

Solicitation of Interest #20643

New York State Department of Health
Office of Primary Care and Health Systems Management
Center for Health Care Policy and Resource Development
Division of Workforce Transformation

Primary Care Service Corps Loan Repayment Program (Round 7)

Questions and Answers

I. Introduction

Q1: Are Licensed Master Social Workers eligible for Primary Care Service Corps Round 7?

A1: Section I. Introduction lists the eligible professions for Primary Care Service Corps Round 7.

Clinicians eligible to apply under the program are:

- Dentists
- Dental Hygienists
- Nurse Practitioners (NP)
- Physician Assistants (PA)
- Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM)
- Clinical Psychologists
- Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW)
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists
- Licensed Mental Health Counselors (LMHC)

II. Minimum Qualifications

Q2: I am applying to both the PCSC and the NHSC Loan repayment program. If I am accepted by both the PCSC and NHSC, would I be able to decline the PCSC, assuming that I cannot be fulfilling both service contracts simultaneously?

A2: Per Section II. Minimum Qualifications, Subsection 8 of the Solicitation of Interest:

8. The clinician must not be fulfilling an obligation under any state or federal loan repayment program – including the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program -- which overlaps or coincides with the three-year PCSC service obligation.

Q3: My service obligation for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Program (LRP) ends on August 16, 2025. Can I still apply for the PCSC program?

A3: Per Section II. Minimum Qualifications, Subsection 8 of the Solicitation of Interest:

8. The clinician must not be fulfilling an obligation under any state or federal loan repayment program – including the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program -- which overlaps or coincides with the three-year PCSC service obligation.

Q4: I work at a college health center in an extremely underserved area. Could that qualify as a site if I applied for it to become a site?

A4: Per Section II. Minimum Qualifications, Subsection 9 of the Solicitation of Interest:

9. On the date of award, the health care site where the clinician will be employed must be an NHSC Active Site with a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) score of 1 or more for the applicant's professional discipline, as explained in **Attachment 6: Tool to Identify Eligible Sites**, and evidenced by submission of **Attachment 7: Site Information**.

Q5: I was an awardee in an earlier round of Primary Care Service Corps. Would I still qualify to apply for Primary Care Service Corps Round 7?

A5: Per Section II. Minimum Qualifications, Subsection 10 of the Solicitation of Interest:

10. The applicant must not have previously received, or currently be receiving, an award from the Primary Care Service Corps."

Primary Care Service Corps past participants are encouraged to apply for the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program.

Q6: If selected to receive an award, about how often will surveys need to be completed from the NYS Health Department and how long is a participant or employer given complete them?

A6: The following four (4) reports and surveys must be submitted/completed for each awardee:

1. "Proof of the application of the full amount of the grant disbursement to the preapproved educational payment", as described in Section III. A. Use of Funds:

All contract disbursements must be applied to the pre-approved outstanding educational debt by the earlier of (a) the first date following grant disbursement upon which an installment payment is owed by the Awardee on the pre-approved educational debt, or (b) sixty (60) days after the date of the grant disbursement, whichever comes first.

2. The awardee's supervisor must submit an Employment Verification form (one per year), per Section II. Minimum Qualifications, Subsection 12:

12. If applicant is selected to receive a Primary Care Service Corps award, the applicant's employer agrees to complete and submit Employment Verification forms and Administrator surveys sent to them by the New York State Department of Health.

Specifics about this requirement will be shared with all awardees.

3. The awardee must complete an annual survey issued through the PRISM data system (these are essentially "employee satisfaction" surveys). This is per of Section II. Minimum Qualifications, Subsection 11:

11. If selected to receive a Primary Care Service Corps award, the applicant agrees to complete and submit participant surveys sent to them by the New York State Department of Health.

Specifics about this requirement will be shared with all awardees.

4. The awardee's employer must complete an annual administrator survey issued through the PRISM data system. This is per Section II. Minimum Qualifications, Subsection 12:

12. If applicant is selected to receive a Primary Care Service Corps award, the applicant's employer agrees to complete and submit Employment Verification forms and Administrator surveys sent to them by the New York State Department of Health.

Specifics about this requirement will be shared with all awardees.

Q7: I am a clinician at a Federally Qualified Health Center. I would appreciate any guidance you can provide on how to apply and whether my current practice setting

qualifies as an eligible NHSC Approved Site. Additionally, if there are upcoming informational sessions or application workshops, I would love to participate.

A7: Clinicians meeting the requirements listed in Section II. Minimum Requirements of the Solicitation of Interest shall be deemed eligible.

To verify that a site is a National Health Service Corps Active site, please follow the instructions in **Attachment 6: Tool to Identify Eligible Sites**.

III.A. Use of Funds

Q8: Can the grant be used to pay Parent Plus loans that were taken out for me by my parents?

A8: Section III. Project Narrative, Subsection A. Use of Funds states:

For purposes of this SOI, “qualified educational debt” means any outstanding amounts remaining on student loans that were used by the clinician to pay graduate or undergraduate tuition or related educational expenses, where such loans were made by or guaranteed by the federal or state government or made by a lending or educational institution approved under Title IV of the federal Higher Education Act. Applicants must include educational loan statements dated no more than 30 days prior to submission (to be uploaded as Attachment 3). Such statements will be forwarded to the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) to verify the existence and amount of qualified education debt. Applicants must complete Attachment 4 to give consent for HESC to disclose any loan information to the Department. No PCSC award shall be made in excess of the outstanding amount of educational debt as verified by HESC.

Q9: If selected to receive an award, will the grant disbursement(s) be made as a one-time disbursement or multiple disbursements over the 3-year service contract?

A9: Payment terms will be discussed with awardees after awards have been announced. The Department of Health reserves the right to issue payments in such manner as best serves the needs of the Department.