



### Submission Requirements:

Your application must be submitted online by **November 15, 2024**. If you have any issues with the application link please reach out to Michelle Ruppert at [Michelle.Ruppert@wvhepc.edu](mailto:Michelle.Ruppert@wvhepc.edu).

Choose West Virginia Practice Program awards are made through a competitive process, so please provide complete and accurate information. Although students from any current medical school class year are eligible to apply, medical students who meet the eligibility criteria and who are in their first year of medical school will receive preference.

Awards will be announced in December 2024, and recipients must accept awards within the timeframe outlined within the acceptance letter.

### Loan Repayment Award

To be eligible for the award, students must:

- ✧ Be accepted for enrollment at Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, or West Virginia University School of Medicine in a program leading to a degree of Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathy.
- ✧ Meet institutional requirements for being classified as an out of state student.
- ✧ Not be in default of any previous student loan.
- ✧ Be in good academic and professional standing.

Awards are sent to the recipient's medical school in the form of a tuition waiver. These funds will be applied to the recipients account. The recipient must sign a promissory note to receive the tuition waiver funds. Subject to continued state funding, students who receive a waiver will be eligible to receive another in each of their remaining years of medical school as long as they:

- ✧ Progress to the next academic year of their program
- ✧ Maintain good academic and professional standing

### Service Obligation Information

Participants may complete residency and/or fellowship training in West Virginia or in other states. The service obligation begins within six months after the participant completes training. Choose WV requires that participants practice at an eligible site one year for each year they received the award (a maximum of 4 years). Participants are responsible for securing their own practice site.

Eligible sites include the specialties and sites located within Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) as designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) which are outlined on the ChWV Eligible Health Professional Shortage Areas Map (see below).

Participants may practice any of the following primary care or shortage specialties at approved sites in West Virginia:

- |                                |                                                                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ✧ Addiction Medicine           | Neurology                                                          |
| ✧ Family Practice              | OB/GYN                                                             |
| ✧ General Internal Medicine    | Pediatrics                                                         |
| ✧ General Surgery              | Preventive Medicine                                                |
| ✧ Geriatrics                   | Psychiatry (includes Addiction, Child & Adolescent, and Geriatric) |
| ✧ Internal Medicine/Pediatrics |                                                                    |

In the event the service obligation is not completed, the participant is responsible for repaying the award amount received plus five percent interest accruing from the date training is completed or terminated.

## Eligible Sites for Program Service Obligations

All Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) designations and site eligibility are determined by criteria set forth by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Approved HPSA's can be geographic areas, populations, or facilities. For the Choose WV Practice Program we use all three criteria to determine if a site is eligible.

### HSPA Facility Acronym Definitions

**CF** – Correctional Facility

**FQHC** – Federally Qualified Health Center

**FC** – Free Clinic

**RHC** – Rural Health Clinic

Sites which are designated as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), Correctional Facility (CF), Free Clinic (FR) or Rural Health Clinic (RHC) should be approved for the ChWV service obligation.

### Facility HPSAs

Facility HPSAs include three categories:

- ✧ **Other Facility (OFAC):** Public or non-profit private medical facilities serving a population or geographic area designated as a HPSA with a shortage of health providers.
- ✧ **Correctional Facility:** Medium to maximum-security federal and state correctional institutions and youth detention facilities with a shortage of health providers.
- ✧ **State Mental Hospitals:** State or county hospitals with a shortage of psychiatric professionals (mental health designations only).

### Automatic Facility HPSAs (Auto-HPSAs)

Facilities automatically designated as HPSAs based on statute or through regulation. These include:

- ✧ **Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)**
  - ✧ Provide primary care to an area or group of people in need.
  - ✧ Offer a sliding fee scale.
  - ✧ Provide complete services.
  - ✧ Have an ongoing quality assurance program.
  - ✧ Have a governing board of directors.

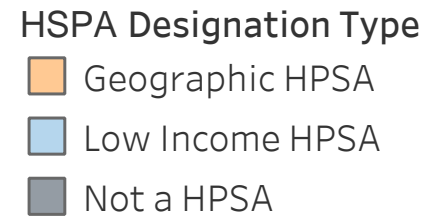
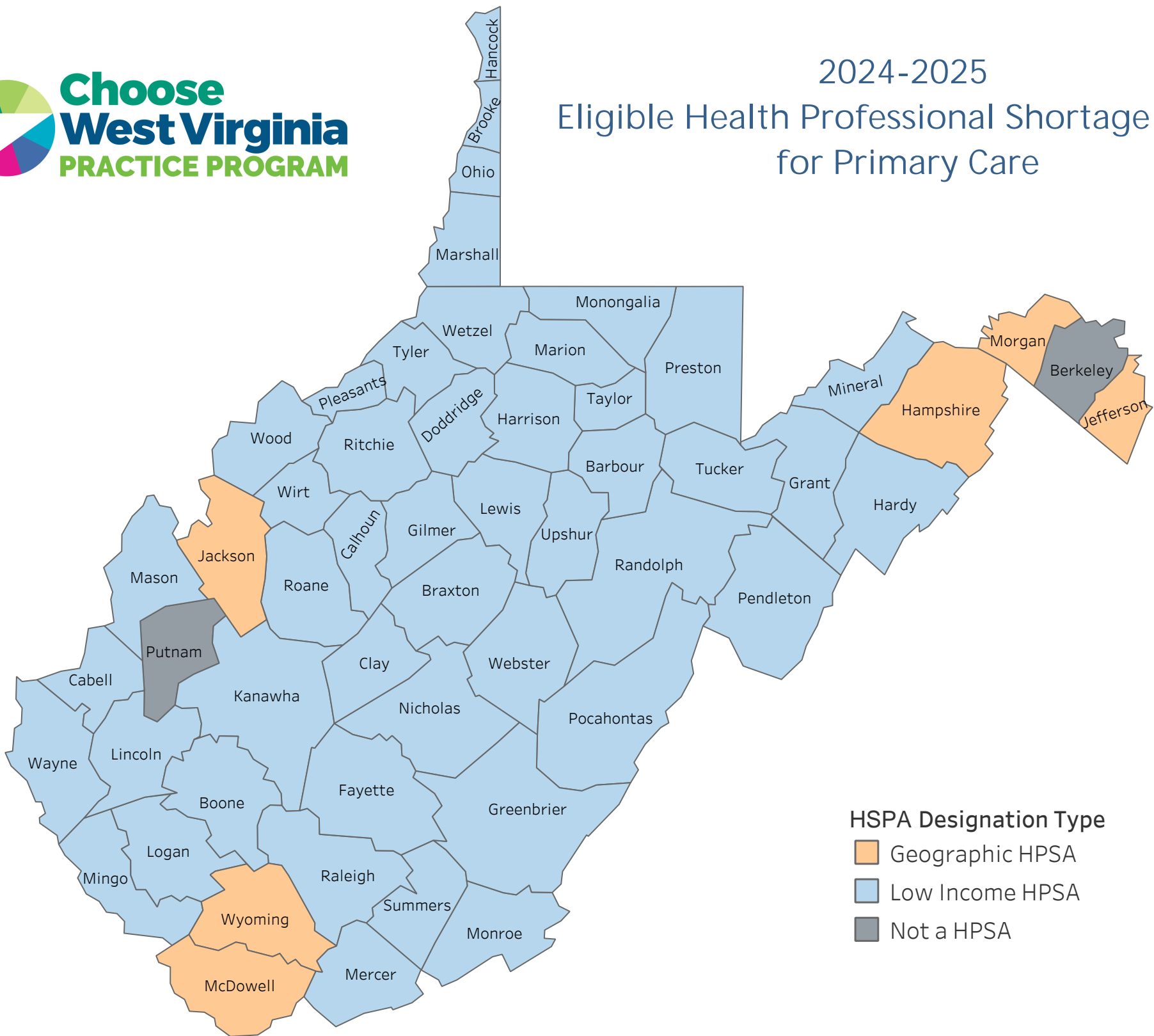
All organizations receiving grants under Health Center Program Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act are FQHCs.

- ✧ **FQHC Look-A-Likes (LALs)**
  - ✧ Community-based health care providers
  - ✧ Meet the requirements of the HRSA Health Center Program
  - ✧ Don't receive Health Center Program funding
- ✧ **Indian Health Facilities**
  - ✧ Federal Indian Health Service (IHS), tribally run and Urban Indian health clinics
  - ✧ Provide medical services to members of federally recognized tribes and Alaska Natives
- ✧ **IHS and Tribal Hospitals**
  - ✧ Federal Indian Health Service (IHS) and tribally run hospitals
  - ✧ Provide medical services to members of federally recognized tribes and Alaska Natives
- ✧ **Dual-funded Community Health Centers/Tribal Clinics**
  - ✧ Health centers that receive funding from tribal entities and HRSA
  - ✧ Provide medical services to members of federally recognized tribes and Alaska Natives
- ✧ **CMS-Certified Rural Health Clinics (RHCs)\***
  - ✧ Outpatient clinics located in non-urbanized areas that are Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) certified and meet Site requirements (such as accepting Medicaid and CHIP and providing services on a sliding fee scale).

To see a full list of eligible sites which meet the above criteria please use the HSPA Find tool:  
<https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area/hpsa-find>

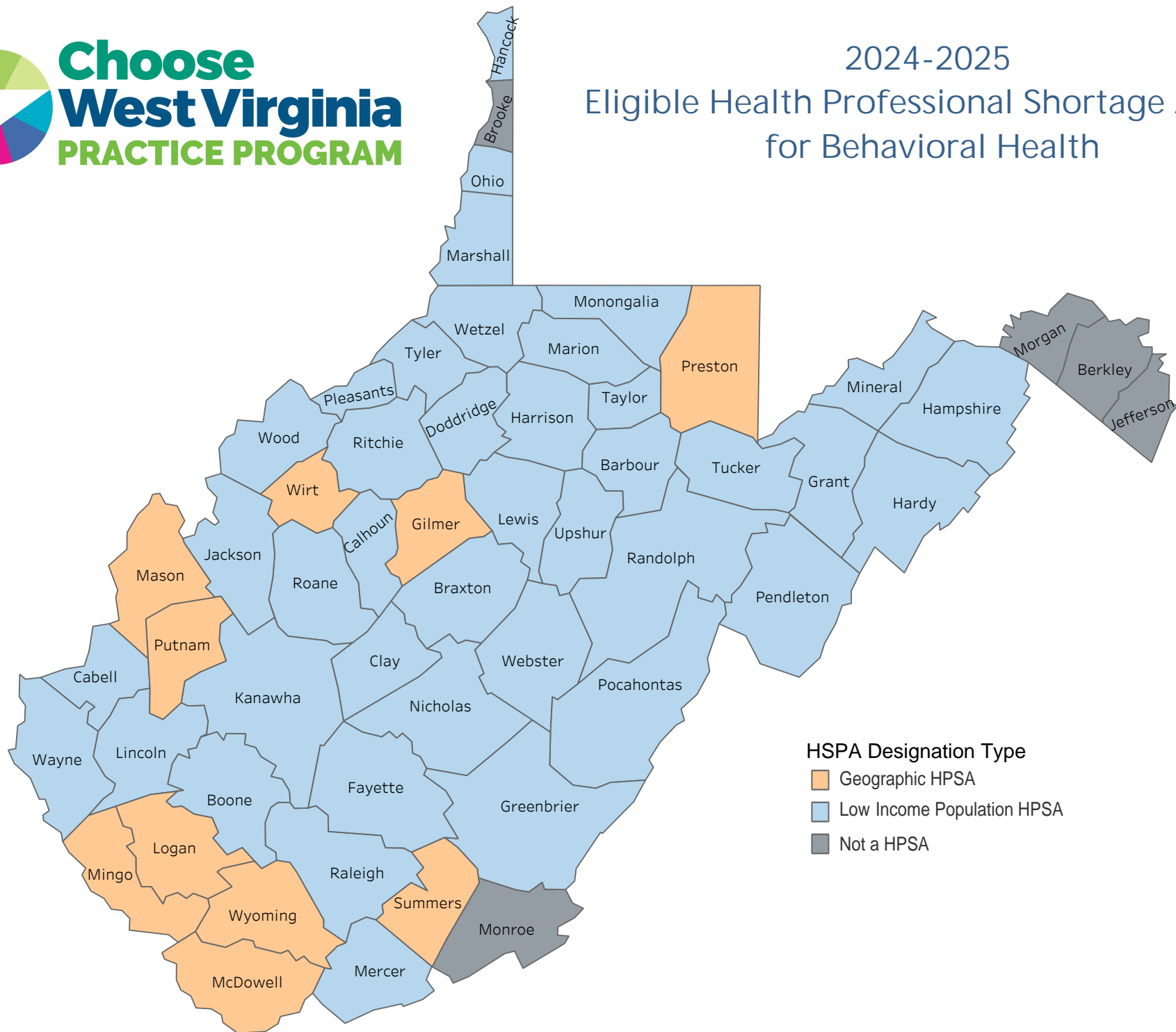


# 2024-2025 Eligible Health Professional Shortage Area's for Primary Care





2024-2025  
Eligible Health Professional Shortage Area's  
for Behavioral Health



In the above ChWV Eligible Health Professional Shortage Area Maps, each county is coded by one of the following:

- ✧ **Geographic HPSA:** Geographic HPSAs have a shortage of services for the entire population within an established geographic area. The majority of sites in these counties should be approved for the Choose WV Practice Program.
- ✧ **Population HPSA:** Population HPSAs have a shortage of services for a specific population subset within an established geographic area. WV Counties have a Low Income designation. The sites located within these counties will need to be verified prior to approval. Information should be submitted to the Program Administrator for review prior to starting service towards obligation. Once verified further documentation may be required to be submitted by the site administrator or supervisor to the Program Administrator.
- ✧ **Not a HPSA:** For sites located in counties that are designated as Not a HPSA County and are not listed as a FQHC, FC, RHC, CF, on HRSA.gov, documentation must be submitted showing the majority of patients served meet the facility designations criteria above. Documentation should be submitted by the site administrator or supervisor to the Program Administrator.

## Eligibility for Other Financial Incentives

You may be able to concurrently serve your Choose West Virginia Practice Program service obligation with **some** other financial incentive programs. However, federal law prohibits concurrent service of a Choose West Virginia Practice Program service obligation with some federal programs' service obligations, such as the National Health Service Corps loan repayment program. Thus, you must complete your obligation to the Choose West Virginia Practice Program before applying for National Health Service Corps loan repayment or other programs with similar prohibitions.

If you have any questions, you may discuss the program with your school contact listed in the Choose West Virginia Practice Program website or contact:

Michelle Ruppert,  
Health Sciences Program Administrator  
West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission  
2001 Union Carbide Drive  
South Charleston, WV 25303  
Phone: 304-558-0530x3; Fax: 304-712-9343  
E-mail: [Michelle.Ruppert@wvhepc.edu](mailto:Michelle.Ruppert@wvhepc.edu)

