- **Training:** Most scholars attend post graduate training programs. (*No financial support from NHSC*)
- **Service:** Each scholar is given one-on-one support during their search for a practice site to fulfill their service obligation



NHSC Award...cont'd

- Scholarship awards are determined for each student from information submitted by the school for each academic year
- The NHSC pays for student's tuition and fees directly to the educational institution
- The scholarship award provides payment for courses that are required for graduation only



Other Reasonable Costs (ORC):

Examples of other educational costs are:

- › Books
- › Instruments
- › Uniforms
- › Clinical supplies
- › Laboratory expenses
- › Health Insurance (individual only)



Stipend:

For the 2013-2014 school year full time students will be paid a monthly stipend of **\$1,289.00** (before Federal taxes) for living expenses.



In-School Scholar Support Activities



Getting Prepared for Service

The NHSC provides:

- Webinars, Podcasts
- Virtual Job Fairs
- Mentor Program
- One-on-One support while searching for jobs



Postgraduate Training



NHSC Approved Postgraduate Training Programs: For Physicians

| Training Specialty | Years |
|--|---------|
| Family Practice | 3 Years |
| General Internal Medicine | 3 Years |
| General Pediatrics | 3 Years |
| Obstetrics-Gynecology | 4 Years |
| General Psychiatry | 4 Years |
| Internal Medicine/Family Practice | 4 Years |
| Internal Medicine/Pediatrics | 4 Years |
| Family Practice/Psychiatry | 5 Years |
| Internal Medicine/Psychiatry | 5 Years |
| Rotating internship for DO to complete residency in any of above specialties | 1 Year |



NHSC Approved Postgraduate Training: For Dentists

| Training Specialty | Years |
|---|---------|
| General Practice Dentistry | 1 Year |
| Advanced Education in General Dentistry | 1 Year |
| Pediatric Dentistry | 2 Years |
| Public Health Dentistry | 2 Years |



NHSC Approved Postgraduate Training: For Nurse Practitioner & Physicians Assistant

| Nurse Practitioner Training Specialty | Years |
|--|--------------|
| Family Practice | 1 Year |
| Community Health | 1 Year |
| Psychiatry | 1 Year |
| Physicians Assistant Training Specialty | Years |
| Internal Medicine | 1 Year |



NHSC-Approved Chief Residency and Fellowships (*Optional*)

Chief Residency: 1 year

Fellowships:

- Child & Adolescent Psychiatry – 2 years
- Obstetrics/Gynecology – 1 year
- Geriatrics – 1 year



Fulfilling the NHSC SP Service Commitment

Service Obligation

The NHSC SP Scholar must serve at least a minimum of 2-year full-time service commitment (or the part-time equivalent) at an NHSC-approved site.

| Full or Partial Years of Scholarship Support | Years of Service Obligation |
|--|--|
| 1 School Years (2012-2013) | 2 Years Full-Time 4 Years Half-Time |
| 2 School Years (2013-2014) | 2 Years Full-Time 4 Years Half-time |
| 3 School Years (2014-2015) | 3 Years Full-Time 6 Years Half-Time |
| 4 School Years (2015-2016) | 4 Years Full-Time 8 Years Half-time |



Service Obligation...Cont'd

Scholars are required to begin service commitment:

- **Physicians** – within three (3) months of completing post graduate training
- **Dentist** –
 - › Post graduate training-within three (3) months of residency completion
 - › Non-post graduate training- within 6 months following graduation
- **Nurses and Physician Assistants-**
 - › Post graduate training-within three (3) months of residency completion
 - › Non-post graduate training- within 6 months following graduation



Preparing to Fulfill the NHSC Service Commitment



Scholar Placement: Finding a Practice Site

Placement Cycle: July 1 to June 30 (following year)

Ex. 2014 Placement Cycle July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014

Placement Cycle for:

- Physicians: beginning of their last year of post graduate training.
- Dentists, Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Midwives, Physicians Assistants: the last year of academic or residency program

Site Selection Resource:

For a complete list of NHSC-approved sites and Job Opportunities
http://nhscjobs.hrsa.gov/Search_HPOL.aspx



Please Remember:

- The NHSC scholarship program is a serious commitment. (Read the **Application and Program Guidance in its entirety**)
- Participants who do not complete their education or post graduate training will be held liable for repayment of all NHSC SP funds paid to them and to the school on their behalf and will incur additional penalties



Online Application Process



How to Apply

*Applicants are **strongly encouraged** to read the 2013 Application and Program Guidance (APG) in its entirety before proceeding with the Application*

Online Application must be completed and submitted by May 14, 2013, 7:30pm EST

A Complete Application Consists of:

1. An Online Application
2. Required Supporting Documents
3. Additional Supporting Documentation (if applicable)



Online Application Tips:

- ✓ Completing the Scholarship Years of Support Section:
 - You will have the option of choosing the number of years of support from the NHSC.
 - **Note:** The scholarship program support year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30 of each year
 - You will need to know the month that your program starts and ends in order to calculate the exact number of years of support requested
- ❖ ***Scholars can request additional years of support up to 4 years while in the program***



Online Application Tips...cont'd

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Uploading Documents

 - You will be required to provide the name and professional email address for two people you select to write your letters of recommendation
 - The letters must be in the correct file type and uploaded and submitted by the recommender **by the application close date**
 - All required and additional supporting documents must be in the correct file type and uploaded



Required Supporting Documents

- ✓ Proof of Citizenship
- ✓ Authorization to Release Information Form
- ✓ Acceptance Report/Verification of Good Standing
- ✓ Academic Letter of Recommendation
- ✓ Non-Academic Letter of Recommendation
- ✓ Responses to Three Essays Questions
- ✓ Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- ✓ Unofficial Transcript
- ✓ Current Tuition and Fee Schedule



Additional Supporting Documents

(If applicable)

- **Verification of Exceptional Financial Need (EFN) Status:**
 - › Applicants who have received a scholarship for students of Exceptional Financial Need under Section 758 of the Public Health Service Act (formerly 42 U.S.C. 294z) qualify for a funding priority (medical and dental students only).
 - › This document certifies that the applicant has participated in the EFN Program and must be completed by the school's financial aid official.
- **Verification of Disadvantaged Background (DAB):**
 - › This document certifies that the applicant comes from a disadvantaged background and either participated in, or would have been eligible to participate in Federal programs such as "Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students.
- **Statement Regarding Existing Service Commitment:**
 - › This document must be provided by the entity to which the applicant owes a service obligation and must contain a statement satisfactory to the Secretary that
 - There is no potential conflict in fulfilling the NHSC obligation; and
 - The NHSC SP obligation will be served first.



Submitting Your Application

- ❖ Applications received after the deadline will not be considered for an award.
- ❖ High volume of applications ----submit early!
- ❖ Once you have submitted an application you will be able to return, make changes, and **resubmit** until the application cycle closes.
- ❖ Keep your contact information current by logging into the applicant portal.



Application Status

- Check your application status by logging into the Applicant Portal
- Finalist in the Application Process
 - If selected as a finalist, notifications will be sent to the email address provided in the application
 - Finalists must respond to the notification by the specified deadline to remain in contention for an award.



Notification of NHSC SP Award

- Award notifications will be sent by September 30, 2013.
- Awardees must be enrolled as a full-time student during the 2013-14 school year and full-time classes must begin on or before September 30, 2013.
- Awardees who will not begin classes on or before September 30, 2013, must decline the award.



Resources for Applicants:

For Questions and Inquires, Contact:

Email: GetHelp@hrsa.gov

Telephone: Toll Free: 1-800-221-9393

(TTY:1-877-987-9910)

Office Hours: 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M., E.T.,
Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays

Web site: <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/scholarship>



Questions?

