

Issues Impacting Health Care Access in Utah

1. What is a HPSA? (Health Professional Shortage Area)
2. How much of Utah is a HPSA?
3. Health Professional Loan Repayment
 - What is it?
 - Why is it needed?
 - What is going on in Utah?

What is a HPSA?

- A Federal Designation
- Based upon data provided by the state
- Reviewed every 3 years
- Geographic or Specific Population
- Represent Severe Shortages
- Required for recruitment of a NHSC provider

How much of Utah is a HPSA?

- Mental Health: EVERY County
- Dental Care: EVERY County (full or partial)
- Primary Medical Care: EVERY County (full or partial)
 - Most Undesignated Areas served by federally supported safety net clinics (e.g., community health centers)

Health Professional Loan Repayment

- What Is Loan Repayment?
 - An agreement to repay a certain amount of a health professional's educational debt in return for a specified period of service – typically 2 years.

Health Professional Loan Repayment

- Why is it needed?
 - Average medical school debt is now approaching \$200,000.
 - Students may avoid primary care specialties in favor of higher paying specialties.
 - Only financial incentive to train and practice in primary care.
 - Utah's physician salaries are the 9th lowest in the nation.

Health Professional Loan Repayment

- What is going on in Utah?
 - National Health Service Corps (NHSC)
 - Federal program: currently supporting 113 health professionals in Utah.
 - Rural Physician Loan Repayment Program
 - SB 76 (thank you Sen. Hinkins & Rep. Barlow).
 - Hospital Matching Funds
 - Allows for a total of \$30,000/yr (\$15K + \$15K).
 - Filled all 9 slots for FY '16, 5 already for FY '17.

Health Professional Loan Repayment

- What is going on in Utah? (con't)
 - Healthcare Workforce Financial Assistance Program
 - All primary care disciplines/specialties
 - For underserved areas
 - Due to Sunset in July 2017
 - One-time funds appropriated in FY '16
 - ✓ Awarded 15 health professionals
 - ✓ Some carryover to help in '17

Health Professional Loan Repayment

- What is going on in Utah? (con't)
 - Healthcare Workforce Financial Assistance Program
 - Funding Amounts and Numbers for 2016
 - Physicians: 3 at \$25,000/yr. x 2 yrs.
 - PAs/NPs: 9 at \$15,000/yr. x 2 yrs.
 - Dentists: 1 at \$15,000/yr. x 2 yrs.
 - Mental Health: 1 at \$15,000/yr. x 2 yrs.
 - Pharmacist (Geriatric): 1 at \$15,000/yr x 2 yrs.

Health Professional Loan Repayment

Questions?