

Program Preference/Priority Criteria:

- Priority is given to safety-net providers. For the purpose of this program, safety-net providers are: county health departments, federally qualified health centers (and look-alikes), community mental health centers, homeless clinics, public and critical access hospitals and associated clinics; state correction and psychiatric facilities; and certified rural health clinics.
- Priority is given to applications for full-time primary care. For the purpose of this program, primary care specialties are: Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics/ Gynecology, or Psychiatry.
- Preference is given to placements in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs), which has greater unmet need for primary care physicians than medically underserved areas or non-designated areas. Unmet need is the number of primary care physicians needed to cause the HPSA to no longer meet the threshold ratio for designation.

Additional Guidelines - Specialist Waivers

- Of the 30 waivers, waivers for specialists are only available if there are unused slots after they have been allocated to all primary care applicants.
- Of the 40 hour work week, the physician may provide clinical services in an outpatient clinic, a hospital setting, or a combination.
- Specialist and Hospitalist applicants must prove need for their specialty, as detailed in the application.
- The physician may be board certified or board eligible in any specialty/sub-specialty, but must provide clinical services. J-1 Visa providers seeking waivers for the purposes of research will be directed to apply for a waiver through U.S. Health and Human Service Exchange Visitor Program: <http://www.globalhealth.gov/exchangevisitorprogram/>. A letter of support or acknowledgement from the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) must accompany the request. Please call Amber Myers at MDCH, 517-241-2659, for more information.

Additional Guidelines - Non-HPSA-MUA/P (FLEX) Waivers

- Revisions to Federal Law (Public Law 108-441), allow State Health Departments to make recommendations for placements in facilities that are not located in a designated area (HPSA, MUA/P), but serve the population that resides in neighboring designated areas.
- Of the 30 waivers, up to 10 *may be* available for non-HPSA-MUA/MUP locations. The physician must provide clinical services. The clinical services may be primary care or specialty care.
- In the event that the application is split between a designated site (HPSA or MUA/P) and a non-designated site, the application will be considered for a FLEX slot, unless the application documents that up to 35 of 40 hours will be at the site in the designated area providing out-patient clinical care (excluding those applying as Hospitalists).

- Non-HPSA-MUA/P (FLEX) waivers for primary care applicants will be considered ONLY if there are unused waivers after waivers are allocated to all other primary care applicants. Flex waivers for specialist applicants will ONLY be considered if there are unused waivers after all other applicants in designated areas have been allocated. Only FLEX applications received by the established deadline will be considered.

Definitions:

- Primary Care Provider: a physician practicing general/family medicine, general internal medicine, general pediatrics, and general ob/gyn. For mental health: a primary care provider is a general psychiatrist. For the J-1 Visa Waiver program: all applicants granted primary care provider status must be 100% out-patient/clinical providers. Also, for the purpose of this program, all primary care providers treating institutionalized populations (i.e. prisons or psychiatric hospitals) will also be counted as primary care providers.
- Hospitalist: a physician who treats patients exclusively in the hospital setting, 100% in-patient provider. Hospitalist applicants will be accepted, but may be limited depending on the number of primary care out-patient provider applications.
- Specialist: all other specialties not listed as a primary care providers. Applications for specialists will be accepted, but may be limited depending on the number of primary care provider applications.
- Safety-net providers: clinics that are considered a part of the healthcare safety-net. This includes but is not limited to: FQHCs, Free-clinics, Certified Rural Health Clinics, Local Public Health clinics, and other primary care clinics serving low-income or other indigent populations.
- Federally Designated Shortage Areas: includes Health Professional Shortage Areas, Medically Underserved Areas/Populations, and Facility HPSAs. Michigan's shortage areas are listed on MDCH's website: <http://www.michigan.gov/hpsa>. To search for shortage areas by address go to: <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/> and select *HPSA & MUA/P by Address*.