

**NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS  
LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM**

**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and Fiscal Year 2010  
Applicant Information Bulletin  
June 2, 2009 – September 30, 2010**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q1. How many NHSC LRP applications are you expecting to receive under ARRA?**

9,600 applications

**Q2: Why is the NHSC LRP having another application cycle?**

On February 17, President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (“Recovery Act”) of 2009. The Recovery Act provides additional funding for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Program (LRP).

Due to the availability of Recovery Act funding, the Bureau of Clinician Recruitment and Service expects to be able to provide more loan repayment awards to primary health care clinicians who wish to deliver quality primary health care services in health professional shortage areas of greatest need throughout the United States and its territories, as designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

**Q3: How does this AIB differ from the December 2, 2008 – January 31, 2009? AIB?**

Open and Continuous Cycle

The NHSC LRP ARRA application cycle will be open and continuous from June 2, 2009 until September 30, 2010, or until funds are expended. If funds are not expended by September 20, 2010, then another AIB may be announced.

To be considered for funding during the open and continuous period, applications and supporting documents must be received by one of the cycle consideration periods listed below.

- Cycle 1 – July 16, 2009
- Cycle 2 - August 27, 2009
- Cycle 3 – November 19, 2009
- Cycle 4 – February 25, 2010
- Cycle 5 – April 29, 2010
- Cycle 6 – July 29, 2010

**NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS  
LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM**

**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and Fiscal Year 2010  
Applicant Information Bulletin  
June 2, 2009 – September 30, 2010**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

Change in Where Documents are to be Sent

A copy of the electronic application and supporting documents, except Banking Update form, are to be sent to NHSC LRP, c/o FocalPoint Consulting Group, 1025 Vermont Avenue, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005. These documents are no longer to be sent to NHSC LRP, c/o Discovery Logic, 1375 Piccard Drive, Suite 350, Rockville, MD 20850. The Banking Update form should be sent to: Division of Applications and Awards, NHSC LRP, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 8-37, Rockville, MD 20857.

Funding from Highest HPSA to Zero (0)

All eligible applications with Health Profession Shortage Area (HPSA) scores ranging from the highest HPSA to a HPSA of zero (0) will be funded each cycle until funds are exhausted. Therefore, applicants are encouraged to apply early.

Significant Increase in the Number of Placements at Any One Site

In order to distribute the number of NHSC LRP clinicians across many NHSC community sites, the number of new NHSC placements through the Loan Repayment Program allowed at any one site is limited to the following:

HPSA Score: 14-26

- Primary Health Care: no more than 15 allopathic (MD) or osteopathic (DO) physicians, and no more than a combined total of 15 Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, or Certified Nurse Midwives. (Mental health clinicians in these disciplines are not included.)
- Dental Care: no more than 15 Dentists and 15 Dental Hygienists.
- Behavioral and Mental Health: no more than 15 Psychiatrists (MD or DO), and no more than a combined total of 15 Health Service Psychologists (formerly clinical and or counseling psychologists), Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Licensed Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, or Psychiatric Nurse Specialists.

HPSA Score: 10-13

- Primary Health Care: no more than 12 allopathic (MD) or osteopathic (DO) physicians, and no more than a combined total of 12 Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, or Certified Nurse Midwives. (Mental health clinicians in these disciplines are not included.)

**NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS  
LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM**

**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and Fiscal Year 2010  
Applicant Information Bulletin  
June 2, 2009 – September 30, 2010**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

- Dental Care: no more than 12 Dentists and 12 Dental Hygienists.
- Behavioral and Mental Health: no more than 12 Psychiatrists (MD or DO), and no more than a combined total of 12 Health Service Psychologists (formerly clinical and or counseling psychologists), Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Licensed Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, or Psychiatric Nurse Specialists.

HPSA Score: 0-9

- Primary Health Care: no more than 10 allopathic (MD) or osteopathic (DO) physicians, and no more than a combined total of 10 Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, or Certified Nurse Midwives. (Mental health clinicians in these disciplines are not included.)
- Dental Care: no more than 10 Dentists and 10 Dental Hygienists.
- Behavioral and Mental Health: no more than 10 Psychiatrists (MD or DO), and no more than a combined total of 10 Health Service Psychologists (formerly clinical and or counseling psychologists), Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Licensed Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, or Psychiatric Nurse Specialists.

The December 2, 2008 – January 31, 2009 NHSC LEP Applicant Information Bulletin stated, “ In order to distribute the number of NHSC LRP clinicians across many NHSC community sites, the number of new NHSC placements through the Loan Repayment Program allowed at any one site (parent sites as well as satellite sites) is limited to the following:

- Primary Health Care: no more than 2 allopathic (MD) or osteopathic (DO) physicians, and no more than a combined total of 2 Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, or Certified Nurse Midwives. (Mental health clinicians in these disciplines are not included.)
- Dental Care: no more than 2 Dentists and 2 Dental Hygienists.
- Behavioral and Mental Health: no more than 2 Psychiatrists (MD or DO), and no more than a combined total of 2 Health Service Psychologists (formerly clinical and or counseling psychologists), Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Licensed

**NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS  
LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM**

**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and Fiscal Year 2010  
Applicant Information Bulletin  
June 2, 2009 – September 30, 2010**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, or Psychiatric Nurse Specialists.”

Individuals Who Are Unemployed and Not at an NHSC Approved Site Can Apply

Individuals can apply even though they are currently not working at an NHSC approved site. However, to be eligible for an award, they must commence service within 30 days of the conclusion of the cycle that they are applying.

Apply Only Once

Throughout the open continuous cycle, applicants will only need to submit an electronic application and their supporting documents once. The NHSC LRP will proactively and continuously contact applicants to inform them of the status their applications, such as the need for additional supporting documents. If an individual’s application is not complete in time to be considered for the current cycle consideration period, then the individual’s application will roll over to the next cycle consideration period. The NHSC will continue to proactively inform the applicant of what is needed to complete his/her application.

If Already Applied in Fiscal Year 2009, Don’t Need to Apply Again

Applicants who submitted an electronic application to the NHSC LRP during the FY 2009 application cycle that opened on December 2, 2008 and closed on January 31, 2009 **do not** need to submit an electronic application for the funding opportunities announced in this Applicant Information Bulletin. The FY 09 electronic application previously submitted will be used to consider these applicants for these funding opportunities. However, if an applicant only submitted an electronic application and none of the supporting documents, these supporting documents will need to be completed and submitted before his/her application can be considered for funding.

NPDB/HIPDB Will Be Requested by NHSC

Applicants no longer need to do self-inquiries to obtain a copy of their National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) Report and Health Integrity and Protection Data Bank (HIPDB) Report. The NHSC will request these reports directly from the NPDB for applicants.

**NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS  
LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM**

**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and Fiscal Year 2010  
Applicant Information Bulletin  
June 2, 2009 – September 30, 2010**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

Telephone Conference Calls for Applicants

The NHSC LRP will conduct telephone conferences for applicants who have questions during the open and continuous application cycle. The telephone conferences will be available for 2 hours each call from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm, ET.

The conference call schedule and instructions will be posted on the NHSC web site at <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment/>.

**Q4: How long will this current application cycle be open?**

The NHSC LRP ARRA application cycle will be open and continuous from June 2, 2009 until September 30, 2010, or until funds are expended. If funds are not expended by September 20, 2010, then another AIB may be announced.

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**Q5: If I applied for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Program (LRP) application cycle which opened December 2, 2008 and closed on January 31, 2009, should I reapply for the current application cycle?**

Applicants who submitted an electronic application to the NHSC LRP during the FY 2009 application cycle that opened on December 2, 2008 and closed on January 31, 2009 **do not** need to submit an electronic application for the funding opportunities announced in this Applicant Information Bulletin (AIB). The FY 09 electronic application previously submitted will be used to consider these applicants for these funding opportunities. The NHSC will be proactively contacting these applicants to inform them of the status of their application. If these applicants attempt to register using the same e-mail address to submit an

**NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS  
LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM**

**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and Fiscal Year 2010  
Applicant Information Bulletin  
June 2, 2009 – September 30, 2010**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

electronic application, they will receive a message that they already exist in the system.

Individuals that attempted to apply or applied during the December 31, 2008 – January 31, 2009 fall into 5 categories.

Individuals Who Must Apply

1) Individuals who registered to submit an electronic application, but did not complete an electronic application. These individuals must submit an electronic application and the appropriate supporting documents. These individuals will be sent an e-mail by the NHSC encouraging them to apply for this AIB which opens June 2.

2) Individuals who registered and started to complete an electronic application, but did not submit the application. These individuals must submit an electronic application and the appropriate supporting documents. These individuals will be sent an e-mail by the NHSC encouraging them to apply for this AIB which opens June 2.

Applicants Who Do Not Need to Apply

3) Applicants who submitted an application, but did not submit any supporting documents. These applicants do not need to submit an electronic application for this AIB. However, they do need to submit supporting documents. These supporting documents will need to be completed and submitted before his/her application can be considered for funding. The NHSC will send an e-mail to these applicants informing them of the supporting documents that need to be completed. The forms that needed to be completed will be attached to the e-mail and available on the NHSC Website.

4) Applicants who submitted an electronic application, and some supporting documents. These applicants do not need to submit an electronic application for this AIB. The NHSC is in the process of contacting these applicants by e-mail and/or phone, and requesting that they submit the supporting documents to complete their application.

**NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS  
LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM**

**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and Fiscal Year 2010  
Applicant Information Bulletin  
June 2, 2009 – September 30, 2010**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

5) Applicants who have been contacted by the NHSC and are eligible for an award or have been awarded a contract, but have not received an award letter yet. These applicants do not need to submit an electronic application for this AIB. The NHSC will contact these applicants to inform them of the status of their application or award.

**Q6: If I applied for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Program (LRP) application cycle which opened December 2, 2008 and closed on January 31, 2009, and I have not heard from the NHSC LRP that I received an award yet, and want to be considered for ARRA funding, what should I do?**

The NHSC will be contacting applicants who are eligible for funding by e-mail and/or phone to determine if they are still interested in an award. Applicants whose applications are still being reviewed will also be contacted by NHSC staff.

**Q7: How do I determine which cycle submission period to apply for?**

Applicants are encouraged to complete and submit an application and their supporting documents as soon as possible. All eligible applications with Health Profession Shortage Area (HPSA) scores ranging from the highest HPSA to a HPSA of zero (0) will be funded each cycle until funds are exhausted.

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Although an applicant may submit an application, funding will not be granted until all National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program requirements have been met.

**NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS  
LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM**

**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and Fiscal Year 2010  
Applicant Information Bulletin  
June 2, 2009 – September 30, 2010**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q8: Can past recipients of NHSC LRP awards apply for ARRA funds?**

Yes, as long as they do not have an existing service or financial obligation that would preclude them from fulfilling their service obligation. For example, if the individual obtained another qualifying degree in an approved discipline or specialty and is seeking loan repayment for that degree, then he/she could apply for this funding opportunity.

**Q9: Can unemployed primary health care clinicians apply for this funding opportunity?**

Yes, however, he/she must be able to commence service within 30-days of the cycle submission deadline date in which he/she is applying.

**Q10: Can clinicians in unapproved NHSC sites apply for this funding opportunity?**

Yes, but the site must complete and submit a Multi-Year Recruitment and Retention Assistance application to the Division of Site and Clinician Recruitment.

**Q11: Can a contract be withdrawn after it has been countersigned by the Secretary?**

Yes, however, there is a limited timeframe during which the Secretary may accept a recipient's request for withdrawal of awarded contracts. Recipients desiring to withdraw an awarded contract must do so no later than August 17 of the Federal fiscal year (FY) in which the award was issued. In addition, the individual will be required to submit a written request to withdraw the contract and repay all amounts paid to, or on his/her behalf.

**Q12: Am I guaranteed an amendment contact?**

No, NHSC LRP participants cannot be guaranteed a contract amendment for continued participation in the NHSC LRP, as there is no guarantee of the availability of loan repayment funding in future Federal FYs.