



North Dakota Conrad 30 J1 Visa Waiver Program

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NORTH
Dakota | Health & Human Services
Be Legendary.

North Dakota Primary Care Office

- Housed within the ND Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health
- The ND Primary Care Office subcontracts with UND Center for Rural Health to assist with health care workforce activities

Mission: Improve primary care service delivery and workforce availability. This mission is accomplished by facilitating the coordinating activities related to improving access and delivery of primary care services and the recruitment and retention of critical health care providers.

Center for Rural Health

- Established in 1980 at the University of North Dakota (UND) school of Medicine and Health Sciences in Grand Forks, North Dakota
- One of the country's most experienced state rural health offices
- UND Center of Excellence in Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity
- Home to seven national programs
- Recipient of the UND Award for Departmental Excellence in Research

Focus On:

- Educating and informing
- Policy
- Research and Evaluation
- Working with Communities
- American Indians
- Health Workforce
- Hospitals and Facilities



J1 Visa Waiver Program Outline



J-1 Visa
WAIVER

DISCLAIMER

I am not an attorney, and cannot offer official legal advice on immigration. What I will discuss today are the waiver application requirements for the state of North Dakota. Any legal matters should be discussed with a qualified immigration attorney.

J1 Visa Waiver Program Outline

- Physicians in the U.S. under a J1 Visa, who wish to remain in the U.S., must apply for a J1 Visa Waiver through an **Interested Government Agency (IGA)**.
- This includes:
 - Conrad 30 State Waivers
 - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
 - Delta Regional Authority (DRA) – regions of AL, AR, IL, KY, LA, MS, MO, TN
 - Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC)- FL + regions of VA, NC, SC, GA, AL, MS
 - Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)- regions of WV, AL, GA, KY, MD, MS, NY, NC, OH, PA, SC, TN, VA

J1 Visa Waiver Program Outline

- “Conrad 30”- introduced and championed by Senator Kent Conrad from North Dakota
- 30 waivers per year, per state
 - Regional authorities and HHS offer additional waivers
- 10 of 30 can be used in “flex” areas (non-HPSA)
- Cycle opens October 1 each year
- First come, first reviewed
- ND does not limit specialties



Health Professional Shortage Areas

A Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) is a designation of a health care workforce shortage.



| Criteria | Primary Care | Dental Health | Mental Health |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Population to Provider Ratio | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| % Below Poverty | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Travel Time-Distance to Nearest Source of Care | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Infant Mortality Rate – Low Birth Rate | ✓ | | |
| Access to Fluoridated Water | | ✓ | |
| Youth and/or Elderly Dependency | | | ✓ |
| Substance and/or Alcohol Abuse Prevalence | | | ✓ |

Health Professional Shortage Areas

Health Resources & Services Administration U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

data.HRSA.gov Enter Search A-Z Index

Home Find Health Care Data Maps Tools Topics Help

Home > Tools > Find Shortage Areas > HPSA Find

HPSA Find

Find data on the geographic, population, and facility [HPSA designations](#) throughout the United States.

Use this tool to:

- > Search HPSAs by location or HPSA ID
- > Filter HPSAs by discipline, status, type, score, and rural status

Search HPSA ID Search Export Data [XLSX](#) [PDF](#)

Select a State/Territory (required)
Select a State/Territory

Select County(s) (required)
All Counties

Submit

Apply Filters (Optional)

HPSA Discipline

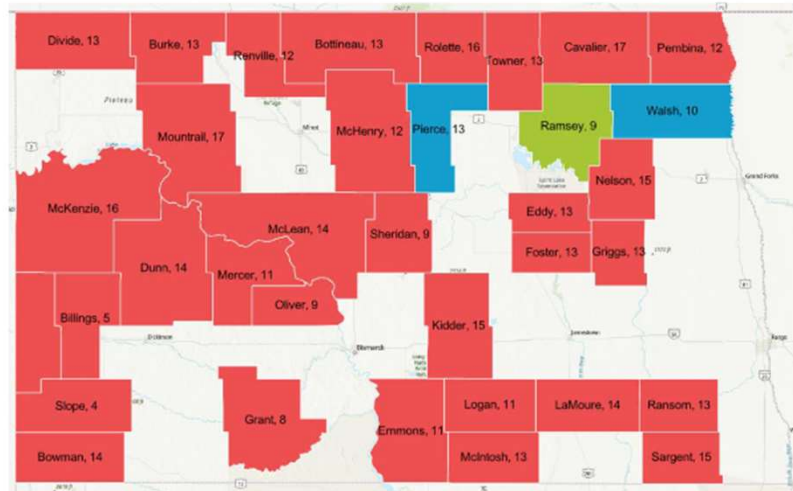
- Primary Care
- Dental Health
- Mental Health

HPSA Status

- Designated
- Proposed for Withdrawal
- Withdrawn

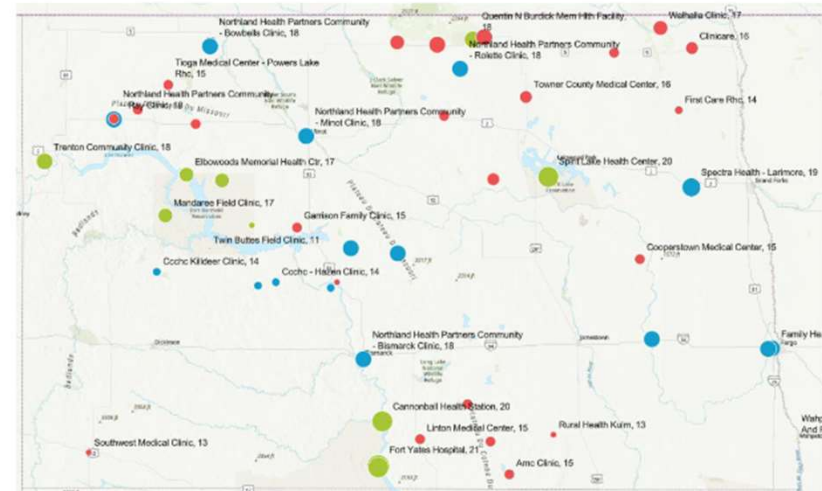
| Discipline | HPSA ID | HPSA Name | Designation Type | Primary State Name | County Name | HPSA FTE Short | HPSA Score | PC MCTA Score | Status | Rural Status | Designation Date | Update Date |
|----------------------------|---------|-----------|------------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------|------------|---------------|--------|--------------|------------------|-------------|
| No data available in table | | | | | | | | | | | | |

North Dakota Health Professional Shortage Areas: Primary Care



- Geographic Population
- Low Income Population HPSA
- Native American Population HPSA
- Other

- RHC
 - FQHC
 - ITU
 - Other
- Score
- > 21
 - 18
 - 16
 - 13
 - < 11



ND Waiver Usage



- 2019: 10 flex, 2 non
- 2020: 9 flex, 2 non
- 2021: 10 flex
- 2022: 10 flex
- 2023: 10 flex, 1 non
- 2024: 7 flex so far (10-16-23)

ND Non-Flex Waiver Options



Internal Med or Family Med:

1. Hettinger
2. Cando
3. Cooperstown
4. Langdon
5. Elgin
6. Fargo FQHC
7. McVile

North Dakota J1 Visa Waiver Process



J-1 Visa
WAIVER

ND J1 Waiver Checklist



1. DS-3035
2. Employment contract
3. Physician Attestation (attest that physician is not seeking a waiver elsewhere)
4. DS-2019
5. Letter from the facility
6. Evidence that the facility is located in a Health Professional Shortage Area/Medically Underserved Area*

ND J1 Waiver Checklist



7. Personal statement from physician (stating intention to fulfill waiver requirements)
8. Physician curriculum vitae
9. Copy of physician license or evidence the physician will be granted a license in the state
10. I-94 entry cards
11. No objection statement from home country (stating that physician does not have legal requirements to return home)
12. Form G-28 or letter from law office

J1 Waiver Timeline




- Submission October 1 or later
- ND Primary Care Office, ND HHS ~2-4 weeks
- ND HHS sends to Department of State (DOS). DOS ~ 6-8 weeks, sometimes longer
- DOS submits to USCIS. USCIS issues approval back to DOS.
- Representing attorney will receive communication from DOS if any further information is needed to process the waiver request.
- Once waiver is approved, ND HHS is alerted, as is the representing attorney.
- Arrival to practice report due within 30 days of contract start date
- IMG must adhere to terms and conditions, and complete J1 waiver obligation before eligible for lawful permanent residence.

How to prepare while in residency



- Seek out employers early
- If applying for a 2025 waiver (October 2024), contract should be signed in May/June/July of 2024. This means beginning the interview process in/around January 2024.
 - Facilities often have their “lineup” in place by July
- Be informed and prepared to talk about what YOU need as far as waiver or visa assistance. *Do not assume employers will know how to navigate your particular visa pathway.*

Job Platforms

FOR PROFESSIONALS FOR EMPLOYERS

[Filter Search](#)

Physician Faculty- Bismarck Center for Family Medicine #78604
3 days ago
Bismarck, North Dakota

Physician Faculty- Minot Center for Family Medicine #78603
19 days ago
Minot, North Dakota

Physician - Family Medicine Opportunity in North Dakota #64931
8/10/2023
Elgin, North Dakota

Seeking primary care physician in Wishek, ND #76308
7/5/2023
Wishek, North Dakota

Shared Practice- Family Medicine Physician for 2 rural hospitals in southern ND #76307
7/5/2023
Wishek, North Dakota

Shared Practice- Family Medicine Physician for 2 rural hospitals in southern ND #76306
7/5/2023
Linton, North Dakota

Family Medicine Physician opportunity in Cando, ND #76305
7/5/2023
Cando, North Dakota

Physician - Family Medicine Opportunity in North Dakota #76304
7/5/2023
Cooperstown, North Dakota

Family Medicine Physician - Loan Repayment Options #75957
6/20/2023

Physician - Family Medicine

Physician - Family Medicine Opportunity in North Dakota

Elgin, North Dakota

[JOB DETAILS](#) [ABOUT EMPLOYER](#) [CONTACT INFO](#)

Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center, & Clinics needs an additional provider to meet the demand that has come with the growth and success of our hospital. We are seeking a full-time Physician. The ideal candidate is passionate about rural health, thrives in a challenging environment, and is energetic, patient-focused, and comfortable or willing to learn in both the clinic and ER setting. New graduates are welcome to apply. Providers at our facility care for the whole patient, diagnosing...

Work Schedule:
Varied

Register today to view full job details.

- Community & facility information
- Compensation range
- Additional benefits (CME allowance, paid time-off, insurance, etc.)
- Qualifying loan repayment programs
- Employer contact information
- View job on map

[LOGIN](#)

2-1 visa eligible
HPSA: 6
Loan repayment
Telehealth job

NORTH Dakota | Job Service
Be Legendary™

[Sign In / Register](#)
Select Language




Photo courtesy of NDDOT

Enter a keyword and/or location to find jobs.

ND Health Care Student Loan Repayment Program



Eligible Disciplines

- Physicians
- Advanced Practice Providers
- Dentists
- Clinical Psychologists
- Registered Nurses
- Behavioral Health Professionals
 - Licensed Addiction Counselor
 - Licensed Professional Counselor
 - Licensed Social Workers
 - Registered Nurses
 - Specialty Practice Registered Nurses



Selection Criteria

- Level of social and medical need in the service area
- Extent to which the service area is rural
- Employer and practice setting
- A new recruit or retention candidate
- Education and experience



Contractual Commitment

- 5-year service obligation between the State of North Dakota, Physician, and Employer
- Employer must contractually commit to provide matching funds



Payment

- \$20,000 payment from the State of North Dakota
- \$2,000 from Employer Match
- State issues payments directly to the lender after each 12-month period of service



We're Here for YOU!

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J-1 resources page on
NDMA (including slides)

