

## HPSA (Health Professional Shortage Area) Workforce Programs

Please note: Only Social Work graduates who have obtained their license are eligible to take part in this program.

The Bureau of Health Systems Development (BHS) Mission Statement is "to optimize the health of AZ. residents by developing and strengthening systems and services by expanding access of primary care and mental health care to underserved people and areas." They accomplish this in cooperation with the National Health Services Corp (NHSC), which helps with recruitment and assistance.

Under this HPSA designation, qualified agencies can offer incentives to entice qualified professionals to work in these rural areas. The program of interest to licensed social work graduates is the "loan repayment" program.

This program would pay up to \$50,000 of school loans in exchange for a two year contract to work in a HPSA-designated area. There is also the possibility of a 3rd year option that would offer an additional \$20-\$ 25,000 toward loan repayment. All of the 4 Southeastern Counties (Graham, Greenlee, Cochise, and Santa Cruz) are qualified as HPSA designations.

There is one major network (now referred to as a Comprehensive Service Provider- CSP) in GSA 3: Southeastern Arizona Behavioral Health Services, Inc. (SEABHS). SEABHS serves both adults and children. More HPSA-eligible sites will be available in the future.