

# Building the Behavioral Health Workforce

## Federal Initiatives

Shared by SAMHSA Region III (2021)



## Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

National Health Service Corps (NHSC): <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/>

NHSC recruits healthcare professionals to provide culturally competent, interdisciplinary primary health, behavioral health and oral health care to underserved populations. .

- **National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program** for primary care medical, dental, and behavioral health clinicians (<http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment/index.html>)
  - Eligible Behavioral Health clinicians: *Psychologist; Licensed Clinical Social Worker; Psychiatric Nurse Specialist; Marriage and Family Therapist; Licensed Professional Counselor*
- **2018 National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program – Substance Use Disorders (NHSC-SUD):** NHSC-SUD expands sites to Opioid Treatment Programs, Office-based Opioid Treatment, and General Outpatient SUD treatment programs and provider eligibility to Licensed Addictions Counselors (LAC).
- **National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program** for primary care medical and dental providers (only “in-training.”) (<http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/scholarships/index.html>)
- **National Health Service Corps Students to Service Loan Repayment Program - Medical students (MD or DO, only)** may earn up to \$120,000 in their final year of school. Students must commit to serving either 3 years full-time or 6 years part-time at an NHSC-approved site
- **State Loan Repayment Program - States and territories** may offer a *State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)* for health professionals that provide primary care in Health Professional Shortage Areas.

Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Loan Repayment Program (STAR LRP).

[https://bhwh.hrsa.gov/funding/apply-loan-repayment/star-lrp?mkt\\_tok=NzczLU1KRi0zNzkAAAF9mwuGa2W3pnt0S-YmqSHJyUrtEkFpcByGxbjBmy8CYS6spWECiD2Tlm1gKhBGht6Kazc1Y97pf726POvUH0cTSWinSr\\_E0MXsIFQeY2m](https://bhwh.hrsa.gov/funding/apply-loan-repayment/star-lrp?mkt_tok=NzczLU1KRi0zNzkAAAF9mwuGa2W3pnt0S-YmqSHJyUrtEkFpcByGxbjBmy8CYS6spWECiD2Tlm1gKhBGht6Kazc1Y97pf726POvUH0cTSWinSr_E0MXsIFQeY2m)

Nurse Corps: <http://hrsa.gov/loanscholarships/repayment/nursing>

Nurse Corps funding supports a loan repayment program *Registered Nurses (RN)* and *Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN)* working in public or private non-profit critical shortage facility OR nurse faculty employed by an accredited school of nursing. Participants receive 60% of their total outstanding qualifying educational loan balance incurred while pursuing an education in nursing in exchange for 2 years of service.

Faculty Loan Repayment Program: <http://www.hrsa.gov/loanscholarships/repayment/faculty/index/html>

Health professionals from disadvantaged backgrounds serving on the faculty at accredited health professions' university can receive \$40,000 plus a tax benefit for 2 years of service to prepare future clinicians

Behavioral Health Professions Training Grants: <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/grants/mentalbehavioral/index.html>

- **Graduate Psychology Education (GPE)** funding for schools, universities, and other nonprofit organizations to plan, develop, operate, or maintain graduate programs in mental and behavioral health practice to train psychologists to work with underserved populations.
- **Leadership in Public Health and Social Work Education Grant Program** funding for training and education, faculty development, and curriculum enhancement to prepare students for leadership roles in public health social work through enrollment in a dual master's degree program in social work and public health.
- **Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET)** supports clinical internships and field placements for an array of behavioral health professional and paraprofessional (peer) occupations.

## Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Minority Fellowship Program (MFP): <https://www.samhsa.gov>

MFP supports the training of behavioral health practitioners to work with people of different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. The program assists students seeking doctoral and master's-level degrees and plan to work to improve behavioral health outcomes for minority communities.

National / Regional Practitioner Education and Training Resources (Free): <https://www.samhsa.gov>

## Indian Health Services (IHS)

Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program (IHS LRP): <https://www.ihs.gov/loanrepayment/>

The IHS LRP awards loan repayment to health professionals who work in health facilities serving American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Participants receive up to \$20,000/year for 2 years of service.

## Administration for Community Living (ACL) - National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR)

Switzer Research Fellowships Program (SRFP) supports research on rehabilitation of people with disabilities that supports social integration, employment, independent living, family support, and self-sufficiency.

Merit Fellowships. Early career researchers who have either advanced professional training or experience in independent study in an area that is directly relevant to disability and rehabilitation.

Distinguished Fellowships. Advanced career researchers (7+ years of experience) with focus on rehabilitation, independent living, or other experiences and outcomes of people with disabilities.

## Veterans Administration (VA)

Pathways Internship Program (PIP): <http://www.opm.gov/hiringreform/pathways/>

PIP provides students in high schools, colleges, trade schools and other educational institutions with paid opportunities to work in Federal agencies.

Education Debt Reduction Program (EDRP; <http://vacareers.org>) provides student loan reduction payments to current VA employees with qualifying loans who are in health care positions providing direct patient care services. Participants may receive up to \$120,000 over a 5 year period towards a qualified loan.

National Nursing Education Initiative (NNEI) is a scholarship awarded to permanent full- and part-time VA registered nurses seeking baccalaureate and advanced nursing degrees from an accredited program.

## United States Public Health Service Corps (USPHSC)

The U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps mission is to protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of our Nation. The USPHSC achieves its mission through: 1) rapid and effective response to public health needs; 2) leadership and excellence in public health practices; 3) advancement of public health science.

USPHSC benefits include competitive starting pay; loan repayment potential; no cost health care & dental care; thirty days paid vacation; sick leave, maternity leave, and Federal holidays; retirement plan with benefits eligibility beginning after 20 years of service; and Thrift Savings Plan.

DoD-USPHS Partnership for Psychological Health (<http://www.usphs.gov/aboutus/dod-hhs.aspx>)

The Department of Defense and the U.S. Public Health Service Partnership for Psychological Health program to ensure that service members, their families, and veterans receive needed behavioral health services and resources. Behavioral Health Officers in the USPHSC are detailed to military medical treatment facilities to treat service members who are returning from overseas deployment.

