

## 2024 COMPARATIVE OVERVIEW

# NHSC and IHS Scholarship Programs

	NHSC Scholarship Program <sup>1</sup>	IHS Scholarship Program <sup>2</sup>
Program Overview	<p>The NHSC Scholarship Program provides financial support through scholarships, including tuition, other reasonable education expenses, and a monthly living stipend to health professions students committed to providing primary care in underserved communities of greatest need. Awards are targeted to individuals who demonstrate characteristics that are indicative of probable success in a career in primary care in underserved communities.</p>	<p>The IHS Health Professions Scholarship provides financial aid to qualified American Indian and Alaska Native undergraduate- and graduate-level students. In exchange for financial aid, scholarship recipients agree to fulfill a service commitment in full-time clinical practice upon completion of their academic or post-graduate clinical training.</p>
Application Cycle	<p><u>The NHSC Scholarship Program</u> cycle generally opens in March and closes in May each year.</p>	<p>The IHS Health Professions Scholarship cycle accepts applications from mid-December through the end of February. See website for funding cycle updates.</p>
Program Eligibility and Employment Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A U.S. citizen (either U.S. born or naturalized) or U.S. national.</li> <li>• Eligible to participate as a provider in the Medicare, Medicaid and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program, as appropriate.</li> <li>• Fully trained and licensed to practice in one of the eligible disciplines below.</li> </ul> <p>Service must begin as soon as possible upon graduation from school or, if applicable, upon completion of an NHSC Scholarship Program-approved post-graduate training program, but no later than 6 months after completion of training.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A U.S. citizen (either U.S. born or naturalized) or U.S. national.</li> <li>• Males 18 years or older must be registered for Selective Service.</li> <li>• <i>Recipients must be members of federally recognized Tribes and enrolled in an eligible health profession degree program.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Academic Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be accepted into an accredited program in the United States.</li> <li>• Have a minimum 2.0 GPA.</li> <li>• Intend to serve Indian people as a health professional in their chosen discipline.</li> </ul> <p>Service must begin within 90 days of graduation or completion of post-graduate clinical training.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Authorizing Legislation: NHSC Scholarship Program: Section 331(i) of the Public Health Service Act (42 USC 254d(i)), as amended; Section 338A of the Public Health Service Act (42 USC 254I), as amended; and Sections 338C-H of the Public Health Service Act (42 USC 254m-q), as amended.

<sup>2</sup> IHS Health Professions Scholarship Program: Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA), as amended.

	NHSC Scholarship Program	IHS Scholarship Program
Disciplines Eligible for Both Programs	<p><b>Medical Primary Care:</b> Physicians (MD/DO), Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse Midwives, Physician Assistants, Doctors of Nursing Practice and Nurse Midwives.</p> <p><b>Dental Primary Care:</b> Dentists</p>	
Disciplines Eligible for One of the Programs	<p><b>Maternity Care Health Primary Care:</b> Family Medicine Physicians, Obstetricians, Gynecologists</p>	<p><b>Medical Primary Care:</b> Optometrists, Nurse Anesthetists, Podiatrists, Pharmacists</p> <p><b>Dental Primary Care:</b> Dental Hygienists</p> <p><b>Other Health Professions:</b> Medical Lab Scientists, Diagnostic Radiology Technicians, Engineers (Civil, Environmental), Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Clinical Psychologists, Nurses (BSN), and other critical allied health professions*</p>
Financial Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuition and fees.</li> <li>• An annual payment for other reasonable costs to cover expenses for books, clinical supplies, instruments.</li> <li>• A monthly stipend to cover living expenses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuition and eligible fees.</li> <li>• An annual payment for other reasonable costs to cover expenses for books, supplies or instruments.</li> <li>• A monthly stipend to support living expenses.</li> </ul>
Service Commitment	<p>Minimum of two years of full-time service at an NHSC-approved site in a <a href="#">Health Professional Shortage Area</a> (HPSA) of greatest need (areas of greatest need are determined annually). The total number of years of service that scholars fulfill will depend on the number of years of scholarship support that was received.</p> <p>Support can be provided for a maximum of four years.</p>	<p>Minimum of two years of full-time clinical service or one year per each year of scholarship funding, whichever is greater.</p> <p>Serve their period of obligated service by providing health services in the full-time practice of the scholarship recipient's health profession at an approved IHS-approved site, defined as 40 hours per week or 80 hours per 2 weeks with no less than 32 hours per week or 64 hours per two weeks, providing direct clinical services.</p>
Site Types	<p>Must work at any NHSC-approved service site located in, designated as, or serving a HPSA.</p> <p>Site types are outpatient facilities and include Indian Health Service, Tribal, and Urban Indian Health Clinics (ITU).</p>	<p>Must work at an IHS-approved Indian health facility, including hospitals, clinics, and other medical facilities administered directly by IHS, a Tribal organization, or an Urban Indian program.</p>
Tax Liability	<p>The stipend payments of the scholarship award are subject to federal tax.</p>	<p>IHS scholarship stipends are subject to federal income tax and possibly state and local taxes. IHS withholds federal tax from stipend checks.</p>
Program Website	<p><a href="https://nhsc.hrsa.gov/loan-repayment/nhsc-loan-repayment-program">nhsc.hrsa.gov/loan-repayment/nhsc-loan-repayment-program</a></p>	<p><a href="https://ihs.gov/scholarship/">ihs.gov/scholarship/</a></p>

\* Consult the [program website](#) for current IHS Scholarship eligible disciplines.

If an applicant accepts a scholarship award, the recipient cannot receive financial support from another government-funded program requiring the fulfillment of a service commitment that would run concurrently with their contracted scholarship commitment. This includes, but is not limited to, scholarship and loan repayment programs through the [National Health Service Corps \(NHSC\)](#) and the [Health Resources and Services Administration \(HRSA\)](#), as well as loan repayment support through the IHS Loan Repayment Program.

Source Documents for DPSD Methodology Purposes: NHSC Data: <http://www.hrsa.gov/about/budget/budgetjustification2017.pdf>