

The Medically Underserved Population Designation as a Health Justice Tool

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THE MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATION DESIGNATION AS A HEALTH JUSTICE TOOL



NATIONAL
CONVENTION

NEW ORLEANS 2023



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What is a Medically Underserved Population?

A "medically underserved population" (MUP) is a population group designated by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as having a shortage of certain healthcare services.

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What are the benefits of a MUP designation?



A MUP designation unlocks access to:

- Grants to support primary care services;
- **Applies to medical, dental, and behavioral health care;**
- Provider loan-repayment programs;
- Grants to support health research;
- Support for training and recruitment of health professionals;
- Enhanced payment for FQHCs and Look-A-Likes meeting requirements under §330 of the PHS Act.

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Why is the MUP a health equity tool?

People with disabilities experience health disparities.

- Disparities are differences in health between people with and without disabilities;
- They are caused by a history of social, economic, and environmental discrimination; and
- They are avoidable.

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Health Disparities

		With Disabilities	Without Disabilities
	HAVE OBESITY	38.2%	26.2%
	SMOKE	28.2%	13.4%
	HAVE HEART DISEASE	11.5%	3.8%
	HAVE DIABETES	16.3%	7.2%

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What are Social Determinants of Health?

- Healthcare support to stay healthy.
- A safe and accessible place to live.
- Family, friends, and community.
- A safe and inclusive place to learn.
- A safe, accessible, and inclusive place to work and earn fair pay.

Social Determinants of Health



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Paths to a MUP designation

- A population may be designated as Medically Underserved in one of three ways:
 - The President may make the designation by Executive Order.
 - The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) or the Secretary of HHS may make the designation by
 - Meeting HRSA's requirements; or
 - Applying for a Governor's Exceptional designation
 - Congress may pass a law making the designation

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What is an Exceptional Medically Underserved Population (EMUP)



The Public Health Services Act (PHSA) **allows a Governor to apply for an Exceptional MUP designation** to address healthcare access disparities when a population group, such as people with developmental disabilities, does not qualify under the current Index of Medical Underservice (IMU) formula due to unusual local conditions in a state.

In Pennsylvania, Achieva's Disability Healthcare Initiative is working with Governor Shapiro's office to obtain this designation for all Pennsylvanians with disabilities.

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What is a Special Medically Underserved Population (SMUP)?



A Special Medically Underserved Population (SMUP) designation is a kind of MUP designated explicitly by Congress under the Public Health Services Act (PHSA).

The Achieva Disability Healthcare Initiative is also working with Members of Congress and federal partners to obtain a federal designation for people with disabilities.

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Current Special Medically Underserved Populations



- Residents of public housing;
- Migrant agricultural workers;
and
- Unhoused persons.

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National and State Partnerships



- . Arc of the United States
- . American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry
- . National Down Syndrome Society
- . National Down Syndrome Congress
- . American Academy of Health and Disability
- . Autism Speaks
- . Special Olympics International
- . Families USA
- . Community Catalyst
- . Disability Rights Maine
- . Oral Health Kansas
- . Project Accessible Oral Health
- . ABLE NH
- . PA Coalition on Oral Health
- . CareQuest Institute for Oral Health

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Advocacy Opportunities:

Self-advocates, families,
and allies are
encouraged to connect
with:

- Governor Shapiro's
office



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Advocacy Opportunities:



Self-advocates, families, and allies are encouraged to connect with:

- Governor Shapiro's office and
- Your US Representatives and Senators

to share your health disparity stories and encourage them to designate people with disabilities as an Exceptional MUP (state) and Special MUP (national).

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THANK YOU



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