



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) National Health Service Corps (NHSC)



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State Office of Rural Health

Georgia Primary Care Association
Workforce Conference

April 28, 2023



Mission:

The mission of the Department of Community Health is to provide access to affordable, quality health care to Georgians through effective planning, purchasing, and oversight.



Focus On:

Agenda

- Define Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)
- Identify the geographic and demographic data used to establish HPSAs
- Provide steps how HRSA/SDB reviews/process shortage designation applications
- Provide websites where the public can find more information about HPSAs, and the National Health Service Corps (NHSC)



What is a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)?

- A HPSA is a geographic area, population, or facility with a shortage of primary care, dental, or mental health providers and services.
- The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and State Primary Care Offices (PCOs) work together using public, private, and state-provided data to determine when such a shortage qualifies for designation as a HPSA.



Maternity Care Health Target Area (MCTA)



- A “MCTA” is a Maternity Care Health Professional Target Area is an area within a Primary Care HPSA that has a shortage of maternity health care professionals.
- MCTAs are located *within existing Primary Care HPSAs*.



What is an Automatically-Designated HPSA (Auto-HPSA)?

Using the statute and regulations, HRSA has deemed the following facility types as eligible for automatic HPSA designations (i.e., no application is required)

- Health Centers (funded under section 330)
- Health Center Look-Alikes
- Tribally-Run Clinics
- Urban Indian Organizations
- Dual-Funded Tribal Health Centers
- Federally-Run Indian Health Service Clinics
- CMS-certified Rural Health Clinics meeting National Health Service Corps (NHSC) site requirements



HPSA Designation Criteria

Designations are a *representation* of an area's or population's need based on several factors



Health Professional Presence



Socio-Economic and Demographic Data



Language Barriers



Health Indicators



Population's Access to Health Care



Travel Time to Nearest Available Provider



HPSA Designation Criteria Cont'd

While the general components of designation analysis are similar across designation types, the specific eligibility criteria vary depending on designation type...



Population



Types of Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)

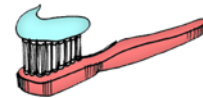
A shortage of:



Primary
Care



Mental
Health



Dental
Health

providers in a:



Geographic
Area



Population
Group



Facility



HPSA Population to Provider Ratios

- Primary Care, Dental, or Mental Health – **Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)**
 - a. Geographic
 - b. Geographic High Need
 - c. Population (low income, migrant, Medicaid, homeless, etc.)
 - d. Facility (federal/state correctional/youth facilities, mental health hospitals, etc.)

HPSA Population to Provider Ratios				
	Geographic	Geographic High Need	Population	Facility
Primary Care	3,500:1	3,000:1	3,000:1	1,000:1
Dental	5000:1	4,000:1	4,000:1	1,500:1
Mental (Psych)	30,000:1	20,000:1	20,000:1	2,000:1
Mental	9,000:1	6,000:1	6,000:1	



Medically Underserved Areas & Populations (MUA/P)

Limited access to:



Primary Care

services in a:



Geographic Area



Population



Medically Underserved Areas (MUA)

- Primary Care – **Medically Underserved Areas (MUA)**
 - Involves application of the **Index of Medical Underservice (IMU)** to data on a service area to obtain a score for the area. The IMU scale is from 0 to 100, where 0 represents completely underserved and 100 represents best served or least underserved. Under the established criteria, each service area found to have an IMU of 62.0 or less qualifies for designation as an MUA.
 - Criteria assessed:
 - ratio of primary medical care physicians per 1,000 population
 - infant mortality rate
 - percentage of the population with incomes below the poverty level
 - percentage of the population age 65 or over.



Medically Underserved Population (MUP)

- Primary Care – **Medically Underserved Population**
- **(MUP)**
 - This involves application of the Index of Medical Underservice (IMU) to data on an underserved population group within an area of residence to obtain a score for the population group.
 - Population groups requested for MUP designation are those with economic barriers (low-income or Medicaid-eligible populations), or cultural and/or linguistic access barriers to primary medical care services.
 - IMU score must be less than 62.0

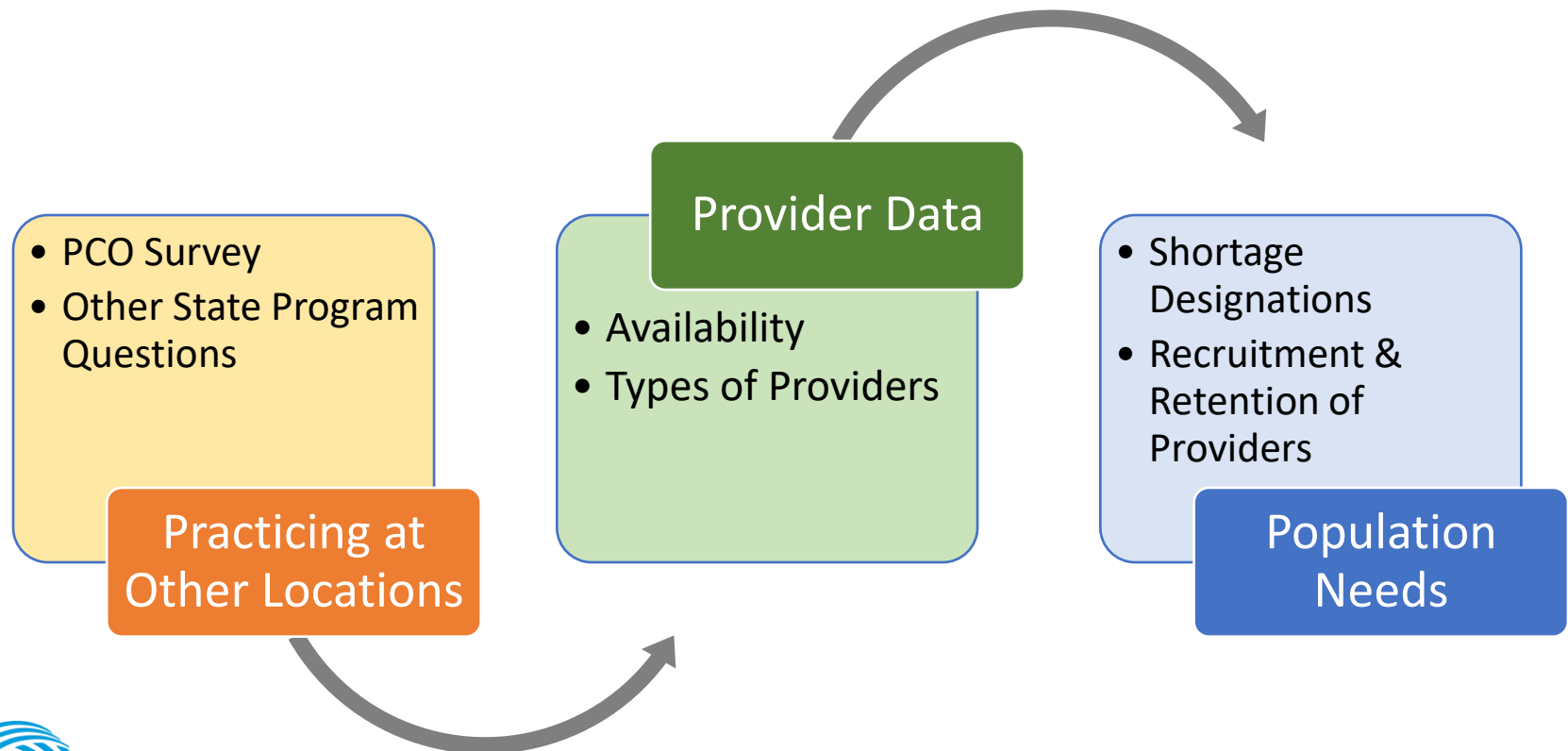


The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) established regulations to determine if certain geographic areas, population groups, or medical facilities qualify as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) or Medically Underserved Areas or Populations (MUA/Ps). Federal shortage designations documents a need for additional health care professionals and resources in order to prioritize and focus limited federal resources on areas of highest need.



Why is a Survey Needed?

- Surveys are needed to help HRSA prioritize and focus resources on areas of highest needs.



What do these federal resources mean for the communities?



To offer health care clinicians the opportunity to have their student loans repaid.

Federal Programs Using HPSAs and MUA/Ps

J-1 Visa Waiver Program

NHSC Service Corp Approved Site

FQHC's/Rural Health Clinics

Medicare Bonus Incentive Primary Care & Mental Health (Geographic HPSAs)

State Loan Repayment Program

Nurse Corps Loan Repayment Program

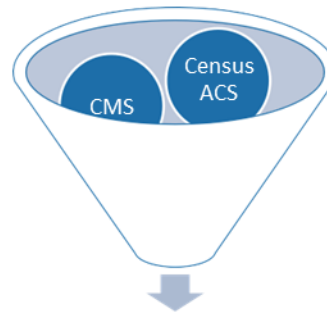
National Health Service Corp Loan Repayment Program



Shortage Designation Management System



... is an online **application tool** used by State PCOs and HRSA to manage designations



... uses **standard data sets** to calculate designations



... is based on **regulations**

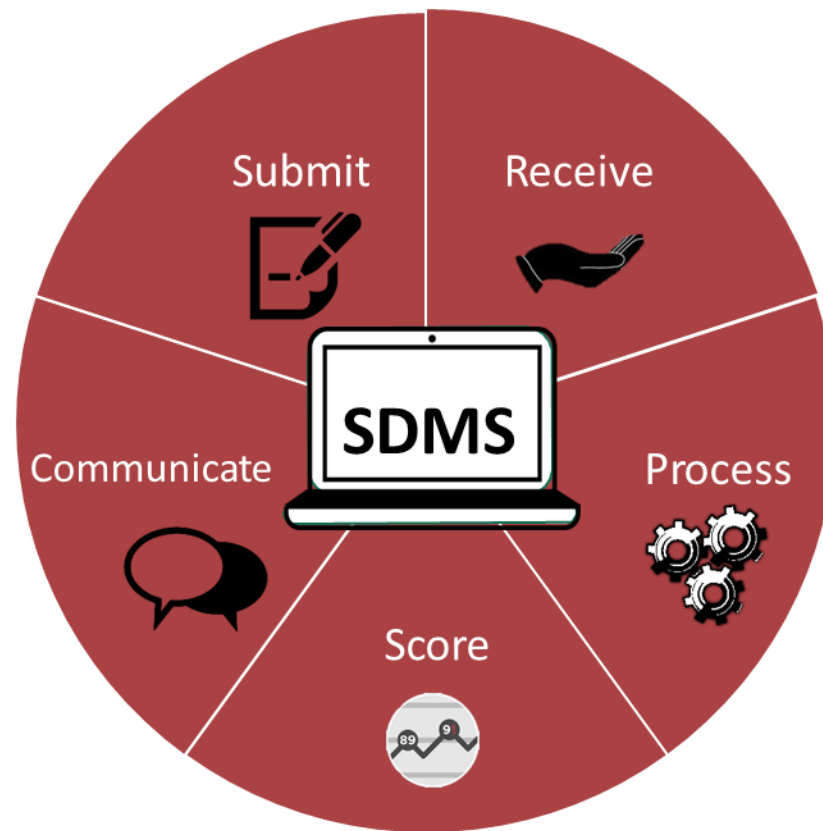


How does HRSA/SDB use the Shortage Designation Management System? The process is as follows:

- PCOs uses the Shortage Designation Branch (SDB) online portal to submit HPSA applications and designations in the Shortage Designation Management System (SDMS);
- The SDB uses SDMS to review and complete its evaluation of the request and determine whether the criteria for the designation have been satisfied; once an area qualifies for a designation or is automatically designated under the statute or regulations, the system uses a criteria to provide a score;
- If the application is approved, the designation is updated and sent to the HPSA Find website at data.hrsa.gov.
- This process is the same for all applications.
- Note: Based on statute and regulation, Automatically-Designated HPSAs (Auto-HPSAs) also submit applications for rescore request review.



HPSAs are processed in the Shortage Designation Management System



Where does the data come from?

Data Sets Loaded into SDMS

- Census & American Community Survey
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid's National Provider Identifier (NPI) File
- ArcGIS

SDMS Calculated Data

- Some demographic data are calculated by SDMS and cannot be edited

User Provided or Modified Data

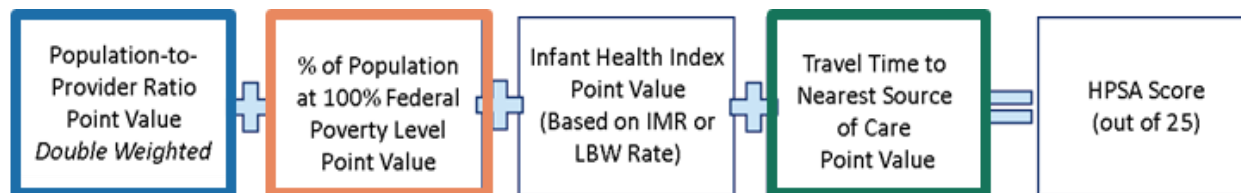
- Provider Data
- Population Data
- Certain Health Indicators



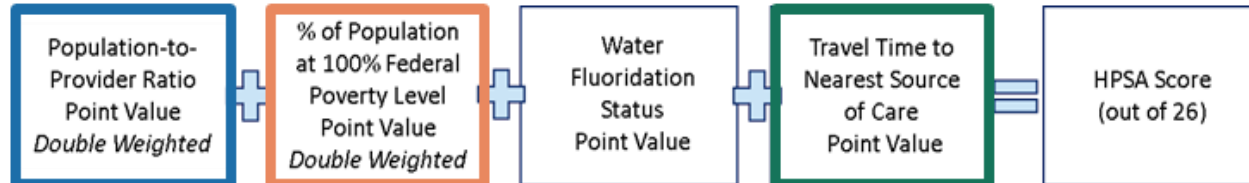
HPSA Scoring Criteria

HPSA scores are based on a variety of factors and range from 0 to 25 in the case of Primary Care and Mental Health, and 0 to 26 in the case of Dental Health

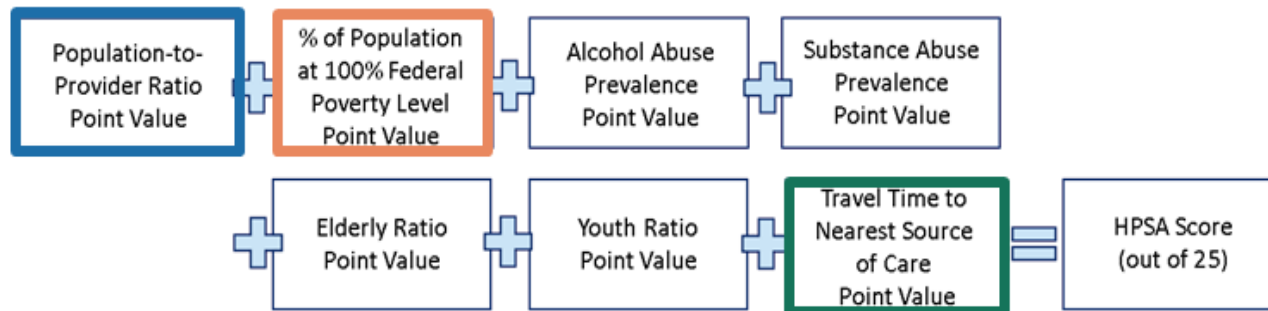
Primary Care 0-25



Dental Health 0-26



Mental Health 0-25



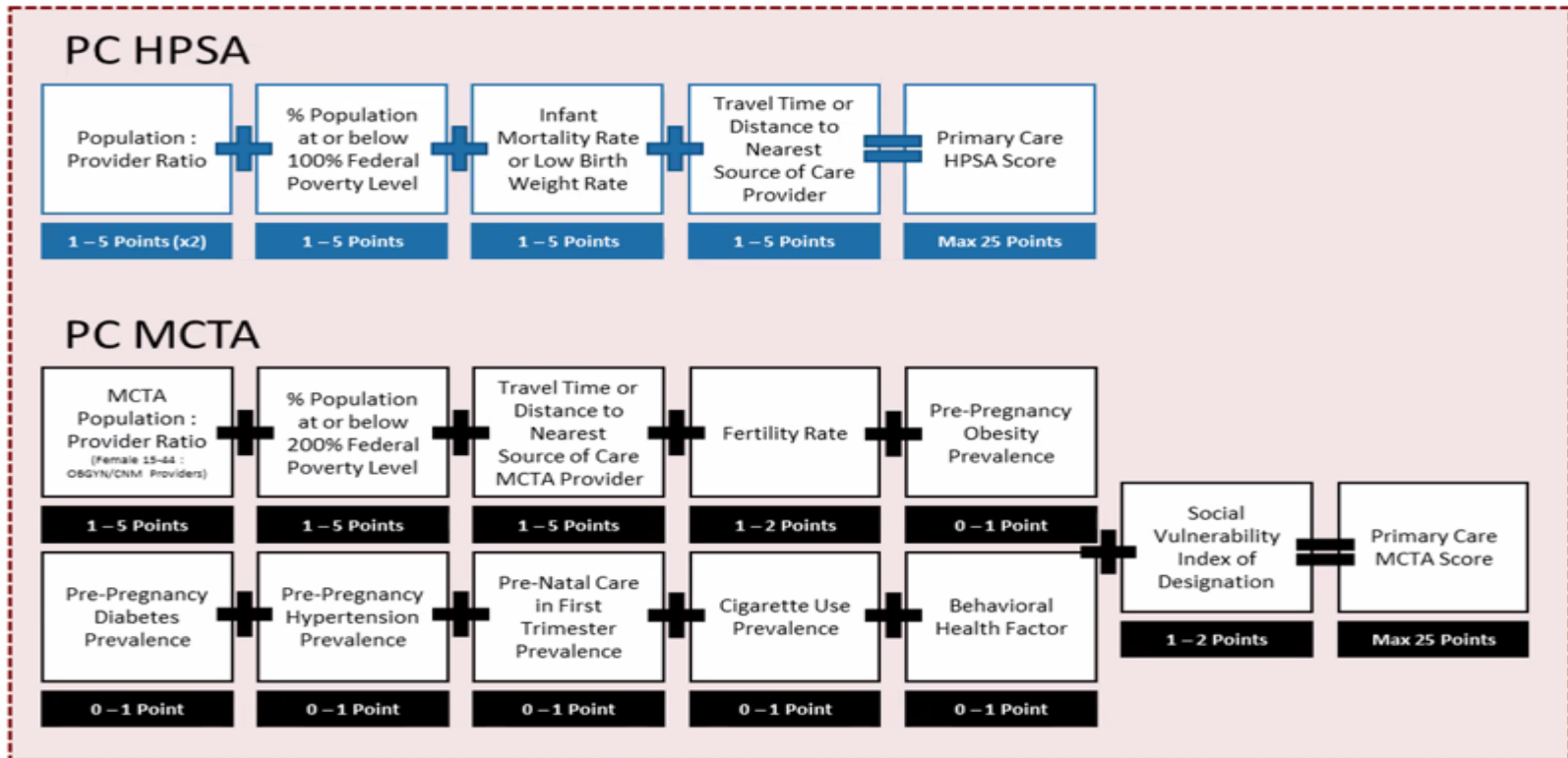
HPSA Scoring Calculation

Factor	Primary Care			Dental Health			Mental Health
	Max Pts Awarded	Multiplier	Total Points Possible	Max Pts Awarded	Multiplier	Total Points Possible	Max Pts Awarded
Population : Provider Ratio	5	x 2	= 10	5	x 2	= 10	7
% of Population below FPL	5	x 1	= 5	5	x 2	= 10	5
Travel distance/time to NSC	5	x 1	= 5	5	x 1	= 5	5
Infant Mortality Rate or Low Birth Weight	5	X 1	= 5				
Water Fluoridation				1	x1	= 1	
Ratio of children under 18 to adults 18-64							3
Ratio of adults 65 and older to adults 18-64							3
Substance prevalence							1
Alcohol abuse prevalence							1
Max Score:	= 25			= 26			= 25

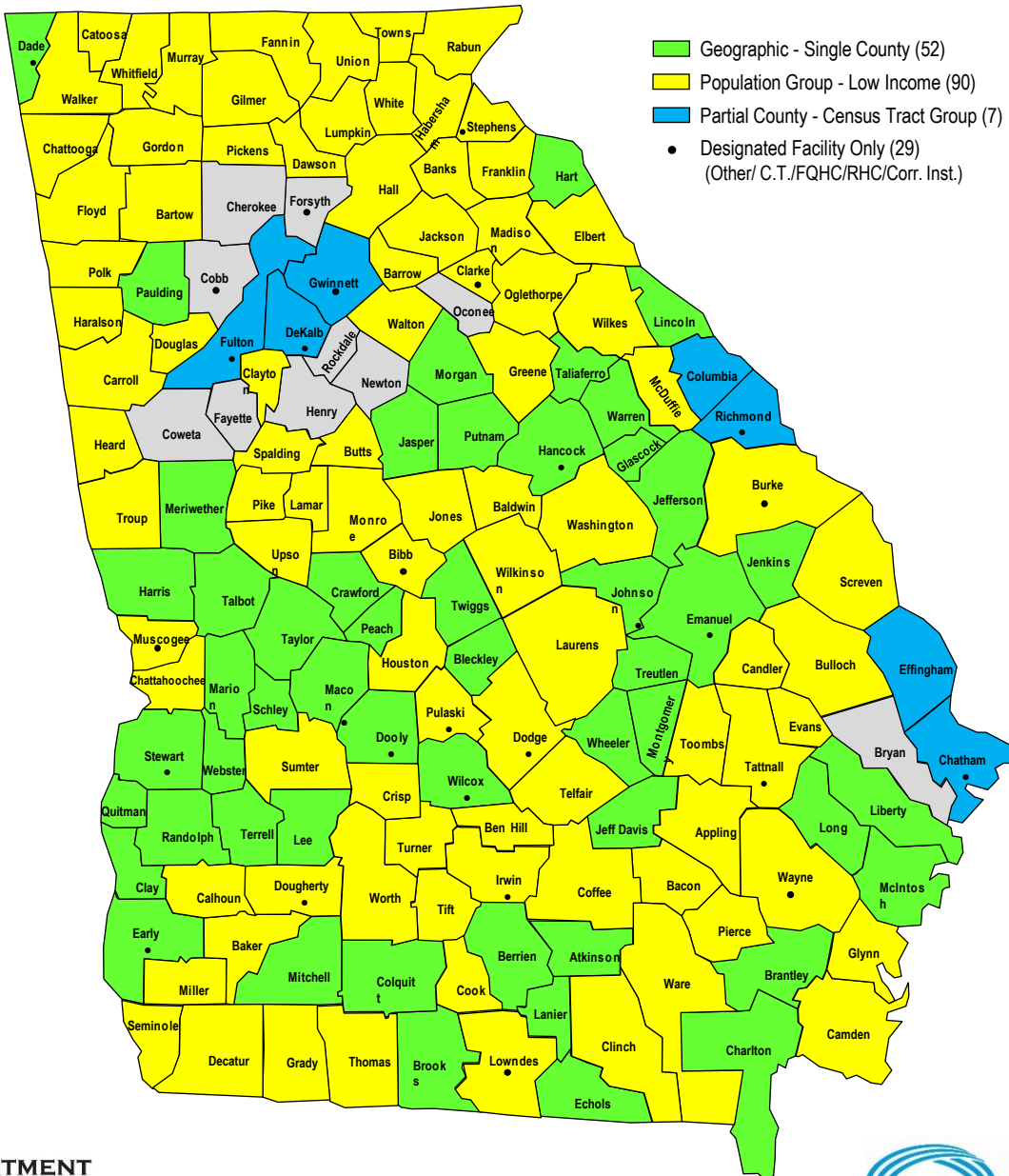


Primary Care/HPSA MCTA Sub-Score Criteria

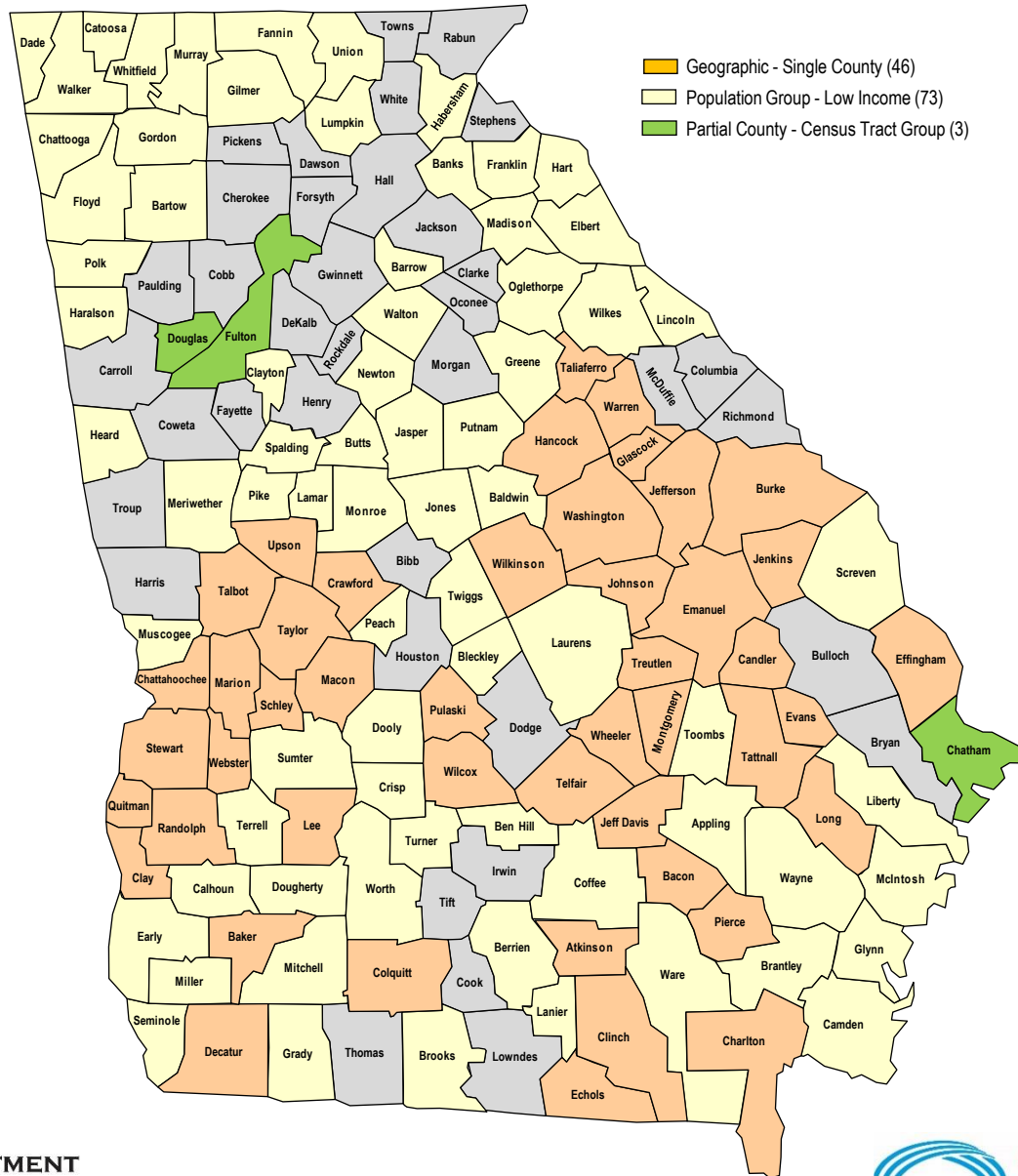
MCTA Sub-scores are based on a variety of factors and range from 0-25



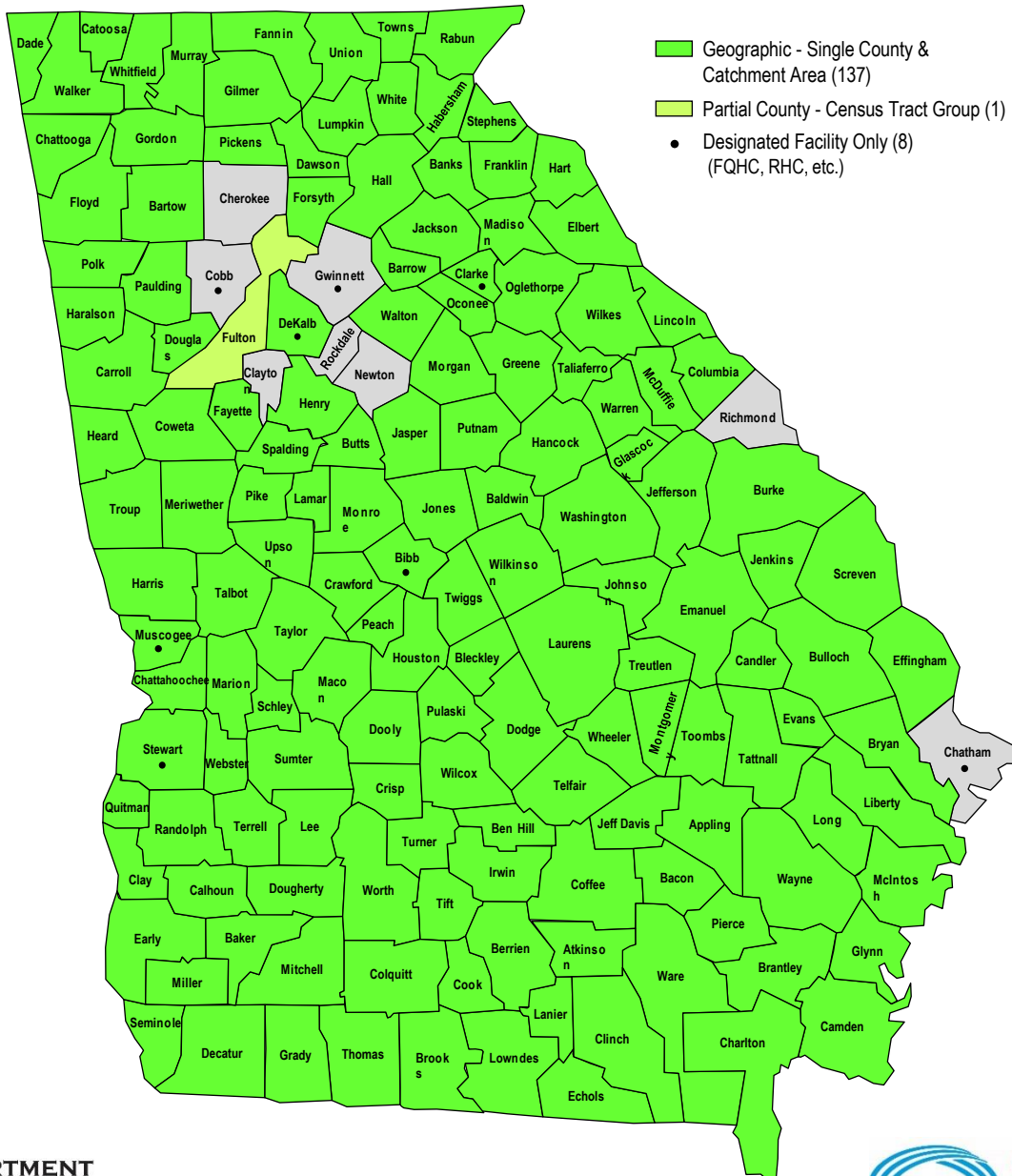
PRIMARY CARE HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA (HPSA)



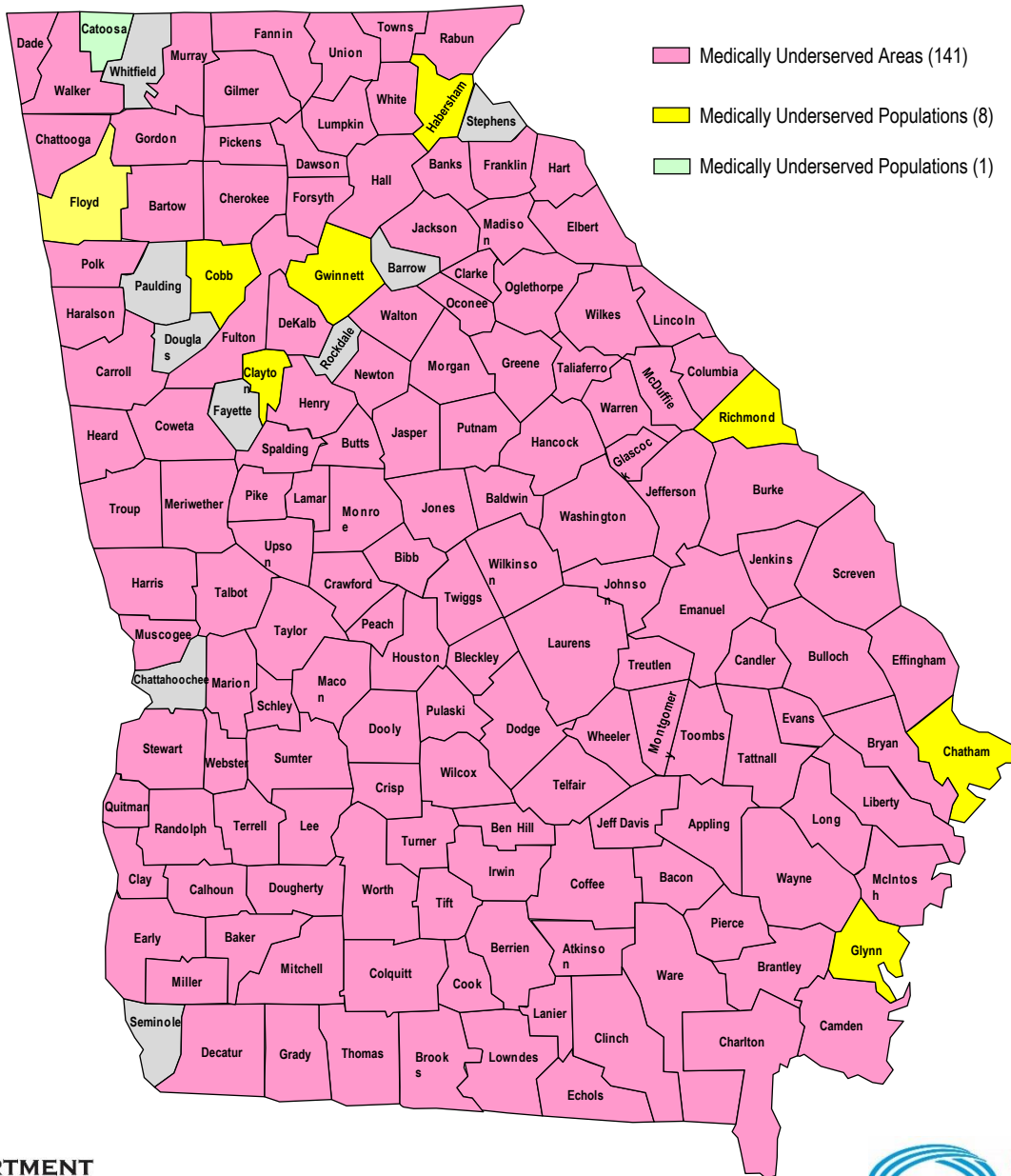
DENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS (DHPSA)



MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA (MHPSA)



MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREAS/POPULATIONS (MUA/P)



National Health Service Corp and Bureau of Health Workforce

The National Health Service Corp(NHSC) builds health communities by supporting qualified health care providers dedicated to working in areas with limited access to care.

The NHSC is part of HRSA's Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW)

BHW improves the health of underserved populations by strengthening the health workforce and connecting skilled professionals to communities in need.



Is My Site Eligible to Apply?

- Site must be located in and serves a federally-designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)
- Primary care outpatient facility (medical, dental, or behavioral)
- Utilizes and prominently advertises a qualified discounted/sliding fee schedule for individuals at or below 200% of the federal poverty level
- Does not deny services based on inability to pay or enrollment in Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- Ensures access to ancillary, inpatient and specialty care
- Meets all requirements listed in the NHSC Site Agreement

NHSC Site Reference Guide

[NHSC Site Reference Guide \(hrsa.gov\)](https://www.hrsa.gov/nhsc/site-reference-guide)

The guide will provide complete information on eligibility and the application process



Eligible Site Types

Eligible Site Types for Regular Application Process:

- * Certified Rural Health Clinics
- * State or Local Health Departments
- * State Prisons
- * Community Mental Health Centers
- * School-Based Clinics
- * Mobile Units/Clinics
- * Free Clinics
- * Critical Access Hospitals
- * Community Outpatient Facilities
- * Private Practices



Auto Approved Sites

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)

- * FQHC Look-Alikes
 - * Federal Prisons
 - * Immigration and Customs Enforcement
-
- All NHSC sites must deliver comprehensive primary care (medical, dental, and/or mental/behavioral health) on an outpatient basis, except for Critical Access Hospitals



- **Recruitment and Retention of Providers**
 - **NHSC Loan Repayment Program- \$50,000.00** Two years of Full-time service, or **\$25,000.00** Two years of Half-time service. MD/DO, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Certified Nurse Mid-wife, DDS/DMD, Licensed Clinical Social Workers and Licensed Professional Counselor
 - **NHSC Scholarship Program-** 1 year service commitment per scholarship year or partial scholarship year; two year minimum and four year maximum . Funding used for tuition, required fees, reasonable educational costs, and monthly support stipend. MD/DO, DDS/DMD, Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant and Certified Nurse Mid-wife



HRSA Health Workforce Connector



Create a site profile

- Select "Create Site Profile" on the site dashboard.
- Follow the step-by-step wizard to complete your profile.

Post vacancies to your site profile

Manage an existing opportunity

- Select "Manage Opportunities"
- Select an opportunity "ID" to edit, extend, close, or repost.
- Select "Save" to confirm changes.

Note: It may take up to 24 hours for changes to appear..

Post a new opportunity

- Select "Create New Opportunity"
- Provide position details.
- Select "Save" at the bottom of the screen to confirm changes.

Note: It may take up to 24 hours for changes to appear.

Search for qualified candidates (as a Verified Site Administrator)

- Select "Sign In" on [Health Workforce Connector](#).
- Enter your existing [Customer Service Portal](#) email and password.
- Select "User Search."



GA State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)

- The State Office of Rural Health was awarded the State Loan Repayment in the amount of \$419,495.00 for the next three years.
- The purpose of the GA State Loan Repayment Program is to support loan repayment awards to primary health care providers in exchange for one year of service in underserved communities. Participants practicing full-time (40 hours per week) at an eligible facility located in a Health Professional Shortage Area will receive \$25,000 loan repayment covering eligible educational loans. Participants practicing half-time (minimum of 20 hours per week) at an eligible facility located in a Health Professional Shortage Area will receive \$12,500 loan repayment covering eligible educational loans.



Practice Site Eligibility

1. FQHC Look-A-Likes
2. Certified Rural Health Clinics
3. Other Health Facilities
 - Community Outpatient Facilities
 - Community Mental Health Facilities
 - State and County Health Department Clinics
 - Free Clinics
 - Mobile Clinics
 - School-based programs
 - Critical Access Hospitals affiliated with a qualified outpatient clinic
 - State Mental Health Facilities
5. Correctional or Detention Facilities-Federal and State Prisons
6. Private Practices (Solo or Group)



Discipline Eligibility

- **Approved Primary Care Specialist for Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants**

- Adult
- Family
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry/mental health
- Geriatrics
- Women's Health



The Georgia State Office of Rural Health will verify with each participating site, the recipient's Completion of the GA SORH SLRP to ensure continued eligibility for future funding.



Health Professional Shortage Areas – (HPSAs)

- Learn more about HPSAs at:

data.hrsa.gov

The HPSA Find Tool displays data on the geographic, population and facility HPSA designations throughout the U.S. to determine the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) site eligibility. To find shortage areas by address, click on Tools on the menu bar at the HPSA Find website, under tools, click on Shortage Areas by Address.

- Enter an address to determine whether it is located in a shortage area: HPSA Geographic, HPSA Geographic High Needs, or Population Group HPSA or an MUA/P.

- Connect with DCH/PCO Office at:

dch.georgia.gov



Primary Care Office/SORH

Primary Care Office Website

<https://dch.georgia.gov/divisionsoffices/state-office-rural-health/primary-care-office-pco-programs>

State Office of Rural Health Maps

<https://dch.georgia.gov/divisionsoffices/state-office-rural-health/sorh-maps-georgia>



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