



# Arizona Health Professional Shortage Areas

## *Purpose*

The federal Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) designation identifies an area or population as having a shortage of dental, mental, and primary health care providers.

HPSA designations are used to qualify for state and federal programs aimed at increasing primary care services to underserved areas and populations, such as the National Health Service Corps Program.

## *Requirements*

A HPSA designation is based on three criteria, established by federal regulation:

- The area must be rational for delivery of health services
- A specified population-to-provider ratio representing shortage must be exceeded within the area as evidenced by more than 3,500 persons per physician (or 3,000 persons per physician if the area has "high needs")
- Health care resources in surrounding areas must be unavailable because of distance, overutilization or access barriers

## *Programs Using HPSA Designations Include:*

- Arizona Loan Repayment Program
- Arizona Primary Care Area Program
- Arizona State J-1 Visa Waiver Program
- National Health Service Corps
- Medicare Incentive Payments
- Rural Health Clinics Act
- Arizona Medical Student Loan Program

## *Highlights:*

- As of June 26, 2007, 55 areas and 33 facilities in Arizona are designated as Primary Care HPSA's.
- Arizona currently has 33 Primary Care HPSA's with scores greater than 14.
- Arizona has a shortage of 255 FTE primary care physicians.

## *Contact Us:*

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