

Solicitation of Interest #20308

New York State Department of Health
Office of Primary Care and Health Systems Management
Center for Health Care Policy and Resource Development
Division of Workforce Transformation

Primary Care Service Corps Loan Repayment Program (Round 6)

Questions and Answers

I. Introduction

Q1: I am writing to confirm that applicants who apply for Solicitation of Interest #20308 must work in an approved National Health Service Corps (NHSC) approved site, am I correct?

A1: Yes, you are correct. Per section I.: “Clinicians must commit to practice at an Active NHSC Approved Site”. The awardee does not need to currently work at an Active NHSC Approved site, but they must begin work at an NHSC Approved Site on or before January 1, 2024.

Q2: If I am a resident of New York and work for a qualifying NHSC site in Connecticut, will I be eligible for the loan repayment?

A2: No, the worksite must be located in New York State. Residents of other states who work at eligible sites in New York State are eligible for Primary Care Service Corps (PCSC) Round 6.

Q3: If I am employed by a New York State agency to provide clinical care (such as in Department of Corrections, Child and Family Services, or Office of People with Disabilities), would this qualify as eligible employment despite the facility not being assigned an NHSC Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) score?

A3: Per section I.: “Clinicians must commit to practice at an Active NHSC Approved Site”. Therefore, only NHSC Active Sites with HPSA scores of 1 or more in the relevant discipline for the applicant are eligible sites. The only New York State Agency which includes locations that may also be an active NHSC Approved site is the Department of Corrections.

II.3. Minimum Qualifications: Employment Letter

Q4: Who completes Attachment 5: Employment Letter – my supervisor or the HR Department?

A4: Per Section II, item 3:

3. The clinician must complete an Employment Letter using the format/text provided in Attachment 5: Employment Letter template. The Employment Letter must be on the employer's letterhead, signed by an employee with the authority to represent the employer with respect to human resources matters, including the Human Resources Director, the Chief Executive Officer or the Chief Operating Officer.

II.4. Minimum Qualifications: Eligible Professions

Q5: I work full time as a Physician Assistant (PA) in an Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) program in Buffalo, NY. I know it is an NHSC site as I recently completed a three-year service contract with the NHSC in July of this year. Do you consider addiction medicine to fall under the umbrella of behavioral health, and therefore qualify for this program?

A5: The eligibility requirements for physician assistants are:

➤ **Physician Assistants**

Requirements: A current, full, permanent, unencumbered, unrestricted license and registration (pursuant to Education Law Article 131-B) to practice as a physician assistant in the State of New York. Only PAs who will provide primary care or behavioral health services – adult primary care, family primary care, pediatric, psychiatry, mental health, geriatrics, and women's health – are eligible to apply for PCSC.

You would be eligible to apply for PCSC Round 6 as a physician assistant specializing in addiction medicine who works at a National Health Service Corps Active site IF the site has an NHSC Site Mental Health HPSA Score of 1 or more and the listed "program approved services" (which appear on <https://connector.hrsa.gov/>) include: General Substance Use Disorder Treatment and/or Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program and/or Opioid Treatment Program.

Q6: Are Licensed Master Social Workers eligible for Primary Service Corps Round 6?

A6: Licensed Master Social Workers are not eligible for Primary Care Service Corps Round 6. Only Licensed Clinical Social Workers are eligible.

Q7: I am a Credentialed Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC) and a Licensed Master Social Worker; do I qualify for this wonderful opportunity?

A7: Credentialed Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselors and Licensed Master Social Workers are not eligible for Primary Care Service Corps Round 6. Only Licensed Clinical Social Workers are eligible.

II.8. Minimum Qualifications: Simultaneous Participation in Other Programs

Q8: I am currently participating in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program. Am I

eligible to participate in the Primary Care Service Corps?

A8: No. Simultaneous participation in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, is not permitted per section II.8. Minimum Qualifications: Simultaneous Participation in Other Programs:

8. The clinician must not be fulfilling an obligation under any state or federal loan repayment program – including the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program -- which overlaps or coincides with the three-year PCSC service obligation.

Q9: Is this solicitation for a different program from the National Health Service Corps (NHSC)?

A9: Yes. The National Health Service Corps is a program administered and funded by the federal government's Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). This Solicitation of Interest is for the New York State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP), the Primary Care Service Corps, which is administered by the New York State Department of Health.

Q10.1: I am considering reapplying for another contract with the NHSC when applications open in 2024. Will being enrolled in the PCSC prevent me from applying to the NHSC program and vice versa?

Q10.2: I am interested in applying for this repayment program and I am wondering if I am able to apply if I am also getting a HRSA grant?

Q10.3: Can you please let me know if a current participant of NHSC can apply for and receive this award concurrently?

Q10.4: I was wondering if my application would still be accepted for the PCSC program if I am already involved in the National Health Service Corps loan repayment program?

A10.1-10.4: Per Section II. Minimum Qualifications item 8: "The clinician must not be fulfilling an obligation under any state or federal loan repayment program – including the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program -- which overlaps or coincides with the three-year PCSC service obligation."

Q11: If someone applies for the PCSC Round 6 program and they are awarded the \$36,000 over 3 years, can they also apply for the NHSC Loan Repayment Program of \$50,000 over 2 years when applications open up or are they mutually exclusive and they cannot do both?

A11: The two programs are mutually exclusive. An awardee may not simultaneously participate in both programs.

Q12: Is a person able to do one program, and then another at a later time? Or are they disqualified from the other program since they were already approved and completed the first?

A12: Current NHSC awardees whose NHSC obligation will end before January 1, 2024, may apply for the PCSC. Clinicians who receive a PCSC Round 6 award will be able to

apply for NHSC Loan Repayment after the PCSC obligation ends on December 31, 2026.

III.A Use of Funds

Q13: While I do not have any personal student loans remaining, my father does have a parent plus loan from my undergraduate Registered Nurse (RN) schooling remaining. Would this program cover that?

A13: The Primary Care Service Corps is funded through a State Loan Repayment Program grant from HRSA. As such, Qualified Educational Debts are determined using SLRP rules, which exclude Parent Plus loans.

III.C. Project Narrative: Award Limits

Q14: Is the \$36,000 per year, or for the entire three-year period?

A14: The \$36,000 award is for the entire three-year period. Per section III.C. "Award Limits" of the SOI: "The award limit for the Primary Care Service Corps Loan Repayment Program for primary care providers is \$36,000 for a three-year contract, unless the awardee is a full-time dentist, in which case the award limit is \$72,000 for a three-year contract."

IV. How to Apply

Q15: Will you accept an electronic signature on the PCSC round 6 application?

A15: The New York State Department of Health will accept applications with electronic signatures.

Q16: Once I have all documents needed, where do I send it? Also, regarding the letter from my employer, what does it need to state?

A16: The Solicitation of Interest, and the Application for Primary Care Service Corps Round 6 – which consists of 10 Attachments – appear below, following these Questions and Answers.

Attachment 5: Employment Letter Template provides the text required for the letter from your employer.

Per section IV. How to Apply of the SOI:

The application consists of the completed Attachments (1-10). You must submit ONE EMAIL with each required Attachment as its own pdf file attachment. Make sure to name each document accordingly (i.e. Attachment 1, Attachment 2). Applications must be submitted via email to sch_loan@health.ny.gov no later than 4:00 pm ET on the date and time posted on the cover of this SOI. Again, all application documents should be submitted together as attachments in ONE EMAIL.

Q17: Where do I email send the completed application?

A17: You email the completed application to: **sch_loan@health.ny.gov**

Attachment 6: Tool to Identify Eligible Sites

Q18: Does the HPSA score of the NHSC Active site have any impact on the likelihood of selection for this program.

A18: No, the HPSA score of the NHSC Active site (as long as it is 1 or more) does not have any impact on the likelihood of selection for PCSC.

Q19: I would like to know if my facility where I work would qualify to apply.

A19: Attachment 6 explains how to determine whether a given address is an NHSC Active site or not. Most applicants find it helpful to zoom in on the map (using Ctrl+Scroll) and look for their worksite on the map. Clicking on the red “balloon” pointers will show the name and address of the site. Clicking on the name link will jump to the detail screen for that site.

Q20: I currently work at a site associated with a HPSA ID but which is not listed as an NHSC site. Will I be eligible for the PCSC loan repayment this round?

A20: No. PCSC Round 6 must serve at NHSC Active sites with scores of 1 or more for their discipline.

Q21: Are Upstate University Hospital or Crouse Hospital in Syracuse NY considered Critical Access Hospitals (CAH)?

A21: Attachment 6 explains how to determine whether a given address is an NHSC Active site or not.

Other:

Q22: How do I go about getting setup to receive the email in the string below?

A22: If you would like to be added to the Primary Care Service Corps electronic mailing list, you can send an email to sch_loan@health.ny.gov with the subject line: Please add me to the Primary Care Service Corps Electronic Mailing List

Q23: Is someone allowed to do Primary Care Service Corp and be awarded \$36,000 for 3 years, and once those 3 years are completed, -can they apply for NHSC for another \$50,000 and work for this employer for another 2 years? Thereby ending up with \$86,000 for a 5-year commitment?

If so, would you suggest doing Primary Care Service Corps first since it's on its 6th round, whereas NHSC is a yearly thing?

A23: Your hypothetical scenario is correct – the clinician would receive \$86,000 for 5 years of obligated service (three with PCSC and two with NHSC). As to whether to apply to PCSC or NHSC first, the Department of Health cannot advise potential applicants on such questions.

Q24. Am I eligible to apply for student loan reimbursement with the Primary Care Service Corps if in the past I received loan reimbursement through the National Health Service Corps when employed at a previous job?

A24. Yes, clinicians who have participated in NHSC in the past, or who will complete their current NHSC obligation before January 1, 2024, are eligible to apply to Primary Care Service Corps Round 6.

l.