Arizona State Office of Rural Health

The University of Arizona
Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health
Center for Rural Health

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Arizona Primary Care Office: HPSAs & Loan Repayment Program
November 18, 2021

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
MEL & ENID ZUCKERMAN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Center for Rural Health
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Edith Di Santo is the Chief for the Primary Care Office, AZDHS. The Primary Care Office oversees workforce programs aimed at increasing access to primary care with emphasis on the health needs of underserved people and areas. Edith has a Master’s Degree in Public Health focused in health policy from George Washington University. Edith has over 13 years of public health experience, working at the federal, state, local and non-profit sectors.
Arizona Primary Care Office (PCO)

• 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
PCO 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 federal/state shortage designations
- Support statewide partners and provide technical assistance
PCO Core Functions

• Administers:
  – Evaluation and data collection for the designation of
    – AZ Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)
    – Medically Underserved Areas/Populations (MUA/P)
  – Arizona State Loan Repayment Program
  – J1 Visa Program
  – National Interest Waiver Program

• Technical Assistance/Promotes Federal Programs in AZ:
  – National Health Service Corps (LRP & Scholarship)
  – Nurse Corps (LRP & Scholarship)
Health Professional Shortage Areas

• Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) designations identify an area or population as having a shortage of providers
  • Primary Care
  • Dental
  • Mental Health

• HPSA designations are used to qualify for state and federal programs aimed at increasing primary care services to underserved areas and populations
HPSAs

A shortage of:

- Primary Care
- Mental Health
- Dental Health

providers in a:

- Geographic Area
- Population Group
- Facility
Types of HPSAs

• Geographic
• Geographic with high needs (i.e. > 20% poverty)
• Population (i.e. Low Income)
• Facilities:
  – State and Federal Correctional Facilities
  – Some facility types are eligible for an automatic HPSA designation
    • Community Health Centers (CHCs) and FQHC Look-Alikes
    • Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) – must become NHSC site certified first
    • Indian Health Service/Tribal sites
Geographic Area

• A rational service area - in Arizona we use an established Primary Care Area plan
  – Based on demographics and care-seeking patterns

• Population to Provider Ratio Requirement:
  – 3,500:1 primary care (MDs and DOs, does not count PAs, NPs; family/general practice, internal medicine, pediatrics and OB/GYN)
  – 5,000:1 dental (incorporates dental hygienists and assistants, as well as dentist age)
  – 30,000:1 mental health (psychiatrists only)
  – Does not include obligated providers (NHSC, J-1, federal commissioned officers)
Geography: Az Primary Care Areas

Primary Care Areas (PCAs) were built by ADHS in 2013 to represent where Arizonans go for primary care while also representing communities with a population size conducive to spatial and statistical analysis.

- 126 communities
- Required by state statute in connection with Arizona Medically Underserved Area (AzMUA) biennial designation
- “State Rational Service Area” plan for federal shortage designations
- Built with a repeatable, rule-based methodology
- Reflects tribal and village/planning area boundaries when possible
- Updated every decennial census to reflect changing demographics
Geographic Area with High Needs

• A rational service area that exhibits one of the following:
  – 20% or more of the population is @ 100% of the poverty level
  – Infant mortality rate is greater than 20

• Population to Provider Ratio Requirement:
  – 3,000:1 primary care
  – 4,000:1 dental
  – 20,000:1 mental health
Population – Low Income

- Population = Those below 200% FPL in rational service area
- Providers = just those seeing patients on AHCCCS or a sliding fee scale
- Population to Provider Ratio Requirement:
  - 3,000:1 Primary Care
  - 4,000:1 Dental
  - 20,000:1 Mental Health
- Typically do this type of designation when area does not qualify for geographic HPSA
Excluded from Provider FTE Count

- NHSC Federal Scholarship or Loan Repayment Providers
- Other Federal providers (e.g. Commissioned Officers)
- Physicians who are graduates of foreign schools who are not citizens or lawful permanent residents (including those with J-l or H1-B visas)
- Providers engaged solely in admin, research, or teaching
- Physicians involved exclusively in inpatient or ER care or Urgent Care
- Providers full-time in correctional institutions
- Providers working in facilities not open to the public (i.e. VA)
- Providers suspended under provisions of the Medicaid-Medicare-Anti-Fraud and Abuse Act for a period of 18 months or more
Contiguous Areas

• Must show population of proposed HPSA cannot get services in surrounding service areas

• Can rule out contiguous areas due to:
  • Over-utilization (>2,000:1 primary care)
  • Excessive Distance (> 30 minutes)
  • Significant socioeconomic differences
  • Designated as HPSA
  • Inaccessible for other reasons (i.e. reservation – services only available to tribal populations)
HPSA Score – Primary Care

• HRSA assigns each HPSA a score based on data we submit
• Higher score = higher need
• All clinics/providers in a geographic/population HPSA have same HPSA score and identification number

I. Primary Care HPSA Scoring

Primary Care HPSAs can receive a score between 0-25.

The following figure provides a broad overview of the four components used in Primary Care HPSA scoring:

1. Population-to-Provider Ratio [10 points max]
2. Percent of Population below 100% FPL [5 points max]
3. Infant Health Index (Based on IMR or LBW Rate) [5 points max]
4. Travel Time to NSC [5 points max]

= HPSA Score Out of 25
HPSA Score - Dental

II. Dental Health HPSA Scoring

We calculate a score between 0-26 for Dental Health HPSAs. The following figure provides a broad overview of the four components used in Dental HPSA scoring:

- Population-to-Provider Ratio
  - [10 points max]
- Percent of Population below 100% FPL
  - [10 points max]
- Water Fluoridation Status
  - [1 point max]
- Travel Time to NSC
  - [5 points max]

HPSA Score
Out of 26
HPSA Score – Mental Health

III. Mental Health Scoring

We calculate a score between 0-25 for Mental Health HPSAs. The following figure provides a broad overview of the seven components used in Mental Health HPSA scoring:

- Population-to-Provider Ratio [7 points max]
- Percent of Population below 100% FPL [5 points max]
- Elderly Ratio [3 points max]
- Youth Ratio [3 points max]
- Alcohol Abuse Prevalence [1 point max]
- Substance Abuse Prevalence [1 point max]
- Travel Time to NSC [5 points max]

\[ \text{HPSA Score} = \text{Population-to-Provider Ratio} + \text{Percent of Population below 100\% FPL} + \text{Elderly Ratio} + \text{Youth Ratio} + \text{Alcohol Abuse Prevalence} + \text{Substance Abuse Prevalence} + \text{Travel Time to NSC} \]

Out of 25
HPSA Designation Process

- State Primary Care Office role is to ensure provider data is as accurate as possible (using required NPI dataset) in HRSA’s Shortage Designation Management System (SDMS)
  - Phone surveys
  - Medicaid claims data

- HRSA conducted the **National Shortage Designation Update** in September 2021, which updated scores for all existing HPSAs using current data.

- PCO can continue to submit applications for new HPSAs (areas not previously designated) or for rescoring of existing HPSAs if data changes.
Results of National Shortage Designation Update:
Geographic/Population HPSAs

PRIMAR Y CARE

Of 126 Primary Care Areas:

- 5 Geographic High Needs HPSAs
- 24 Geographic HPSAs
- 50 Low Income Population HPSAs \(18 \text{ of these were previously geographic HPSAs}\)
- 1 currently pending for geographic HPSA
- 8 Proposed Withdraw \(\text{previously designated but did not qualify this time}\)
- 38 Not previously designated \(\text{will be assessed by early 2022 to determine whether meet HPSA criteria with new data}\)

SCORES

Average HPSA score overall = 15
- average for Geographic HPSAs = 14.7
- average for Low Income Population HPSAs = 15.8
- average change in score overall from previous HPSAs = +3.3 points
Results of National Shortage Designation Update: Geographic/Population HPSAs

DENTAL

Of 126 Primary Care Areas:

- 6 Geographic High Needs HPSAs
- 2 Geographic HPSAs
- 31 Low Income Population HPSAs (2 of these were previously geographic HPSAs)
- 35 in progress (qualify, but applications need to be resubmitted with updated water fluoridation data; will be submitted by end of November)
- 11 Proposed Withdraw (previously designated but did not qualify this time)
- 41 Not previously designated (will be assessed by early 2022 to determine whether meet HPSA criteria with new data)

SCORES

Average HPSA score overall = 16

- average for Geographic HPSAs = 15.9
- average for Low Income Population HPSAs = 16.5
- average change in score overall from previous HPSAs = +2.5 points
Results of National Shortage Designation Update: Geographic/Population HPSAs

MENTAL HEALTH

Of 126 Primary Care Areas:

- 18 Geographic High Needs HPSAs
- 16 Geographic HPSAs
- 7 Low Income Population HPSAs
- 28 Currently pending review
- 10 Proposed Withdraw (previously designated but did not qualify this time)
- 47 Not previously designated (will be assessed by early 2022 to determine whether meet HPSA criteria with new data)

SCORES

Average HPSA score overall = 16.3

- average for Geographic HPSAs = 16.3
- average for Low Income Population HPSAs = 16.6
- average change in score overall from previous HPSAs = -0.2 points
Shortage Designations 101:

AUTOMATIC FACILITY HPSA
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.
Results of National Shortage Designation Update: Auto Facility HPSAs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Facility HPSA</th>
<th>Primary Care (# Auto Facility HPSAs, Average score)</th>
<th>Dental (# Auto Facility HPSAs, Average score)</th>
<th>Mental Health (# Auto Facility HPSAs, Average score)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federally Qualified Health Center (CHC)</td>
<td>23 auto HPSAs Avg score = 19.3</td>
<td>23 auto HPSAs Avg score = 24.0</td>
<td>23 auto HPSAs Avg score = 19.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IHS, Tribal &amp; Urban Indian</td>
<td>72 auto HPSAs Avg score = 18.9</td>
<td>72 auto HPSAs Avg score = 21.6</td>
<td>72 auto HPSAs Avg score = 17.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Health Clinic</td>
<td>19 auto HPSAs Avg score = 16.5</td>
<td>19 auto HPSAs Avg score = 17.1</td>
<td>19 auto HPSAs Avg score = 17.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Shortage Designations 101: DESIGNATION RESOURCES
HPSAs and Workforce Programs

HPSA designation is an eligibility requirement for:
• National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment
• NHSC Scholar Program
• Arizona State Loan Repayment
• J-1 Visa Waiver Program

May use area or facility HPSA score when applying for these programs – use whichever is higher.
• NHSC no longer has a “HPSA Freeze” - scores will be utilized real-time.
### Scholar HPSA Score Requirements

**What are HPSA score requirements by class year?**

NHSC-approved sites must meet the HPSA score requirements* by class year (CY):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>CY 2022</th>
<th>CY 2021</th>
<th>CY 2020</th>
<th>CY 2019</th>
<th>CY 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Care (Doctor of Medicine (MD), Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO), &amp; Nurse Practitioner (NP))</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician Assistant (PA)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentists (DDS &amp; DMD)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatric (MD &amp; DO)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Score requirements vary based on the class year.
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.
HPSA Find Search Options

Apply Filters (Optional)

HPSA Discipline
- Primary Care
- Dental Health
- Mental Health

HPSA Status
- Checked: Designated
- Proposed for Withdrawal
- Withdrawn

HPSA Designation/Population Types
- Checked:
  - All Geographic HPSAs
  - Geographic HPSA
  - High Needs Geographic HPSA
  - All Population HPSAs
  - Homeless Population HPSA
  - Low Income Homeless Migrant
    Farmworker Population HPSA
  - Low Income Homeless Migrant Seasonal
    Worker Population HPSA
  - Low Income Homeless Population HPSA
  - Low Income Migrant Farmworker
    Population HPSA
  - Low Income Migrant Seasonal Worker
    Population HPSA
  - Low Income Population HPSA
  - Medicaid Eligible Population HPSA
  - Migrant Farmworker Population HPSA
  - Migrant Seasonal Worker Population
    HPSA
  - Other Population HPSA
  - All HPSA Facilities
    - Alaskan Native Tribal Population
    - Correctional Facility
    - Federally Qualified Health Center
    - Federally Qualified Health Center Look-alike
    - Indian Health Service Facility
    - Native American Population HPSA
    - Native American/Tribal Facility/Population
    - Other Facility
    - Rural Health Clinic
    - State Mental Hospital

HPSA Score
- 0
- 13
- 17
- 26
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
Finding Your HPSA Score

A CHC, RHC or IHS/Tribal site can have 1 or 2 different Primary Care HPSAs per Site, 1 or 2 Dental HPSAs and 1 or 2 Mental Health HPSAs. *This gets confusing!*

You want to use whichever score is greatest for NHSC and SLRP purposes.

Things to remember:

1. For **CHCs** - All of your sites will have the same FACILITY HPSA ID/Score. For **RHCs** - Each of your sites will have different FACILITY HPSA ID/Score.
2. Your sites will usually have DIFFERENT geo/pop HPSA ID/Scores (unless they are located very close to each other geographically).
3. Look up each site’s geo/pop HPSA using the HPSA address search tool, and record those scores.
4. Look up your Facility HPSA score using the HPSA Find by county tool, record that score.
5. For each site, select whichever score is higher.
THANK YOU!

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