

MUA/P 101



What are Medically Underserved Areas (MUA) and Medically Underserved Populations (MUP)?

MUAs are a measure of the number of health professionals and certain health outcomes that demonstrate a lack of access and impact on the health of the community. MUPs are very similar to MUAs except that MUPs are designating the low-income population rather than the geographical region.



How does having a MUA/P benefit me?

MUA/Ps specifically allow for participation in two programs: Federally Qualified Health Center (establishment) and J1 Visa Waiver (sub-specialty providers only) programs.



How do I check my MUA/P?

Visit <http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov> to determine your MUA/P designation status by address or county. You can also visit <http://adph.org/ruralhealth> for a map.



How do I keep my MUA/P?

Since the data for MUA/P reviews is collected in the HPSA surveys, it is vital that all providers promptly respond when surveyed.



Are MUA/P updates required?

Updates may be required by Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) at some point in the future. In order to prepare for this, the HPSA Program Manager reviews the MUA/Ps as the HPSAs are reviewed and determines if an update is available. If no update is available, there is no application submitted. At this time, it is not the practice to withdraw MUA/P designations that no longer met the criteria.



What if CMS requires an update and my MUA/P is withdrawn?

All existing FQHCs and their satellites are grandfathered in if a MUA/P designation is withdrawn. New access points cannot be established.

If your MUA/P is withdrawn, keep in mind that it is still important to complete the surveys and return them promptly so regular reviews can be conducted. If there is a significant change in the provider population, contact the HPSA Coordinator so the data can be collected and analyzed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Niko Phillips, HPSA Program Manager, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health
Niko.Phillips@adph.state.al.us **334-206-3807**