

Medically Underserved Area/Population

WHAT ARE MUAs/MUPs?

Locations or population groups that meet criteria to qualify for a federal designation that makes them eligible for a variety of federal program resources and benefits.

WHICH LOCATIONS OR POPULATION GROUPS MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR DESIGNATION?

- A distinct geographic area such as a county; or
- A specific population group such as low income population.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE KEY DESIGNATION CRITERIA?

- Proposed service area must be rational. Rational Service Areas (RSA) maybe Whole County, established neighborhoods, populations with similar socio-economic characteristics, or an area with physical access barriers to healthcare services.
- Primary care physician to population ratio.
- Travel time to reach provider.
- Indicators of high need such as infant mortality rate, poverty population, 65 and over population.

For more information on designation criteria: <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/muaps/index.html>

WHAT TYPES OF HEALTH PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINES MAY QUALIFY FOR A SHORTAGE DESIGNATION?

- MUAs/MUPs are only relevant for primary care physicians.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PROGRAMS FOR WHICH AN MUA/P MAY BE ELIGIBLE?

- J1 Visa Waiver Program
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)

The Maryland Primary Care Office (PCO) facilitates the federal MUA/P designation process. Designations are awarded at the federal level by the Shortage Designation Branch of the Bureau of Health Professions (BHPr). For more information, visit: http://fha.maryland.gov/ohpp/pco_shortage.cfm

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