

Dated: August 23, 2005.

**Scott Gottlieb,**

*Deputy Commissioner for Policy.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Health Resources and Services Administration

#### Recruitment of Sites for Assignment of Corps Personnel

**AGENCY:** Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), HHS.

**ACTION:** General notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announces that the listing of entities and their Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) scores that will receive priority for the assignment of National Health Service Corps (NHSC) personnel (Corps Personnel, Corps members) for the period July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006, is posted on the NHSC Web site at <http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov/resources/fedreg-hpol/>. This list specifies which entities are eligible to receive assignment of Corps members who are participating in the NHSC Scholarship Program, the NHSC Loan Repayment Program, and Corps members who have become Corps members other than pursuant to contractual obligations under the Scholarship or Loan Repayment Programs. Please note that not all vacancies associated with sites on this list will be for Corps members, but could be for individuals serving an obligation to the NHSC through the Private Practice Option.

#### Eligible HPSAs and Entities

To be eligible to receive assignment of Corps personnel, entities must: (1) Have a current HPSA designation by the Shortage Designation Branch in the National Center for Health Workforce Analysis, Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration; (2) enter into an agreement with the State agency that administers Medicaid, accept payment under Medicare and the State Children's Health Insurance Program, see all patients regardless of their ability to pay, and use and post a discounted fee plan; and (3) be determined by the Secretary to have (a) A need and demand for health manpower in the area; (b) appropriately and efficiently used Corps members assigned to the entity; (c) general community support for the assignment of Corps members; (d) made unsuccessful efforts to recruit;

and (e) a reasonable prospect for sound fiscal management by the entity with respect to Corps members assigned there. Priority in approving applications for assignment of Corps members goes to sites that (1) Provide primary, mental, and/or oral health services to a HPSA of greatest shortage; (2) are part of a system of care that provides a continuum of services, including comprehensive primary health care and appropriate referrals or arrangements for secondary and tertiary care; (3) have a documented record of sound fiscal management; and (4) will experience a negative impact on its capacity to provide primary health services if a Corps member is not assigned to the entity.

Entities that receive assignment of Corps personnel must assure that (1) The position will permit the full scope of practice and that the clinician meets the credentialing requirements of the State and site; and (2) the Corps member assigned to the entity is engaged in full-time clinical practice at the approved service location for a minimum of 40 hours per week with at least 32 hours per week in the ambulatory care setting. Obstetricians/gynecologists, certified nurse midwives (CNMs), and family practitioners who practice obstetrics on a regular basis, are required to engage in a minimum of 21 hours per week of outpatient clinical practice. The remaining hours, making up the minimum 40-hour per week total, include delivery and other clinical hospital-based duties. For all Corps personnel, time spent on-call does not count toward the 40 hours per week. In addition, sites receiving assignment of Corps personnel are expected to (1) Report to the NHSC all absences in excess of the authorized number of days (up to 35 work days or 280 hours per contract year); (2) report to the NHSC any change in the status of an NHSC clinician at the site; (3) provide the time and leave records, schedules, and any related personnel documents for NHSC assignees (including documentation, if applicable, of the reason(s) for the termination of an NHSC clinician's employment at the site prior to his or her obligated service end date); and (4) submit a Uniform Data System (UDS) report. This system allows the site to assess the age, sex, race/ethnicity of, and provider encounter records for, its user population. The UDS reports are site specific. Providers fulfilling NHSC commitments are assigned to a specific site or, in some cases, more than one site. The scope of activity to be reported in UDS includes all activity at the site(s) to which the Corps member is assigned.

#### Evaluation and Selection Process

In approving applications for the assignment of Corps members, the Secretary shall give priority to any such application that is made regarding the provision of primary health services to a HPSA with the greatest shortage. For the program year July 1, 2005—June 30, 2006, HPSAs of greatest shortage for determination of priority for assignment of Corps personnel will be defined as follows: (1) Primary care HPSAs with scores of 14 and above are authorized for the assignment of Corps members who are primary care physicians participating in the Scholarship Program; (2) primary care HPSAs with scores of 13 and above are authorized for the assignment of Corps members who are family nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician assistants (PAs) participating in the Scholarship Program; (3) primary care HPSAs with scores of 8 and above are authorized for the assignment of Corps members who are CNMs participating in the Scholarship Program; (4) mental health HPSAs with scores of 20 and above are authorized for the assignment of Corps members who are psychiatrists participating in the Scholarship Program; (5) dental HPSAs with scores of 20 and above are authorized for the assignment of Corps members who are dentists participating in the Scholarship Program; and (6) HPSAs (appropriate to each discipline) with scores of 14 and above are authorized for the assignment of Corps members who are participating in the Loan Repayment Program. HPSAs with scores below 14 will be eligible to receive assignment of Corps personnel participating in the Loan Repayment Program only after assignments are made of those Corps members matching to those HPSAs receiving priority for placement of Corps members through the Loan Repayment Program (*i.e.*, HPSAs scoring 14 or above). Placements made through the Loan Repayment Program in HPSAs with scores 13 or below will be made by decreasing HPSA score, and only to the extent that funding remains available. All sites on the list are eligible sites for individuals wishing to serve in an underserved area but who are not contractually obligated under the Scholarship or Loan Repayment Program. A listing of HPSAs and their scores is posted at <http://belize.hrsa.gov/newhpsa/newhpsa.cfm>.

Sites qualifying for automatic primary care HPSA designations have been scored and may be authorized to receive assignment of Corps members if they meet the criteria outlined above and their HPSA scores are above the stated cutoffs. If there are any sites on the list

with an unscored HPSA designation, they are authorized for the assignment of Corps personnel participating in the Loan Repayment Program only after assignments are made of those Corps members matching to scored HPSAs and only to the extent that funding remains available. When these HPSAs receive scores, these sites will then be authorized to receive assignment of Corps members if they meet the criteria outlined above and their newly assigned scores are above the stated cutoffs.

The number of new NHSC placements through the Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs allowed at any one site are limited to the following:

(1) Primary Health Care

(a) Loan Repayment Program—no more than 2 physicians (MD or DO); and no more than a combined total of 2 NPs, PAs, or CNMs.

(b) Scholarship Program—no more than 2 physicians (MD or DO); and no more than a combined total of 2 NPs, PAs, or CNMs.

(2) Dental

(a) Loan Repayment Program—no more than 2 dentists and 2 dental hygienists.

(b) Scholarship Program—no more than 1 dentist.

(3) Mental Health

(a) Loan Repayment Program—no more than 2 psychiatrists (MD or DO); and no more than a combined total of 2 clinical or counseling psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, licensed professional counselors, marriage and family therapists, or psychiatric nurse specialists.

(b) Scholarship Program—no more than 1 psychiatrist.

### Application Requests, Dates and Address

The list of HPSAs and entities that are eligible to receive priority for the placement of Corps personnel may be updated periodically. Entities that no longer meet eligibility criteria, including HPSA score, will be removed from the priority listing. Entities interested in being added to the high priority list must submit an NHSC Recruitment and Retention Assistance Application to: National Health Service Corps, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 8A-55, Rockville, MD 20857, fax 301-594-2721. These applications must be submitted on or before the deadline date of March 24, 2006. Applications submitted after this deadline date will be considered for placement on the priority placement list in the following program year. Any changes to this deadline will be posted

on the NHSC Web site at <http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov>.

Entities interested in receiving application materials may do so by calling the HRSA call center at 1-800-221-9393. They may also get information and download application materials from: <http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov/applications/rrea.cfm>.

### Additional Information

Entities wishing to provide additional data and information in support of their inclusion on the proposed list of HPSAs and entities that would receive priority in assignment of Corps members, must do so in writing no later than September 29, 2005. This information should be submitted to: Susan Salter, Chief, Site Identification and Application Branch, Division of National Health Service Corps, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 8A-08, Rockville, MD 20857. This information will be considered in preparing the final list of HPSAs and entities that are receiving priority for the assignment of Corps personnel.

*Paperwork Reduction Act:* The Recruitment and Retention Assistance Application has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under the Paperwork Reduction Act. The OMB clearance number is 0915-0230.

The program is not subject to the provision of Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs (as implemented through 45 CFR part 100).

Dated: August 23, 2005.

**Elizabeth M. Duke,**

*Administrator.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Administration for Children and Families

#### Office of Refugee Resettlement; Grant to Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society

**AGENCY:** Office of Refugee Resettlement, Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

**ACTION:** Award Announcement.

*CFDA#:* The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for this program is 93.576. The title is the Refugee Family Enrichment Program.

*Amount of Award:* \$200,000.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that a noncompetitive single source program expansion supplement to an ongoing

competitive award is being made to the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) to provide additional training and technical assistance to organizations implementing Refugee Marriage Enrichment projects. The application is not within the scope of any existing or expected to be issued program announcement for the Fiscal Year 2006. This application is expected to address issues critical to the development and implementation of marriage education programs for refugees by providing valuable on-site training and technical assistance to grantees and sub-grantees that offer marital communication training to refugee couples.

In September of 2003, ORR awarded HIAS a grant of \$200,000 to develop a Refugee Family Enrichment program which included technical assistance to subgrantees. Because of their success in the development of their marriage enrichment program, in 2004 HIAS was awarded a noncompetitive single source program expansion supplement to an ongoing competitive award to expand its Technical Assistance Services Program to Refugee Family Enrichment project sites specified by ORR. HIAS has since provided over 600 hours of technical assistance to project sites operated by organizations across the country. Their technical assistance primarily supports the work of small Mutual Assistance Associations, and without it, these agencies might struggle to provide refugee clients with the programming they need in order to achieve self sufficiency. The proposed project period is September 30, 2005—September 29, 2006.

Technical assistance to support grantees in developing better approaches to the delivery of services provided to refugees is authorized by section 412(c)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(c)(1)). ACF received one non-substantive comment from a private citizen which did not impact this grant project specifically.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Administration for Children and Families, Office of Refugee Resettlement, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW., Washington, DC 20447, Loren Bussert—(202) 401-4732, [lbussert@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:lbussert@acf.hhs.gov).

Dated: August 24, 2005.

**Nguyen Van Hanh,**

*Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement.*

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