



Health Services

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To ensure access to high-quality, patient-centered, cost-effective health care to Los Angeles County residents through direct services at DHS facilities and through collaboration with community and university partners.

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Attention all DHS Health Care Professionals:

The 2014 National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program (NHSC LRP) application cycle is now open. The Program is competitive and applicants are encouraged to begin the application process early. Applications must be initiated at <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment/> prior to February 26th.

Although the website indicates an application close date of March 20th, please keep in mind that is for all components of the application, including the employment verification which takes 5-7 business days. The employment verification request is initiated once the applicant begins a new application.

The NHSC LRP improves access to healthcare in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) in California by providing loan repayment to health professionals. In return, recipients agree to provide full-time direct patient care in a HPSA for a period of 2 years. The NHSC LRP is open to licensed primary care medical, dental, and mental and behavioral health providers who are employed or seeking employment at approved sites.

You must work in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) to qualify for this program. To identify the facility's HPSA score as of January 1, 2014, applicants are requested to visit: <http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/GeoAdvisor/ShortageDesignationAdvisor.aspx> and enter the facility's address to see if the facility is located in a HPSA.

National Health Service Corps LRP

- **Program Description:** The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Program (LRP) offers primary care medical, dental, and mental and behavioral health care providers the opportunity to have their student loans repaid, while earning a competitive salary, in exchange for providing health care in urban, rural, or frontier communities with limited access to care.
- **Financial Assistance:** The NHSC Loan Repayment Program offers two levels of funding, based upon the need of the community in which a provider works, as defined by a HPSA score.
- **Initial Award Amounts:**
 - Up to \$50,000 to primary care providers practicing at an NHSC-approved site with a HPSA score of 14 or above in return for a 2-year full-time commitment. Up to \$25,000 in return for a 2-year half-time commitment.
 - Up to \$30,000 to primary care providers practicing at an NHSC-approved site with a HPSA score of 13 and below in return for a 2-year full-time commitment. Up to \$15,000 in return for a 2-year half-time commitment.

With continued service, NHSC providers may be able to pay off all of their student loans.

- **Full-Time Service Commitment:**
 - 2 years of full-time service (minimum 40 hours/week, 45 weeks/year) at an NHSC-approved site.
 - For all health professionals, except as noted below: 32 hours/week providing patient care at an NHSC-approved site.
 - For OB/GYNs, Certified Nurse-Midwives, Mental and Behavioral Health providers, Pediatric Dentists and Geriatric Service providers: 21 hours/week providing care at an NHSC-approved site; 19 hours/week providing patient care at an alternate site.
 - No more than 8 hours/week may be spent on practice-related duties.
 - Up to 8 hours/week may be spent teaching in a clinical setting.
- **Half-Time Service Commitment:**
 - 2 years of half-time service (minimum 20 hours/week, 45 weeks/year) at an NHSC-approved site.
 - For all health professionals, except as noted below: 16 hours/week providing patient care at an NHSC-approved site.
 - For OB/GYNs, Certified Nurse-Midwives, Mental and Behavioral Health providers, Pediatric Dentists and Geriatric Service providers: 11 hours/week providing patient care at an NHSC-approved site; 9 hours providing patient care at an alternate site.
 - No more than 4 hours/week may be spent on practice-related duties or teaching.
- **Eligibility Requirements:** To be eligible for loan repayment, applicants must:
 - Be a U.S. citizen (U.S. born or naturalized) or U.S. national;
 - Work at NHSC approved site;
 - Licensed in one of the following disciplines:
 - Medicine (MD/DO):** Family Medicine, Obstetrics/Gynecology, General Internal Medicine, Geriatrics, General Pediatrics and General Psychiatry
 - Physician Assistant (Primary Care)**
 - Nursing:** Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (adult, family, pediatric, psychiatric/mental health, geriatrics and women's health), Certified Nurse-Midwife and Psychiatric Nurse Specialist
 - Dentistry (DDS, DMD)**
 - Dental Hygienist**
 - Mental and Behavioral Health:** Health Service Psychologist, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Professional Counselor and Marriage and Family Therapist; and
 - Have unpaid educational loans.
- **Eligible Sites:** The NHSC LRP is open to licensed primary care medical, dental, and mental and behavioral health providers who are employed or seeking employment at approved sites. Approved L.A. County DHS NHSC LRP sites are as follows:
 - El Monte (Primary Care)
 - Hudson CHC (Primary Care and Dental)
 - Humphrey CHC (Primary Care)
 - Long Beach CHC (Primary Care)
 - MLK MACC (Primary Care)
 - Olive View-UCLA Medical Center (Primary Care)
 - Roybal CHC (Primary Care and Mental Health)
 - San Fernando HC (Primary Care)
- **Tax Liability:** Not taxable

- **Additional information:** Technical assistance webcasts and conference calls have been scheduled as follows:
 - Webcast:** Wed, January 29 at 8:00 – 9:30 p.m. ET
 - Conference Call:** Wed, February 5 at 8:00 – 9:30 p.m. ET
 - Conference Call:** Wed, February 12 at 8:00 – 9:30 p.m. ET

You may also visit HRSA at <https://nhsc.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment/index.html>, e-mail at gethelp@hrsa.gov, or telephone at 1-800-221-9393.

We encourage all eligible applicants to take advantage of this program.

Good luck in the application process,

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LA County, DHS