



# National Health Service Corps Program

Office of Rural Health and Community Care

## LEGISLATIVE REQUEST:

We urge Congress to reestablish annual appropriations for the National Health Service Corps to enable the program to preserve the current field strength of the program.

**To accomplish this goal, we urge Members of Congress to request \$287.4 million for FY2016 for the National Health Service Corps. [1]**

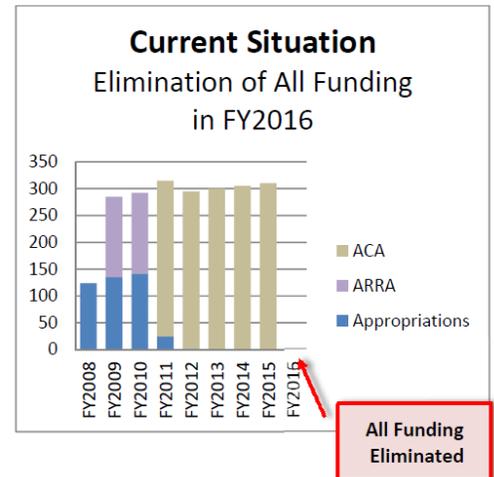
## National Background

The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) program, established in 1972, is designed to incentivize primary care providers to work in the highest need areas of our country. In exchange for their service, the program helps alleviate the burden of debt accumulated during the course of their education. In 2012, nearly 15,000 providers were placed in areas designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). These healthcare professionals served more than 10 million people in every state and territory. Despite this level of service, it would still take an additional 26,100 providers just to meet the existing need in all currently designated HPSAs [1]

## Federal Funding Status

By FY2012 Congress had **completely eliminated the base appropriations.**  
[1] Beginning Oct 1, 2015 the NSHC programs that will be unfunded include:

- *Scholarship program* – Provides a full scholarship for eligible students in exchange for service after their training
- *Loan Repayment Program (LRP)* – Helps students repay school loans in exchange for service.
- *State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)* – 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. [2]



## North Carolina Status

North Carolina residences in rural and underserved communities receive significant health benefit from having timely access to essential health care providers. Additional benefits to North Carolina includes:

- In federal fiscal year 2014, our providers received payments **totaling more than 5.6 million.** [3]
- As of March 2015, **a total of 226 providers** in North Carolina are directly benefited for NHSC programs. [4]
- Currently the following North Carolina **sites are benefiting from** NHSC programs: [4]

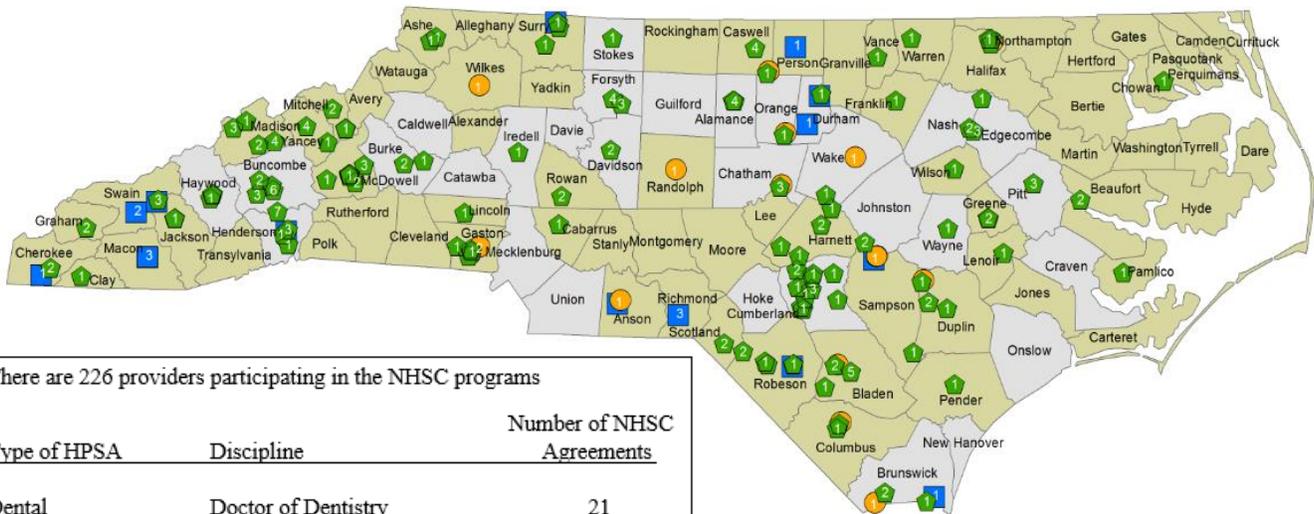
110 provider placements at Federally Qualified Health Centers	8 provider placements at Health Departments
44 provider placements at Community Outpatient Facilities	5 provider placements at American Indian Health Facility
41 provider placements at Private Practices	4 provider placements at Community Mental Health Centers
28 provider placements at Rural Health Clinics	2 provider placements at Critical Access Hospitals
10 provider placements at Correctional Facilities	1 provider placement at Free Clinic

- **The annual economic impact of the 226 providers is estimated to bring \$69.9 million** to the facilities and their community. [5] [6]



# National Health Service Corps Program

National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Agreements in North Carolina



There are 226 providers participating in the NHSC programs

Type of HPSA	Discipline	Number of NHSC Agreements
Dental	Doctor of Dentistry	21
	Registered Dental Hygienist	1
Mental Health	Doctor of Medicine	2
	Health Service Psychologist	13
	Licensed Clinical Social Worker	9
	Licensed Mental Health Counselor	5
Primary Care	Doctor of Medicine	64
	Doctor of Osteopathy	19
	Certified Nurse-Midwife	3
	Nurse Practitioner	46
	Physician Assistant	70
<b>Total</b>		<b>253</b>

- Primary Care HPSA
- Dental HPSA
- Mental Health HPSA
- Rural County (n=70)
- Urban County (n=30)

**Notes:**

- 1) Based on data from March 2015
- 2) Individual providers may have more than one agreement with NHSC
- 3) Each map icon indicate the number of NHSC agreements at that location

**References**

This document was produced by the Office of Rural Health and Community Care with data and information from the following external sources:

- [1] Association of Clinicians for the Underserved Policy Paper – 2015 <http://clinicians.org/save-the-national-health-service-corps/>
- [2] Association of Clinicians for the Underserved Fact Sheet – 2015
- [3] FY 2014 Awards - NHSC LRP Awards by HPSA Score.xlsx – HRSA 10/29/2014
- [4] FieldStrengthReport.xls – HRSA PCO Portal 03/11/2015
- [5] FC Eilrich et al, The Economic Impact of a Rural Primary Care Physician and the Potential Health Dollars Lost to Out-migrating Health Services
- [6] 2010 Dental Economics/Levin Group Practice Survey, "The sky is not falling" [www.dentaleconomics.com](http://www.dentaleconomics.com)