

Exploring Critical Shortage Facilities

TYPES OF FACILITIES	DESCRIPTION	SERVICES PROVIDED
Critical Access Hospital	A facility certified by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services as a critical access hospital (CAH). These hospitals must comply with all applicable CAH conditions of participation and be located in a state, which has established a Medicare rural hospital flexibility program.	Primary care services
Disproportionate Share Hospital	A hospital that has a disproportionately large share of low-income patients and receives an augmented payment from the state under Medicaid or a payment adjustment from Medicare.	Hospital-based outpatient and inpatient services
Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike and Health Center Program Grantee (i.e., Community Health Centers, Migrant Health Centers, Health Care for the Homeless programs, and Public Housing Primary Care programs.	A community-based, patient-directed, non-profit entity that serves medically underserved populations. A Health Center Program grantee receives funding from HRSA through the Health Center Program (Section 330 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act). A Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike meets the definition of a "health center" under Section 330 of the PHS Act, but does not receive grant funding under Section 330.	Outpatient primary care, dental, mental health and substance abuse services
Indian Health Service/Tribal Clinic/Urban Indian Health Clinic	A health care facility (whether operated directly by the Indian Health Service, a Tribe, a tribal organization, a contractor or a grantee) that is physically separated from a hospital, and which provides outpatient clinical treatment services to persons of Indian or Alaskan Native descent.	Outpatient primary care services
Native Hawaiian Health Center	Public or nonprofit private entity, licensed by the State of Hawaii and organized under its laws. Hawaiian health practitioners significantly participate in the management and evaluation of the health services.	Comprehensive primary care services
Public Hospital	Any hospital that is owned by a government (Federal, State, or Local) and receives government funding.	Hospital-based outpatient services; inpatient diagnostic, therapeutic, and rehabilitation services
Rural Health Clinic	A facility certified by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services as a rural health clinic. These clinics provide outpatient services to a non-urban area with an insufficient number of health care practitioners.	Outpatient primary care and basic laboratory services
Skilled Nursing Facility	An institution primarily engaged in providing skilled nursing care, and related medical and rehabilitation services, to inpatient residents. This facility type is not primarily for the care and treatment of mental diseases.	Primarily inpatient medical and rehabilitation services
State or Local Public Health or Human Services Department	The State, county, parish, or district entity in a State that is responsible for providing population-focused health services.	Health promotion, disease prevention, and intervention services

As a NURSE Corps Scholar, you are required to serve at a Critical Shortage Facility with a primary care or mental HPSA score of 14 or above. While you are in training, think about the type of facility where you would like to practice to fulfill your service commitment. Take some time to explore the range of facilities that are available and determine which site would be a good match for you. For a complete list of eligible types of facilities, please refer to the current year's Application and Program Guidance.

