State of Connecticut

Primary Care Office

Johanna Davis (860) 509-8074

Johanna.davis@ct.gov

J-1 Visa Waiver

Marijane Mitchell (860) 509-7668

Marijane.mitchell@ct.gov



What are Shortage Designations?

 Areas, populations and facilities with an identified shortage of health care professionals based on specific criteria

Designations of underserved

<u>Purpose:</u> To identify areas of greatest need, so that limited resources can be prioritized and directed to the people in those areas.

Designations are based on criteria established through regulation to identify geographic areas or population groups that are underserved in terms of access to health care services. There are two types of shortage designations, each linked to a HRSA activity or function*. The designations are:

Health professional shortage area (HPSA) designation, which is a prerequisite to apply for National Health Service Corps (NHSC) recruitment assistance*. The three HPSA designation disciplines include: primary care, dental, and mental health.

Medically underserved areas/populations (MUA/Ps) designation, which is a prerequisite for eligibility for grant awards to plan, develop, and operate a community health center under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act*.

Other Federal programs also use these designations

Criteria Considered for Designation and HPSA score

- Total population
- Number of providers and total FTEs
- Percent of the population at 100% and 200% of the Federal Poverty Level
- Infant mortality rate
- Low birth weight rate
- Miles and minutes to the nearest source of nondesignated care
- Map of the area to the contiguous areas
- Statement explaining the inability of the contiguous areas to provide care

Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)

in Connecticut as of 2/25/2010

- Primary Care Designations 40
- Mental Health 19
- Dental Health 39

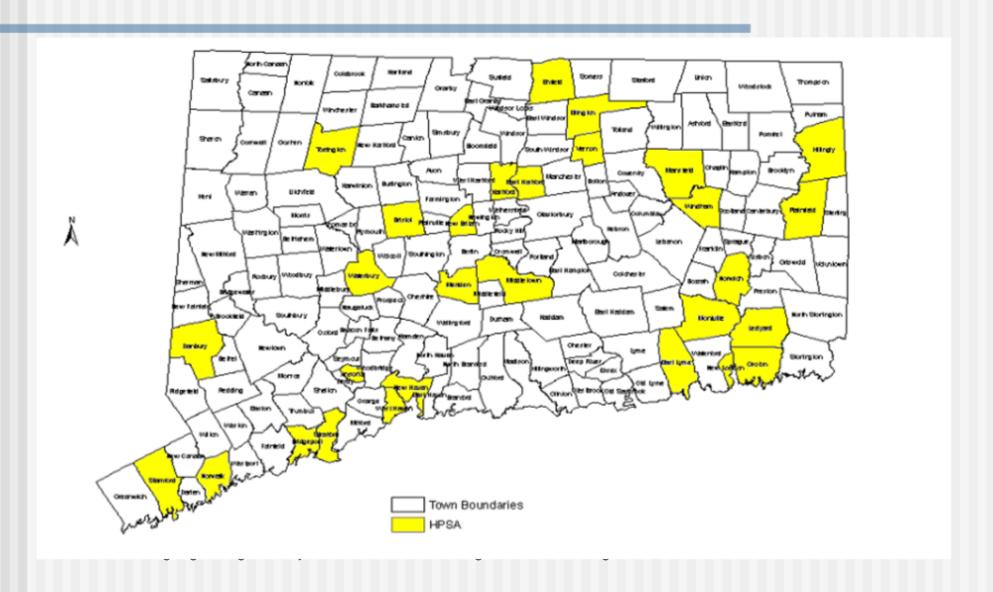
Medically Under Served Areas/Populations(MUA/Ps)

- MUAs 17
- MUPs 12

Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)

- How HPSAs affect you:
 - A requirement for clinicians to participate in the National Health Service Corps (both loan repayment and scholars) and J-1 Waiver programs
 - Physicians in geographic shortage areas receive a 10% increase in Medicare reimbursement rates

CT Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA's) by Town*, February, 2010



National Health Service Corps (NHSC)

- Federally sponsored
- Scholarships and loan repayments
- Service obligation in shortage areas
- Our role:
 - Verify NHSC criteria
 - Technical Assistance to NHSC sites
 - Liaison for sites to HRSA
 - Site visits (for compliance)

National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Expanded loan repayment schedules

Maximum loan repayment during the required initial 2-year contract is \$50,000. With amendments to their contract, clinicians could receive:

- Up to \$85,000 in Loan Repayment for a total of 3 years of service.
- Up to \$120,000 in Loan Repayment for a total of 4 years of service.
- Up to \$145,000 in Loan Repayment for a total of <u>5 years of</u> service.
- Up to \$165,000 in Loan Repayment for a total of 6 years of service.
- For the 7th year and beyond, a clinician could receive up to an additional \$15,000 for each year of service.

National Health Service Corps (NHSC)

positions listed for Connecticut as of 2/25/2010

Healthcare Professionals: 116 total

Loan repayers - 104

Scholars - 12

J-1 Waiver Program

- State and federal partnership that assists international medical graduates to practice in shortage areas.
- Three year service obligation in underserved areas
- Our role:
 - Facilitate application approval process
 - Identify placement opportunities
 - Facilitate matching

J-1 Waiver Program

Physicians placed since 1998: 207 total

- 148 Primary Care
- 15 Psychiatry
- 44 Other Medical Specialty
 Some J-1 Physicians apply for permanent U.S. residency through
 the National Interest Waiver Program to continue practicing in a
 shortage designation location. DPH must issue a supporting letter
 for USCIS to consider these requests. There are additional federal
 requirements the physician must comply with, as well.

Websites

http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov/

http://muafind.hrsa.gov/

http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/GeoAdvisor/ShortageDesignationAdvisor.aspx

http://nhscjobs.hrsa.gov/ for NHSC job opportunities

