

Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas Benefits

The Public Health Act of 1970 and the Mental Health Amendments of 1992 authorized the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to designate Health Professional Shortage Areas (**HPSA**). Designation authority was given to the U. S. Health Services and Resources Administration (HRSA), administered by the Federal Shortage Designation Branch (SDB). The California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) and the Department of Mental Health (DMH) provide technical assistance to individuals and organizations applying for HPSA designation in California.

What are the benefits of a HPSA designation?

A Mental HPSA designation provides access to benefits designed to bring mental health professionals to designated shortage areas and improve the distribution of such professionals. Benefits include student loan repayment, scholar placement, and visa waiver programs. Those benefits are described in the following pages.

HPSA Designation Benefits

Check Websites to receive the most current information on listed programs.

Please contact Inna Tysoe at inna.tysoe@dmh.ca.gov or 916-654-3662 for correction of existing information or additional programs.

Loan Repayment Programs

Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Marriage and Family Therapists, Clinical Social Workers, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Psychiatric Nurse Specialists

Scholarship and Scholar Placement Programs

Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Marriage and Family Therapists, Social Workers, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Occupational Therapists

Visa Waiver Programs

Psychiatrists

Direct Provider Resources

Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Social Workers, Physician Assistants

Psychiatrist Bonus Program

Psychiatrists

Drug Discount Program

Psychiatric drugs

Loan Repayment Programs

Licensed Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Clinical Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, Psychiatric Nurse Specialists

Program	National Health Service Corps/State Loan Repayment Program (NHSC/SLRP)
Organization	California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD), Health Workforce Development Division
Address	400 R Street Suite 330, Sacramento, CA 95811
Contact	Program Administrator, OSHPD
Phone	916-326-3745
Email	slrp@oshpd.ca.gov
Website	http://oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/SLRP.html
Purpose	The NHSC/SLRP was congressionally authorized in 1987 under Section 3381 of the U.S. Public Health Services Act, 42 U.S.C 254q.1 to increase the number of medical and mental health providers practicing in defined health professional shortage areas (HPSA).
Benefits	The program authorizes repayment of educational loans to mental health professionals who commit to practice in Health Professional Shortage Areas in public or non-profit entities. Maximum award is \$50,000 total for the first two years, an additional \$35,000 for the third year and \$35,000 for the fourth year. The site must match the award on a 50/50% basis.
Funding	SLRP awards are funded through a NHSC Federal grant. Matching funding must be received from sites for each professional.
Site application criteria	Sites or designated facilities must 1) be located in a HPSA, 2) be a public or not-for-profit entity, 3) pay prevailing wages, 4) be listed on the Certified Eligible Sites list, and 5) match the SLRP award.
HPSA score	No requirements
Site application process	Obtain an application from http://oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/SLRP.html . Print and submit completed hard copy application and required documents. After the individual applicant has been approved, the site enters into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with OSHPD for that individual. This may require permission from the County Board of Supervisors or receipt of delegated authority to enter into such MOUs.
Site application deadline	No deadline. The site can apply throughout the year. It takes up to 2 months to process a site application. For sites not already on the Certified Eligible Sites list, the application must be submitted <u>before</u> the individual applicant submits his/her application. If a site has an individual applicant ready to be hired or who is already employed in a qualifying program, it is important to be on the list by August 1.
Individual applicant criteria	Licensed physicians specializing in general psychiatry and licensed mental or behavioral health professionals (clinical or counseling psychologists, clinical social workers, professional counselors, marriage and family therapists and psychiatric nurse specialists) who 1) are U.S. citizens with a valid, unrestricted health care license or certificate for California, 2) have no other existing service commitment, 3) are free of judgments arising from Federal debt, 4) are current on all child support payments, 5) are currently employed or have accepted employment at a CA Loan Repayment Certified Eligible Site, and 6) commit to providing full-time (40 hours/week) primary care services in a HPSA for a minimum of 2 years.
Individual application process	Obtain an application from http://oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/SLRP.html . Print and submit the completed hard copy application and required documents. The process for mental health applicants can be fairly competitive.
Individual application deadline	August 1 through October 1. The application must be postmarked by October 1. The process is not "first come, first served."
Service obligation	Minimum of 2 to maximum of 4 consecutive years in a designated area.
Loan repayment policy	OSHPD develops a contract with the individual and an MOU with the site. The site provides employment verification to OSHPD. OSHPD makes loan repayments to lender at intervals throughout the year. The sites makes loan repayments to the lender at agreed upon intervals.
Non-completion penalty	Must repay all funds paid by the State, plus \$7,500 for each month that is not completed, plus interest, with a minimum of \$31,000. This must be paid back within one year. Sites can also decide on penalties.

Licensed Psychiatrists, Clinical Psychologists, Clinical Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners

Program	National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program (NHSC LRP)
Organization	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) – Federal program
Contact	callcenter@hrsa.gov
Phone	1-800-221-9393
Website	http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov
Purpose	To ensure an adequate supply of fully trained and licensed health professionals to provide primary health services (through a culturally competent, interdisciplinary team of clinicians) to populations located in selected health professional shortage areas (HPSA).
Benefits	The program assists mental health clinicians in their repayment of qualifying educational loans that are still owed. Provides up to \$120,000 total per professional (\$50,000 total in the first two years, \$35,000 in the third year and \$35,000 in the fourth year).
Funding	Federal funds
Site applicant criteria	Must be located in a HPSA and meet the standard requirement to be approved as an NHSC site. NHSC sites must 1) provide requested health care services regardless of the individual's ability or method of payment, 2) serve a high need population, 3) accept Medicaid/Medicare/SCHIP assignments, 4) assure access to a full continuum of care, and 5) have full time practice hours.
HPSA score	HPSA scores are used in making site determinations. The score level varies by Federal funding levels. Individual applications are given priority and may be eligible for early funding if the site's HPSA score is 17 and above . If funding is still available, it may be given to individuals working at sites with HPSA scores in descending order.
Site application process	Submit a completed National Health Service Corps recruitment and retention assistance application. http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov/applications/rraa.asp .
Site application deadline	Recruitment and retention assistance applications are accepted year round. The application must be renewed every 2-4 years.
Individual applicant criteria	Must be a psychiatrist, psychiatric nurse practitioner, licensed clinical psychologist, licensed clinical social worker, or licensed marriage and family therapist . The NHSC is interested in applicants who are likely to remain in the mental health shortage area after their loans have been repaid to continue working with the underserved population, and may look for prior work experience in designated areas or volunteer work with disadvantaged persons in the US or abroad.
Individual application process	Submit a completed application and required documents at http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov
Individual application deadline	Applications are due the last Friday of March of each year. In 2008, the deadline is April 2. All documents must be postmarked by due date.
Service obligation	Every NHSC LRP participant must sign a contract agreeing to provide two years of full-time clinical out-patient service.
Non-completion penalty	Must repay all funds paid by the NHSC, plus penalties

Licensed Psychiatrists

Program	Health Profession Education Foundation Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program (STLRP)
Organization	Health Profession's Education Foundation, a legislatively mandated non-profit organization which receives administrative support from Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHDP)
Address	400 R Street Suite 330, Sacramento, CA 95811
Phone	800-773-1669 or 916-326-3640
Website	http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HPEF
Purpose	Improve healthcare in underserved areas of California
Benefits	The program authorizes repayment of educational loans to physicians, including psychiatrists , who commit to practice in health professional shortage areas (HPSA) [for primary care physicians only, in Medically Underserved Areas/Medically Underserved Programs (MUA/MUP)]. Provides up to \$105,000 over a 3 year period to repay educational debt.
Funding	Funded by voluntary physician contributions and private donations.
Site applicant criteria	For psychiatrist loan repayment, must be located in a designated Mental HPSA.
HPSA score	N/A
Site application process	None. After the psychiatrist applies for the loan repayment program, the Health Professions Education Foundation researches the site to ensure it meets criteria.
Site application deadline	N/A
Individual applicant criteria	Licensed psychiatrists practicing direct patient care within CA who are U.S. citizens and permanent residents of California, have no existing service commitments, and are committed to full time direct patient hours. Psychiatrist participation is strictly capped (80% of scholarships are designated for physicians practicing internal medicine).
Individual application process	Obtain an application from http://www.healthprofessions.ca.gov . Print and submit the completed hard-copy application and required documents.
Individual application deadline	March 24. All documents must be postmarked by due date.
Service obligation	Practice and provide direct care for 3 years at a qualified site.
Loan repayment policy	Employment is verified every 6 months. Loan repayment to lender is made at the end of each year.
Non-completion penalty	Repay all scholarships or loan repayments received, plus interest.

Licensed Psychologists, Marriage and Family Therapists, Clinical Social Workers

Program	Health Profession Education Foundation Licensed Mental Health Service Provider Loan Repayment Program (LMHSPLRP)
Organization	Health Profession's Education Foundation, a legislatively mandated non-profit organization which receives administrative support from Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHDP).
Address	400 R Street Suite 330, Sacramento, CA 95811
Phone	800-773-1669 or 916-326-3640
Website	http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HPEF
Purpose	To improve healthcare in underserved areas of California.
Benefits	The program authorizes repayment of educational loans to health professionals who commit to practice in health professional shortage areas (HPSA) or publicly funded or private non-profit entities. Provides up to \$15,000 over a 2 year period to repay educational loans
Funding	Funded through a \$10.00 surcharge for renewal of psychologist, marriage and family therapist, and licensed clinical social worker licenses in California.
Site applicant criteria	Must be located in a designated Mental HPSA, or a publicly funded or private non-profit mental health facility.
HPSA score	No requirements.
Site application process	None. After the individual applies for the loan repayment program, the Health Professions Education Foundation researches the site to ensure it meets criteria.
Site applicant deadlines	None.
Individual applicant criteria	Registered or licensed psychologists, marriage and family therapists, and clinical social workers in California who are U.S. citizens and permanent residents of California, have no existing service commitments, and are committed to full time direct patient hours. Selection for awards is based on work experience, career goals, community service, community background, organizational memberships, and cultural/linguistic competency. Priority given to individuals whose community background and commitment indicates the likelihood of long-term employment in a medically underserved area even after service obligation has ended.
Individual application process	Obtain an application from http://www.healthprofessions.ca.gov . Print and submit the completed hard-copy application and required documents.
Individual applicant deadlines	March 24 and September 11. All documents must be postmarked by due date.
Service obligation	Practice and provide direct care for 2 years in designated Mental HPSA, or a publicly funded or private non-profit mental health facility.
Loan repayment policy	Employment verification and loan repayment to lender is made every three months.
Non-completion penalty	Repay all loan repayments received, plus interest.

Nurse Practitioner and Physicians Assistant Graduates

Program	Health Profession Education Foundation Health Professional Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP)
Organization	Health Profession's Education Foundation, a legislatively mandated non-profit organization which receives administrative support from Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHDP)
Address	400 R Street Suite 330, Sacramento, CA 95811
Phone	800-773-1669 or 916-326-3640
Website	http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HPEF
Purpose	Improve healthcare in underserved areas of California
Benefits	An eligible awardee may receive up to \$20,000 to repay educational loans over a two year period.
Funding	Supported entirely through grants and contributions from public and private agencies, hospitals, health plans, foundations, corporations, and individuals
Site applicant criteria	Must be a designated HPSA
HPSA score	N/A
Site application process	None. After the health professional applies for the loan repayment program, the Health Professions Education Foundation researches the site to ensure it meets criteria.
Site application deadline	N/A
Individual applicant criteria	Nurse practitioner and physician assistant graduates with a mental health focus (also available to other medical health professionals).
Individual application process	Obtain an application from http://www.healthprofessions.ca.gov or http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HPEF . Print and submit the completed hard-copy application and required documents.
Individual application deadline	Spring postmark deadline March 24. Applicants will be notified of the results within eight weeks of the postmark deadline.
Service obligation	The commitment is to practice direct patient care for two years in a mental health specialty in a medically underserved area of California.
Loan repayment policy	Employment is verified every 6 months. Loan repayment to lender is made at the end of each year.
Non-completion penalty	Repay all scholarships or loan repayments received, plus interest.

Licensed Registered Nurses

Program	Health Profession Education Foundation Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree Loan Repayment Program (BSNLRP)
Organization	Health Profession's Education Foundation, a legislatively mandated non-profit organization which receives administrative support from Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHDP)
Address	400 R Street Suite 330, Sacramento, CA 95811
Phone	800-773-1669 or 916-326-3640
Website	http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HPEF
Purpose	Improve healthcare in underserved areas of California
Benefits	An awardee may receive up to \$10,000 in loan repayment. Awardees may reapply for awards up to a maximum of \$20,000.
Funding	Funded through a \$10.00 surcharge for renewal of the Registered Nurse (RN) license in California.
Site applicant criteria	Must be a designated HPSA
HPSA score	N/A
Site application process	None. After the health professional applies for the loan repayment program, the Health Professions Education Foundation researches the site to ensure it meets criteria.
Site application deadline	N/A
Individual applicant criteria	Currently licensed RNs who are currently practicing with a mental health focus in a medically underserved area.
Individual application process	Obtain an application from http://www.healthprofessions.ca.gov . Print and submit the completed hard-copy application and required documents.
Individual application deadline	Spring deadline March 24. Fall deadline September 11.
Service obligation	The commitment is to practice direct patient care for two years in a mental health specialty in a medically underserved area of California.
Loan repayment policy	Employment is verified every 6 months. Loan repayment to lender is made at the end of each year.
Non-completion penalty	Repay all scholarships or loan repayments received, plus interest.

Licensed Vocational Nurse Graduates

Program	Health Profession Education Foundation Licensed Vocational Nurse Loan Repayment Program (LVNLRP)
Organization	Health Profession’s Education Foundation, a legislatively mandated non-profit organization which receives administrative support from Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHDP)
Address	400 R Street Suite 330, Sacramento, CA 95811
Phone	800-773-1669 or 916-326-3640
Website	http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HPEF
Purpose	Improve healthcare in underserved areas of California
Benefits	An eligible awardee may receive up to \$6,000 to repay educational loans over a two year period.
Funding	Funded through a \$5.00 surcharge for renewal of the vocational nurse license in California.
Site applicant criteria	Must be a designated HPSA
HPSA score	N/A
Site application process	None. After the health professional applies for the loan repayment program, the Health Professions Education Foundation researches the site to ensure it meets criteria.
Site application deadline	N/A
Individual applicant criteria	Licensed vocational nurse graduates who are practicing direct patient care in a mental health specialty. Supports the Vocational Nurse Scholarship (VN), Licensed Vocational Nurse to Associate Degree Nursing (LVN to ADN) and Licensed Vocational Nurse Loan Repayment (LVNLRP) programs
Individual application process	Obtain an application from http://www.healthprofessions.ca.gov . Print and submit the completed hard-copy application and required documents.
Individual application deadline	Spring deadline March 24. Fall deadline September 11.
Service obligation	The commitment is to practice direct patient care for two years in a medically underserved area of California.
Loan repayment policy	Employment is verified every 6 months. Loan repayment to lender is made at the end of each year.
Non-completion penalty	Repay all scholarships or loan repayments received, plus interest.

Social Workers and Public Health Workers

Program	Loan Forgiveness for Public Service Employees Program
Organization	Department of Education, Federal Student Aid
Contact	studentaid@ed.gov and fsa.customer.support@ed.gov
Phone	800-848-0979, 315-738-6634, 800-433-3243, 800-433-7327
Websites	http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/index.jsp www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/DirectLoan/index.html
Purpose	To encourage public service employment by providing loan forgiveness.
Benefits	Through the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007, the Loan Forgiveness for Public Service Employees Program provides for cancellation of the remaining balance on eligible federal student loans after the borrower has made 120 monthly loan payments after October 1, 2007 while being employed in certain public service fields.
Funding	Federal
Site applicant criteria	Must be a public agency.
HPSA score	N/A
Site application process	N/A
Site application deadline	N/A
Individual applicant criteria	Any non-defaulted loan made under the William D. Ford Direct Loan Program, after the student has made 120 monthly payments after October 1, 2007 while employed in certain public service fields, including public health and social work in a public child or family service agency.
Individual application process	Regulations will be published in November 2008
Individual application deadline	Not available until October 2017
Service obligation	Work full time in public service field, including public health (mental health) or social work in a public child or family service agency, and make 120 monthly payments after October 1, 2007.
Non-completion penalty	Loan forgiveness occurs after the service obligation is completed.

Scholarship and Scholar Placement Programs

Psychiatry Students

Program	National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Scholarship Program
Organization	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) – Federal program
Contact	callcenter@hrsa.gov
Phone	1-800-221-9393
Website	http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov
Purpose	To ensure an adequate supply of fully trained and licensed psychiatrists to provide primary health services through a culturally competent, interdisciplinary team of clinicians to populations located in selected health professional shortage areas (HPSA).
Benefits	Sites that meet criteria may apply to hire a NHSC scholar after he or she graduates. This is a full tuition stipend scholarship program for psychiatrists.
Funding	Federal funds
Site applicant criteria	Must be located in a HPSA and meet the standard requirement to be approved as an NHSC site. NHSC sites must 1) provide requested health care services regardless of the individual's ability or method of payment, 2) serve a high need population, 3) accept Medicaid/Medicare assignments, 4) assure access to a full continuum of care, and 5) have full time practice hours.
HPSA score	Must have a HPSA score of 19 and above
Site application process	Submit a completed NHSC recruitment and retention assistance application and be assigned an appropriate UDS number. http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov/applications/rrea.asp
Site application deadline	Ongoing
Individual applicant criteria	An NHSC Scholar is a psychiatrist who has had 2 or 4 years of his/her medical school paid for by the federal government. NHSC will pay up to 4 years of college tuition stipend. The applicant must be currently enrolled in an accredited college within the U.S.
Individual application process	Submit completed application. http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov
Individual application deadline	Deadline has not been determined.
Service obligation	Must serve for a minimum of 2 years or maximum of 4 years, after graduation. Service obligation is one year for each year of funding received, except for the initial 2 year minimum obligation (if 1 year of funding is received, the individual must still serve 2 years).
Non-completion penalty	Must repay all funds paid by the NHSC, plus penalties

Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistant Program Students

Program	Health Professions Education Foundation Health Professions Education Scholarship Program (HPSP)
Organization	Health Profession's Education Foundation, a legislatively mandated non-profit organization which receives administrative support from Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHDP).
Address	400 R Street Suite 330, Sacramento, CA 95811
Phone	800-773-1669 or 916-326-3640
Website	http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HPEF
Purpose	To improve healthcare in underserved areas of California.
Benefits	The qualifying student may receive up to \$10,000 scholarship.
Funding	Supported entirely through grants and contributions from public and private agencies, hospitals, health plans, foundations, corporations, and individuals
Site applicant criteria	N/A
HPSA score	N/A
Site application process	N/A
Site applicant deadlines	N/A
Individual applicant criteria	Students who are enrolled or accepted into nurse practitioner and physician assistant programs (and other medical programs). Selection for awards is based on work experience, financial need, career goals, community service, community background, and academic performance. Priority is given to individuals whose community background and commitment indicates the likelihood of long-term employment in a medically underserved area even after the service obligation has ended. Being a current recipient does not increase or decrease the likelihood for a subsequent scholarship.
Individual application process	Obtain an application from http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HPEF/Applications.html or http://www.healthprofessions.ca.gov . Print and submit the completed hard-copy application and required documents.
Individual applicant deadlines	Spring deadline March 24.
Service obligation	After graduating with a degree, a two-year service obligation working full time (32 hours per week) practicing direct care with a mental health focus in a medically underserved area in California.
Non-completion penalty	Scholarship recipients who are unable to complete their health professions education or program recipients who do not successfully complete their service obligation will be required to repay all scholarship funds received, plus 10% interest and administrative fees. The contract will be turned over to the State Franchise Tax Board for collections; garnishments on employer's wages may be attached.

Occupational Therapy and Social Work Students

Program	Health Professions Education Foundation Allied Healthcare Scholarship (AHS) Program
Organization	Health Profession's Education Foundation, a legislatively mandated non-profit organization which receives administrative support from Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHDP).
Address	400 R Street Suite 330, Sacramento, CA 95811
Phone	800-773-1669 or 916-326-3640
Website	http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HPEF/AHS.html
Purpose	To encourage allied healthcare professionals to practice direct care in medically underserved areas of California, to increase the number of appropriately trained allied healthcare professionals, and to encourage underrepresented groups to pursue allied health care professions.
Benefits	Eligible applicants may receive up to \$4,500 per academic year.
Funding	Supported entirely through grants and contributions from public and private agencies, hospitals, health plans, foundations, corporations, and individuals
Site applicant criteria	N/A The student or graduate is paid prevailing wages/salary.
HPSA score	N/A
Site application process	N/A
Site applicant deadlines	N/A
Individual applicant criteria	Allied healthcare students who are enrolled or accepted into the fields of occupational therapy and social work (and other medical fields). Selection for awards is based on work experience, financial need, career goals, community service, community background, and academic performance. Priority is given to individuals whose community background and commitment indicates the likelihood of long-term employment in a medically underserved area even after the service obligation has ended. Being a current recipient does not increase or decrease the likelihood for a subsequent scholarship.
Individual application process	Obtain an application from http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HPEF/Applications.html or http://www.healthprofessions.ca.gov . Print and submit the completed hard-copy application and required documents.
Individual applicant deadlines	Spring postmark deadline March 24. Fall postmark deadline September 11. Applicants are notified within 8 weeks of postmark deadline.
Service obligation	Immediately following graduation, a commitment for one year or 100-150 hours of volunteer service practicing direct patient care with a mental health focus in a medically underserved area of California.
Non-completion penalty	Scholarship recipients who are unable to complete their health professions education or program recipients who do not successfully complete their service obligation will be required to repay all scholarship funds received, plus 10% interest and administrative fees.

Nursing Students

Program	Health Profession Education Foundation The Registered Nurse Education Fund (RNEF) Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Scholarship Program Bachelor of Science Nursing (BSN) Scholarship Program
Organization	Health Profession's Education Foundation, a legislatively mandated non-profit organization which receives administrative support from Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHDP)
Address	400 R Street Suite 330, Sacramento, CA 95811
Phone	800-773-1669 or 916-326-3640
Website	http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HPEF
Purpose	Improve healthcare in underserved areas of California
Benefits	Applicants accepted/enrolled in an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) program may receive up to \$8,000 scholarship. Applicants accepted/enrolled in or graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) may receive up to \$10,000 scholarship.
Funding	Funded through a \$10.00 surcharge for renewal of the Registered Nurse (RN) license in California
Site applicant criteria	N/A
HPSA score	N/A
Site application process	N/A
Site application deadline	N/A
Individual applicant criteria	Must have been accepted or enrolled in a full time or part time (no less than 6 units) associate degree in nursing or bachelor of science nursing program and maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0. Priority is given to students graduating in one to two years and whose community background and commitment indicates the likelihood of long-term employment in a medically underserved area even after the service obligation has ended.
Individual application process	Obtain an application from http://www.healthprofessions.ca.gov or http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HPEF . Print and submit the completed hard-copy application and required documents.
Individual application deadline	Spring postmark deadline March 24. Fall postmark deadline September 11. Applicants are notified within 8 weeks of postmark deadline.
Service obligation	The commitment is to a two-year service obligation practicing in full time (32 hours per week) direct patient care in a mental health specialty in a medically underserved area in California.
Non-completion penalty	Scholarship recipients who are unable to complete their health professions education or program recipients who do not successfully complete their service obligation will be required to repay all scholarship funds received, plus 10% interest and administrative fees.

Economically or Educationally Disadvantaged Students Seeking
to Enter and Graduate from Health Professions School with an AA or above

Program	Health Careers Opportunities Program (HCOP)
Organization	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) – Federal program
Contact	sweiss@hrsa.gov
Phone	
Website	http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/diversity/hcop/default.htm
Purpose	To create a pipeline for economically or educationally disadvantaged students to enter and graduate from health professions schools, with an Associates degree or above.
Benefits	There is no HPSA requirement for the HCOP program. However, a site that is located within a designated HPSA is encouraged to cite that designation as a way of demonstrating need for health professionals.
Funding	Federal - 3 year HRSA grants to schools of medicine, public or non-profit health or educational entities, universities, community colleges, state or local government health or education agency, health or education association or organization
Site applicant criteria	N/A. Schools of medicine, public or non-profit educational entities, universities, community colleges, or counties with programs that provide a mental health career pathways program for economically or disadvantaged students apply for grant funding through HRSA for a COE. http://grants.gov
HPSA score	N/A
Site application process	N/A
Site application deadline	N/A
Individual applicant criteria	Although there is no specific preference given to minority individuals HRSA recognizes that these individuals are often economically or educationally disadvantaged.
Individual application process	The individual applies through the normal application process of the school designated as a HCOP.
Individual application deadline	Deadline of the school designated as a HCOP
Service obligation	N/A
Non-completion penalty	N/A

Medical and Graduate Schools with Behavioral or Mental Health Programs
Underrepresented Students

Program	Centers of Excellence (COE) Stipends and Training
Organization	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) – Federal program
Contact	sweiss@hrsa.gov
Phone	
Website	http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/diversity/coe/default.htm
Purpose	To assist eligible health professional schools to train students from minority groups that are under-represented in these health professions and to build a more diverse health care workforce, including stipends and provision of community-based clinical training in which students care for significant numbers of racial and ethnic minority patients.
Benefits	There is no HPSA requirement for the COE program. However, a HPSA designated site with a significant number of minority patients that is located near a COE could develop a partnership to provide community-based clinical training to COE students. http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/diversity/coe/04grantees.htm
Funding	Federal - 3 year HRSA grants to health professional schools
Site applicant criteria	N/A. Medical schools and graduate schools with programs in behavioral or mental health (clinical and counseling psychology, clinical social work, marriage and family therapy) apply for grant funding through HRSA for a COE. http://grants.gov
HPSA score	N/A
Site application process	N/A
Site application deadline	N/A
Individual applicant criteria	Minority individuals. Schools are seeking enrollment of African American, Hispanic, American Indian and Alaska Native students at a percentage significantly higher than the national average
Individual application process	The individual applies through the normal application process of the school designated as a COE http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/diversity/coe/04grantees.htm
Individual application deadline	Deadline of the school designated as a COE
Service obligation	N/A
Non-completion penalty	N/A

Visa Waiver Programs

Psychiatrists

Program	J-1 Visa Waiver Program
Organizations	CA Department of Health Care Services, US Department of State (DOS), Bureau of Consular Affairs and U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) Federal Program
Contact	Candi Zizek, J-1 Visa Coordinator; CA Department of Health Care Services, Primary and Rural Health Division. czizek@dhs.ca.gov
Phone	916-449-5745 or 926-449-5770
Websites	http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/info/info_1296.html http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=84096138f898d010VgnVCM10000048f3d6a1RCRD&vgnnextchannel=4f719c7755cb9010VgnVCM10000045f3d6a1RCRD http://www.prh.dhs.ca.gov/Programs/CalSORH/J1Visa.htm http://www.immihelp.com/gc/employment/labor http://www.immihelp.com/greencard/employmentbasedimmigration/eb-2-national-interest-waiver-physicians-underserved-areas.html
Purpose	To ensure adequate supply of health professionals, including psychiatrists , to provide primary health services through a culturally competent, interdisciplinary team of clinicians to populations located in health professional shortage areas (HPSA) [and for primary care physicians, in Medically Underserved Area/Medically Underserved Programs (MUA/MUP) locations.]
Benefits	30 foreign primary care physicians and psychiatrists will practice in underserved areas of California. Medical facilities with higher HPSA scores may recruit national scholars. Individual applicant may seek tuition repayment.
Funding	The psychiatrist is paid an equitable salary commensurate with the area by the health facility.
Site applicant criteria	For psychiatrists, the health care facility must be located in a HPSA.
HPSA score	Higher HPSA scores benefit a psychiatrist wishing to receive loan repayment for education expenses.
Site application process	Site must apply for labor certificate from Department of Labor (DOL) after extensive and unsuccessful recruitment process in domestic labor market. Site sends request for waiver of foreign residence to CA Department of Health Care Services, Primary and Rural Health Division (PRHD). Only 30 waivers are granted per federal fiscal year (Oct 1 - Sept 30). http://www.prh.dhs.ca.gov/Programs/CalSORH/WaiverProcess1.htm . If PRHD recommends the waiver, statement of support is sent to U.S. Department of State, (DOS) which makes recommendation to U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS). INS makes the final determination.
Site application deadline	Apply for waiver of foreign residence requirement from October 1 onward (not before). Applications are evaluated for completeness and processed for submittal to DOS by date of receipt.
Individual applicant criteria	Foreign psychiatrist in the U.S. who has received offer of full-time employment at health care facility in designated HPSA [or, for primary care physicians, designated MUA/MUP location] agrees to begin employment at that facility within 90 days of receiving J-1 waiver may apply for waiver. Statement in support to DOS from PRHD is required after PRHD approves in-depth J-1 Visa waiver application. If the applicant does not have a CA medical license, proof must be submitted that CA Medical Board has received his/her application.
Individual application process	After obtaining Labor Certificate from Department of Labor (DOL), applicant submits completed DOS Form DS-3035, J-1 Visa Waiver Recommendation Application package and fee <u>at the same time</u> as site submits request for waiver from PRHD. Comprehensive checklist for California's J-1 application process at: http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/rural/Pages/hospitalfunding.aspx . Other helpful sites: http://www.prh.dhs.ca.gov/Programs/CalSORH/J1Visa.htm http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/info/info_1296.html https://j1visawaiverrecommendation.state.gov/
Individual application deadline	Deadline is September 30. Apply early after October 1, the beginning of the federal fiscal year. Applications accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Process takes approximately 6 months. California's 30 J-1 physician positions are often filled by March 1.
Service obligation	Applicant must sign contract to continue to work at the health care facility for a total of 40 hours per week and for not less than 3 years.
Non-completion penalty	The J-1 visa status is revoked and the physician is sent back to his or her home country to fulfill the 2 year home requirement.

Psychiatrists

Program	National Interest Waiver Program
Organization	U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) and U.S. Department of State (DOS)
Contact	For the USCIS application form, go to http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-140.pdf . For the letter of support to DOS, contact Candi Zizek, J-1 Visa Coordinator; CA Department of Health Care Services, Primary and Rural Health Division. czizek@dhs.ca.gov
Phone	USCIS National Customer Service Center (NCSC) at 1-800-375-5283 ext 4. For a letter of support to DOS, contact 916-449-5745 or 926-449-5770
Websites	http://www.uscis.gov http://www.immihelp.com/greencard/employmentbasedimmigration/eb-2-national-interest-waiver-physicians-underserved-areas.html http://www.hooyou.com/niw/index.html
Purpose	To ensure an adequate supply of fully trained and licensed general psychiatrists to provide primary health services (through a culturally competent, interdisciplinary team of clinicians) to populations located in selected health professional shortage areas (HPSA).
Benefits	A foreign psychiatrist working in a HPSA who establishes that he or she will be employed in a HPSA for five years can apply for a national interest waiver to qualify for an employment-based immigrant visa or permanent residence status (green card) without going through the labor certification application process.
Funding	The psychiatrist is paid an equitable salary commensurate with the area by the health facility.
Site applicant criteria	Must be located in a HPSA.
HPSA score	N/A
Site application process	A site can request a petition on behalf of a foreign psychiatrist. CA Department of Health Care Services, Primary and Rural Health Division (PRHD) issues a <u>letter of support</u> to U.S. Department of State, (DOS) for each NIW candidate who provides an employment contract in a HPSA.
Site application deadline	None
Individual applicant criteria	The applicant must meet the requirements for an EB2 immigrant classification (professionals with advanced degrees, and persons with exceptional ability) and seek work in an area of substantial intrinsic merit that will benefit the nation as a whole, and that national interest would be adversely affected if a labor certification were required. Foreign psychiatrists who agree to work full time for an aggregate of five years (not including time in J-1 visa status) in a designated HPSA (or VA hospital), and where PRHD (or a federal agency) has determined that the physician's work is in the public interest, can obtain an NIW green card. If an NIW is granted, the labor certification and job-offer requirement of a typical employment-based immigrant petition is waived, and the individual may adjust his/her status or obtain permanent resident visas without being bound by a particular employer. The psychiatrist may still be required to return to his/her home country for at least two years after graduation under the J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa requirement.
Individual application process	If the site does not apply on behalf of the individual, submit Form I-140 (http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-140.pdf) and supporting documentation to the appropriate U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) regional service center.
Individual application deadline	NIW applications take from 3-9 months from the time it is filed with USCIS.
Service obligation	The psychiatrist must agree to work full time (40 hours a week) in clinical practice for a total of 5 years accumulated within a six-year period beginning on the date the NIW is approved.
Non-completion penalty	It appears the visa would be voided and the individual would be deported.

Direct Provider Resources

Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Social Workers

Program	Ready Responder Program
Organization	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) – Federal program
Contact	callcenter@hrsa.gov
Phone	1-800-221-9393
Website	http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov ; http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov/join_us/ready_comm.asp
Purpose	The NHSC Ready Responders is a special group of primary care clinicians , each member of which will be newly commissioned by the U.S. Public Health Service and assigned by the NHSC to provide essential care in the neediest HPSAs. In addition, they will be trained to respond quickly and effectively in the event of a large-scale regional or national medical emergency.
Benefits	The NHSC will pay the salaries, moving expenses, and benefits for the officers, and will assist the officers to acquire and maintain emergency response skills.
Funding	Federal funds
Site applicant criteria	Must be located in a HPSA and meet the standard requirement to be approved as an NHSC site. NHSC sites must 1) provide requested health care services regardless of the individual's ability or method of payment, 2) serve a high need population, 3) accept Medicaid/Medicare assignments, 4) assure access to a full continuum of care, and 5) have full time practice hours.
HPSA score	Must have a HPSA score of 14 or above .
Site application process	Sites must submit a completed NHSC recruitment and retention assistance application and a proposal. http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov/join_us/ready_comm.asp
Site application deadline	Not accepting applications at this time
Individual applicant criteria	Psychiatrists, social workers and health service psychologists
Individual application process	Not accepting applications at this time
Individual application deadline	Not accepting applications at this time
Service obligation	Must serve for 3 years in the neediest HPSAs in the U.S.
Non-completion penalty	Must repay all funds paid by the NHSC, plus penalties

Physician Assistants

Program	Song-Brown Health Care Workforce Training Act (Song-Brown Program)
Organization	The Song-Brown Program is aided by the CA Healthcare Workforce Policy Commission (CHWPC), a 15 member citizen advisory board that provides expert guidance and perspectives on health professional education issues, reviews applications and recommends statewide contract awards. CA Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) provides administrative support to the CHWPC and the accredited training programs by executing contracts, facilitating Public Meetings, performing site visits, and assisting with periodic review and update of Medical Service Study Areas (MSSA).
Contact	Manuela Lachica, Song-Brown Program Director
Phone	916-326-3752
Email	mlachica@oshpd.ca.gov
Website	http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/Song_Brown_Prog.html
Purpose	The Song-Brown Program was established in 1973 under CA Health and Safety Code Section 128200-128241 to increase the number of family physicians to provide needed medical services to the people of California. The Song-Brown Program provides financial support to family practice residency, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, and registered nurse (RN) education programs throughout California.
Benefits	There is not a direct benefit to a designated HPSA site as it relates to Song-Brown other than if a graduate from a Song-Brown funded Physician Assistant Training Program has completed the mental health track training and chooses to work at a HPSA site.
Funding	31 California family practice residency programs, 15 physician assistant/family nurse practitioner programs and 28 registered nursing education programs receive support from the Song-Brown Program. Accredited medical school programs must submit applications on a periodic basis.

Psychiatrist Bonus Payment

Psychiatrists

Program	Medicare Incentive Payment (HPSA Incentive Payment)
Organization	Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
Contact	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244-1850. www.cms.hhs.gov
Phone	877-267-2323
Websites	http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HPSAPSAPhysicianBonuses/ - Information to determine if a psychiatrist qualifies to automatically receive the bonus payment. http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/ - Review for the most recent designations.
Purpose	Section 1833(m) of the Social Security Act (the Act) provides incentive payments for physicians who furnish services in areas designated as <u>geographic</u> health professional shortage areas (HPSA) under section 332 of the Public Health Services (PHS) Act.
Benefits	Effective January 1, 1991, physicians providing services in either rural or urban HPSAs are eligible for a 10-percent incentive payment. For claims with dates of service on or after July 1, 2004, psychiatrists (provider specialty 26) furnishing services in mental health HPSAs are eligible to receive bonus payments. (If a zip code falls within both a primary care and mental health HPSA, only one bonus will be paid on the service.)
Funding	Federal
Site applicant criteria	Eligibility for receiving the 10 percent bonus payment is based on where the service is rendered. Effective for claims with dates of service on or after July 1, 2004, psychiatrists furnishing services in mental health HPSAs are eligible to receive incentive payments.
HPSA score	N/A
Site application process	Geographic mental HPSA process
Site application deadline	N/A
Individual applicant criteria	Medicare/medical billing by mental health HPSA psychiatrist providers.
Individual application process	The psychiatrist files a claim form. The CMS-1500 form is the standard claim form used by a non-institutional provider or supplier to bill Medicare carriers when a provider qualifies for a waiver from the Administrative Simplification Compliance Act (ASCA) requirement for electronic submission of claims. http://www.cms.hhs.gov/electronicbillingeditrans/16_1500.asp . http://www.cms.hhs.gov/hpsapsaphysicianbonuses/ Effective January 1, 2005, a modifier is no longer needed on claims to receive HPSA bonus payment, which will be paid automatically if care is provided in zip code areas that either fall entirely in a county designated as a full-county HPSA; within the county, through a USPS determination of dominance; or within a partial county HPSA. In other cases, a modifier must be entered.
Individual application deadline	N/A
Service obligation	N/A
Non-completion penalty	N/A

Drug Discount Program

Prescription Drugs

Program	Public Health Services 340B Coalition Drug Discount Program
Organization	Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Pharmacy Services Support Center (PSSC) and HRSA Office of Pharmacy Affairs Branch (PAB)
Contact	pssc@aphanet.org
Phone	800-628-6297
Websites	http://pssc.aphanet.org/faqs/general.htm http://pssc.aphanet.org/about/registrationprocess.htm ftp://ftp.hrsa.gov/bphc/pdf/opa/PrgmReq.pdf www.hrsa.gov/opa
Purpose	Section 340b of the Public Health Service Act was enacted in 1992 to require drug manufacturers to provide outpatient drugs to eligible health care centers, clinics and hospitals (“covered entities”) at a reduced price. The HRSA Pharmacy Services Support Center (PSSC) was established by a contract between the federal government and the American Pharmacists Association to provide information, education, and technical assistance to help eligible health care entities and pharmacists optimize the value of the 340B program in order to provide affordable, comprehensive pharmacy services that improve medication use and advance patient care and patient access to affordable drugs.
Benefits	To provide financial relief to those facilities that provide care to medically underserved populations. The 340b price for outpatient drugs is a “ceiling price” meaning it is the highest price the covered entity would have to pay for select outpatient and over-the-counter drugs, a price at least as low as the price the state Medicaid agencies currently pay.
Funding	Federal
Site applicant criteria	No free standing mental health facility can qualify. The site must be part of a larger Federally-qualified health center (FQHC) under Section 1905(l)(2)(B) of the SSA. This includes FQHC Look-alikes, Consolidated Health Centers (Sec.330(e) PHSA), Migrant Health Centers (Sec.330(g) PHSA) and Health Care for the Homeless (Sec.330(h) PHSA). If a Community Care Center (Sec. 330 PHSA http://bphc.hrsa.gov/about/legislation/section330.htm) has a mental health program that is part of the facility, then mental health services can be provided and 340b drugs purchased. If a mental health center outpatient clinic is listed on a Disproportionate Share Hospital’s Medicare cost report, it can participate under the larger entity.
HPSA score	N/A
Site application process	1) Contact the Pharmacy Services Support Center (PSSC) to see if the site is a “covered entity” http://pssc.aphanet.org/faqs/340b_eligibility.htm 2) Notify the Pharmacy Affairs Branch (PAB) of the site’s intention to participate and provide Medical billing status ftp://ftp.hrsa.gov/bphc/pdf/opa/PrgmReq.pdf 3) Notify the prime vendor or wholesaler.
Site application deadline	The deadlines for registration submission are December 1 for the quarter beginning January 1; March 1 for the quarter beginning April 1; June 1 for the quarter beginning July 1; and September 1 for the quarter beginning October 1.
Individual applicant criteria	N/A
Individual application process	N/A
Individual application deadline	N/A
Service obligation	N/A
Non-completion penalty	N/A