

Georgia Primary Care Office (PCO) Programs



**Presentation to: Georgia Rural Health Association
Rural Health Clinic Conference**

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Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)



Health Professional Shortage Area

What is a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)?

- An area designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration Shortage Designation Branch (HRSA/SDB) as having a shortage of health care professionals
 - Designations identify areas of greatest need



Health Professional Shortage Area

HPSA designations include:

- **Primary Care** Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA)
- **Mental** Health Professional Shortage Areas (MHPSA)
- **Dental** Health Professional Shortage Areas (DHPSA)
- **Medically Underserved Areas** (MUA)
- **Medically Underserved Populations** (MUP)

Health Professional Shortage Area

HPSA classifications include:

- **Geographic** (whole county)
- **Low-Income** (includes the population that have incomes \leq 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level)
- **Census Tract** (a small subdivision of a county)
- **Facility** (Ex. FQHCs, RHCs, Prisons)



Shortage Designation Benefits

HPSA designation benefits include (but are not limited to):

- State and federal recruitment programs and funding opportunities such as:
 - Rural Health Clinic reimbursements (HPSA)
 - NHSC Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs (HPSA, DHPSA, MHPSA)
 - State Loan Repayment Programs (HPSA, DHPSA, MHPSA)
 - Georgia J1 Visa Waiver Program (HPSA, MHPSA, FQHC, MUA)
 - Medicare Incentive Payments (Geographic HPSA)
 - Federal grant opportunities (HPSA, DHPSA, MHPSA)

**National Health Service Corps
(NHSC)
Scholarship Program
Loan Repayment Program**



NHSC Scholarship Program

The **Scholarship Program** is available to full-time students enrolled in fully accredited U.S. Medical Schools who commit to practice in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) upon completion of education or training.

Scholarships are awarded to students in training to be:

- Physician: MD or DO
 - Dentist: DDS or DMD
 - Family Nurse Practitioner: master's degree or post-master's certificate
 - Certified Nurse-Midwife: master's degree or post-master's certificate
 - Physician Assistant: associate, bachelor's or master's degree
- The scholarship consists of payment for tuition, fees, other reasonable educational costs, tax free, for as long as four years. Recipients also receive a monthly taxable living stipend.



NHSC Scholarship Program

Scholars must match to sites with following HPSA scores:

- **Primary medical care HPSAs** with **scores of 17 and above** are authorized for the assignment of NHSC scholarship recipients who are primary care physicians, physician assistants (PAs), or certified nurse midwives (CNMs); Nurse Practitioners will need to serve in a **score of 18 and above**.
- **Mental health HPSAs** with **scores of 17 and above** are authorized for the assignment of NHSC scholarship recipients who are psychiatrists.
- **Dental HPSAs** with **scores of 18 and above** are authorized for the assignment of NHSC scholarship recipients who are dentists.

NHSC Scholarship Program

Scholars

- Commit to serve one year for each year of support (minimum of two years service) at an approved site
- Fulfill their service commitments by providing full time clinical care (at least 40 hours each week), with at least 32 of those hours in the outpatient/ambulatory care setting



NHSC Loan Repayment Program

The Loan Repayment Program



- Competitive application
- \$60,000 award to repay eligible student loans
- Two year service obligation (clinicians may be eligible to apply for additional support for extended service)
- Applicants must be fully trained and licensed, U.S. citizens or nationals and working at an approved site
- Awardees may practice at up to four NHSC-approved sites

NHSC Loan Repayment Program

Eligible clinicians include:

- **Primary Care Physicians** (MD or DO in family medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, general internal medicine, gerontology, general pediatrics, or general psychiatry)
- **Primary Care Nurse Practitioners**
- **Certified Nurse-Midwives**
- **Primary Care Physician Assistants**
- **General Practice or Pediatric Dentists**
- **Registered Clinical Dental Hygienists**
- **Behavioral and mental health providers** (health service psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, psychiatric nurse specialists, marriage and family therapists, and licensed professional counselors)



NHSC Qualifying Facilities

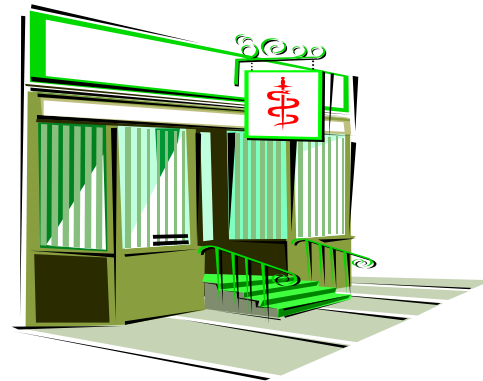
- FQHC (or Look-Alike)
- Certified Rural Health Clinic
- Indian Health Service Site (Federal or Tribal)
- Solo or Group Partnership or Practice
- Hospital-Affiliated Primary Care Practice
- Managed Care Network
- State or Federal Prison
- United States Immigration, Customs and Enforcement Site
- Public Health Department



NHSC Qualifying Facilities

In addition, the facility must:

- Be located in a HPSA
- Provide services on a discount fee schedule
- Accept patients covered by Medicare, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program
- Can document sound fiscal management
- Have the capacity to maintain competitive salary, benefits and malpractice coverage package for its clinicians



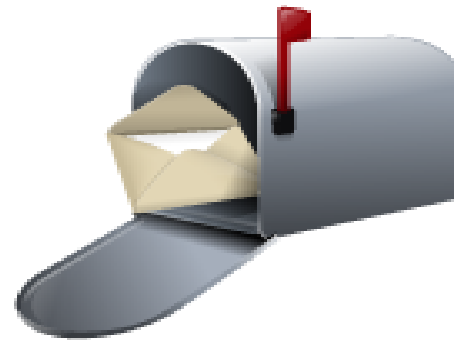
NHSC Site Application

Health care providers

- Should determine if their practice site is located in a designated HPSA area (<http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/SHORTAGE/>)
- Complete the **NHSC Site Checklist, NHSC Site Application and provide Supporting Documentation**
 - Site applications may be submitted throughout the year
 - Contact the PCO to obtain instructions and the application or visit the NHSC website at (<http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/communities/>)

NHSC Site Application

- You will receive official notification from NHSC by mail regarding the status of your site's application
- If approved, your open vacancies will be published on the NHSC Opportunities List and viewed by hundreds of clinicians, including NHSC Scholars and those interested in the Loan Repayment Program



NHSC Site Benefits

- List clinician vacancies on NHSC Job Opportunities
- Recruit clinicians dedicated to working where they are needed most
- Recruit students and residents
- Develop linkages with academic institutions and other organizations
- Receive community and site development assistance

NHSC Site Benefits

- Network with other NHSC sites
- Maximize revenue from Federal programs such as the Rural Health Clinic and Federally Qualified Health Center programs
- Identify ways to support uncompensated care through other grant programs (State and/or Federal) to ensure that your site remains fiscally sound
- Establish an integrated system of care that includes the uninsured and underinsured



Developing and Incorporating a Sliding Fee Schedule for Rural Health Clinics



Developing and Incorporating a Sliding Fee Schedule

Sliding fee schedules are based upon federal poverty guidelines. Patient eligibility is determined by annual income and family size.

The federal poverty guidelines for each fiscal year are published annually by early February. They may be found at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/>.

Developing and Incorporating a Sliding Fee Schedule

- By joining the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) and accepting NHSC clinicians into your Rural Health Clinic, you are agreeing to apply the discounted/sliding fee schedule equally, consistently and on a continuous basis to all recipients of services in your site/location, without regard to the particular clinician treating the patient.

Example: Public Notice of Sliding Fee Schedule

Notice to Patients

This practice serves all patients regardless of ability to pay

Discounts for essential services are offered depending upon family size and income

You may apply for a discount at the front desk

Example of a Sliding Fee Schedule

FIVE Discounted/Sliding Fee Pay Classes for Use in the 48 Contiguous States

<u>Annual Basis</u> Annual Income Thresholds by Sliding Fee Discount Pay Class and Percent of Poverty					
Family Unit Size	Minimum Fee	25% pay	50% pay	75% pay	100% pay
Poverty	100%	133%	166%	200%	201%
1	10,400	13,832	17,264	20,800	20,801
2	14,000	18,620	23,240	28,000	28,001
3	17,600	23,408	29,216	35,200	35,201
4	21,200	28,196	35,192	42,400	42,401
5	24,800	32,984	41,168	49,600	49,601
6	28,400	37,772	47,144	56,800	56,801
7	32,000	42,560	53,120	64,000	64,001
8	35,600	47,348	59,096	71,200	71,201

The co-payment for those below 100% of poverty is \$_____.

CMS – Certified Rural Health Clinics Automatic Facility Designation



CMS- Certified RHC Automatic Facility Designation

CMS-Certified Rural Health Clinics are eligible to receive an Automatic Facility Designation if they meet the following criteria:

- Entity cannot deny requested health care services, and shall not discriminate in the provision of services to an individual whose services are paid by Medicare, Medicaid, or State Child Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).
- Entity shall prepare a schedule of fees or payments consistent with locally prevailing rates or charges.

CMS- Certified RHC Automatic Facility Designation

- Entity shall prepare a corresponding schedule of discounts (including waivers) to be applied to such fee or payments, with adjustments made on the basis of the patient's ability to pay.
- Entity shall make a reasonable effort to secure from patients fees and payments for services, and fees should be sufficiently discounted in accordance with the schedule described above.

CMS- Certified RHC Automatic Facility Designation

- Entity shall accept assignment for Medicare beneficiaries, shall enter into agreements with state agencies that administer Medicaid and SCHIP to assure coverage of beneficiaries of these programs.
- Entity shall take reasonable and appropriate steps to collect all payments due for services.

CMS-Certified RHC Automatic Facility Designation

- CMS-certified Rural Health Clinics **must have a health professional shortage area facility designation** in order to participate in the National Health Service Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs.
- If your facility meets the requirements of the program and would like to participate, a **Certificate of Eligibility** form must be completed.



CMS-Certified RHC Automatic Facility Designation

- Please contact me for the forms to complete the CMS-Certified RHC Automatic Facility Designation

Donna Crews (229) 401-3094

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Provider Recruitment and Retention Assistance

National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network (3R Net)



National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network (3RNet)

The National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network (3RNet) is made up of state organizations that assist health professionals in locating practices in rural areas throughout the country.



- Physicians (4,573)
- Dentists (212)
- Nurse Practitioners (312)
- Physician Assistants (301)
- Registered Nurses (163)
- Mental Health Professionals (92)
- Other Health Care Professionals (286)

National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network (3RNet)

To post for a position through 3R Net:

- Go to <http://www.3rnet.org>
- Look in the upper right corner of the home page
- Click on 'Employers - Register'
- Fill in the registration form (contact information)

(Once a facility has registered, they will only need to click 'Employers - Login' on future visits.)

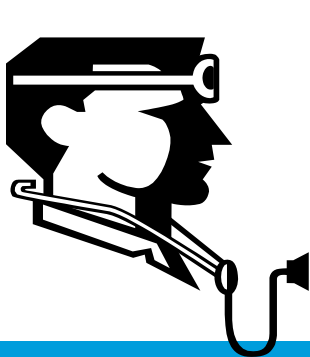
National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network (3RNet)

- At the 'Welcome' screen, click on 'Add New Opportunity'
- Fill out the job profile as completely as possible
- Click 'Preview Opportunity'
- If satisfied, click 'Submit Opportunity' located at the top of the screen above the white line



National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network (3RNet)

- Once you click on “Submit”, an automatic email is generated to our office to review your position. Once our office reviews the position, we will add the position to the 3RNet.
- You will begin to receive monthly reports with a list of candidates matching the criteria for your position.



Primary Care Office

Primary Care Office (<http://www.dch.georgia.gov/PCO>)

Please feel free to contact the PCO staff any time!

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