



**Federal Programs Using
Health Professional Shortage Area Designation
For Resource Allocation**

Tara Albrecht, BS, 2nd year 2nd Degree Nursing Student

Research Assistant

Elizabeth Katz, 3rd Year Student

Research Assistant

Elizabeth Merwin, PhD, R.N., F.A.A.N.

Professor of Nursing

Phone 434-982-3286 – E-mail eim5u@virginia.edu

McLeod Hall Box 800782

Charlottesville, Virginia 22908-0782

January 2005



GOAL: Identify Federal Programs Using Health Professional Area Designations for Resource Allocation

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) evaluates and subsequently designates areas throughout the United States that are suffering from shortages in the number of health care professionals that are available to treat the communities in which they serve. If the community meets the list of criteria set by HRSA then they are designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA). The HRSA identifies at least 34 Federal Programs that use the HPSA designation as a way to prioritize available funding (<http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/>). **The purpose of this paper is to develop a list of federal programs using these designations and to identify information regarding each program.**

METHODS

Dr. Elizabeth Merwin in collaboration with two of her Research Assistants, Elizabeth Katz and Tara Albrecht, have researched and compiled an initial draft which begins to identify those 34 plus federal programs referenced by HRSA. A current list of these programs does not appear to exist. Therefore, each member of the team worked independently searching various websites and databases to identify federal programs using these designations. These searches included: the HRSA website (<http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/hpsaguidepc.htm>), the Catalog for Federal Domestic Assistance (<http://12.46.245.173/CFDA/CFDA.HTML>), as well as numerous searches using various search engines to create the table that follows. Key words such as “Federal Programs” and “HPSA designation” were used to drive the searches. The results were then carefully and systematically reviewed to determine whether they qualified to be included in the list of Federal Programs that have been identified. The criteria is that the program must be federal and not state, and that it uses the designation of HPSA as one method in determining eligibility. Once each member of the team had a draft of their search results, the tables were compared and merged. The current draft represents the merged data from each of the three parties involved.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONS TO THIS LIST

It became evident during the research process that there is a maze of information to sort through in attempting to create this list of federal programs. This is because there



is not one place where the desired information can be found and referenced. We invite others to suggest the inclusion of additional programs. If you are aware of an additional federal program using these designations, please send information on the program to either Dr. Elizabeth Merwin at eim5u@Virginia.EDU or Tara Albrecht at taa3b@virginia.edu. Our goal is to continue to append this list so that there is a complete list of all federal programs that utilize the HPSA designation available for reference.

	Federal Program	Reference	Url	Summary of Purpose	Agency
1	National Health Service Corps	http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/hpsaguidepc.htm http://www.ahcpr.gov/data/safetynet/hartley2.htm		Health Care Providers will receive scholarship and loan repayment if they commit to work in HPSA's for the NHSC.	HRSA
2	National Health Service Corps Scholarship Programs	http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/hpsaguidepc.htm http://www.ahcpr.gov/data/safetynet/hartley2.htm		Funding provided to students training to become health professionals who commit to serving in HPSA areas after graduation. (Area determined by the Secretary).	HRSA
3	National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program	http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/hpsaguidepc.htm http://www.ahcpr.gov/data/safetynet/hartley2.htm	http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.PROGRAM_TEXT_RPT.SHOW?p_arg_names=prog_nbr&p_arg_values=93.162	Educational loan repayment opportunities for health care professionals in exchange for the delivery of health care by the recipients in HPSA areas.	HRSA
4	Rural Health Clinics Act	http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/hpsaguidepc.htm http://www.ahcpr.gov/data/safetynet/hartley2.htm	http://www.narhc.org/home/RHC.php	Health care professionals serving in rural HPSA designated areas will receive Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement.	MMS
5	Medicare Incentive Payments for Physicians Services	http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/hpsaguidepc.htm http://www.ahcpr.gov/data/safetynet/hartley2.htm	http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2004/MM3108.pdf	A 10% reimbursement provided by Medicare to physicians serving individuals in	MMS

	Federal Program	Reference	Url	Summary of Purpose	Agency
	Furnished in HPSA's			HPSA designated areas.	
6	Higher "Customary Charges" for New Physicians in HPSA's	http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/hpsaguidepc.htm http://www.ahcpr.gov/data/safetynet/hartley2.htm		When a physician opens a practice in a HPSA designated area he/she will be exempt from any limitations set by Medicare under the "customary charges".	MMS
7	Area Health Education Center Program	http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/hpsaguidepc.htm http://www.ahcpr.gov/data/safetynet/hartley2.htm		Priority funding is given to Healthcare centers that provide training and care in areas designated as HPSA that serve a high percentage of the underserved minority population.	HRSA
8	Federal Employees Health Benefits Programs	http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/hpsaguidepc.htm#Fed%20Programs		States where it is determined that a high percentage of its population resides in HPSA areas will receive federal funding for non-physician services rendered.	HRSA
9	Medicare Reimbursements for Teleconsultations	http://www.ahcpr.gov/data/safetynet/hartley2.htm		Reimbursements provided by Medicare for physician care delivered via teleconsultations, which originate in HPSA areas that are metropolitan counties or in nonmetropolitan counties.	MMS

	Federal Program	Reference	Url	Summary of Purpose	Agency
10	Public Health Service Grant Programs	http://www.ahcpr.gov/data/safetynet/hartley2.htm		Preference in funding is given to health care professionals receiving training in HPSA or MUA/MUP areas.	HRSA
11	The J-1 Visa Waiver Program	http://www.ahcpr.gov/data/safetynet/hartley2.htm		Foreign or International medical graduates may remain and seek employment in the US if they agree to practice in areas designated to be HPSA or MUA/MUP.	HRSA
12	Appalachian Regional Commission J-1 Visa Waiver	http://www.chems.alaska.gov/PCRH/documents/HPSAfedprograms_000.pdf	http://www.twmlaw.com/resources/medical/medical5cont.htm	Foreign or International medical graduates may remain and seek employment within the Appalachian Region of the US, if they agree to practice in areas designated to be HPSA or MUA/MUP	Appalachian Regional Commission
13	Conrad "State-20" Program		http://www.twmlaw.com/resources/medical/medical2cont.htm	The 42 States Participating have the option to accept 20 foreign/international medical graduates per year to remain in the US via the J-1 waiver with the intent that they work in their state	Conrad State 20 Program

	Federal Program	Reference	Url	Summary of Purpose	Agency
				in an area designated to be HPSA.	
1 4	Grants for Loan Repayment		http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.PROGRAM_TEXT_RPT.SHOW?p_arg_names=prog_nbr&p_arg_values=93.165	Educational loan repayment opportunities to healthcare professionals, with the goal being to increase the delivery of primary care in areas designated as HPSAs.	HRSA
1 5	Health Education and Training Centers		http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.PROGRAM_TEXT_RPT.SHOW?p_arg_names=prog_nbr&p_arg_values=93.189	Financial assistance to Health Education and Training Centers in areas where health care needs are not being met.	HRSA
1 6	Allied Health Special Projects		http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.PROGRAM_TEXT_RPT.SHOW?p_arg_names=prog_nbr&p_arg_values=93.191	Grant opportunities to finance both new or preexisting programs that promote education in the areas of allied health where there is a shortage. Emphasis is placed on geriatric and rural clinical areas that create a bridge to academic centers.	HRSA
1 7	Mental Health Clinical and AIDS Service-Related Training		http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.PROGRAM_TEXT_RPT.SHOW?p_arg_names=prog_nbr&p_arg_values=93.244	Grant opportunities established to promote mental health practitioners to provide care in areas that have been identified as	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services

	Federal Program	Reference	Url	Summary of Purpose	Agency
	Grants			MHPSAs.	
18	Basic/Core Area Health Education Centers		http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.PROGRAM_TEXT_RPT.SHOW?p_arg_names=prog_nbr&p_arg_values=93.824	Initiates the promotion of health education to high school students, with the goal being to attract the graduating students to the field of health care and specifically to retain health care providers in areas where there is a great need.	HRSA
19	Tribal Recruitment and Retention of Health Professionals into Indian Health Programs		http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.PROGRAM_TEXT_RPT.SHOW?p_arg_names=prog_nbr&p_arg_values=93.954	Financial awards given to fund the recruitment, placement and retention of health care professionals in Indian areas where there is a health professional shortage.	Indian Health Service
20	Public Health Traineeships		http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.PROGRAM_TEXT_RPT.SHOW?p_arg_names=prog_nbr&p_arg_values=93.964	Grant funding offered in to students who are pursuing a career in public health where it has been determined that there is a professional shortage.	HRSA
21	Nursing Education Loan Repayment for Registered Nurses		http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.PROGRAM_TEXT_RPT.SHOW?p_arg_names=prog_nbr&p_arg_values=93.908	Educational loan repayment offered to RN's who are willing to take a FT position at a facility that is experiencing a professional	HRSA

	Federal Program	Reference	Url	Summary of Purpose	Agency
	Entering Employment at Eligible Health Facilities			shortage.	
2 2	Health Professionals Recruitment for Indians		http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.PROGRAM_TEXT_RPT.SHOW?p_arg_names=prog_nbr&p_arg_values=93.970	Financial Assistance is given to American Indians and Alaskan natives to pursue careers in the health care field. The main goal of this program recruitment into health care profession where shortages are present.	Indian Health Service
2 3	Model State-Supported Area Health Education Centers		http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.PROGRAM_TEXT_RPT.SHOW?p_arg_names=prog_nbr&p_arg_values=93.107	Principle goal is to increase the number of students enrolled in and eventually servicing the health care needs of individuals in areas where there is currently a professional shortage.	HRSA