

# Primary Care, Mental Health, and Dental Health Provider Recruitment & Retention through the National Health Service Corp

Funding Amount: \$36,775

## Recruit & Retain Critical Health Care Providers in Connecticut

**Project Description:** The Connecticut Department of Public Health's (DPH) Primary Care Office (PCO) supports local, State, and Federal resources contributing to primary care service delivery and workforce development in the state.

The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) is a program of the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), which is the focal point for providing health care services to underserved and vulnerable populations. The NHSC helps medically underserved communities recruit and retain primary care clinicians, including dental and mental health professionals.

The Connecticut PCO supports the NHSC by reviewing applications for new and renewed provider sites and referring critical health professionals to work in designated shortage areas.

Funding from the American Recovery and Reimbursement Act (ARRA) has enabled the NHSC to expand its programs to provide access to, and improve quality of, primary health care in rural and urban federally designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) and increased the capacity of the federal loan repayment program for critical healthcare professionals. The ARRA funding has increased the PCO's ability to: 1) review NHSC site and clinician applications, and 2) participate in site visits.



## Recruitment & Retention Efforts

- Nationally, 8,108 clinicians will be caring for almost 9 million people by 2011, as ARRA funding has more than doubled the NHSC field strength.
- Currently, 99 primary care doctors, dentists and other clinicians are working in underserved communities throughout Connecticut — in small rural towns and in the most distressed inner-city neighborhoods within designated HPSA.
  - 18 Medical Doctors
  - 3 Clinical Psychologists
  - 5 Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine
  - 13 General Practice Dentists
  - 5 Physician Assistants
  - 25 Nurse Practitioners
  - 3 Nurse Midwives
  - 10 Dental Hygienists
  - 1 Psychiatric Nurse Specialist
  - 3 Licensed Professional Counselors
  - 3 Marriage & Family Therapists
  - 10 Social Workers
- Since the ARRA funding has become available in September 2009, 12 NHSC sites have been approved.
- There are 138 NHSC positions open in Connecticut.

For more information, please visit the NHSC web site <http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov/>

Data as of September 2010

