

Designation Definitions

| Type of Designation | Criteria Used to Determine Designation | Makes You Eligible to Apply for | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|
| Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) | Population to Physician Ratio | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Health Service Corps (NHSC) providers • Rural Health Clinic status (may be for-profit private practices) | These designations may be for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) geographic areas, 2) special populations (low income, homeless, migrant seasonal farmworkers) 3) dental health, 4) mental health, or 5) facilities like prisons |
| Medically Underserved Area (MUA) | A weighed index of four criteria that produce a numeric score called the Index of Medical Underservice (IMU) score. A score of less than 62.0 qualifies an area for designation. The four criteria are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) population to physician ratio, 2) percentage of people age 65+, 3) percentage of people below the poverty line, and 4) the infant mortality rate. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Health Clinic status (may be for-profit private practices) • Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act funds for operating support of public and community based non-profit health organizations) | Rural Health Clinic status allows for reasonable cost based reimbursement for Medicare and Medicaid clients |
| Oregon Office of Rural Health Areas of Unmet Health Care Need (AUCHN) | A weighted index of five criteria that produce a numeric score. A score of 53 and below qualifies an area for designation. The five criteria are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) primary care capacity, 2) ambulatory care sensitive conditions ratio, 3) travel time to nearest hospital, 4) comparative mortality ratio, and 5) low birth weight rate. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oregon Rural Health Service Loan Repayment Program | This is an Oregon specific designation |

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