

# NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS

## RURAL COMMUNITY LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM



<b>Program Description</b>	<p>The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Rural Community Loan Repayment Program supports clinicians working to combat the opioid epidemic in the nation’s rural communities. The NHSC Rural Community Loan Repayment Program makes loan repayment awards in coordination with the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) within the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) to provide evidence-based substance use disorder (SUD) treatment, assist in recovery, and prevent overdose deaths in rural communities across the nation.</p>	
<b>Award Amounts and Service Commitments</b>	<b>SERVICE COMMITMENT</b>	<b>AWARD AMOUNT</b>
	Three years of full-time service (minimum 40 hours/week, 45 weeks/year)	Up to \$100,000
	Three years of half-time service (minimum 20 hours/week, 45 weeks/year)*	Up to \$50,000
<p>*Half-time practice is not available to those serving under the Private Practice Option. Read the program’s <a href="#">Application and Program Guidance</a> for more information.</p>		
<b>Tax Liability</b>	Not taxable	
<b>Maternity Care Target Areas (MCTAs)</b>	<p>To support HRSA-designated <a href="#">Maternity Care Target Areas</a> (MCTAs), communities experiencing a significant shortage of maternity care providers, the NHSC will review and approve applications from maternity care health professionals by descending <a href="#">Health Professional Shortage Area</a> (HPSA) or MCTA score, whichever is higher, and based on NHSC funding priorities. Scores are available on each NHSC-approved SUD treatment facility’s profile in the <a href="#">Health Workforce Connector</a>.</p> <p>Maternity care health professionals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physicians (MD/DO) in obstetrics/gynecology</li> <li>• Family medicine physicians (MD/DO) who practice obstetrics on a regular basis</li> <li>• Certified nurse midwives</li> </ul> <p><i>Maternity care professionals serving exclusively in a mental HPSA are not eligible to apply to the NHSC Rural Community Loan Repayment Program.</i></p>	
<b>Eligible Disciplines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physicians</li> <li>• Nurse practitioners</li> <li>• Certified nurse midwives</li> <li>• Physician assistants</li> <li>• Behavioral health professionals</li> <li>• Substance use disorder counselors</li> <li>• Registered nurses</li> <li>• Pharmacists</li> <li>• Certified registered nurse anesthetists</li> </ul>	



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<b>Application Requirements</b>	<p>Applicants must be a U.S. citizen (U.S.-born or naturalized) or a U.S. national.</p>	
<b>Funding Priorities</b>	<p><b>The NHSC Rural Community Loan Repayment Program gives first priority funding to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current (or former) NHSC participants with remaining eligible loans who are seeking to extend their service obligation; then</li> <li>• Providers serving at sites with the highest HPSA or MCTA score; then</li> <li>• Applicants serving at rural NHSC-approved SUD treatment facilities that are RCORP Consortium member sites; then</li> <li>• Clinicians likely to remain practicing in a HPSA, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Applicants who have completed these HRSA-funded <a href="#">Health Workforce Programs</a>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Primary Care Training and Enhancement: Training Primary Care Champions Program</li> <li>› Addiction Medicine Fellowship</li> <li>› Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program</li> <li>› Advanced Nursing Education-Nurse Practitioner Residency Program</li> <li>› ANE-NPR Integration Program</li> <li>› Graduate Psychology Education Program</li> </ul> </li> <li>– Applicants with a disadvantaged background.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>The NHSC uses the funding priority factors above to rank the applicants in three tiers. Tier 1 NHSC Rural Community Loan Repayment Program applicants include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– All SUD professionals with or without SUD licensure/certification or specialized training to provide SUD treatment who are working at an <a href="#">RCORP Consortium Member site</a>.</li> </ul> <p>Learn more about funding priorities on the <a href="#">NHSC Rural Community Loan Repayment Program</a> web page.</p>	
<b>Where Members Serve</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NHSC Rural Community Loan Repayment Program applicants must work at a rural NHSC-approved SUD treatment facility located in a primary care or mental HPSA. Behavioral health providers must be working in a mental HPSA.</li> <li>• A rural NHSC-approved SUD treatment facility must meet the requirements in the <a href="#">NHSC Site Agreement</a> and <a href="#">NHSC Site Reference Guide</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Eligible NHSC-approved SUD treatment facilities can include:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– SAMHSA-certified outpatient treatment programs</li> <li>– Office-based opioid treatment facilities</li> <li>– Non-opioid substance use disorder treatment facilities</li> <li>– Federally Qualified Health Care Centers (FQHCs)</li> <li>– FQHC look-alikes</li> <li>– Rural health clinics</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Indian Health Service, Tribal, and Urban Indian Health Clinics (ITUs); and some Indian Health Service (IHS) hospitals with an affiliated outpatient clinic</li> <li>– State or federal correctional facilities</li> <li>– Critical access hospitals with an affiliated outpatient clinic</li> <li>– Community health centers</li> <li>– State or local health departments and health clinics</li> <li>– Community outpatient facilities</li> <li>– Private practices (solo/group)</li> <li>– School-based clinics</li> <li>– Mobile units and free clinics</li> <li>• Clinicians <b>may</b> qualify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Even if they work at a rural, NHSC-approved SUD treatment facility with a HPSA score that would ordinarily be too low to qualify for NHSC funding.</li> <li>– Using either the mental health or primary care HPSA score of their NHSC-approved SUD treatment facility.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="#">NHSC Rural Community Loan Repayment Program</a>	