

# HPSA 101



## What is a Health Professional Service Area (HPSA)?

**Geographic HPSA** demonstrates a significant shortage of physicians/dentists/psychiatrists within the service area.

**Low Income HPSA** demonstrates a significant shortage of physicians/dentists/psychiatrists within the service area serving the low-income population through Medicaid and sliding fee scale services.

**Auto-HPSA Designations** are assigned to FQHCs and FQHC Look-A-Likes upon their initial grant award. The HPSA Score and ID are assigned by HRSA using information provided in the grant application. The score extends to all satellites. More information on this process can be found at <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/hpsas/facilityscoring.html>.



## How does a HPSA benefit me?

Geographic HPSAs qualify most providers within the service area to a Medicare incentive payment of ten percent. Any HPSA designation qualifies the area for National Health Service Corps, J1 Visa Waiver, and up to 29 other federal programs.



## How do I check my HPSA status?

Visit <http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov> to search for your address or county to determine the current HPSA status. You can also visit <http://adph.org/ruralhealth> for a current map of the designations.



## How do I keep my HPSA?

Encourage providers to respond to the survey during their medical license renewal application online. If you receive a request to complete a survey, do so quickly and return a survey form for each provider listed on the survey form with complete information. Be proactive and contact the HPSA Program Manager when you learn that your HPSA is being reviewed.



## I lost my HPSA – now what?

If your HPSA is withdrawn, keep in mind that it is still important to complete the surveys and return them promptly so regular reviews can be conducted.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 base, contact the HPSA Program Manager so the data can be collected and analyzed.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Carrie Shepherd, HPSA Program Manager, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health  
[Carrie.Shepherd@adph.state.al.us](mailto:Carrie.Shepherd@adph.state.al.us) 334-206-5229