AZ HPSA & Primary Care Office Updates

June 14, 2022

Edith Di Santo | Primary Care Office Chief
Arizona Primary Care Office

- To optimize the health of all Arizona residents by developing and strengthening systems services to expand access to primary care and other services with emphasis on the health needs of underserved people and areas.
Goals

• Implement strategies for strengthening primary care and the health care delivery system

• Increase the number of providers and improve services in underserved areas

• Identify areas that need improved health services and assist with data collection for federal/state shortage designations (HPSAs)

• Support statewide partners and provide technical assistance
Core Functions

• Administers:
  – Arizona State Loan Repayment Program (Application for new providers opens from April-June 1 of each year)
  – J1 Visa Program (Opens in October of each year)
  – National Interest Waiver Program
  – Evaluation and data collection for the designation of
    – AZ Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)
    – Medically Underserved Areas/Populations (MUA/P)
  – Review of Sliding Fee Scales

• Technical Assistance/Promotes Federal Programs in AZ:
  – National Health Service Corps (LRP, Scholarship & Site Registrations)
  – Nurse Corps (LRP & Scholarship)
Shortage Designation 101

Identification of an area, population, or facility experiencing a shortage of health services. There are two types of shortage designations, each linked to a HRSA activity or function.
HPSA

A HPSA designation is a base requirement to qualify for state or federal programs aimed at increasing primary care services to underserved areas and populations.

HPSA Scores are used for:
- Funding Preference
- Priority in Awards
- Award Levels/ Amounts
- Scholar Placement
# Types of Shortage Designations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>HPSA</strong></th>
<th><strong>MUA/P</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Health Professional Shortage Area)</td>
<td>(Medically Underserved Area/Population)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### A shortage of:

- **Primary Care**
- **Mental Health**
- **Dental Health**

### Limited access to:

- **Primary Care**

### providers in a:

- Geographic Area
- Population Group
- Facility

### services in a:

- Geographic Area
- Population Group
Area vs. Facility HPSAs

**Area (geo or pop) HPSAs:**
- Community-based (must follow AZ Primary Care Area boundaries)
- Must meet specific criteria regarding population-to-provider ratio
- Must eliminate all contiguous areas as potential sources of care
- Must be updated regularly

**Auto Facility HPSAs:**
- Only applies to that facility/organization
- No ratio or contiguous area requirements for designation
- Scores regularly updated through the National Shortage Designation Update.
Auto-HPSAs Facilities

- Indian Health Facilities
- IHS and Tribal Hospitals
- Dual-funded Community Health Centers/Tribal Clinics
- CMS-Certified Rural Health Clinics (RHCs)
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
- FQHC Look-A-Likes (LALs)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arizona</th>
<th>Total HPSAs</th>
<th>Geographic/ Area</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Population of Designated HPSAs</th>
<th>Percent of Need Met</th>
<th># Practitioners Needed to Remove HPSAs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Care</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>3,185,244</td>
<td>37.20%</td>
<td>653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>2,369,432</td>
<td>30.51%</td>
<td>406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>3,449,527</td>
<td>10.48%</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data as of March 31, 2022
National Shortage Designation Update: Primary Care Geographic/Population HPSAs

All existing HPSA designations were updated nationally in September 2021.

- There was very little change to Primary Care HPSAs in AZ’s rural areas.

There are 53 Primary Care Areas in counties outside of Pima and Maricopa. Of these,

- 2 are submitted, currently pending HRSA review (Navajo Nation/Hopi Tribe)
- 1 was proposed for withdrawal, no longer qualified (Saddlebrooke)
- 5 were not previously designated and are being reviewed to see if they might qualify with newest data (Flagstaff, Queen Creek, Gold Canyon, Casa Grande, Prescott)
- 45 were re-designated in September 2021, with an average increase in HPSA score of 2.4
Finding Your HPSA Score

- For CHCs - Sites will have the same FACILITY HPSA ID & Score but may differ for primary care, dental or mental.
- Sites will usually have DIFFERENT geo/pop HPSA ID/Scores (unless located very close geographically).

Steps:
1. Look up each site’s **geo/pop HPSA** using the HPSA address search tool, and record those scores.
2. Look up the **Facility HPSA** score using the HPSA Find by county tool, record that score.
3. For each site, select whichever score is higher.

*Use highest score for NHSC and SLRP purposes.*
HPSA Find - Search by Address

https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area/by-address

Note that this will NOT give you Facility HPSAs – only Area/HPSAs
Address Search - Example

Address
150 N 18th Ave, Phoenix, AZ, 85007

Standardized address
150 N 18th Ave, Phoenix, Arizona, 85007

[+] More about this address

In a Dental Health HPSA: Yes
HPSA Name: 11-Central City Village
ID: 6041975610
Designation Type: HPSA Population
Status: Designated
Score: 21
Designation Date: 11/27/2017
Last Update Date: 09/10/2021

In a Mental Health HPSA: No
In a Primary Care HPSA: Yes
HPSA Name: 11-Central City Village
ID: 1041996889
Designation Type: HPSA Population
Status: Designated
Score: 19
Designation Date: 12/29/2017
Last Update Date: 09/10/2021

In a MUA/P: No

Note: The address you entered is geocoded and then compared against the HPSA and MUA/P data in the HRSA.gov. Due to programming limitations, the designation cannot be guaranteed to be 100% accurate and does not constitute an official determination.

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Health and Wellness for all Arizonans
HPSA Find - Search by County

https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area/hpsa-find

Will give all HPSAs in county, including facilities

Tip: FQHCs are listed only by parent site and county that site is located in.
Arizona State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)

• Goals:
  – Award incentives to recruit and retain providers
  – Increase providers in rural and underserved areas
  – Increase access to primary care, dental, and mental health services

• Modeled after the Federal National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment program
## Provider Retention - SLRP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How many more years clinicians anticipate they will remain in...</th>
<th>AZ SLRP (n=110) Average [Median]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>their current practice</td>
<td>9.8 years [7 yrs.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>their current community</td>
<td>14.9 years [10 yrs.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rural practice*</td>
<td>14.1 years [10 yrs.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a medically underserved area, whether urban or rural</td>
<td>14.2 years [10 yrs.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>their current state</td>
<td>21.1 years [20 yrs.]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Excluded non-rural providers
Eligible Disciplines

• Physicians
  • Family Medicine, OB/GYN, Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, Geriatrics, Psychiatry

• Dentists

• Pharmacists

• Advanced Care Providers
  • Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse Midwives

• Behavioral Health Providers
  • LCSW, LFMT, Psych D, LPC
## Award Amounts*

### Physicians and Dentists

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contract Year of Service</th>
<th>HPSA Score of 18-26</th>
<th>HPSA Score of 14-17</th>
<th>HPSA Score of 0-13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial Two Years</td>
<td>$65,000</td>
<td>$58,500</td>
<td>$52,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third year</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
<td>$31,500</td>
<td>$28,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth year</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>$22,500</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth year and continuing</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$13,500</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Advance Practice Providers, Behavioral Health Providers and Pharmacists

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contract Year of Service</th>
<th>HPSA Score of 18-26</th>
<th>HPSA Score of 14-17</th>
<th>HPSA Score of 0-13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial two years</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third year</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>$22,500</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth year</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>$18,000</td>
<td>$16,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth year and continuing</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Based on maximum, full-time commitment. Award amounts are tax-exempt.
Applicant Health Service Priority Score

1. Geographic location (Rural vs. Urban)
2. HPSA score specific to the applicant’s discipline
3. Percentage of underserved populations served by Service Site
4. Access to the next nearest Sliding Fee Scale clinic of similar type service
5. Newly employed at the service site or by the employer
6. On-site or in-person service delivery versus telemedicine
7. Arizona resident
8. Graduate of an Arizona graduate educational institution
9. Experience in serving the medically underserved
10. Service Hours (Full-time / Half-time)
AZ SLRP Annual Cycle

• **January-March**: sites must register to be active eligible sites for SLRP for the year

• **April 1st**: Renewal Applications cycle closes for participants who will be completing their initial 2-year award/obligation

• **Mid April - June 1st**: Initial 2-year Application cycle closes for new participants

• **October**: Awards & Contracts are given to awarded applicants.
SLRP by Service Type

- Primary Care, 109, 71%
- Behavioral, 24, 16%
- Dental, 20, 13%

FY2021 Providers
Outreach Efforts

• Presentations to medical, dental, behavioral/mental health services schools in Arizona

• Conferences & professional organizations

• Any other ideas?
Support SLRP

- Entities can donate directly to the program.

- Private donations can be earmarked for a specific discipline and/or county.

  - For details, please contact Edith Di Santo at edith.disanto@azdhs.gov or call 602-542-1066
For more information:

**Arizona State Loan Repayment Programs**

National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program (NHSC LRP)
WHICH ONE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

**NHSC Loan Repayment Program**
- Physicians (DO/MD) • Nurse Practitioners (NP) • Physician Assistants (PA) • Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM)
- Health Service Psychologists (HSP) • Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW) • Psychiatric Nurse Specialists (PNS)
- Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT) • Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC)

**NHSC SUD Workforce Loan Repayment Program**
- Dentists (DDS/DMD) • Dental Hygienists (RDH)

**NHSC Rural Community Loan Repayment Program**
- Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Counselors, Pharmacists (PHARM), Registered Nurses (RN)
- Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA)

**Disciplines Eligible for All Programs**
- $50K full-time / $25K part-time
- 2 years
- Any NHSC-approved site

**Disciplines Eligible for Specific Programs**
- $75K full-time / $37.5K part-time
- 3 years
- Any NHSC-approved SUD site

All programs use one application, but you can only apply to one program.

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Health and Wellness for all Arizonans
National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Provider Eligibility

ELIGIBLE DISCIPLINES

Must be licensed in one of the following:

- Physician (MD or DO)
- Nurse practitioner (primary care)
- Certified nurse-midwife
- Physician assistant
- Dentist (general or pediatric)
- Dental hygienist
- Psychiatrist
- Psychologist
- Licensed clinical social worker
- Psychiatric nurse specialist
- Marriage and family therapist
- Licensed professional counselor

Must meet the following requirements:

- US Citizen or National
- Licensed in the state where employer site is located
- Have unpaid government or commercial loans for school tuition, reasonable educational and living expenses, segregated from all other debts (that is, not consolidated with non-educational loans)
- Currently working or have accepted an employment with an NHSC-approved facility located in a Health Professional Shortage Area
How do providers benefit from NHSC LRP?

Receive a **lump-sum** loan repayment upfront for an initial two year commitment.

Program options:

- **Full time**: 40 hours per week for a minimum of 45 weeks per year
- **Part time**: 20 hours per week for a minimum of 45 weeks per year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial Award Amounts</th>
<th>2 Years Full-time</th>
<th>2 Years Half-time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loan Repayment Award (HPSA 14 and above)</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan Repayment Award (HPSA 13 and below)</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Loan Repayment Awards:

Continue loan repayment beyond the initial contract, one year at a time, and pay off all qualifying educational loans.
National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment
Service Site Eligibility

Eligible Sites

• Federally Qualified Health Center or Look-Alike (FQHC or FQHC-LA)
• Certified Rural Health Clinic (RHC)
• Indian Health Service Site (Federal or Tribal)
• Solo or Group Partnership or Practice
• Hospital-Affiliated Primary Care Practice
• Critical Access Hospital
• Managed Care Network
• State or Federal Prison
• U.S. Immigration, Customs and Enforcement Site
• Public Health Department
• Other Health Clinics

Must meet the following eligibility requirements:

• Located in a designated HPSA
• Accept Medicare and Medicaid
• Use Sliding Fee Scale (*IHS sites are exempt from this requirement*)
• Non-discriminatory policy in the provision of health services
• Has capacity to maintain a competitive salary, benefits, and malpractice coverage package for clinicians
• Must receive NHSC certification.
Providers find a job at an NHSC-approved site

THEN

Apply to the NHSC for loan repayment

1

Watch the NHSC Site Video on the "HRSATube" YouTube channel.

Find positions at NHSC-approved sites using the NHSC Jobs Center: http://nhscjobs.hrsa.gov

PROVIDERS RECEIVE LOAN REPAYMENT IN ADDITION TO A COMPETITIVE SALARY FROM THEIR EMPLOYERS
Learn more at
Sign Up for Updates

https://www.hrsa.gov/

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USHHSHRSA/subscriber/new?qsp=HRSA-subscribe
Personnel Updates

Bureau of Women’s and Children’s Health

Bureau Chief
Laura Bellucci

Office of Women’s Health
Angie Lorenzo

Office of Children’s Health
Jessica Stewart-Gonzalez

Office of Oral Health
Julia Wacloff

Primary Care Office Chief & PCO Director
Edith Di Santo

Business & Finance
Erik Anderson
Primary Contacts

- workforce@azdhs.gov (Edith & Erin)
  - Arizona State Loan Repayment Program
  - Federal programs (i.e. NHSC, Nurse Corps)
  - All site questions, NHSC & SLRP
  - HPSAs (Tracy Lenartz)

- j1@azdhs.gov (Edith & Erin)
  - J1 Program
  - National Interest Waiver Program
CONTACT INFORMATION

Julia Wacloff, Office of Oral Health Office Chief, Women’s & Children’s Health, ADHS
Email: Julia.Wacloff@azdhs.gov
Phone: (602) 542-1866

Edith Di Santo, Primary Care Office Chief, Bureau of Women’s & Children’s Health, ADHS
Email: edith.disanto@azdhs.gov
Phone: (602) 542-1066

Erin Gonsalves, Workforce Program Manager, Bureau of Women’s & Children’s Health, ADHS
Email: erin.gonsalves@azdhs.gov
Phone: (602) 542-1211

Tracy Lenartz, Designations Specialist/Health Planning Consultant
Email: Tracy.Lenartz@azdhs.gov
THANK YOU

Edith Di Santo | Primary Care Office Chief
Edith.DiSanto@azdhs.gov  | 602-542-1066

azhealth.gov

@azdhs

facebook.com/azdhs