



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESIDENT'S BUDGET CONTINUES STRONG SUPPORT FOR NHSC

Increase Proposed in FY2017 and Extension of Funding Through FY2020

McLean, VA – With the release of President Obama's FY2017 Budget Proposal, the Administration has once again shown its strong and on-going support for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) program. The Association of Clinicians for the Underserved (ACU) strongly supports the NHSC funding proposal and we urge Congress to pass it into law this year.

The NHSC provides loan repayment and scholarships for primary care providers who work in underserved areas of the country. Currently, over 9,600 NHSC providers deliver care to more than 10 million people living in federally designated Health Professional Shortage Areas. The NHSC has a 45 year track record of success, and the President's Budget leverages the program to help even more in the years ahead.

"We applaud the President's strong and consistent support for this effective program," said Craig A. Kennedy MPH, ACU's Executive Director. "The President's proposal will enable millions of people to get the primary care they need, and do so in a cost-effective manner. In addition, the President has proposed to expand the current funding for the NHSC through FY2020. This will give the program the security it needs to recruit and retain even more providers into underserved areas that desperately need their service."

The President's proposed FY17 Budget Request includes a funding increase of \$70 million, bringing total program funding to \$380 million. The increased funding would be targeted to opioid treatment professionals and mental health providers. In fiscal years 2018 through 2020, the President proposes \$810 million in mandatory funding through the current NHSC Trust Fund. This expansion would enable the NHSC to place 15,000 providers in federally designated Health Professional Shortage Areas across the country. Last year the NHSC received more than twice as many applications as it could fund, and almost ten times as many applications for scholarships than funding allowed; this despite the fact that thousands of people were waiting for care in these underserved communities. Thanks to the President's proposal, thousands of additional primary care providers (including doctors, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurse midwives, dental providers, and mental health providers) will be supported as they seek to work in high need areas of the country.

"We can't be more pleased to see the details of the President's Budget, and we look forward to working with the Administration to make this proposal a reality. The NHSC has a long history of bipartisan support, and we know policy makers at all levels are looking for programs that are effective and efficient. The NHSC is a perfect example of both," continued Kennedy.

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Founded in 1996 by alumni of the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved (ACU) is a nonprofit, transdisciplinary organization of clinicians, advocates and health care organizations united in a common mission to improve the health of America's underserved populations and to enhance the development and support of the health care clinicians serving these populations.