

REPORT TO THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
STATE OF HAWAII
2016

PURSUANT TO
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HAWAII REVISED STATUTES
PRIMARY CARE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

PREPARED BY:
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HAWAII STATE
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH

Hawaii State Department of Health
PRIMARY CARE OFFICE

The Hawaii Primary Care Office (PCO) is a federal grant program funded by the Bureau of Health Professions in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and authorized under the Public Health Service Act, as amended, Title 3, Sections 330 and 333. The purpose of the funding is to support the coordination of local, state, and federal resources to improve primary care service delivery and workforce availability to meet the needs of underserved populations.

The mission of the Hawaii PCO is to improve access to primary care for medically underserved populations.

The Hawaii PCO is one of fifty-three PCOs (one per state, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands) receiving funding by HRSA and charged with HRSA's goal to improve access to health care.¹ The Hawaii PCO was awarded annual funding of \$167,994 through March 31, 2019.

All PCOs are tasked with the following three program expectations:

- **Statewide Primary Care Assessment**
- **Shortage Designation Coordination**
- **Technical Assistance and Collaboration that Seeks to Expand Access to Primary Care for Underserved Populations**

In 2015, the Hawaii PCO met **statewide primary care assessment** expectation by:

- ❖ Finalizing the 2016 Primary Care Needs Assessment Data Book for release in early 2016.

¹ U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. Health Resources and Services Administration Strategic Plan, www.hrsa.gov.

The Data Book provides over 50 health, population, and socio-economic indicators spanning the life course presented by geographic communities in Hawaii. Chapters highlight maternal and infant health risk, adult morbidity and mortality, oral health and mental health presented in detailed tables and maps. The range of data supports Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), other community-based organizations, state offices and others by providing census-level data for use in policy development, program planning, and grant applications.

In 2015, the Hawaii PCO met **shortage designation coordination** expectations by:

- ❖ Updating the practice information of primary care, dental care, and mental health care professionals practicing in the islands. A new application system was released along with new policies state PCOs must now follow. Under the new policy, state PCOs were given a file, which serves as the official registry of health professionals practicing in the islands, of providers taken from the National Provider Identifier (NPI). The NPI is a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Administrative Simplification Standard and is a unique identification number for health care providers.

Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) are designated by HRSA as having shortages of primary care, dental care, or mental health providers. There are three types of HPSA designations -- geographic (a county or service area), population (e.g., low income or Medicaid eligible), or facility (e.g., FQHC, or state or federal prisons).

The State of Hawaii has five primary care, two dental HPSA, and nine mental health HPSA located on following islands and service areas:

- Hawaii: three primary care (Puna, Kau, and Waikoloa/Kawaihae) and three mental Health (Kau, North Hawaii, and Puna)
- Maui: one primary care (Hana/Haiku), one dental (Hana), and two mental health (Hana and Maui Service Area that includes the remainder of the island)
- Molokai: one primary care and one mental health
- Kauai: two mental health (Waimea and east side of the island)
- Oahu: one dental (Kalihi-Palama) and one mental health (North Shore)

All the islands have at least one Medically Underserved Area/Population designation.

In 2015, the Hawaii PCO met **technical assistance and collaboration that seeks to expand access to primary care for underserved populations** expectations by:

- ❖ Assisting with the administration of 16 statewide primary care contracts and providing technical assistance as needed.
- ❖ Providing technical assistance related to the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), data sharing, HPSA designations, and needs assessments to health care providers, community organizations, private agencies, and state and federal government offices.

- ❖ Assisting 15 practitioners interested in the NHSC in Hawaii by providing information about eligible practice sites, HPSA scores, and NHSC policies, procedures, and requirements for recruitment and retention applications. The practitioners included primary care physicians, health psychologists, and advanced practice registered nurses, nurse practitioners, and registered nurses. The PCO is currently working with Kaiser Permanente, Adventists Health, and Queen's Medical Center regarding interest in HPSA designations to support rural health centers.

There are currently a total of 32 NHSC providers serving at community health centers as well as a correctional facility and one private practice site on all islands except for Lanai Island. These include five allopathic and osteopathic physicians (general and family practice), seven general dentists, three nurse practitioners, one physician assistant, 13 clinical psychologists, two licensed clinical social workers, and one registered dental hygienist.

NHSC health professionals serve on the following islands:

- Hawaii: five physicians, three dentists, two health psychologists, and one licensed clinical social worker
- Maui: one dentist and one social worker
- Molokai: one dentist, two nurse practitioners, and one dental hygienist
- Oahu: two dentists, one nurse practitioner, one physician assistant, and 11 clinical psychologists

All but one of these health professionals is serving at a FQHC; the other provider is working at a private practice facility.

There are four NHSC scholars studying in Hawaii. The study disciplines are allopathic medicine, dentistry, and nurse practitioner.

- ❖ Processing and recommending the approval to renew three existing NHSC recruitment and retention site applications for the islands of Molokai, Kauai, and Oahu.

Hawaii currently has 67 NHSC approved sites statewide. These include FQHC primary, satellite, and mobile clinics, state correctional facilities, a federal detention facility, Department of Education School-based Behavioral Health sites, Native Hawaiian Healthcare System sites, a Family Guidance Center with the Department of Health, critical access hospitals/rural health clinics, and private practice sites.

- ❖ Serving as the state contact and liaison for HRSA's Bureau of Health Professionals to disseminate information and updates related to the NHSC, for site and provider applications, and changes in policies and procedures.