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# 42 U.S. Code § 254d

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## National Health Service Corps

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### **(a) Establishment; composition; purpose; definitions**

(1) For the purpose of eliminating health manpower shortages in health professional shortage areas, there is established, within the Service, the National Health Service Corps, which shall consist of—

- (A) such officers of the Regular and Reserve Corps <sup>[1]</sup> of the Service as the Secretary may designate,
- (B) such civilian employees of the United States as the Secretary may appoint, and
- (C) such other individuals who are not employees of the United States.

(2) The Corps shall be utilized by the Secretary to provide primary health services in health professional shortage areas.

(3) For purposes of this subpart and subpart III:

(A) The term “Corps” means the National Health Service Corps.

(B) The term “Corps member” means each of the officers, employees, and individuals of which the Corps consists pursuant to paragraph (1).

(C) The term “health professional shortage area” has the meaning given such term in section 254e(a) of this title.

(D) The term “primary health services” means health services regarding family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, dentistry, or mental health, that are provided by physicians or other health professionals.

(E)

(i) The term “behavioral and mental health professionals” means health service psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, licensed professional counselors, marriage and family therapists, psychiatric nurse specialists, and psychiatrists.

(ii) The term “graduate program of behavioral and mental health” means a program that trains behavioral and mental health professionals.

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