



## **NEW MEXICO FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**

**ALL LOAN PROGRAMS NOTED BELOW ARE COMPETITIVE WITH NO AWARD GUARANTEE AND SUBJECT TO LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION**

### **LOAN FOR SERVICE PROGRAMS (LFS)**

- All LFS Programs are administered by the New Mexico Higher Education Department.
- Eligibility requirements include New Mexico Residency (12 consecutive months), Attend a public post-secondary institution in New Mexico, Undergraduate or Graduate, Enrolled at least half-time, Demonstrate financial need, Student must declare his/her intent to practice as a health professional in a designated shortage area within the state of New Mexico
- Awards up to \$12,000 annually, financially need-based, part-time/pro-rated for Allied Health and Nursing Students.
- A three year maximum service commitment is required in a designated New Mexico health professional shortage area within six months of graduation. Award may be renewable if application is submitted each year
- <http://www.hed.state.nm.us/students/>
- **Applications are open on May 15<sup>th</sup> and close July 1<sup>st</sup> of every year.**

### **ALLIED HEALTH STUDENT LOAN FOR SERVICE**

- Students in Physical therapy, Occupational therapy, Speech-language pathology, Audiology, Pharmacy, Respiratory Care, Laboratory Technology, Mental Health-Social Services, Emergency Medical Services, Nutrition, and Dental Hygiene are eligible for this program.

### **NURSING STUDENT LOAN FOR SERVICE**

- Nursing students are eligible for this program.

### **MEDICAL STUDENT LOAN FOR SERVICE**

- Medical students are eligible and official acceptance into the UNM School of Medicine is required.
- Awards up to \$25,000 annually, financially need-based, part-time pro-rated.

### **NURSE EDUCATOR LOAN FOR SERVICE**

- The New Mexico Nurse Educator Loan-for-Service program enhanced the ability of college and university-employed nursing educators to obtain Bachelor of Science, Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. For every academic year of service, a portion of the loan will be forgiven. Penalties may be assessed if the service agreement is not satisfied.

### **WICHE LOAN FOR SERVICE**

- The New Mexico Higher Education Department administers the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE) Loan-For-Service Program to allow New Mexico students to enroll at selected out-of-state graduate or professional programs which are not offered at New Mexico public universities. Eligible schools include Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine.
- New Mexico pays a support fee to the admitting school to help cover the cost of students' education.
- As a condition of each loan, the student shall declare his/her intent to return to New Mexico to

practice as a professional in their field of study. For every year of service, a portion of the loan will be forgiven.

- **The application period for New WICHE Applicants is between August 15th and October 1st.**
- **The application period for Renewal WICHE Applicants is between May 15th and July 1st.**

### **NEW MEXICO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (NMHPLRP)**

- The New Mexico Higher Education Department also administers the NMHPLRP to assist currently practicing health professionals with debt incurred while in training. The award is dependent on the amount of student loan debt and on available funding.
- Recipients are eligible for renewal upon completion of a two-year obligation.
- Requires a two year service commitment to practice full-time in a health professional shortage area.
- U.S. Citizen or permanent resident alien, New Mexico Resident (12 consecutive months), Licensed or certified in the state of New Mexico by the date funding begins, Employed full time (40 hours a week). Preference is given to graduates of New Mexico public post-secondary institutions
  - The following health occupations are given priority in funding: Allopathic Physician, Osteopathic Physician, Physician Assistants, Advance Practice Nurses, Allied Health Care Providers, Podiatrists, Optometrists and Dentists.
- Scoring Process: The Health Advisory Committee reviews each individual application, assigning a score using a matrix in the following areas:
  - HPSA Score (Federal), Service Area, Area Health Statistics Key Indicators (determined by the New Mexico Department of Health), Population Served, Priority will be given to those applicants working in designated areas of greatest need. Decisions on funding are made on a case-by-case basis and all ranking is at the discretion of the Health Advisory Committee.
- **Application will be available on March 15<sup>th</sup> and are due May 1<sup>st</sup> of every year.**

### **NEW MEXICO HEALTH SERVICE CORPS (NMHSC)**

- The New Mexico Department of Health administers several programs for health care professionals.
- The NMHSC is for health professional students in training. Participants are required to be domiciled or have permanent residence in New Mexico & be a citizen or a permanent resident of the U.S.
- Participants must be enrolled or accepted by an accredited or approved educational program of study, or be engaged in a residency training program or preceptorship. Be within 24 months of completion of the program of study or residency and eligible to apply for a license or certificate in the profession of study. Requires a two year service commitment (1600 hours a year).
- Eligibility: Primary Care Physicians (FP, IM, OB/GYN, PED) \$20,000; Family Nurse Practitioners; Physician Assistants \$15,000; Dentists \$20,000; Dental Hygienists \$12,500-\$15,000; Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic \$10,000, Certified Nurse Midwife \$15,000.
- **For additional information** contact Alexandria King at 505-841-6454 or by email at [Alexandria.King@state.nm.us](mailto:Alexandria.King@state.nm.us). **Applications:** <http://archive.nmhealth.org/PHD/OPRH.shtml>

### **NEW MEXICO RURAL HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER TAX CREDIT PROGRAM**

- The New Mexico Department of Health administers the Tax Credit Program for Health Care Professionals. Eligible health care practitioners who have provided health care services in a designated rural health care underserved area can apply for an income tax credit.
- ***All physicians, osteopathic physicians, dentists, clinical psychologists, podiatrists & optometrists*** are eligible for a tax credit of \$5,000 per year if working full time and pro-rated for part-time.
- ***Dental hygienists, physician assistants, certified nurse midwives, certified registered nurse anesthetists, certified nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists*** are eligible for a tax credit of \$3,000 per year if working full time and pro-rated for part-time.
- For downloadable application see <http://archive.nmhealth.org/PHD/OPRH.shtml>

## **J-1 VISA WAIVER PROGRAM**

- The New Mexico Department of Health, Public Health Division, Bureau of Primary Care administers the New Mexico J1 Visa (Conrad) State 30 Waiver Program. It has contracted with New Mexico Health Resources to assist only in the recruitment phase of the program, with emphasis upon Family Practice opportunities.
- **For applications and general information, contact Britt Catron, Health Systems Bureau Chief at 505-841-5869.**
- J-1 applications: <http://nmhealth.org/publication/view/form/1028/>

## **LICENSURE APPLICATION FEE WAIVER**

- The New Mexico Medical Board (NMMB) is waiving the \$400 licensure application fee for allopathic physicians and physician assistants (\$150 fee) who choose New Mexico as their first state of licensure.
- The licensure application is available on the Board's web site [www.nmmb.state.nm.us](http://www.nmmb.state.nm.us)
- Contact the NMMB for additional information at (505) 476-7220 or e-mail to [nmbme@state.nm.us](mailto:nmbme@state.nm.us).

## **NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS (NHSC)**

- The NHSC is a federal program offering loan repayment and scholarships on a national basis. It is administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).
- Participation in NHSC programs must be performed in Health Professional Shortage Areas/Populations (HPSA/Ps). HPSA scores as well as amount of support will be determined by the NHSC each year.

## **NHSC LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM**

- Loan repayment program offers primary health care providers loan repayment for working in rural, urban, and frontier communities. Eligible professionals include primary care, dental and mental health care providers.
- Qualifying sites are community health centers, rural health clinics, health departments, IHS, Bureau of Prisons, and some private practices option areas.
- <http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov> Contact: [Roxanne.Konstl@state.nm.us](mailto:Roxanne.Konstl@state.nm.us) at (505)841-5867.
- The application cycle is now open and will close March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

## **NHSC SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

- NHSC scholars program pays tuition, required fees, and some other education costs, tax free, for as many as four years. Recipients also receive a monthly living stipend (\$1,289) that is taxable.
- Upon graduation, it requires a two to four year service commitment to a serve as primary care providers in a community-based site in a high-need qualifying site approved by the NHSC. Applicants may apply the last year of undergraduate school. Primary care, dental and mental health care students are eligible.
- For more information see [www.nhsc.hrsa.gov/scholarships](http://www.nhsc.hrsa.gov/scholarships).

## **NHSC STUDENTS TO SERVICE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM**

- NHSC Students to Service Loan Repayment Program provides loan repayment assistance to medical students in their last year of medical school.
- For additional information: <http://www.nhsc.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment/studentstoserviceprogram> or contact the Call Customer Care Center at 1-800-221-9393, from Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., ET (except federal holidays) or email [gethelp@hrsa.gov](mailto:gethelp@hrsa.gov)

## **NURSE CORPS LOAN REPAYMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

- The NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Program is administered by the Bureau of Health Professions in HRSA. It helps alleviate the shortage of nurses across the country by offering loan repayment

assistance to registered nurses and advance practice nurses, such as nurse practitioners, working at Critical Shortage facilities and nurse faculty employed at accredited schools of nursing. Program participants receive up to 60 percent of their qualifying student loans in exchange for a 2-year service commitment – and an additional 25 percent of their original loan balance for an optional third year.

- The NURSE Corps Scholarship Program, formerly the Nursing Scholarship Program, helps students complete their nursing education by paying tuition, fees, other education costs, while providing a monthly living stipend. The program is open to full-time or part-time nursing students accepted or enrolled in diploma, associate, baccalaureate or graduate nursing programs at accredited schools located in the U.S. Upon graduation, scholarship program members fulfill a service commitment at a Critical Shortage Facility.
- More information is available at: <http://www.hrsa.gov/loanscholarships/nursecorps/index.html>

### **PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM (PSLF)**

- The PSLF Program is intended to encourage individuals to enter and continue to work full-time in public service jobs. Under this program, you may qualify for forgiveness of the remaining balance due on your William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program (Direct Loan Program) loans after you have made 120 qualifying payments on those loans while employed full-time by certain public service employers. Since you must make 120 qualifying payments on your eligible federal student loans after October 1, 2007 before you qualify for the loan forgiveness, the first forgiveness of loan balances will not be granted until October 2017.
- Any non-defaulted loan made under the Direct Loan Program is eligible for loan forgiveness. (See below for information on how non-Direct Loans may become eligible.)
- The Direct Loan Program includes the following loans:
  - Federal Direct Stafford/Ford Loans (Direct Subsidized Loans)
  - Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford/Ford Loans (Direct Unsubsidized Loans)
  - Federal Direct PLUS Loans (Direct PLUS Loans)—for parents and graduate or professional students
  - Federal Direct Consolidation Loans (Direct Consolidation Loans)
- Although loan forgiveness under this program is available only for loans made and repaid under the Direct Loan Program, loans made under other federal student loan programs may become eligible for forgiveness if they are consolidated into a Direct Consolidation Loan. However, only payments made on the Direct Consolidation Loan will count toward the required 120 qualifying payments.
- The following loans may be consolidated into the Direct Loan Program:
  - Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program loans, which include
  - Subsidized Federal Stafford Loans
  - Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans
  - Federal PLUS Loans—for parents and graduate or professional students
  - FFEL Consolidation Loans (excluding joint spousal consolidation loans)
  - Federal Perkins Loans
  - Certain Health Professions and Nursing Loans
- <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sites/default/files/public-service-loan-forgiveness.pdf>

### **INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM**

- Eligible health professional include family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, geriatric medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, podiatric medicine, nursing, public health nursing, dentistry, psychiatry, osteopathy, optometry, pharmacy, psychology, public health, social work, marriage and family therapy, chiropractic medicine, environmental health and engineering, and allied health professions.
- <http://www.careers.ihs.gov/>

## **FEDERAL TAX EXCLUSION FOR AMOUNTS RECEIVED UNDER STATE LOAN REPAYMENT AND FORGIVENESS PROGRAMS**

- Health professionals who received student loan or stipend assistance under state programs for work in underserved locations may qualify for refunds on their 2009 federal income tax returns as well as an annual tax reduction going forward. Consult the state loan program offices or tax preparer for assistance.
- Information can be found at <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=224387,00.html>

## **ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT'S PROGRAMS AND INCENTIVES**

- The U.S. Army has health professional scholarships programs, loan repayment programs, financial assistance programs, bonus programs, special pay, training assistance programs, and accession bonus programs for eligible physicians, dentists, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, registered dietitians and veterinarians.
- J-1 visa candidates should consider the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest program, a test that permits the enlistment and subsequent commissioning of legal aliens as health care professionals.
- For detailed information on all US Army programs and incentives contact SFC Felicia J. Mills ([Felicia.j.mills.mil@mail.mil](mailto:Felicia.j.mills.mil@mail.mil)) or SFC Albert Cook ([Albert.L.Cook.mil@mail.mil](mailto:Albert.L.Cook.mil@mail.mil)).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF THESE PROGRAMS, CONTACT:**

***NEW MEXICO HEALTH RESOURCES, INC.***  
**Jerry Harrison, Melissa Candelaria or Kevin McMullan**  
**(505)260-0993 [www.nmhr.org](http://www.nmhr.org)**