



The HRSA definition of a "medically underserved community" is a geographic location or population of people eligible for designation by the federal government as a Health Professional Shortage Area, Medically Underserved Area, Medically Underserved Population, or Governor's Certified Shortage Area for Rural Health Clinic. Medically underserved populations are federally-designated population groups having a shortage of personal health services, often defined as groups who face economic, cultural, or linguistic barriers to health care, and limited access to services.

The HRSA definition of a "primary care setting" means a setting with integrated, accessible health care services by clinicians who are accountable for:, 1) addressing a large majority of personal health care needs, 2) developing a sustained partnership with patients, and 3) practicing in the context of family and community. The following do not meet this criteria: emergency departments, inpatient hospital settings, ambulatory surgical centers, independent diagnostic testing facilities, skilled nursing facilities, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, or hospices.

The HRSA definition of "rural" is a geographical area located in a non-metropolitan county, or an area located in a metropolitan county designated by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy as rural. Use the [Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer](#) to determine whether the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy considers a geographical area rural.

The HRSA definition of a "disadvantaged background" means that a person has experienced environmental, economic, or educational disadvantage. These include the following: 1) a person's environment inhibited them from obtaining the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to enroll in and graduate from a health professions school, 2) a person's family with an annual income below a level based on low-income thresholds, according to family size established by the US Census Bureau, adjusted annually for the Consumer Price Index, and adjusted by the Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services, or 3) a person who comes from a social, cultural, or educational environment that has demonstrably and directly inhibited the person from obtaining the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to develop and participate in a health professions education or training program, as long as they are a citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident in the United States, including territories.