

Loan Repayment Program Available, National Health Service Corps

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services continues to seek qualified applicants for participation in the **National Health Service Corps** (NHSC) program. The NHSC administers a **Loan Repayment Program** that includes full- and half-time options. The program recruits fully trained health professionals, including licensed clinical social workers, “to provide culturally competent, interdisciplinary primary health care services to underserved populations located in selected **Health Professional Shortage Areas**, which includes urban and rural locales. In exchange, the program assists clinicians in the repayment of qualifying educational loans. The NHSC will pay up to \$60,000 for an initial 2 years of full-time service (a minimum of 40 hours per week). For half-time service (a minimum of 20 hours per week) – a new option for health professionals thanks to the health care reform law – the NHSC will either pay up to \$60,000 for an initial 4-year commitment or up to \$30,000 for a 2-year commitment. Eligible for the program are licensed clinical social workers who have a master’s or doctoral degree in social work from a CSWE-accredited institution, have an appropriate license, and have the authority to practice independently without supervision.