



Wednesday, December 24, 2003

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December 10 , 2003

The Department of Health and Human Services is now accepting applications for the waiver of the two-year foreign residence requirement of the Exchange Visitor Program for clinical care practice in shortage areas.

The criteria for waivers based on research remains unchanged, though the application for (HHS 426) has minor revisions. Please follow the instructions on the supplementary information sheet.

Applications for Waiver of the Two-year Foreign Residence Requirement (Clinical Care) of the Exchange Visitor Program

Requirements for Waiver for Clinical Service

Fiscal Year 2004 (through September 30, 2004)

General Requirements : See "Waiver of the Two-Year Foreign Residency Requirement of the Exchange Visitor Program" published in the *Federal Register*, December 19, 2002; for that govern requests for waivers for service in underserved areas.

Specific Requirements for Fiscal Year 2004 : To target communities and populations in greatest need for primary care and mental health services, HHS will only process an application for a waiver from a facility in or with a health professional shortage area (HPSA) score of 14 or higher. Further, a facility in a HPSA that scores 14 or higher must be either:

- A health center as defined under Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act;
- A rural health clinic as defined under Sections 1102 and 1871 of the Social Security Act;
- A Native American/Alaskan Native tribal medical facility as defined by the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (P.L. 93-638).

[Note: These are the only facilities from which HHS will accept an application; it is not known if many of these facilities are recruiting or are interested in recruiting a J-1 physician.]

ATTENTION J-1 PHYSICIANS :

To simplify your search, please go to www.bhpr.hrsa.gov "Health Professional Shortage Area Search the Database," and set the search parameters within a State for designated Primary Mental Health HPSAs with a minimum score of 14. These are the areas in which you may find an eligible facility.

ATTENTION EMPLOYERS :

If you have a position posted on the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Approved Position List, you may only offer that position to a J-1 Visa physician in the event that it remains unfilled. The physician must be NHSC scholar or loan repayer eligible for placement in FY 2004.

Application Package : A complete application package consists of an application form (found at the bottom of this page) and a letter of support from the facility (found at the bottom of this page).

and signed) and the supporting documentation requested in Supplementary Information E. We will accept an incomplete package, but processing will be delayed until we have received all materials. A physician may complete the CCVS enrollment (see below) and application for the waiver application package is submitted; however, credentialing will not begin until we received an acceptable waiver application package.

SUBMIT ONLY ONE COPY. DO NOT STAPLE.

APPLICATION PACKAGES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN

SEPTEMBER 30, 2004.



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