

# Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Benefits Fact Sheet

## **FEDERAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA (HPSA):**

An HPSA is an area, population group, or facility designated by the Federal Bureau of Health Professions (BPC), Shortage Designation Branch (SDB), as having an acute shortage of primary health care professionals.

An HPSA may be obtained for primary medical care, dental health care, and/or mental health care. The following federal programs use the above-listed HPSA designations:

- ◆ National Health Service Corps, including the scholarship and loan repayment programs (*placement of federally employed and/or service-obligated health professionals to HPSAs*)
- ◆ Incentive payments for physician services provided in geographic HPSAs (*Medicare*)
- ◆ Higher customary charges for new physicians
- ◆ Physician assistant training
- ◆ Area Health Education Center program
- ◆ Residency training, traineeships, and fellowships in general, internal, and family medicine, general pediatrics, and general practice dentistry
- ◆ Rural Health Clinic Act (*provides Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement for services provided by physician assistants and nurse practitioners in clinics in rural HPSAs*)
- ◆ Nurse practitioner/nurse midwifery training
- ◆ Mental health clinical traineeships
- ◆ Federal Employee Health Benefits program

## **GOVERNOR'S HPSA DESIGNATION:**

This designation entitles the area to access the Rural Health Clinic program.

## **MUA/MUP DESIGNATION:**

This designation entitles the community to use the following federal programs:

- ◆ Community and Migrant Health Centers
- ◆ Health Care for the Homeless Program
- ◆ Federally Qualified Health Centers
- ◆ Rural Health Clinics