

Government of the District of Columbia Department of Health

Community Health Administration
Primary Care Bureau



ANNOUNCEMENT

District of Columbia HPSAs and MUA/Ps re-assessed and re-designated; additional areas eligible to compete for Federal and District resources

In 2012, the Federal government granted approval of the Department of Health's (DOH) applications for re-designation of 17 of the District's current and formerly expired Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) and Medically Underserved Area/Population (MUA/P) designations. The new designations include expansions to include areas that were previously excluded, higher scores that improve the District's ability to compete for Federal resources, and a sharper focus on the needs of the District's low-income populations.

The changes in the designations can be attributed to demographic and delivery system in the assessment methodology. The current round of updates represent the process that was executed electronically and involved the linking and analysis of multiple datasets including: data from Health Professional Licensing Administration (HRLA), Medicaid claims data from the DC Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF), and data from detailed DOH surveys.

Following is a list of the updated designations with select information. More detailed information can be found on the Federal website: <http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov/>.

HPSA Designations

Related Discipline	HPSA Name and ID Number (#)	HPSA Type	HPSA Score (Range: 0-25)	Changes to HPSA
Primary Care	East Capitol Southeast -ID# 1119991101	Geographical Area	18	Includes 5 additional census tracts.
Primary Care	Anacostia - ID# 1119991106	Geographical Area	19	Includes 3 additional census tracts; score decreased by 1 point.

Related Discipline	HPSA Name and ID Number (#)	HPSA Type	HPSA Score (Range: 0-25)	Changes to HPSA
Primary Care	Homeless - Downtown Washington - ID# 1119991108	Population Group	19	Score increased by 6 points.
Primary Care	South Capitol -ID# 1119991110	Geographical Area	17	Includes 2 additional census tracts; score decreased by 2 points.
Primary Care	Low Income - Brentwood - ID# 1119991113	Population Group	21	Includes 9 additional census tracts; score increased by 10 points.
Primary Care	Low Income - Columbia Heights/Ft. Totten/Takoma - ID# 1119991123	Population Group	18	Transitioned from a geographic to a low-income population HPSA; name changed (formerly: Mt. Pleasant/Upper Cardozo, ID# 1119991106), includes 32 additional census tracts, score increased by 2.
Dental	Homeless - Downtown D.C. - ID# 6119991103	Population Group	9	Score decreased by 7.
Dental	Low Income- Anacostia - ID# 6119991104	Population Group	18	New designation for area as HPSA had expired in 1995; includes 48 census tracts.
Mental Health	Anacostia - ID# 7119991101	Geographical Area	19	Includes an additional 7 census tracts; score increased by 3.

MUA and MUP Designations

MUA/P Name and ID Number (#)	MUA/P Type	Score (Range: 0-100)	Changes to MUA/P
East Capitol Southeast - ID# 00497	Geographical Area (MUA)	55.8	Includes 12 additional census tracts; score increased by 14.8 points, formerly referenced as DC Service Area-00497 (Ward 7).
Homeless - Downtown Washington - ID# 00498	Population Group (MUP)	59.1	Includes 9 additional census tracts; score increased by 4.1 points, formerly referenced as DC Service Area 00498 (Wards 1, 2, 5, 6).
South Capitol – ID# 00499	Geographical Area (MUA)	55.6	Includes 2 additional census tracts; score increased by 2.5 points, formerly referenced as DC Service Area 00499 (Ward 6).
(Northwest) DC Service Area - ID # 00500	Geographical Area (MUA)	57.1	Formerly referenced as DC Service Area 00500 (Ward 3).
DC Service Area - ID # 00502	Geographical Area (MUA)	61.8	N/A
Anacostia - ID # 07617	Geographical Area (MUA)	53.5	Includes 3 additional census tracts including tracts from former Anacostia - ID # 00503; score increased by 4.8 points
Low Income - Brentwood - ID# 07855	Population Group (MUP)	57	Transitioned from a MUA to a MUP; ID# changed (formerly DC Service Area -#07297 Brentwood (Ward 5), includes 10 additional census tracts.
Low Income - Columbia Heights/Ft. Totten/Takoma – ID# 07861	Population Group (MUP)	61.1	Transitioned from a MUA to a MUP; name and ID# changed (formerly: DC Service Area ID 07368), includes 36 additional census tracts, score increased by 1.8 points.

HPSAs and MUA/Ps are used by the Federal government to recognize shortages of health care providers in geographic areas, populations or facilities and to prioritize the allocation of Federal resources to address these shortages. Whereas MUA/Ps refer only to Primary Care shortages, HPSAs can refer to shortages in any of three disciplines: Primary Care, Mental Health and Dental. A single area can be designated as a HPSA for one, two or all three of the disciplines.

HPSA determinations are based on population-to-provider ratios, demographic indicators associated with underservice (e.g. poverty rate, fertility rate, and infant mortality rate) and the accessibility of care in surrounding areas. A shortage designation can refer to a gross shortage of providers available to the overall population in an area (i.e. a “geographic” HPSA) or a net shortage of providers available to a specific population in an area (i.e. a “population” HPSA). MUA/P determinations are based on an Index of Medical Underservice (IMU) that uses a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 represents completely underserved and 100 represents the least underserved. Service areas with an IMU of 62 or less qualify for designation as an MUA. The IMU involves four variables - ratio of primary medical care physicians per 1,000 population, infant mortality rate, percentage of the population with incomes below the poverty level, and percentage of the population age 65 or over. Similar to population HPSAs, MUPs refer to services available to a specific population group (e.g. low-income).

HPSA designations are the basis for eligibility for over 30 Federal programs including - in the District - the [National Health Service Corps \(NHSC\)](#), the J-1 Visa Waiver Program, and the District’s Health Professional Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP). Collectively, these programs assist with recruiting and retaining primary care providers to practice in underserved areas and with underserved populations. Geographic HPSAs are also the basis for eligibility for the [Medicare Physician Bonus and the Medicare Surgical Bonus programs](#).

MUAs/MUPs are used as the basis of eligibility for the [Federally Qualified Health Center \(FQHC\) and FQHC Look-Alike programs](#) administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Most of the changes to the updated HPSAs and MUA/Ps will result in expanded eligibility for District providers serving underserved populations. However, providers that are located in areas that have transitioned from geographic to low-income population HPSAs will no longer be eligible to receive bonuses under the Medicare Physician and Surgical Bonus programs as of December 31, 2012. The scores of some HPSAs have decreased, and providers may see their competitiveness for programs impacted as a result. All but one of the District’s HPSAs qualify for the NHSC Scholar Program (Score = 16 or higher) and the higher amount of NHSC loan repayment (Score = 14 or higher). To determine whether and how you are impacted by the HPSA updates, please go to HPSAfind.hrsa.gov and enter your facility’s address for a listing of the HPSAs and MUA/Ps in which your site is located.

Community Partners:

Samia Altaf, MD, MPH, Senior Deputy Director of the DC Department of Health’s Community Health Administration, reported that numerous people were involved in our success. Dr. Altaf expressed her thanks and said,

“We would like to graciously thank and acknowledge our partners for their contributions to the Bureau’s data collection efforts for the designations. These partners include: the DOH Health Regulation and Licensing Administration (HRLA), the DC Department of Healthcare Finance (DHCF), the DC Primary Care Association (DCPCA), Capital City Area Health Education Center (CC AHEC), DC Medical Society, Providence Hospital, the District’s community health centers, and the individual providers that responded to the HPSA FTE Surveys”.

For More Information on HPSAs

Each state is responsible for assessing and applying for designations for the areas within the state, and in DC this responsibility is vested in the Primary Care Bureau within the Department of Health's Community Health Administration (CHA). HPSAs must be re-assessed and re-designated every three-four years; however, many of the District's HPSAs had not been re-assessed in more than twice that amount of time. For more information on the District's HPSA designations, please visit the Primary Care Bureau's [HPSA](#) and [MUA](#) pages on the DOH website or call (202)442-5892.

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