



*Fact Sheet:*  
**National Health Service  
Corps Program**

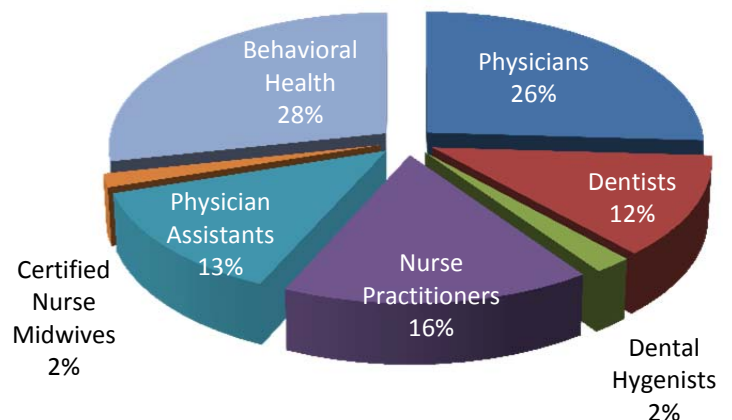
Founded in 1972, the NHSC was designed to bring primary care health workers to the most underserved communities of the country. In exchange for their medical expertise, the Corps helps these professionals alleviate debt accumulated during the course of their education. The NHSC programs include:

- *Scholarship program* – Provides a full scholarship for eligible students in exchange for service after their training in high need HPSAs.
- *Loan Repayment Program (LRP)* – Helps students repay school loans in exchange for service.
- *State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)* – The NHSC also provides matching funds for certain state loan repayment programs.
- *Students to Service program* – Provides loan repayment for medical school students in their last year of training who choose primary care in exchange for service.

### **NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS FIELD STRENGTH**

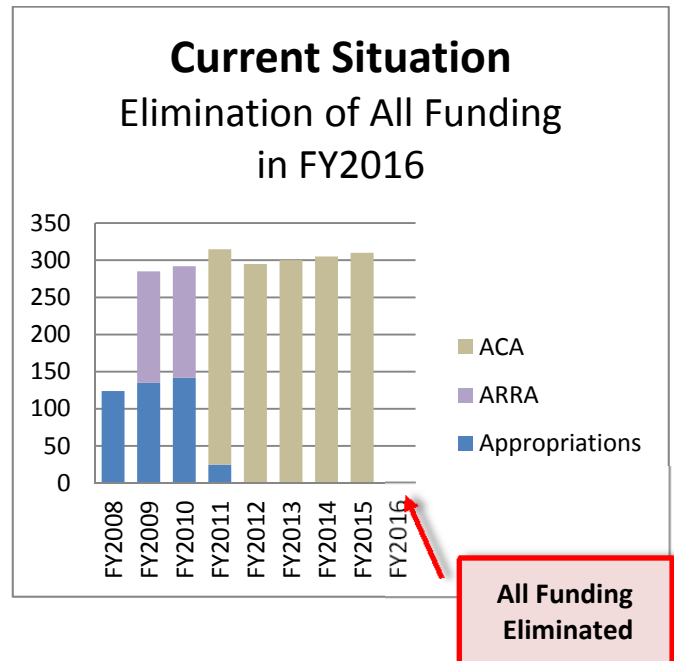
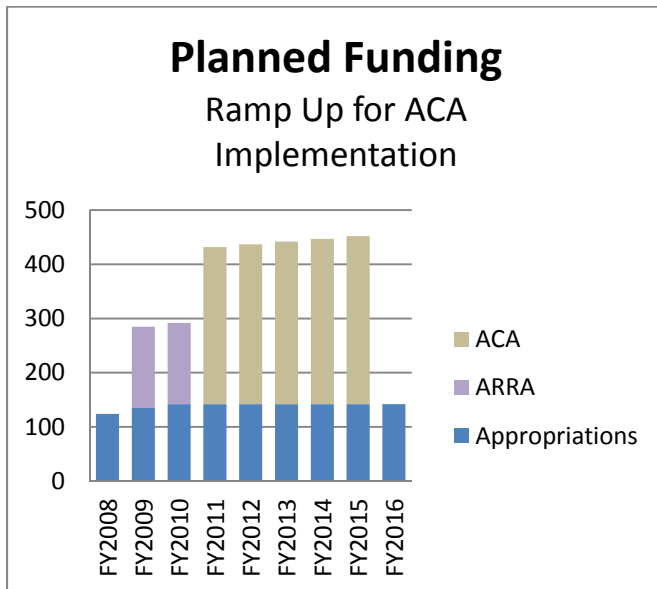
- More than 40,000 providers have served in the NHSC since its inception.
- In 2013, nearly 9,000 providers were placed in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) across the country. Providers serve in every state and territory.
- NHSC Providers served more than 10 million people, providing a range of clinical services.
- NHSC Providers represent a diverse group of clinicians – 13 percent are African American, 10 percent are Hispanic, 7 percent are Asian or Pacific Islander, and 2 percent are American Indian or Alaska Native.

### **2012 Field Strength**



## FUNDING HISTORY

- Starting in 1972, the NHSC was traditionally funded through the annual appropriations process. In FY2008, total funding for the program was \$124 million.
- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided \$300 million over two years to expand the number of NHSC placements during the recession.
- The Affordable Care Act (ACA) provided a five year trust fund to further expand the placements prior to full implementation of the ACA.
- In FY2011, Congress decreased the base appropriation by nearly \$100 million, dramatically reducing the impact of the ACA trust fund.
- In FY2012, Congress completely eliminated the base appropriation for the NSHC and now the program is entirely dependent on the ACA trust fund.



## COST EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NHSC

- The NHSC's annual budget for FY2015 is \$287.4 million. This is after the 5% cut to the current trust fund level of \$310 million due to the federal Sequester.
- At this total funding level, the annual cost per patient served is about \$28 per year.
- The budget for the Federal Government is \$1.415 trillion annually, making the NHSC 0.0002%, or two ten-thousandths of the total.