

Program Components

[Organizational Collaboration](#)

[Community Assessment and Planning](#)

[Data Support](#)

[Presentations/Training](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Health Centers in Maryland](#)

[Federally Qualified Health Centers \(FQHCs\)](#)

[How to Apply for a FQHC Status](#)

[Maryland Qualified Health Centers](#)

[How to Apply for a MQHC Status](#)

Organizational Collaboration

The Maryland Primary Care Office (PCO) organizes and assists the efforts of communities and local health departments with health care needs assessment and related issues. The PCO provides technical assistance to local health departments, Community Health Centers (CHCs) and health facilities, and promotes health service delivery to underserved populations through planning, program development, and collaboration with other states.

Community Assessment & Planning

The PCO provides a reciprocal mechanism of communication with localities and organizations to assess community readiness to develop and/or expand health care centers through information dissemination, participation in community meetings, follow-up, and submission of Letters of Intent to HRSA from organizations seeking 330 funding opportunities.

The PCO partners with [Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers \(MACHC\)](#) to provide technical and other assistance to communities and organizations interested in expanding access to care for the underserved.

The PCO works with MACHC and health centers to set up a triage system that maintains and strengthens health centers via Maryland resources for Maternal and Child Health, Rural Health, Minority Health and Health Disparities, Chronic Diseases, Cancer Council, Maryland Medicaid, FQHC Capital Funding, National Health Service Corps (NHSC) and Ready Responders, Maryland Higher Education Commission, Maryland Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Loan Assistance Repayment Program (LARP), J-1 Visa Waiver Program, Nurse Corps, and National Interest Waiver. The triage system functions to attain and maintain designations, leverage resources, and provide training and technical assistance to support the provision of quality care.

Data Support

The PCO collects and compiles data for an annual statewide analysis of unmet primary care needs. This assessment identifies the communities with unmet health care needs, health disparities and health workforce shortages, and highlights key barriers to accessing primary care.

Technical Assistance/Presentations/Training

The PCO is available for overview of programs, provider and/or community meetings for local, state, or federal collaboration.

Job Opportunities

The PCO utilizes [3RNet](#) as a vehicle in which facilities can post employment opportunities. Health providers can also use this website to post their employment interests.

Health Centers in Maryland

Maryland health centers consist of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), public facilities, non-profit facilities, and private facilities.

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)

The main purpose of FQHCs is to expand access to primary health care for uninsured and underserved populations who experience financial, geographic, or cultural barriers to care and who live in or near federally designated [Health Professional Shortage Areas \(HPSAs\)](#) and [Medically Underserved Areas or Populations \(MUA/Ps\)](#).

FQHCs meet qualifications specified by the federal [Health Resources and Services Administration \(HRSA\)](#) for funding authorized by Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act.

FQHCs include Community Health Centers, Migrant Health Centers, Health Care for the Homeless, Federal School Based Health Centers, Look-Alikes, Rural Health Centers and Public Housing grantees. These organizations are automatically eligible for a cost-based reimbursement rate from Medicare and Medicaid under the FQHC program. Those that qualify to receive 330 grant funding are required to meet program expectations reflected in the grantee's mission and strategy, clinical program, governance, management, and finance.

[Find a health center](#)