

HPSA: Health Professional Shortage Area

X Resources available because of designation:

1. National Health Service Corps - loan repayment, scholar placement
2. Rural Health Clinic status - area must also be considered rural by the Census Bureau.
3. Demonstrates need in grant applications
4. Remote supervision for physician assistants in some areas

X Process:

1. Community calls DHS/Health Systems Planning (HSP) and asks for a designation, explaining the local needs.
2. If criteria are met, HSP applies to BHP for designation.
3. Federal Bureau of Health Professions / National Center for Health Workforce Analysis (NCHWA) reviews the application and decides whether or not to approve.

X Criteria:

1. Geographic = general population to primary care FTE ratio 3,500:1 or greater.
2. Special Populations = specific group compared to primary care FTE for that group. Minimum ratio is 3,000:1. Also, the community must have 30% of its population below 200% FPL.
3. There must be 30 minutes travel time to the next source of care. If a contiguous service area is less than 30 minutes away, over utilization must be demonstrated.
4. Providers are surveyed to determine the FTE available to the population. A 67% response rate must be achieved, then a projection of the average FTE of respondents is applied to the non-respondents and the subtotals are added together for a total projected FTE.

X Hierarchy:

We first try to designate an area as geographic. If need for the general population does not meet criteria, we then try a Low-Income (below 200% FPL) designation. This combines FTE for Medicaid with FTE for indigent and compares FTE to LI population. If need for the LI population is not strong enough, we then look at access for Migrant Farmworkers or Homeless.

X Other HPSA Designations:

Medical HPSAs have been described. Dental and Mental Health HPSAs are also available. The ratios and travel times are increased for these designations.

MUA: Medically Underserved Area

MUP: Medically Underserved Population

X Resources available because of designation:

1. Both MUA and MUP designations allow federal grant applications for Community Health Center funding. A CHC must serve the designated population, but the clinic does not have to be located exactly inside the designation.

2. MUA designations as well as HPSA designations allow Rural Health Clinic status, must also be rural. The RHC must be inside the designation and MUP's can not be used.

3. Remote supervision for physician assistants in some areas.

X Process:

1. Similar to HPSAs. HSP applies and NCHWA considers for approval.

2. Must reach a score of 62 or less based in four indicators. The indicators are: percent below FPL, percent age 65 and over, infant mortality rate, and ratio of primary care physicians per 1,000 population.

3. Each indicator is given a value and the values are added up.

X Other Types:

No dental or mental health.