



NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) and Your Site

Types of NHSC-Approved Sites

Sites participating in the NHSC Loan Repayment Program that provide outpatients, ambulatory primary health care services in federally designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs).

NHSC-approved HPSA sites include:

- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)
- FQHC Look-Alike
- Rural Health Clinic (RHC)
- Hospital-affiliated Primary Care Out Patient Clinic
- Indian Health Service, Tribal Clinic, and Urban Indian Health Clinic (ITU)
- State or Federal Correctional Facility
- Private Practice (Solo/Group)
- Other Health Facilities:
 - Community Mental Health Facility
 - Community Outpatient Facility
 - Critical Access Hospital
 - Free Clinic
 - Mobile Unit
 - Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Health Service Corps
 - School-based Health Program
 - State and County Department of Health Clinic

Is your site a NHSC-Approved Site?

[Verify the NHSC approval status](#) of the site where you wish to satisfy your NHSC service obligation.

If your site(s) is not listed, your site can apply to [become an NHSC-approved site](#). Check the [Health Workforce Connector](#) for opportunities that currently qualify.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



What are the requirements to become an NHSC-approved site?

- Be located in a HPSA.
- Accept Medicare and have entered into an appropriate agreement with the applicable state agency for Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) beneficiaries.
- Make every reasonable effort to secure payment in accordance with the schedule of fees or schedule of discounts from the patient and/or other third party.
- Provide health care services at no charge or at a nominal charge to patients whose incomes are at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines.
- Post a statement expressing that no one will be denied access to services due to inability to pay.

Note: While many sites have HPSA designations and meet some of the requirements listed, inpatient hospitals and other inpatient facilities, as well as county and local prisons, are not eligible to participate in the NHSC.

What is a HPSA?

A Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) is a geographic area, population group, or health care facility that has been designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as having a shortage of health professionals.

There are three categories of HPSAs:

1. Primary Care
2. Dental Health
3. Mental Health

Is your site located in a designated HPSA appropriate for your discipline and specialty?

- Speak with your site administrator.
- Contact your [State Primary Care Office \(PCO\)](#).
- Enter an address in [HPSA Find](#) to determine if your site is located in a shortage area.

If your site is located in a HPSA:

- You or your state PCO may work with your site to [prepare and submit an NHSC Site Application](#) to become an NHSC-approved site.
- It takes 6–8 weeks for a site to become approved by NHSC.

If your site is not located in a HPSA:

- You may contact and work with your state PCO to prepare and submit a HPSA designation request.

Note: For additional information regarding HPSA designations and/or site eligibility, contact our Call Center at 1-800-221-9393.

