

# Maryland Primary Care Office

The Maryland **Primary Care Office (PCO)** is federally funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration's **Bureau of Health Professions (BHP)** to promote federal, state, local, and private collaboration to expand comprehensive, community based, primary care services for medically underserved populations.

## MISSION

The Maryland PCO's mission is to improve access to health care services for all Marylanders in underserved communities by developing strong partnerships; building local resources; supporting and retaining healthcare providers; promoting relevant state and national health policies, and reducing health disparities.

## PCO PRIORITIES

- Providing Technical Assistance to Organizations and Communities
- Needs Assessment and Data sharing
- Workforce Development
- Health Professional Shortage Area(HPSA) & Medically Underserved Area/Population(MUA/P) Designations

## WHO WE SERVE

- Medically Underserved Populations
- Hospitals
- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Physicians and other health professionals
- Safety net Providers
- Local Health Departments
- Communities
- Local, State, and Federal Governments

## WHAT WE DO

- Collect and submit data that can lead to shortage designations that help bring federal resources to Maryland.
- Serve as a liaison to federal immigration officials for requests for visa waivers that enable foreign health professionals to serve in underserved areas.
- Coordinate programs that provide clinical staff to underserved areas of the state. Examples of these programs are the Loan Assistance Repayment Program (LARP), the National Interest Waiver (NIW), the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), and the J1 Visa Waiver Program.

## PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Office of Health Policy and Planning administers the PCO program. For more information, visit: [http://fha.maryland.gov/ohpp/pco\\_home.cfm](http://fha.maryland.gov/ohpp/pco_home.cfm).

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### Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

*Martin O'Malley, Governor*

*Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor*

*Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary*

### Family Health Administration

*Donna Gugel, MHS, Acting Director*

