

We wanted to make you aware of a HRSA loan repayment program for nurses (RNs). The web site with all this information is <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/nursing/loanrepay.htm>.

While the 2006 deadline has passed, this is an ongoing program and the 2007 application will be out in December. There are restrictions on the sites that qualify (**CRITICAL SHORTAGE FACILITIES (CSFs)**):

### 1) Types of Critical Shortage Facilities

A NELRP participant is required to serve full-time as a nurse at a CSF. The following types of health care facilities have been determined to have a critical shortage of nurses:

- **Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH)** - A hospital that 1) has a disproportionately large share of low-income patients and 2) receives a) an augmented payment from the States under Medicaid or b) a payment adjustment from Medicare. Hospital-based outpatient services are included under this definition.
- **Federal Hospital** – Any Federal institution that is primarily engaged in providing care, by or under the supervision of physicians, to inpatients or outpatients: (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.
- **Non-Federal Non-Disproportionate Share Hospital** – Any public or private institution that is primarily engaged in providing care, by or under the supervision of physicians, to inpatients or outpatients: (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.
- **Ambulatory Surgical Center** - An entity that provides surgical services to individuals on an outpatient basis and is not owned or operated by a hospital.
- **Federally Designated Community Health Center** - An entity that is receiving a grant, or funding from a grant, under section 330(e) of the Public Health Service Act, as amended, to provide primary health services and other related services to a population that is medically underserved.
- **Federally Designated Migrant Health Center** - An entity that is receiving a grant, or funding from a grant, under section 330(g) of the Public Health Service Act, as amended, to provide primary health services and other related services to migratory and seasonal agricultural workers.
- **Federally Designated Health Care for the Homeless Health Center** - An entity that is receiving a grant, or funding from a grant, under section 330(h) of the Public Health Service Act, as amended, to provide primary health services and other related services to homeless individuals.
- **Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike** - An entity that is certified by the Secretary as meeting the requirements for receiving a grant under section 330(e), 330(g), or 330 (h) of the Public Health Service Act, but is not a grantee.
- **Home Health Agency** - A public agency or private organization as certified under section 1861(o) of the Social Security Act that is primarily engaged in providing skilled nursing care and other therapeutic services.
- **Hospice Program** - A public agency or private organization as certified under section 1861(dd)(2) of the Social Security Act that provides 24-hour care and treatment services (as needed) to terminally ill individuals and their families. This 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.
- **Indian Health Service Health Center** - A health care facility (whether operated directly by the Indian Health Service or operated by a tribe or tribal organization, contractor or grantee under the Indian Self-Determination Act, as described in 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 136, Subparts C and H, or by an urban Indian organization receiving funds under title V of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act) that is physically

separated from a hospital, and which provides clinical treatment services on an outpatient basis to persons of Indian or Alaskan Native descent as described in 42 CFR Section 136.12.

- **Native Hawaiian Health Center** - An entity (a) which is organized under the laws of the State of Hawaii; (b) which provides or arranges for health care services through practitioners licensed by the State of Hawaii, where licensure requirements are applicable; (c) which is a public or nonprofit private entity; and (d) in which Native Hawaiian health practitioners significantly participate in the planning, management, monitoring, and evaluation of health services. See the Native Hawaiian Health Care Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-579), as amended by Public Law 102-396.
- **Nursing Home** - An institution (or a distinct part of an institution) as certified under section 1919(a) of the Social Security Act, 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, and is not primarily for the care and treatment of mental diseases.
- **Rural Health Clinic** - An entity that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (formerly the Health Care Financing Administration) 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.
- **Skilled Nursing Facility** - An institution (or a distinct part of an institution) as 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.
- **State or Local Public Health Department including a Public Health Clinic within the Department** - The State, county, parish or district entity that is responsible for providing population focused health services which include health promotion, disease prevention and intervention services provided in clinics that are operated by the health department.

If applicants are not sure whether a facility fits into the categories above, contact the NELRP at: [callcenter@hrsa.gov](mailto:callcenter@hrsa.gov) or 1-877-464-4772.

**The following information is copied from the web site. Please refer to it for more details refer to: Help: [CallCenter@hrsa.gov](mailto:CallCenter@hrsa.gov) or 1-877-464-4772, Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays), 9 am to 5:30 pm ET.**

## **Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program**

[2006 Application Kit](#) | [Frequently Asked Questions](#) | [Check Status of Your 2006 Application](#)

**Application Deadline was 5 pm ET, March 30, 2006**

FY 2006 applicants will receive a letter in the mail by October 31, 2006 whether or not they were selected for funding. The FY 2007 application is expected to be available in December.

- [Sign up for e-mail notification when the 2007 application is available](#)

### **About Nursing Education Loan Repayment**

NELRP is a competitive program that repays 60 percent of the qualifying loan balance of registered nurses selected for funding in exchange for 2 years of service at a critical shortage facility. Participants may be eligible to work a third year and receive an additional 25 percent of the qualifying loan balance.

Authorized by Section 846 of the Public Health Service Act, as amended, the purpose of the NELRP is to assist in the recruitment and retention of professional nurses dedicated to providing health care to underserved populations.

**When you submit the NELRP application, you enter into a contract with the U.S. Government. There are serious consequences for breaching this contract. Please read the [application kit](#) carefully before beginning your on-line application.**

**You are eligible to apply if you** meet all of the following requirements by the next application due date:

- Have received a baccalaureate or associate degree in nursing (or an equivalent degree), a diploma in nursing or a graduate degree in nursing from an accredited school of nursing in a State
- Have outstanding qualifying loans obtained for nursing education leading to a degree or diploma in nursing as specified above
- Have completed the nursing education program for which the loan balance applies
- Are a U.S. citizen, U.S. national or a lawful permanent resident of the U.S.
- Are employed full time (32 hours or more per week) at a critical shortage facility
- Have a current permanent unrestricted license as an RN in the State in which you intends to practice or be authorized to practice in that State pursuant to the [Nurse Licensure Compact](#) and
- Have submitted a complete NELRP Application, a signed NELRP Contract, supplemental forms and all required documentation by the application deadline.

**You are not eligible to apply if you**

- Have a judgment lien against your property for a debt owed to the United States. Such individual is precluded from receiving Federal funds (including NELRP funds), until the judgment lien has been paid in full
- Have a service obligation ([see Application Kit > Definition of Terms](#)) that will not be satisfied by the NELRP application due date, March 30, 2006
- Have breached an obligation for professional service to a Federal, State, or local government entity
- Are currently in default of a Federal debt (e.g., student loans, delinquent taxes, etc.)
- Work for a nurse staffing agency or travel nurse agency
- Work on an "as needed" basis, this usually includes PRNs, Pool Nurses, or a person who is not scheduled in a full-time capacity by NELRP definition
- Have a temporary or inactive RN license
- Are a licensed practical/vocational nurse
- Are a nursing faculty member employed full-time in an educational institution or
- Are self-employed.

#### **Past Awards**

During the past three funding cycles, all funded applicants were employed under First Funding Preference, which is awarded to applicants with greatest financial need who work in:

- Disproportionate Share Hospitals
- Nursing Homes
- Federally Designated Health Centers
- Federally Designated Migrant Health Centers
- Public Health Departments
- Rural Health Clinics

- Indian Health Service Health Centers

**In FY 2005**, NELRP received 4,465 eligible applications and made 599 initial (2-year) awards and 204 amendment (3-year) awards. Total obligated funds: \$19,033,673. [FY 2005 Awards by State](#)

**In FY 2004**, NELRP received 4,873 eligible applications and made 650 initial (2-year) awards and 207 amendment (3-year) awards. Total obligated funds: \$17,600,111. [FY 2004 Awards by State](#)

**In FY 2003**, NELRP received 8,321 eligible applications and made 574 initial (2-year) awards and 28 amendment (3-year) awards. Total obligated funds: \$14,402,618. [FY 2003 Awards by State](#)

**Help:** [CallCenter@hrsa.gov](mailto:CallCenter@hrsa.gov) or 1-877-464-4772, Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays), 9 am to 5:30 pm ET.

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