

Underserved Health Care Provider Workforce Act

Frequently Asked Questions

QUESTION: Where can I learn more about the Underserved Health Care Provider Workforce loan repayment program?

ANSWER: Visit the program website for additional information: [Illinois Underserved Health Care Provider Workforce Program \(UHCWP\)](#)

QUESTION: What is the purpose of the Underserved Health Care Provider Workforce loan repayment program?

ANSWER: The Underserved Health Care Provider Workforce (UHCPW) Program assists communities experiencing health care provider shortages by providing educational loan repayment assistance to eligible health care providers in exchange for a full-time or half-time service obligation at an eligible medical facility.

QUESTION: What is the length of the service obligation to participate in the UHCPW loan repayment program?

ANSWER: Eligible health care providers may work less than full-time, but a minimum half-time, if they agree to double their obligation period. The minimum length of the service obligation for a full-time health care provider is two years. Health care providers who work half-time will have a four-year obligation.

QUESTION: What types of health care providers are eligible to participate in the UHCPW loan repayment program?

ANSWER: To qualify for the UHCPW loan repayment program, you must be licensed in Illinois to practice as one of the following eligible provider types:

- Primary Care Physician (general internist, family physician, general pediatrician)
- General Surgeon
- Emergency Medical Physician
- Obstetrician
- Advanced Practice Registered Nurse
- Physician Assistant
- Chiropractor
- Anesthesiologist

Health Care Provider must accept Medicaid, Medicare, the State's Children's Health Insurance Program, private insurance, and self-pay.

QUESTION: How do I determine if my workplace qualifies so that I can participate in the UHCPW loan repayment program?

ANSWER: The medical facility where UHCPW healthcare providers serve patients must be located in a "Medically Underserved Area" or "MUA". MUA means a location designated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services based on the availability of primary care physicians, demographic characteristics, and health status of the residents of a service area. (Per Section 3.04 of the [Act](#))

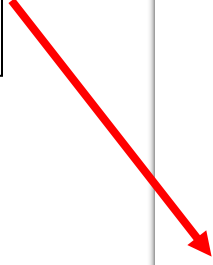
QUESTION: How do I determine if my workplace/practice location is in a Medically Underserved Area?

ANSWER: Search the facility's address at this link: [Find Shortage Areas by Address \(hrsa.gov\)](#)

Example: We searched the address of the IDPH Headquarters:

535 W. Jefferson St., Springfield.

You can see this address is NOT in a Medically Underserved Area based on the search results:



Address
535 W. Jefferson St., Springfield, IL, 62761

Standardized address
535 W Jefferson St, Springfield, Illinois, 62761

[+] More about this address

In a Dental Health HPSA: ✓ Yes
HPSA Name: LI - Springfield
ID: 6171573282
Designation Type: HPSA Population
Status: Designated
HPSA Score: 19
Designation Date: 04/07/2020
Last Update Date: 09/10/2021

In a Mental Health HPSA: ✗ No

In a Primary Care HPSA: ✗ No

In a MUA/P: ✗ No

QUESTION: Are there other eligibility criteria to participate?

ANSWER: Yes, in order to participate, the health care provider:

- Must be a resident of Illinois
- Does not have any judgment liens arising from federal debt
- Be indebted to a governmental or commercial lending institution for educational expenses incurred in pursuit of the applicant's degrees or diploma
- Is not excluded, suspended, or disqualified by a federal agency
- Signs a written agreement attesting to accepting repayment of health professional educational loans and agreeing to serve the applicable period of obligated service in a medical facility in a designated shortage area in Illinois
- Must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. national
- Every provider is required to engage in the full-time or half-time clinical practice of the profession for which the provider was awarded a loan repayment contract

QUESTION: Who do I contact if I have more questions?

ANSWER: Send questions to DPH.UPW@illinois.gov