

HEALTH WORKFORCE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Shortage Designations

Institutions may need to be located in or serve Federal shortage designations to be eligible for certain funding opportunities or other government-funded resources. Shortage designations indicate a shortage of health care services. Health professional shortage areas (HPSAs) and medically underserved areas/populations (MUAs/Ps) are designations commonly used to determine eligibility for the funding opportunities featured on this platform.

Background

Federal shortage designations are determined by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and each state or territory's primary care officer. Shortage designations can be geographic areas, population groups, or facilities. They can be used to determine or prioritize the amount of funding and other resources available to the providers who deliver patient care within that shortage designation. An institution can determine whether it is located in a shortage designation by entering its address [here](#).

HPSA

HPSAs are a type of shortage designation and can be geographic areas, population groups, or facilities that have a shortage of primary, dental, or mental health care providers. Each HPSA is given a score which is determined by the designation's population-to-provider ratio, percent of population below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and travel time to the nearest source of care outside of that HPSA (in addition to these factors, primary care HPSAs account for a designation's infant health index, dental HPSAs account for a designation's water fluoridation status, and mental health HPSAs account for a designation's percent of population over age 65, percent of population under age 18, and alcohol and substance abuse prevalence). Primary and mental health care HPSAs are scored out of 25, and dental health care HPSAs are scored out of 26. A HPSA's score may determine its degree of access to certain resources (i.e., a higher score may prioritize applicants within those HPSAs over applicants in lower scoring HPSAs). The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) is an example of a Federal program that relies on HPSA scores to determine resource distribution.

MUA/P

MUAs and MUPs are shortage designations that can be either geographic areas or population groups that lack access to primary care services. Like HPSAs, each MUA/P is given a score determined by its provider per 1,000 population ratio, percent of population at 100% of the FPL, percent of population at or below age 65, and infant mortality rate. MUAs/MUPs are scored out of 100. MUA/MUP scores can inform the establishment of health maintenance organizations and community health centers.



GNYHA is a dynamic, constantly evolving center for health care advocacy and expertise, but our core mission—helping hospitals deliver the finest patient care in the most cost-effective way—never changes.