



April 22, 2021

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to update you on recent Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) efforts to improve services, outreach, and consultation to American Indians and Alaska Natives and our progress addressing workforce shortages in Indian Country.

I am pleased to share that we anticipate the largest National Health Service Corps (NHSC) award year in program history. The American Rescue Plan increased overall NHSC funding by \$800 million. Additionally, HRSA is dedicating \$15 million in NHSC award funds to clinicians serving at Indian Health Service facilities, Tribally-Operated 638 Health Programs, and Urban Indian Health Programs (ITUs). I encourage all eligible applicants to apply, regardless of their sites' Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) scores; this dedicated funding to tribal sites and the additional American Rescue Plan funding significantly increase the likelihood of receiving an award.

More than 900 NHSC clinicians are currently working at tribal sites across the country. HRSA's NHSC program offers licensed primary care providers in eligible disciplines the opportunity to receive loan repayment of up to \$100,000. In exchange, the provider commits to serve full- or half-time at an NHSC-approved site in a designated HPSA for at least 2 years. We are now accepting applications for three NHSC loan repayment programs: the [National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program](#), the [Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Program](#), and the [Rural Community Loan Repayment Program](#). The deadline to apply is May 27, 2021.

In fiscal year 2020, because of the special \$15 million allocated to NHSC, all eligible applicants serving at ITUs received NHSC Loan Repayment Program funding, resulting in 295 awards to clinicians at 195 tribal health centers. HRSA hopes even more clinicians serving in Indian Country will receive awards with the additional funds available this year.

I ask that you share this information with the NHSC-approved health care facilities in your communities. Additionally, these facilities can promote their open positions on the HRSA [Health Workforce Connector](#) to attract clinicians interested in the NHSC program.

If you have questions, please contact your [HRSA regional points-of-contact](#) or email [aianhealth@hrsa.gov](mailto:aianhealth@hrsa.gov). Thank you in advance for your consideration of this program.

Sincerely,

/s/

Diana Espinosa  
Acting Administrator