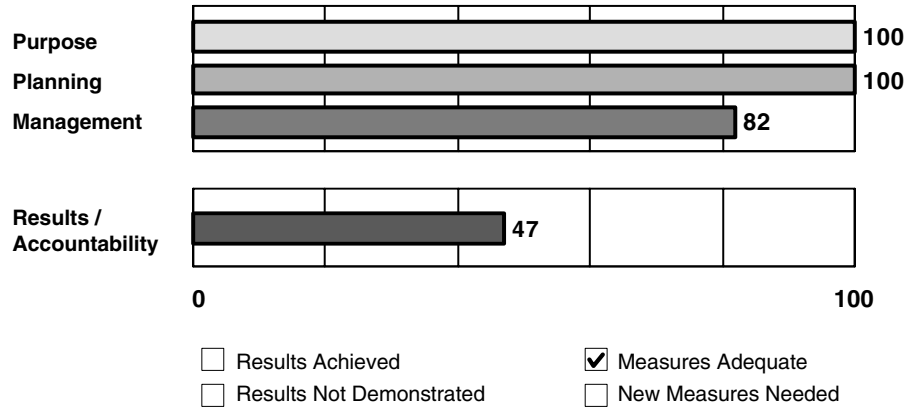


Program: *National Health Service Corps*

Agency: *Department of Health and Human Services*

Bureau: *Health Resources and Services Administration*



Key Performance Measures

Year Target Actual

Long-term Measure: Patients served through the placement and retention of NHSC clinicians (New measure, baseline under development)	2010	+20%	
Long-term Measure: Patients served through NHSC placements and retention, as well as other sources (Communities with a compelling need for providers that do not receive a NHSC clinician may more easily recruit a provider from another source as a result of increased exposure from the program.) (New measure, baseline under development)	2010	+20%	
Annual Measure: Average Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) score of areas receiving NHSC clinicians (HPSA scores gauge provider shortages and whether the program targets communities well.) (New measure, target/baseline under development)	2004	+1%	

Rating: *Moderately Effective*

Program Type: *Competitive Grants*

Program Summary:

The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) provides scholarships and loan repayment awards to doctors and other health providers in exchange for a commitment to provide health care to people living in areas with a shortage of health providers regardless of their ability to pay.

The assessment found:

1. The program purpose is clear and the program is designed to have a unique and significant impact. By directly placing doctors and other clinicians in areas with a shortage of health providers, the NHSC can help patients who were previously without access to a physician and may also have been unable to afford the cost of care.
2. The program ensures clinicians honor their service agreements with the government and uses additional performance information to improve outcomes.
3. The program lacks outcome information for newly adopted measures and will need to set ambitious targets once baseline data are available. However, evaluations indicate the program is effective at increasing health care access. For example, roughly half of program providers remain in service for a long period of time after the end of the federal service contract.
4. The program has shown some efficiency improvements by shifting resources from federal administrative staff positions to pay for more doctors and other clinicians. Greater flexibility in the allocation of funds between scholarships and loans could further improve efficiency.

Based on these findings, the Administration:

1. Proposes \$23 million above the 2003 Budget, a 12% increase above 2003 and 46% increase above 2002, to place more doctors and other clinicians in areas facing a shortage of health providers.
2. Will support more underrepresented minorities and other students and health professionals from disadvantaged backgrounds through the program by enhancing recruitment efforts.
3. Will serve areas of greatest need by better targeting NHSC placements and taking into account foreign physicians who serve in areas with a shortage of health providers through visa waivers.

(For more information on this program, please see the Department of Health and Human Services chapter in the Budget volume.)

Program Funding Level (in millions of dollars)

<u>2002 Actual</u>	<u>2003 Estimate</u>	<u>2004 Estimate</u>
145	189	213