

# State of Connecticut

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## J-1 Visa Waiver

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# What are Shortage Designations?

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

# Designations of underserved

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**Purpose:** 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

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- 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 non-designated 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*

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- 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)

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- 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



# National Health Service Corps (NHSC)

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- 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

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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 **5 years of 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*

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Healthcare Professionals: 116 total

Loan repayers - 104

Scholars - 12

# J-1 Waiver Program

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- 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

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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

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<http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov/>

<http://muafind.hrsa.gov/>

[http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/GeoAdvisor/S  
hortageDesignationAdvisor.aspx](http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/GeoAdvisor/S<br/>hortageDesignationAdvisor.aspx)

<http://nhscjobs.hrsa.gov/>

for NHSC job opportunities



## Find Shortage Areas: HPSA by State & County

Shortage Designation  
Home

### Find Shortage Areas

HPSA & MUAP by  
Address

HPSA Eligible for the  
Medicare Physician Bonus  
Payment

MUAP by State & County

Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are designated by HRSA as having shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers and may be geographic (a county or service area), demographic (low income population) or institutional (comprehensive health center, federally qualified health center or other public facility). Medically Underserved Areas/Populations are areas or populations designated by HRSA as having: too few primary care providers, high infant mortality, high poverty and/or high elderly population. [More about shortage areas](#)

Updated 11/3/2009

[Advanced search by HPSA Type, Score, Metro, and Status](#)

Find a Designated HPSA: Choose a State, County & Discipline ?

|            |   |   |
|------------|---|---|
| State      | Select a State <span style="float: right;">v</span> | First, choose a State.  |
| County     |   | Now, choose All Counties, one county or each of the counties you wish to search. To select more than one County, hold down the Ctrl key while making your selection |
| Discipline | Primary Medical Care<br>Dental<br>Mental Health     | Finally, choose a discipline. To select more than one discipline, hold down the Ctrl key.   |

Show me the HPSAs
Start again

http://muafind.hrsa.gov/index.aspx

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Links

Find Shortage Areas: MUA/P by State and County



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Health Resources and Services Administration



Home  
Questions?  
Order Publications

 SEARCH

GRANTS | FIND HELP | SERVICE DELIVERY | DATA | HEALTH SYSTEM CONCERNS | ABOUT HRSA

## Find Shortage Areas: MUA/P by State and County

- [Shortage Designation Home](#)
- [Find Shortage Areas](#)**
- [HPSA & MUA/P by Address](#)
- [HPSA by State & County](#)
- [HPSA Eligible for the Medicare Physician Bonus Payment](#)

Medically Underserved Areas/Populations are areas or populations designated by HRSA as having: too few primary care providers, high infant mortality, high poverty and/or high elderly population. Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are designated by HRSA as having shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers and may be geographic (a county or service area), demographic (low income population) or institutional (comprehensive health center, federally qualified health center or other public facility). [More about shortage areas](#)

Find a MUA/MUP: Choose a State and County

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| State   | Alabama   | First, choose a State.  |
| County  | <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 2px;"> <p>ALL COUNTIES</p> <p style="background-color: #e1f5fe;">Autauga County</p> <p>Baldwin County</p> <p>Barbour County</p> <p>Bibb County</p> <p>Blount County</p> </div> | Now, choose ALL COUNTIES, one county or each of the counties you wish to search. To select more than one County, hold down the Ctrl key while making your selection |
| ID #  | <input type="text"/>  | Optional. Find a MUA using its five digit ID #  |
| <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #e1f5fe; padding: 5px 15px; text-align: center;">Find MUAs/MUPs</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #e1f5fe; padding: 5px 15px; text-align: center;">Start again</div> </div> |   |   |





Health Resources and Services Administration  
National Health Service Corps

Contact Us

National Health Service Corps Job Opportunities

Help

Find Job Opportunities in High-Need Areas for  
Primary Care Medical, Dental and Mental Health Providers

Show me opportunities in a state or county

State:

County:

Vacancy Category:


Discipline:

Specialty:

Projected Hire Date: before

Display results with  text only  text & map

**Find Opportunities**



- Find current job vacancies, even if you are not a National Health Service Corps participant or applicant.
- Vacancies, except those marked "Volunteer", are approved for National Health Service Corps participants.
- "Volunteer" vacancies are paid positions at NHSC-eligible facilities, but are not approved for NHSC participants.
- **NHSC Job Vacancy Lists:** [NHSC Scholarship](#), [NHSC Loan Repayor](#), and [Volunteer](#).
- [About the NHSC](#)

NOTE: NHSC Loan Repayors are eligible for both Scholar and Loan Repayor vacancies.

How to Search for Vacancies

To see a range of open opportunities, choose a state only OR choose both state and county.

To see vacancies close to a specific place, select address and provide an address with city AND state OR a zip code.

- Select vacancy category: NHSC Loan Repayor, NHSC Scholar, Volunteer (not NHSC-eligible) or All.
- Choose your discipline.
- Projected Hire Date: Leave the default of "before" and leave the date field blank to show all current and future open vacancies for this placement cycle which began on .
- Hit the "Find Opportunities" button and we'll return a list of all vacancies within the range you specified.
- Contact the site directly to learn more or to apply.

- [NHSC Job Opportunities Report Tool](#)
- [NHSC Loan Repayment Program Applicant Information Bulletin](#)
- [NHSC Scholarship Applicant Information Bulletin](#)
- [NHSC Sites Recruitment & Retention Assistance](#)

NOTE: The data used for this tool is current as of 2/23/2010 in the HRSA Geospatial Data Warehouse.  
 HELP: CallCenter@hrsa.gov or 1 - 800 - 221 - 9393, Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays), 9 am to 5:30 pm ET.  
 Sites: Update your vacancies by phoning 1-877-313-1823 weekdays 8 am to 6 pm ET.

