

[FY 2025 NURSE CORPS LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM APPLICATION AND PROGRAM GUIDANCE FOR CONTINUATIONS GLOSSARY](#)

Ambulatory Surgical Center - An entity that operates exclusively for the purpose of furnishing surgical services to patients who do not require hospitalization and for which the expected duration of services does not exceed 24 hours following admission.

American Indian Health Facility - A health care facility (whether operated directly by the Indian Health Service; or by a tribe or tribal organization contracting with the Indian Health Service pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, codified at 25 U.S.C. 450 et seq., or by an urban Indian organization receiving funds under Subchapter IV of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, codified at 25 U.S.C. 1651 et seq.), which provides clinical treatment services to eligible American Indians and Alaska Natives on an outpatient basis. Visit: [Find Health Care | Indian Health Service \(IHS\)](#) for more information.

Community Mental Health Center - Behavioral and mental health facilities must be located in or serve in a Health Professional Shortage Area and must offer comprehensive primary behavioral health services to all residents of the defined Health Professional Shortage Area. The site must offer comprehensive primary behavioral health care services including, but not limited to:

- Core Comprehensive Behavioral Health Service Elements:
 - Screening and assessment
 - Treatment plans
 - Care coordination

- Non-Core Behavioral Health Service Elements:
 - Diagnosis
 - Therapeutic services (including psychiatric medication prescribing and management, chronic disease management, and substance use disorder treatment)
 - Crisis/emergency services (including 24-hour crisis call access)
 - Consultative services
 - Case management

Continuation Contract - A Continuation Contract is an optional written contract pursuant to Section 846(a) of the Public Health Service Act, as amended, under which: (1) the participant agrees to engage in a period of continuous full-time service for a third consecutive year as a registered nurse or advanced practice registered nurse at an eligible critical shortage facility or nurse faculty in an accredited eligible school of nursing after completion of their initial two-year service obligation under their initial two-year contract, and (2) the Secretary agrees to repay, in consideration of such

service, 25 percent of their original total qualifying educational loan balances that were approved at the time they entered into the initial Nurse Corps Loan Repayment Program Contract.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services-Approved Critical Access Hospital - A facility certified by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services under section 1820 of the Social Security Act. A Critical Access Hospital must be located in a rural area in a state that has a Rural Hospital Flexibility Program, have no more than 25 inpatient beds, an average annual length of stay of 96 hours or less, and be located either more than a 35-mile drive from the nearest hospital or Critical Access Hospital, or more than a 15-mile drive in areas with mountainous terrain or only secondary roads. For more information, review the [Critical Access Hospital Booklet](#).

Default of Service Obligation - Failure to begin or complete a contractual service commitment.

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 clinics are included under this definition. Visit: [Disproportionate Share Hospital](#) for more information.

Employment Verification Form – A Nurse Corps Loan Repayment Program form required to be submitted at the time of the application via the [Bureau of Health Workforce Customer Service Portal](#) and used to verify that an applicant’s employment meets the service requirements to be eligible for the Nurse Corps Loan Repayment Program.

End Stage Renal Disease Dialysis Centers - An end stage renal disease facility is an entity that provides outpatient maintenance dialysis services, or home dialysis training and support services, or both. End stage renal disease facilities are described under section 1881 of the Social Security Act and 42 CFR 413.174 as being either hospital-based or independent facilities.

Federal Direct Student Loans – A student loan offered by the federal government for students and is used to pay for costs of education after high school. The lender of the Federal Direct Student Loan is U.S. Department of Education, rather than an institution such as a bank.

Federal Judgment Lien – A lien that is placed against an individual’s home or property when a court ordered judgment is entered against the individual for an unpaid federal debt (e.g., a federal student loan or federally insured home mortgage). An Internal Revenue Service tax lien that is not created pursuant to a court-ordered judgment is not a federal judgment lien.

Federally Qualified Health Center – Federally Qualified Health Centers include: (1) private nonprofit entities or public agencies that receive a grant under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act or funding from such a grant under a contract with the recipient of such a grant and

meets the requirements to receive such a grant; (2) entities designated as “Look-Alikes” by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (or designee) as meeting the requirements for receiving a grant under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act; and (3) outpatient health programs or facilities operated by a tribe or tribal organization under the Indian Self-Determination Act or by an urban Indian organization receiving funds under Title V of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. Federally Qualified Health Centers include Community Health Centers, Migrant Health Centers, Health Care for the Homeless Health Centers, and Public Housing Primary Care Health Centers.

Free and Charitable Clinics - Free and Charitable Clinics are safety-net health care organizations that utilize a volunteer/staff model to provide a range of medical, dental, pharmacy, vision and/or behavioral health services to economically disadvantaged individuals. Such clinics are 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations or operate as a program component or affiliate of a 501(c)(3) organization.

Note: Free clinic volunteer staff are not eligible for Nurse Corps Loan Repayment Program Continuation awards. Entities that otherwise meet the above definition, but charge a nominal/sliding fee to patients, may still be considered Free and Charitable Clinics provided that essential services are delivered regardless of the patient's ability to pay. Free and Charitable Clinics restrict eligibility for their services to individuals who are uninsured, underinsured, and/or have limited or no access to primary, specialty, or prescription health care.

Health Workforce Connector - A searchable database of open job opportunities and information on approved sites.

Home Health Agency - An agency or organization, certified under section 1861(o) of the Social Security Act, which is primarily engaged in providing skilled nursing care and other therapeutic services at a patient’s home. Visit: [Home Health Agency Center](#) for more information.

Hospice Program - An agency or organization, certified under section 1861(dd)(2) of the Social Security Act, which provides 24-hour care and treatment services (as needed) to terminally ill individuals and bereavement counseling for their immediate family members. Care is provided in individuals’ homes, on an outpatient basis, and on a short-term inpatient basis, directly or under arrangements made by the agency or organization. Visit: [Hospice Center](#) for more information.

Initial Two-year Contract - A written contract pursuant to Section 846(a) of the PHS Act, as amended, under which: (1) the participant agrees to engage in a period of continuous full-time service for two consecutive years as a registered nurse or advanced practice registered nurse at an eligible critical shortage facility or as nurse faculty in an accredited eligible school of nursing, and (2) the Secretary agrees to repay, in consideration of such service, 60 percent of the amount which is outstanding on the participant's qualifying educational loans on the effective date of the initial two-year contract.

In-Service Verification - The Nurse Corps Loan Repayment Program verifies every six months that participants are in compliance with the service obligation. By completing and signing the In-Service Verification, the participant and the point of contact are certifying the participant's compliance with the full-time service requirements during the identified period. For participants working at multiple sites, we require an In-Service Verification from each site every six months. The In-Service Verification records the total number of full-time workdays that a participant was absent, for any reason, from the critical shortage facility or school of nursing during the reporting period.

Lender – The private commercial or government institution that made the qualifying educational loan (e.g., U.S. Department of Education). As used in this Guidance, the term “lender” also includes “holder,” which is the private commercial or government institution that currently holds the promissory note for the qualifying educational loan (e.g., Sallie Mae, PHEAA, etc.).

Multiple Sites - Applicants may work at multiple sites under a single employer or within the same network under dependent satellite facilities. Each critical shortage facility must meet all eligibility requirements.

National Practitioner Data Bank – A confidential, electronic repository of information related to the professional conduct and competence of physicians, nurses, dentists, and other health care practitioners. The National Practitioner Data Bank collects information about malpractice payments paid on behalf of a health care provider and adverse actions taken against a health care provider's license, clinical privileges, or professional memberships.

Native Hawaiian Health Center - An entity (1) which is organized under the laws of the state of Hawaii; (2) which provides or arranges for health care services through practitioners licensed by the state of Hawaii, where licensure requirements are applicable; (3) which is a public or private nonprofit entity; and (4) in which Native Hawaiian health practitioners significantly participate in the planning, management, monitoring, and evaluation of health services. For more information, see the [Native Hawaiian Health Care Act of 1992](#), as amended.

[Nurse Licensure Compact](#) – The mutual recognition model of nurse licensure that allows a Registered Nurse or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse to have a license in one state and to practice in other states subject to each state's laws and regulations. Under mutual recognition, a Registered Nurse or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse may practice in several states unless otherwise restricted.

Nurse-Managed Health Clinic/Center - A nurse-practice arrangement where the entity is managed by advanced practice nurses and provides primary care or wellness services to underserved or vulnerable populations. The entity is associated with a school, college, university or department of nursing, Federally Qualified Health Center, or independent health or social services agency. These clinics must serve the general public.

Outpatient Facility – Outpatient facilities provide healthcare services to private, group and specialty practices that are open to the public.

Participant Award Worksheet – A detailed payment disbursement report reflecting all the participant’s eligible loans that qualify for repayment under the Nurse Corps Loan Repayment Program Continuation award. Nurse Corps Loan Repayment Program Continuation award monthly payments can only be applied to the loans listed on the Participant Award Worksheet.

Point of Contact – An official at a critical shortage facility or eligible school of nursing who is the applicant’s immediate supervisor or an authorized agent of the human resources department at the service site. The site point of contact must verify (1) the participant’s total work hours and (2) work status, during the service obligation. The Point of Contact must be active and registered in the [Bureau of Health Workforce Customer Service Portal](#).

Private Hospital - Hospitals or affiliated outpatient clinics in a state that are private entities and are primarily engaged in providing the following care, by or under the supervision of physicians, to inpatients: (1) diagnostic and therapeutic services for medical diagnosis, treatment, and care of injured, disabled, or sick persons; or (2) rehabilitation of injured, disabled, or sick persons. Hospital-based outpatient clinics are included under this definition.

Public Hospital - Any hospital or hospital-based outpatient clinic that is owned by a government (federal, state, or local), receives government funding, and is primarily engaged in providing the following care, by or under the supervision of physicians, to inpatients: (a) diagnostic and therapeutic services for medical diagnosis, treatment, and care of injured, disabled, or sick persons; or (b) rehabilitation of injured, disabled, or sick persons. United States Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals and military treatment facility hospitals are also included under this definition. State psychiatric hospitals must use facility Health Professional Shortage Areas to determine site eligibility—population and geographic Health Professional Shortage Areas cannot be used.

Residential Nursing Home - An institution that is primarily engaged in providing, on a regular basis, health-related care and service to individuals who because of their mental or physical condition require care and service (above the level of room and board) that can be made available to them only through institutional facilities. This category includes a “skilled nursing facility,” which is an institution (or distinct part of an institution) certified under section 1819(a) of the Social Security Act, that is primarily engaged in providing skilled nursing care and related services to residents requiring medical, rehabilitation, or nursing care and is not primarily for the care and treatment of mental diseases; transitional facilities; assisted living; and group homes.

Rural Health Clinic - An entity that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has certified as a rural health clinic under section 1861(aa)(2) of the Social Security Act. A rural health clinic provides outpatient services to a non-urban area with an insufficient number of health care practitioners.

School-Based Clinic - A health clinic that is located in or near a school facility of a school district or board or of an Indian tribe or tribal organization.

Small Rural Hospital - A non-federal, short-term general acute care hospital that is located in a rural area (as defined for purposes of section 1886(d)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act) and has less than 50 beds.

State or Local Health Department - The state, county, parish, or district entity that is responsible for providing healthcare services, which include health promotion, disease prevention, and intervention services, in clinics or other health care facilities that are funded and operated by the state or local public health, health, or human services departments.

Telehealth - The use of electronic information and telecommunications technologies to support and promote long-distance clinical health care, patient and professional health-related education, public health, and health administration. Technologies include videoconferencing, the Internet, store-and-forward imaging, streaming media, and terrestrial and wireless communications.

Transfer - Upon a written request and written approval, participants may transfer to another eligible critical shortage facility or school of nursing that falls in the same funding preference tier that the individual was initially awarded in, or higher.

Urgent Care Center - Urgent care centers provide acute episodic care on a walk-in basis to assist patients with an illness or injury that does not appear to be limb or life-threatening and is either beyond the scope or availability of the typical primary care practice. Urgent care centers primarily treat injuries or illnesses requiring immediate care but not serious enough to require an emergency room visit.

For additional definitions, refer to the Guidance corresponding to the year of your initial two-year Nurse Corps Loan Repayment Program Contract.