

Wisconsin Primary Care Office - Overview

Location:

Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Policy & Practice Alignment

Staffing & Functions:

PCO Director – Anne Dopp

PCO Consultant – Traici Brockman (NHSC and needs assessment)

Provider Recruitment Consultant – Char White (J-1 visa waiver, health center grants)

Program Assistant – Cindy Virnig

Functions:

State Primary Care Office

- HRSA grant for state coordination of primary care (HPSA work, NHSC assistance, needs assessment, technical assistance, workforce shortages and development, state coordination)
- Manage 21 state contracts with health centers
- Dept. Commerce – MOU to coordinate NHSC with DOC State Loan Repayment Program

Shortage Designations

- Contract with WPHCA for HPSA data collection/analysis
- HPSAs must be reviewed & updated every 4 years
- PC = 115 HPSAs, Dental = 73 HPSAs, Mental Health = 105 HPSAs
- MUA/MUPs = 74
- 26 requests for new/revised HPSAs in past year
- Developing new on-line survey to collect primary care physician/psychiatrist FTE data
- Developing new Governor's Shortage Designation process/criteria to save 11 at-risk RHCs
- Monitor status of HRSA proposed Rule to revise HPSA/MUA process/criteria
- Workforce data – working with WHWDCollab to strengthen state health workforce data collection and analysis capacity

National Health Service Corps assistance & partnerships

- PCOs assist NHSC with application process, technical assistance to applicants and participating sites, and outreach/marketing
- Sites approved by NHSC = 121 (as of 6/09 and more coming in)
- Obligated providers = 94 (as of 6/09 with 66 LRP and 28 Scholars) at CHCs, clinics, Corrections, County & private mental health and other sites
- Scholars in training = 12 (as of 7/08)
- Federal partners (NHSC & contractors)
- State partners (PCA, MOU with Dept. Commerce for State Loan Repayment Program, ORH, DPH Programs & Regional Offices, Corrections, Medicaid/BadgerCare+, Mental Health, provider & professional groups, AHEC, Marquette Dental School)
- Local partners (employers, clinicians, local health departments & community organizations)

State J-1 visa waiver program

- Up to 30 state recommendations per year and up to 10 can be in “non-HPSAs” but serve surrounding HPSAs, must be signed by State Health Officer
- Work with US Dept. of State, immigration attorneys, and employers
- 21 last year, increasing shortages PC & specialists (aging, chronic illness)
- Also state public interest letters for National Interest Waiver petitions (permanent residency) and to transfer work locations/H-1B visas

State grants & technical assistance

- State community health center grants (FQHCs) = \$ 5.7 million/year (n = 17)
- Health Care for the Homeless grants = \$ 25,000/year (n = 2)
- State health center earmark grants = \$ 100,000 (n = 2 health centers)

Needs Assessment

- Provider shortages – based on HPSAs, Medicaid/BadgerCare (delays with appointments, provider access problems, dental access, mental health access), CHCs, private recruiters, Div. Mental Health, Corrections
- Community development of CHCs, RHCs, free clinics

Technical assistance

- Assessment, provider recruitment & retention, community development, FQHCs (MA, Immunization, HIV/AIDS, MCH), DOA Volunteer Health Care Provider Program, free clinics, health workforce data development

Federal Resources that Come into Wisconsin Based on HPSA/MUP Designations

Community health center funds \$ 17.6 million/yr (& cost-based Medicare & Medicaid reimb)	National Health Service Corps (loan & scholar) 70 providers = approx. \$ 1.75 million/yr
Medicare 10% HPSA bonus to MDs in HPSAs	J-1 visa waiver foreign MDs – 72 currently placed
Certified Rural Health Clinics - 48 RHCs (& cost-based Medicare & Medicaid reimb)	Fed. State Loan Repayment (Dept of Comm.) 45 providers = approx. \$300,000/yr
Health Professions training funding (\$ 3.6 million/yr)	

(2008)

**Recovery Update – Health Workforce Shortages:
ARRA total funds to HRSA for health workforce = \$500 million**

\$300 million to HRSA National Health Service Corps
(to be spent by end of FFY 10)

Includes:

- \$196 million for up to 3,300 new student loan repayment awards for primary care, dental & mental health clinicians to work in HPSAs through National Health Service Corps (outpatient care sites include community health centers, private clinics, Tribal Health Centers, Correctional facilities, County mental health)
- \$24 million for additional student scholarship awards for training in primary care, dentists, and psychiatrists through Nat’l Health Service Corps.
- \$20 million for expansion of Federal - State Loan Repayment programs (in Wisconsin, housed at Commerce and WI Office of Rural Health)
- \$60 million for HRSA operations/administration

\$200 million to HRSA Bureau of Health Professions (see attached from web)