

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND QUALIFICATION FACTORS

Is my site eligible to become an NHSC-approved site?

The following types of sites may be eligible to become an NHSC-approved site (see the “Glossary” section for complete descriptions of site types):

- 1) Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) that are recipients of Public Health Service Act Section 330 grant funds);
 - a. Community Health Center
 - b. Migrant Health
 - c. Homeless Program
 - d. Public Housing Program
 - e. School-Based Program
 - f. Mobile Clinic
- 2) Indian Health Service Facilities, Tribally-Operated 638 Health Programs, and Urban Indian Health Programs (ITUs);
 - a. Federal Indian Health Service (IHS)
 - b. Tribal/638 Health Facility
 - c. Dual-Funded (Tribal Health Clinic and FQHC 330 Funded)
 - d. Urban Indian Health Program
 - e. IHS Hospitals
- 3) FQHC Look-Alikes;
- 4) Correctional or Detention Facilities;
 - a. Federal Prison
 - b. State Prison
 - c. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Health Service Corps
- 5) Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Certified Rural Health Clinics (RHC);
 - a. Provider-Based
 - b. Independent
- 6) Critical Access Hospitals (CAH);
- 7) Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC);
- 8) State or Local Health Departments;
 - a. State-run
 - b. Local-run
- 9) Community Outpatient Facilities;
 - a. Hospital Affiliated
 - b. Non-Hospital Affiliated
- 10) Private Practices;
 - a. Solo Practice
 - b. Group Practice
- 11) School-Based Clinics;
- 12) Mobile Units
- 13) Free Clinics; and
- 14) Substance Use Disorder Treatment Facilities (including Substance Abuse and Mental

Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)-certified OTPs, OBOTs, and Non-opioid Outpatient SUD Treatment facilities).

What types of sites are NOT eligible for approval as NHSC service sites?

The following site types are not eligible to become NHSC-approved sites, even if they are located in, or serve, a HPSA:

- 1) Inpatient Hospitals (EXCEPT for Medicare-approved CAHs and some IHS Hospitals);
- 2) Clinics that limit care to veterans and active duty military personnel (including Veterans Health Administration Medical Centers, Hospitals, and Clinics; military bases, and civilian health care providers in the TRICARE Network);

- 3) Other types of Inpatient Facilities and Inpatient Rehabilitation Programs;
- 4) Residential Facilities;
- 5) Local/County/City Correctional Facilities;
- 6) Home-Based Health Care Settings of Patients or Clinicians; and
- 7) Specialty Clinics and/or service specific sites limited by gender identity, organ system, illness, categorical population or service (e.g., clinics that only provide STD/HIV/TB services).

What is an Eligible Automatically-Approved (Auto-Approved) NHSC Site?

Eligible auto-approved NHSC sites must apply to the NHSC by: a) contacting the DRO directly; b) providing necessary information for the NHSC to determine eligibility; c) reviewing and signing the NHSC site agreement; and d) remaining in compliance with their respective program requirements. Eligible auto-approved NHSC sites may submit an application to the NHSC at any point in the year and are not required to submit an application during the NHSC site application cycles, nor are they required to submit a recertification application every three years.

The following may be eligible Auto-Approved NHSC sites: 1) FQHCs; 2) FQHC Look-Alikes; 3) ITUs; 4) Federal Prisons; and 5) ICE Health Service Corps sites.

If an eligible auto-approved NHSC site has multiple sites located in HPSAs and would like for all sites to be NHSC sites, the NHSC must approve each site individually. Site administrators with sites that may be eligible for NHSC auto-approval must contact HRSA in order for the site to be added to the Customer Service Portal (see the [“Application and Recertification Process”](#) section).

Is my site qualified to be an NHSC-approved site?

For sites that are not auto-approved, to be qualified to participate as an NHSC-approved site, a site must meet all applicable requirements listed in the NHSC Site Agreement. Requirements that are not applicable to auto-approved NHSC sites are noted in the NHSC Site Agreement. The complete NHSC Site Agreement is available in Appendix A of this document. NHSC-approved sites must:

- 1) Be located in and treat patients from a federally-designated HPSA.
- 2) Not discriminate in the provision of services to an individual because the individual is unable to pay; because payment would be made under Medicare, Medicaid, or the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP); or based upon the individual’s race, color, sex, national origin, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
 - a. Use a schedule of fees or payments consistent with locally prevailing wages or charges and designed to cover the site’s reasonable cost of operations;
 - b. Use a Discounted/Sliding Fee Schedule (SFS) to ensure that no one who is unable to pay will be denied access to services;
 - c. Make every reasonable effort to secure payment in accordance with the schedule of fees;