

Loan Repayment Expanded

The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) provided approximately \$200 million additional funding for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Program (LRP). This opportunity will assist more than 3,300 primary care providers who are seeking opportunities to serve in our Nation's neediest communities.

Beginning in June 2009 through September 2010, or as funding permits, NHSC LRP awards will be available on a first come, first served basis, for the following Primary Health Care Clinicians:

- Allopathic or Osteopathic physicians
- Certified Nurse Practitioners
- Certified Nurse Midwives
- Physician Assistants
- General Practice Dentists
- Pediatric Dentists
- Dental Hygienists
- Health Service Psychologists
- Licensed Clinical Social Workers
- Psychiatric Nurse Specialists
- Marriage and Family Therapists
- Licensed Professional Counselors.

New Features:

More Choices of Sites and Vacancies Eligible for Loan Repayment: More than 7,000 already eligible service sites will be able to post significantly more new vacancies and increase the number of clinicians' eligible for loan repayment awards at their sites. Additionally, more sites are being approved by the NHSC every day.

First-come, First-served: Loan repayment awards to primary health care clinician applicants who are interested in loan repayment will be made on a first-come, first-served basis, opening new opportunities for areas in high-need sites located in Health Professional Shortage Areas with lower HPSA scores. Applications will be accepted on an open, continuous basis until all Recovery Act funds are expended -- 15 months or sooner.

More Application Flexibility: For the first time, primary health care clinicians interested in NHSC's loan repayment program do not need to be employed at the site at the time of application.

More Efficient Application Process: Most applications will be processed within 8 weeks of receipt of a complete application (i.e., all application supporting documentation received).

National Health Service Corps clinicians are a unique group of dedicated and caring primary care providers who care for millions of people who live in communities where health care is scarce.

In exchange for two years of service at an eligible high-need site, the NHSC Loan Repayment program offers repayment of educational loans for clinicians who are providing full-time clinical services. Up to \$50,000 (less if the total outstanding loan balance is lower than \$50,000) towards qualifying educational loan debt is available. Clinicians who stay at their sites longer may be eligible to apply for additional years of support.

How to Apply: Clinicians can begin applying for this NHSC opportunity on June 2, 2009 at: www.nhsc.hrsa.gov. Or for more information, call 1-800-221-9393.

Clinical sites must be approved. The application process may take six weeks. If you are a provider seeking loan repayment contact your site administrator about applying for "site approval." If you are a hospital seeking additional providers or assisting a current provider with loan repayment you must apply for "site approval."