

NATIONAL HEALTH  
**SERVICE**  
CORPS 



## THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS (NHSC)

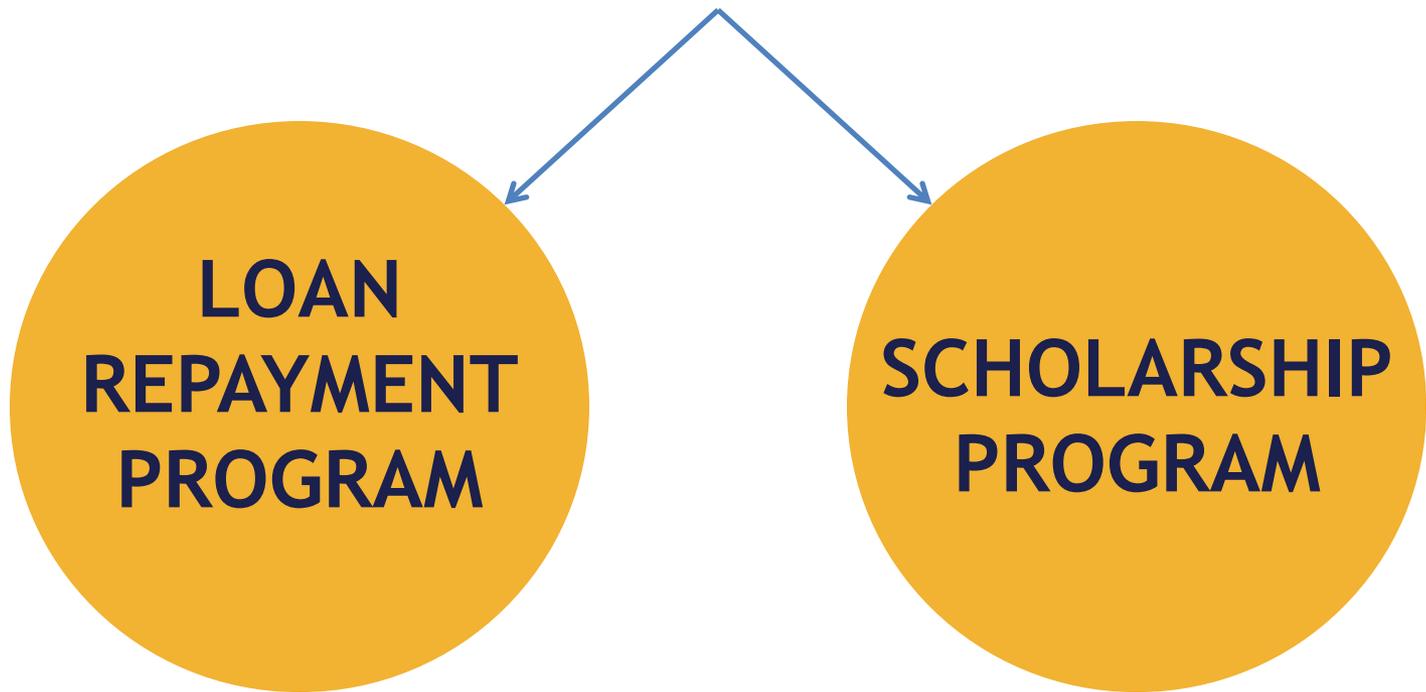
builds healthy communities by supporting qualified health care providers dedicated to working in areas of the United States with limited access to care.

A network of 8,000  
primary health  
care professionals  
and 10,000 sites\*



*\*As of April 2011*

The NHSC provides financial support to providers in exchange for working at NHSC-approved sites.



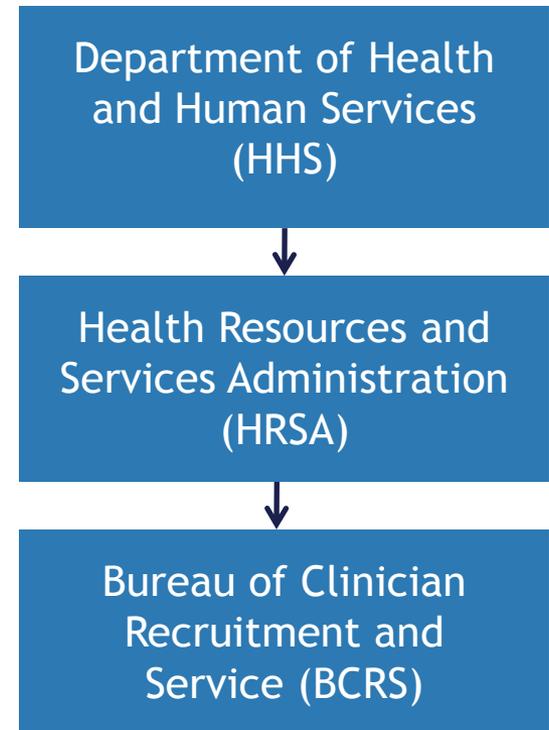


## NHSC sites

- Apply to join the NHSC network of approved sites
- Are located in communities that have limited access to health care
- Allow NHSC providers to fulfill their service commitments

# Bureau of clinician recruitment and service

- The NHSC falls within HRSA's Bureau of Clinician Recruitment and Service (BCRS)
- BCRS coordinates the recruitment and retention of health professionals to work in medically underserved communities



# BCRS

**NHHSP**

*Native Hawaiian Health  
Scholarship Program*

**NSP**

*Nursing  
Scholarship  
Program*

**NHSC  
SP**

*National Health  
Service Corps*

SCHOLARSHIP  
PROGRAM

**NELRP**

*Nursing  
Education  
Loan  
Repayment  
Program*

**NHSC  
LRP**

*National Health  
Service Corps*

LOAN REPAYMENT  
PROGRAM

**FLRP**

*Faculty Loan  
Repayment  
Program*

**NHSC  
SLRP**

*National Health  
Service Corps*

STATE LOAN  
REPAYMENT PROGRAM

# History of the Corps



The NHSC was created in response to the health care crisis that emerged in the United States in the 1950s and 1960s when retiring physicians left many areas of the country without medical services.

# 1970s

- NHSC created
- First scholarships
- Grew from 181 providers to over 1,800
- Budget 10 times larger by end of decade

# 1980s

- Loan Repayment Program (LRP) launched
- Predicted physician surplus—budget reduced
- Field strength at 1,500 by 1989

# 1990s

- Early 1990s — Only 1,000 providers serve
- Mental health disciplines added to LRP
- Over 2,500 providers in service by end of decade

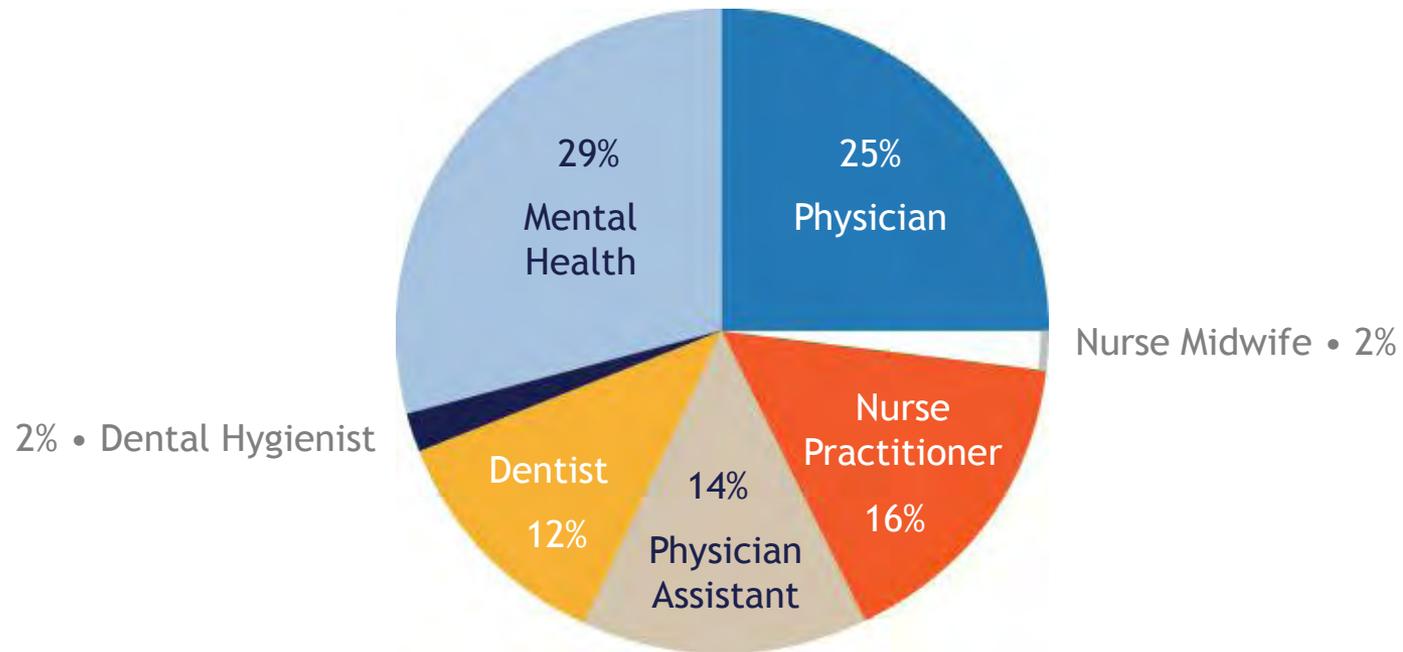
# 2000s

- Recovery Act and Health Care Reform —increased funding
- Unprecedented growth in field strength
- Number of NHSC members projected to triple from 2008 to 2011



# NHSC Today





More than 8,000 NHSC primary care providers are working in communities with limited access to health care nationwide.

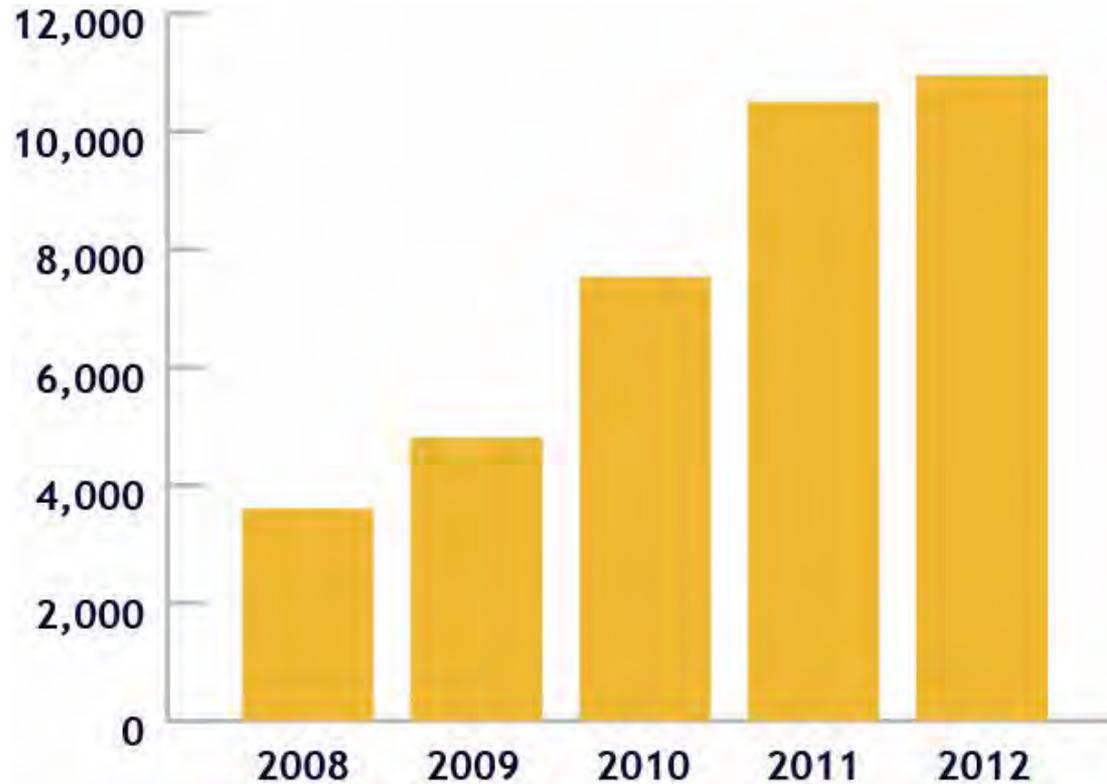


# Fast facts

- ✓ NHSC members are currently providing care to more than 7 million people in the United States
- ✓ Networking and other educational resources are available to support NHSC providers during their service
- ✓ By October 2011, it is projected that nearly 10,500 providers will be caring for more than 11 million people, almost tripling providers in service since 2008



# NHSC field strength\*



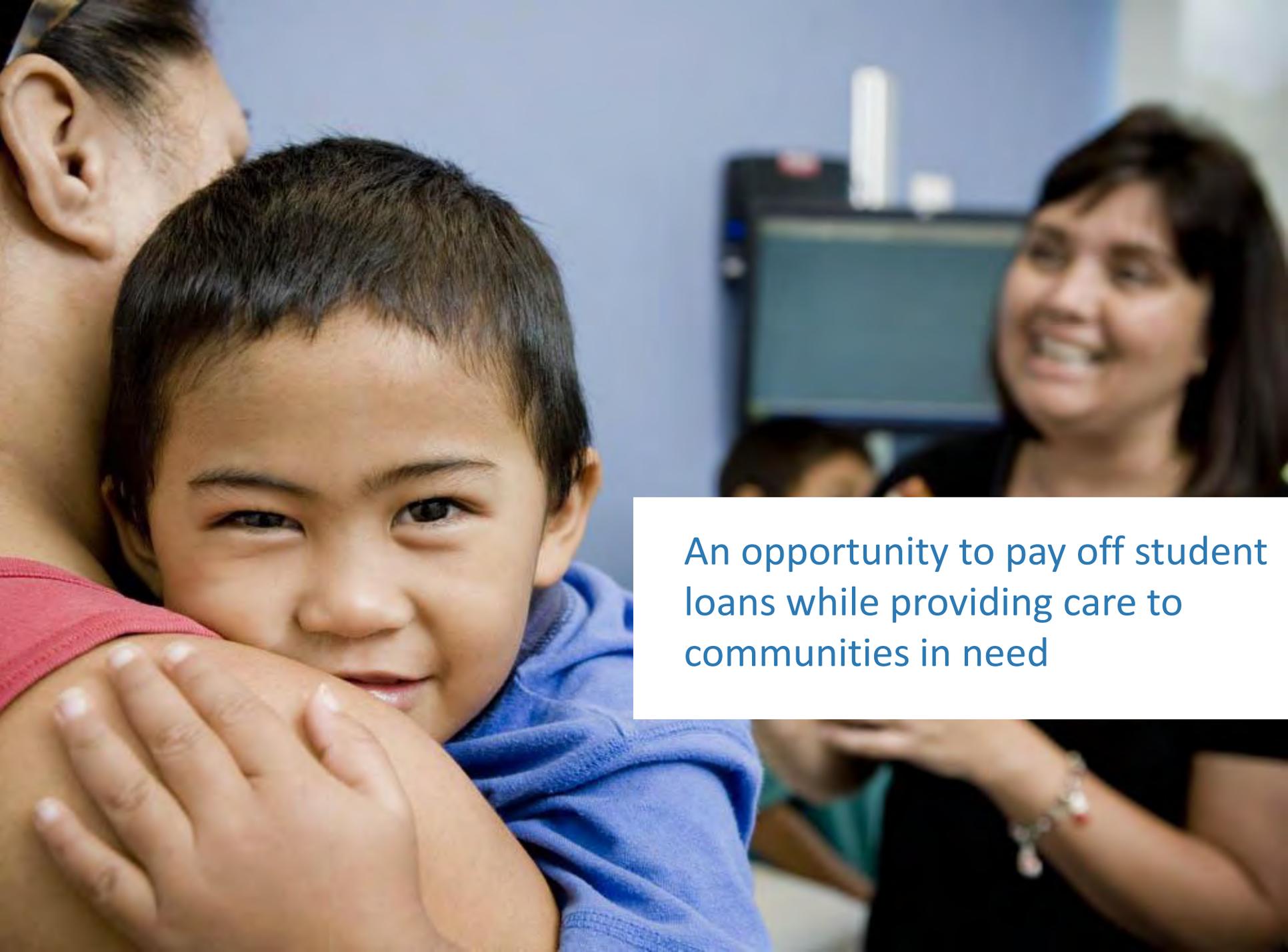
*\*NHSC Field Strength Projections based on the 2012 Budget Guidance*



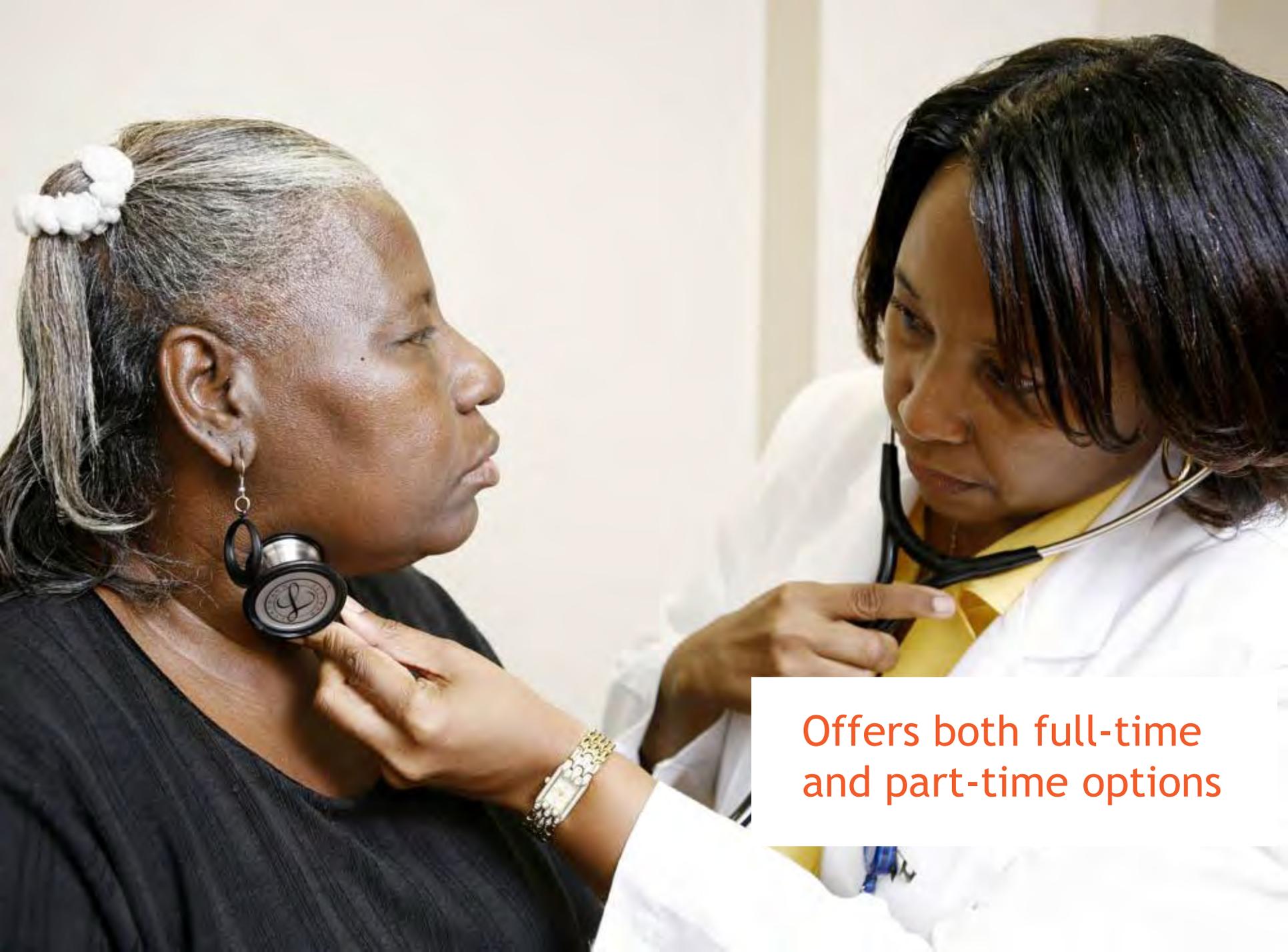
# Loan Repayment Program

(LRP)





An opportunity to pay off student loans while providing care to communities in need



Offers both full-time  
and part-time options

“At the end of the day when I leave the office, I get a sense of satisfaction that I have made a difference in the lives of my patients.”

~ Patrick Antoine, NHSC member



UP TO  
**\$60,000**  
**2 YEARS**

UP TO  
**\$170,000**  
**5 YEARS**

The full-time program offers up to **\$60,000** in tax-free loan repayment for **2 YEARS** of service, and up to **\$170,000** for a **5-YEAR** service commitment.

With continued service beyond 5 years, health care providers may be able to pay off all their student loans.



Providers receive loan repayment in addition to a competitive salary from their employers: NHSC-approved sites

1

Providers find a job at an NHSC-approved site

THEN

2

Apply to the NHSC for loan repayment



# Loan Repayment Award

INITIAL CONTRACT	FULL-TIME 2 YEARS \$60,000	HALF-TIME 4 YEARS \$60,000	HALF-TIME 2 YEARS \$30,000
3 <sup>rd</sup> year	\$40,000	<i>initial contract</i>	\$15,000
4 <sup>th</sup> year	\$40,000	<i>initial contract</i>	\$15,000
5 <sup>th</sup> year	\$30,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
6 <sup>th</sup> year	\$30,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
<b>Total After 6 Years of Service</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>



# Additional Benefits

- A portion of service obligation can be fulfilled by teaching
- Face-to-face and virtual networking opportunities provide support from other providers and community resources
- Educational support including access to free CEU courses
- Rewarding patient relationships



An opportunity to be  
part of something  
bigger than yourself



# Eligibility

- ✓ U.S. citizen or national
- ✓ Currently work, or applying to work, at an NHSC-approved site
- ✓ Have unpaid government or commercial loans for school tuition, reasonable educational expenses, and reasonable living expenses, segregated from all other debts
- ✓ Licensed to practice in state where employer site is located





Must be licensed in  
one of the following

# Eligible **DISCIPLINES**





- Physician (MD or DO)
- Nurse practitioner (primary care)
- Certified nurse-midwife
- Physician assistant

- Dentist  
(general or pediatric)
- Dental hygienist





- Psychiatrist
- Psychologist (health service)
- Licensed clinical social worker
- Psychiatric nurse specialist
- Marriage and family therapist
- Licensed professional counselor

# How to apply?

1

Review the  
Application and  
Program Guidance

2

Find a job at an  
NHSC-approved  
site or find out if  
your current job  
is at an NHSC-  
approved site

3

Apply online at  
**NHSC.hrsa.gov**

**[nhscjobs.hrsa.gov/Search\\_HPOL.aspx](https://nhscjobs.hrsa.gov/Search_HPOL.aspx)**





Learn more at  
**[NHSC.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment](https://www.nhsc.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment)**

# Scholarship Program

(SP)



Students pursuing careers in primary care can receive a scholarship now and serve later.

The scholarship\* includes:

- ✓ Payment of tuition and required fees (tax-free)
- ✓ Some other tax-free educational costs (books, etc.)
- ✓ A monthly living stipend (taxable)

*\*available for up to 4 years*





“We bring health care to people who otherwise wouldn’t have access. That’s what inspired me. It’s filling a void. It’s filling a need that is very much there.”

~ Kristen Frank, NHSC Scholar



**YEARS OF  
SUPPORT**

**=**

**YEARS OF  
SERVICE**

Scholars commit to serve in the Corps upon completion of their training — one year for each year of support (at least 2 years).





Scholars choose where they will serve from a list of more than 10,000 NHSC-approved sites in high-need areas, both rural and urban.



# ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

- A portion of service obligation can be fulfilled by teaching
- Face-to-face and virtual networking opportunities provide support from other providers and community resources
- Educational support including access to free CEU courses once in service
- Rewarding patient relationships





An opportunity to be part of something bigger than yourself

# Eligibility

- ✓ U.S. citizen or national
- ✓ Full-time student at an accredited school, pursuing a degree in:
  - Medicine (DO or MD)
  - Dentistry
  - Nurse practitioner
  - Certified nurse-midwife
  - Physician assistant



# How to apply

1

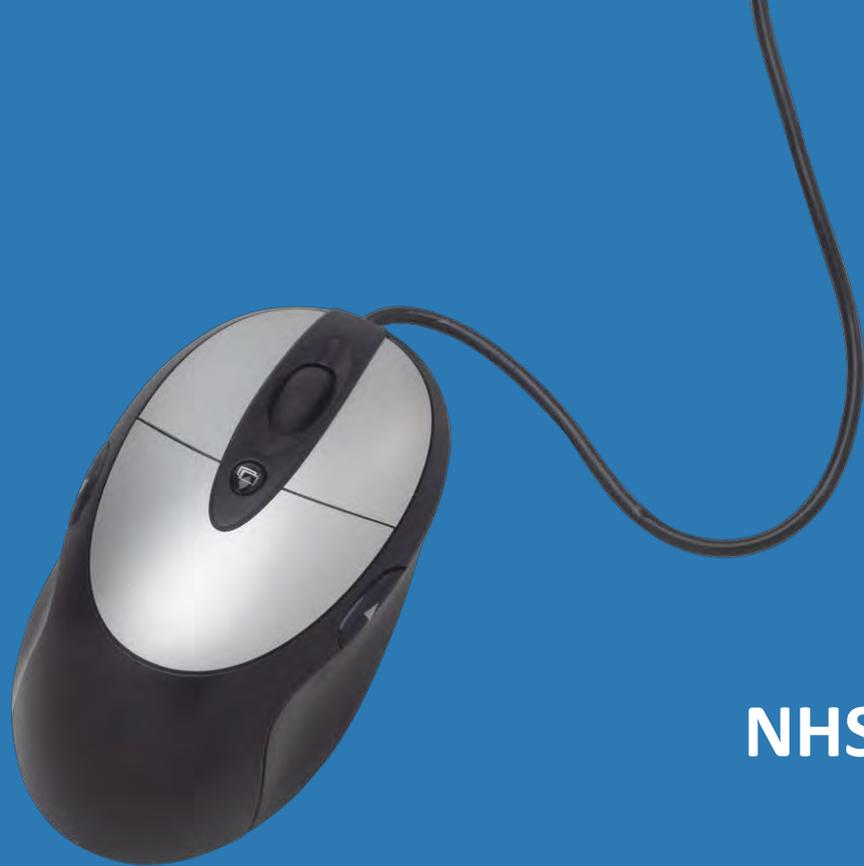
Review the  
Application and  
Program Guidance



2

Apply online at  
[NHSC.hrsa.gov](https://www.nhsc.hrsa.gov)





Learn more at  
**[NHSC.hrsa.gov/scholarship](https://www.nhsc.hrsa.gov/scholarship)**

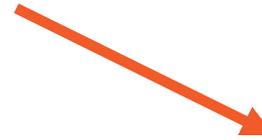
Two programs provide students the opportunity to gain experience working in communities with limited access to health care.



## SEARCH

Student/Resident Experiences and Rotations in Community Health

*Opportunities for students and residents to experience clinical rotations on multidisciplinary health care teams*



## CHSC

Collegiate Health Service Corps

*Exposes undergraduates to health careers through service learning experiences*

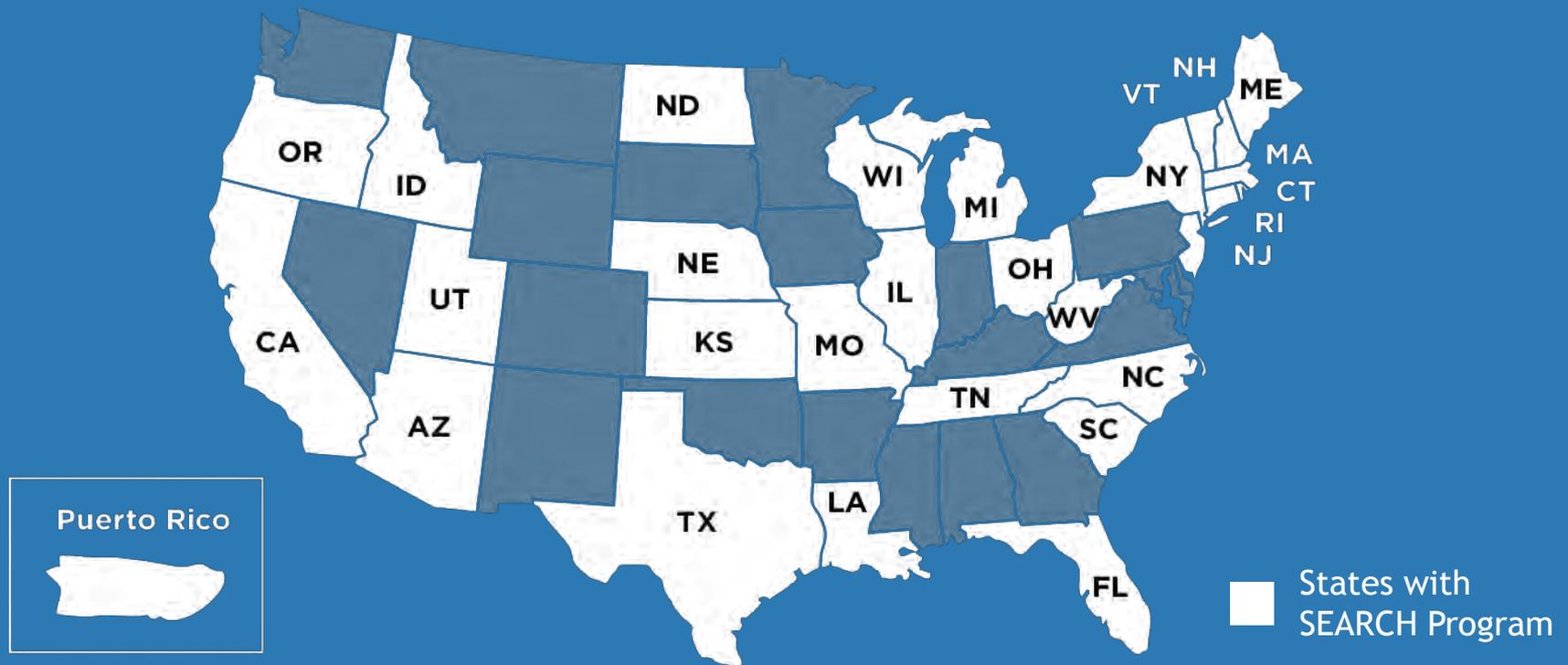


# SEARCH



# SEARCH

Students apply to serve on a SEARCH rotation at any of the 29 programs



# SEARCH

- All NHSC disciplines are eligible
- Many programs provide small stipends or work with school rotation requirements
- Students receive career development support from supervisors and preceptors



# SEARCH



Learn more at  
[NHSC.hrsa.gov/search](https://nhsc.hrsa.gov/search)



# Collegiate Health Service Corps (CHSC)



# Collegiate Health Service Corps (CHSC)

- A three-semester training and service learning experience
- Run in partnership with the Area Health Education Centers, universities, and colleges in five states (NY, FL, TN, LA, UT)



# AHECs in New York

<http://www.ahec.buffalo.edu/locations/>

**"Connecting students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health"**

Statewide & Western Regional Office (Buffalo): T: 716-898-4699; W: <http://www.ahec.buffalo.edu>

- Western NY Rural AHEC (Warsaw): T: 585-344-1022; W: <http://www.r-ahec.org>
- Erie-Niagara AHEC (Buffalo): T: 716-881-8222; W: [www.enahec.org](http://www.enahec.org)

Central Region AHEC (Syracuse): T: (315) 464-7010 ; W: [www.upstate.edu/fmed/ahec.php](http://www.upstate.edu/fmed/ahec.php)

- Northern NY AHEC (Canton): T: 315-379-7705; W: <http://www.myhealthcareer.org>
- Central New York AHEC (Cortland): T: 607-756-1090; W: <http://www.cnyahec.org>

Eastern Regional Office (Albany): T: 518-262-9902; W: [www.amc.edu/Academic/AboutCollege/](http://www.amc.edu/Academic/AboutCollege/)

- Catskill-Hudson AHEC (Highland): T: 845 883-7260; W: <http://www.catskillhudsonahec.org>
- Hudson-Mohawk AHEC (Queensbury): T: 518-480-2432; W: <http://www.gohealthcareer.org>

NYC Metro Office (Manhattan): T: 212-633-0800; W: [http://www.institute2000.org/hprof/ahec/about\\_ahec.html](http://www.institute2000.org/hprof/ahec/about_ahec.html)

- Manhattan-Staten Island (Manhattan): 212-534-2432; Website: <http://www.msiahec.org>
- Bronx-Westchester (Bronx): 718-590-1110; Website: <http://www.bwahec.org>
- Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island (Brooklyn): 718-797-1558; W: <http://www.bqliahec.org>



# Collegiate Health Service Corps (CHSC)

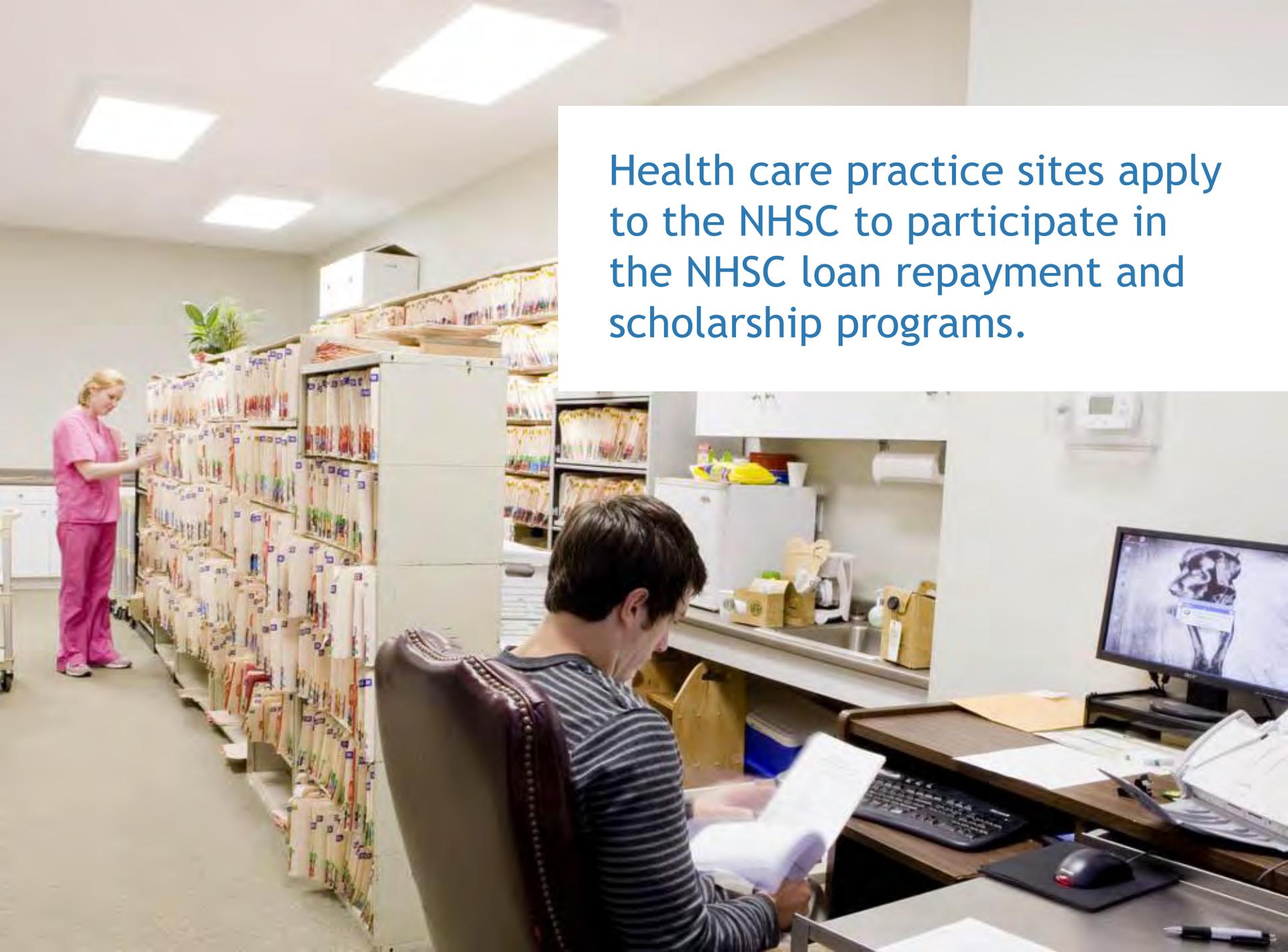
- Program includes:
  - ✓ 75 hours of service learning at an NHSC site
  - ✓ Interactive workshops
  - ✓ CPR and First-Aid Certification



# NHSC Sites



Health care practice sites apply to the NHSC to participate in the NHSC loan repayment and scholarship programs.





13570



# PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTER

• Pediatrics • Family Practice • General Dentistry

Your Community Health Center in Northwest Georgia



watchFire signs

NHSC-approved sites enable NHSC providers to fulfill their service obligations.



“The NHSC clinicians working here are some of the most committed, dedicated, mission-driven people I have ever worked with in my life.”

~ Larry Gottlieb, NHSC-approved Site Administrator



Recruit  
providers and  
residents dedicated  
to working where  
they are needed  
most

Post clinical  
vacancies on the  
NHSC online  
national  
recruitment  
database

Network with  
other NHSC-  
approved sites

## Benefits

Receive  
community and  
site development  
assistance

Establish  
an integrated  
system of care that  
includes the  
uninsured and  
underinsured

Develop linkages  
with academic  
institutions and  
other organizations

## Eligible Types of Sites

- ✓ Federally qualified health center look-alike
- ✓ Certified rural health clinic
- ✓ Indian Health Service site (Federal or Tribal)
- ✓ Solo and group partnership or practice
- ✓ Public health departments
- ✓ Hospital-affiliated primary care practice
- ✓ Managed care network
- ✓ State or Federal prison
- ✓ U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement site



# Eligibility

- Site must be
  - ✓ Located in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)
    - *A geographic area, population group, or health care facility that has been designated by HRSA as having a shortage of health professionals*
  - ✓ See all patients regardless of ability to pay
  - ✓ Provide services on a discount fee schedule



# Eligibility

- Site must
  - ✓ Accept patients covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program
  - ✓ Not discriminate in the provision of services
  - ✓ Document sound fiscal management
  - ✓ Have capacity to maintain a competitive salary, benefits, and malpractice coverage package for providers



# How to apply

1

Contact the appropriate State Primary Care Office

2

Complete and submit the Site Application

3

Complete and submit the Site Profile Form





Learn more at  
**[NHSC.hrsa.gov/communities](https://www.nhsc.hrsa.gov/communities)**

# Contact Information

**Jaime R. Torres, DPM, MS**

Regional Director

**Jaime.Torres@HHS.Gov**

**US Department of Health and Human Services**

Region II (NY, NJ, PR, USVI)

# State Loan Repayment Program

(SLRP)



BCRS provides matching funds to more than 30 states to operate their own loan repayment programs for primary care providers.



- SLRP and NHSC LRP complement each other in reaching the goal of improving access to health care in underserved communities
- SLRP varies state to state and also as compared to the NHSC in:
  - ✓ Approved disciplines
  - ✓ Length of service commitment
  - ✓ Amount of contract offered
  - ✓ Ability to utilize alternative funding sources





Learn more at  
**[NHSC.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment/state.htm](https://www.nhsc.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment/state.htm)**

# Life in the Corps



# SUPPORT NETWORK

**NHSC Providers**

## **BCRS STAFF**

Headquarters staff •  
Regional office staff

## **COMMUNITY**

Primary Care Office • Primary  
Care Association • Area Health  
Education Centers • State  
Offices of Rural Health •  
Ambassadors

## **RESOURCES**

Customer Service Portal •  
Call Center • NHSC Web site •  
PrimaryCareForAll.org

# Staff Support

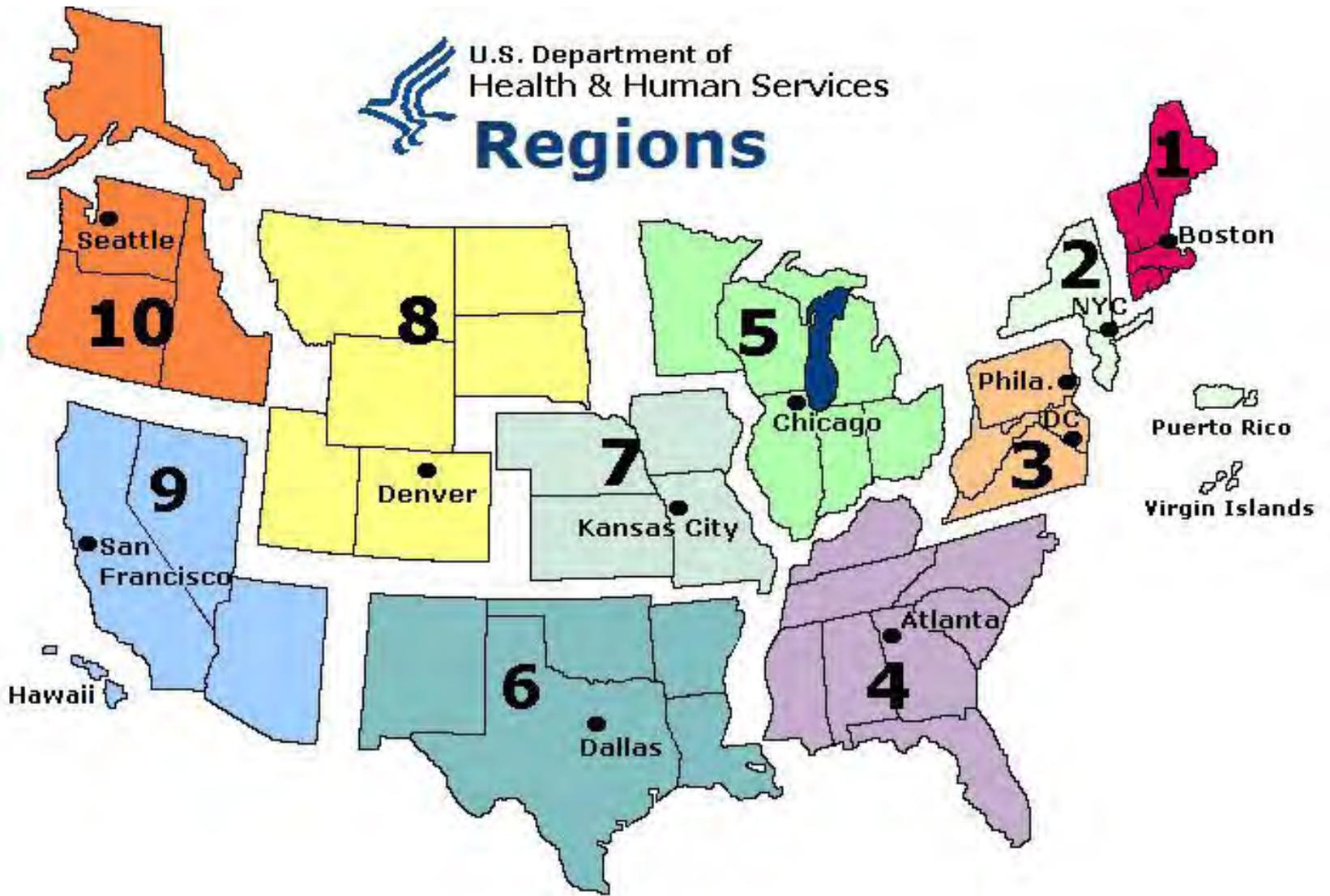
- Dedicated staff located in the Washington, DC, area support the needs of Corps members
- Ten regional offices provide dedicated contacts that know your area of the country





U.S. Department of  
Health & Human Services

# Regions



# Resources

## Customer Service Portal

- Allows NHSC members to access their information and complete transactions online, at any time
- Corps members can:
  - ✓ View payment information
  - ✓ View tax information
  - ✓ Update contact information
  - ✓ Ask BCRS a question
  - ✓ Request to defer start date



# RESOURCES

## [www.primarycareforall.org](http://www.primarycareforall.org)

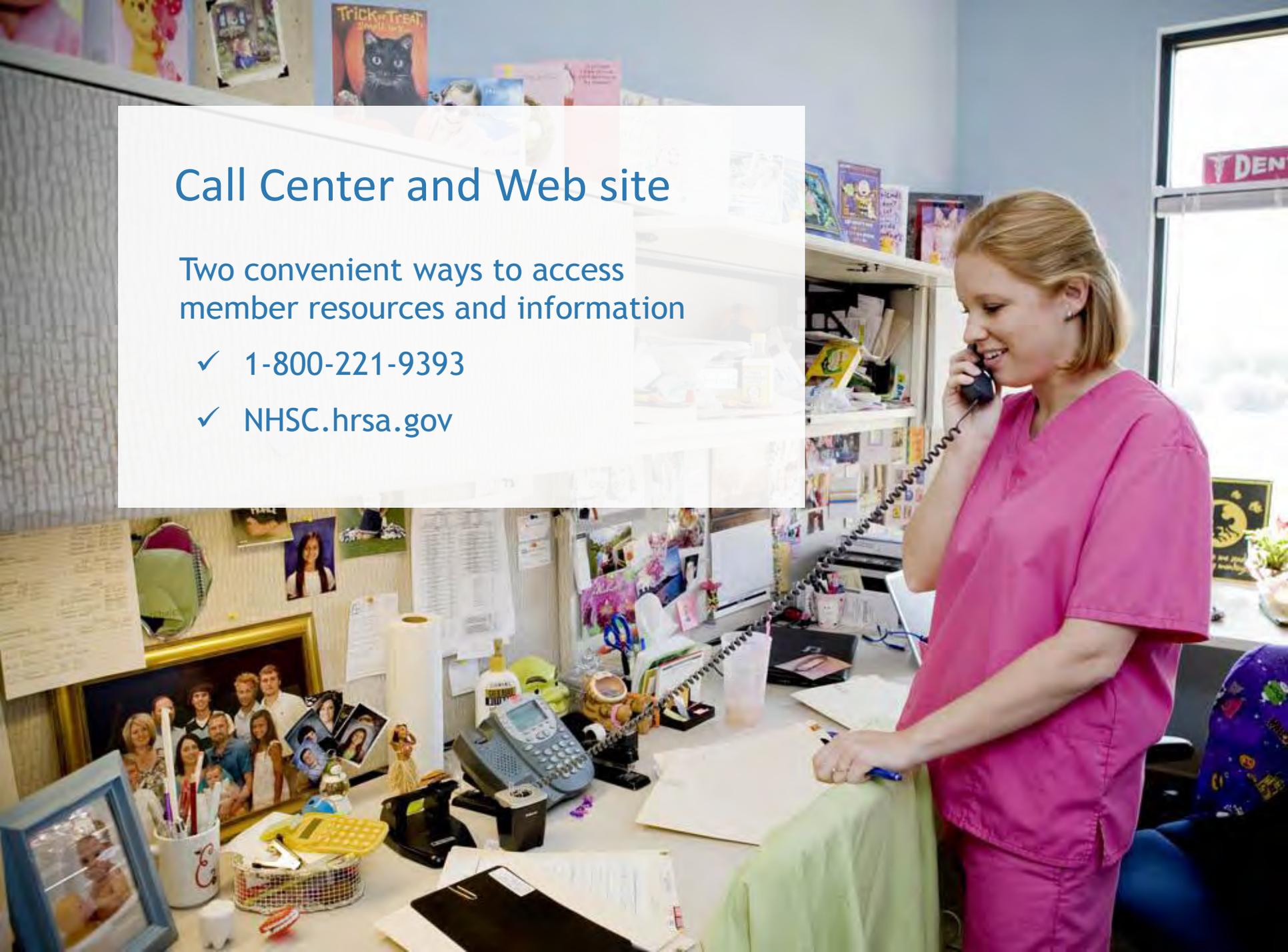
- NHSC has partnered with Morehouse School of Medicine National Center for Primary Care to develop an online portal uniquely adapted to NHSC providers
- The portal includes:
  - ✓ Online training, resources, and networking opportunities (Chat rooms, forums, and file sharing to create a virtual community for providers serving the underserved)
  - ✓ Best practice examples
  - ✓ Tools and templates



## Call Center and Web site

Two convenient ways to access member resources and information

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



# Community support

## NHSC Ambassadors

- Ambassadors help:
  - ✓ Increase awareness of NHSC loan repayment and scholarship programs
  - ✓ Increase pool of applicants for the NHSC programs
  - ✓ Provide opportunities for peer-to-peer interactions for potential Corps members
- Learn more at [NHSC.hrsa.gov/ambassadors](https://www.nhsc.hrsa.gov/ambassadors)



# Community support

## Primary Care Offices (PCOs)

- State level offices that facilitate and participate in activities to improve access to health care services for residents of their state
- PCOs:
  - ✓ Know the needs and barriers to primary care in each state
  - ✓ Know providers and sites in their state—including NHSC-approved sites
  - ✓ Help members identify available jobs at NHSC-approved sites
  - ✓ Assist sites with the NHSC application process



# Community support

## Primary Care Associations (PCAs)

- Non-profit organizations located in states that provide training and technical assistance to community, migrant health, homeless, and other safety net providers
- PCAs:
  - ✓ Assist in planning for growth of health centers in their states
  - ✓ Help develop strategies to recruit and retain health center staff
  - ✓ Help members identify available jobs at NHSC-approved sites
  - ✓ Assist sites with the NHSC application process



# Community support

## Area Health Education Centers (AHECs)

- AHEC programs help recruit, train, and retain a health professions workforce committed to underserved populations
- AHECs:
  - ✓ Understand where the need for health care professionals in the state and communities exists
  - ✓ Link to community and academic educational partnerships
  - ✓ Connect NHSC members to educational opportunities, continuing education, and rotations for residents



# Community support

## State Offices of Rural Health (SORHs)

- SORHs work to improve access to health care in rural and underserved areas to reduce health disparities
- SORHs:
  - ✓ Provide access to tools and resources for those serving in rural areas
  - ✓ Know about job opportunities at rural NHSC-approved sites
  - ✓ Offer networking opportunities with other rural providers





## Other Resources

- ✓ [www.facebook.com/nationalhealthservicecorps](http://www.facebook.com/nationalhealthservicecorps)
- ✓ [Twitter.com/NHSCorps](https://twitter.com/NHSCorps)
- ✓ [www.youtube.com/HRSAtube](http://www.youtube.com/HRSAtube)

# Contact Information

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