

The Governor's Exceptional Medically Underserved Population (EMUP) Designation

One of the biggest problems Pennsylvanians with disabilities face is a lack of providers willing to accept Medical Assistance- the main insurer of people with disabilities. Unfortunately, many providers won't accept patients with disabilities into their practices, often believing they don't have the right training or equipment or having preconceptions about behaviors or difficulty communicating.¹

Most Pennsylvanians with disabilities live and work in their communities - many are employed as essential workers



EMUP designation is granted in perpetuity and never requires updating!

THE POWER OF DESIGNATION

The Health Resources and Services Administration allows Governors to apply for an Exceptional Medically Underserved Population designation to address healthcare access disparities when a population group doesn't qualify under the current Health Professional Shortage Area or Medically Underserved Area/ Medically Underserved Population formula despite demonstrated disparities.

Benefits of Medically Underserved Population (MUP) Designation

More than 30 federal programs use the Health Professional Shortage Area and Medically Underserved Area/Medically Underserved Population designations to identify eligibility to receive federal aid and assistance based on underservice. These programs fall under these broad categories:

- Grants to support primary care services and research
- Support for training and recruitment of health professionals
- Enhanced payment through Medicare and Medicaid²

Pennsylvanians with Disabilities Can't Qualify for a regular Medically Underserved Population designation. Why?

Unless designated by the President, Congress, or the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Health Resources and Services Administration's procedure requires that a Medically Underserved Population live in the same geographic area ("Rational Service Area").

Theoretically, if all Pennsylvanians with disabilities were living in the same county or zip code (and were more than 30% of that area's population)³ they would easily qualify as a Medically Underserved Population. Thankfully, most Pennsylvanians with disabilities are not segregated but instead are living, working, and making valuable contributions to their communities throughout the Commonwealth- many as essential workers.



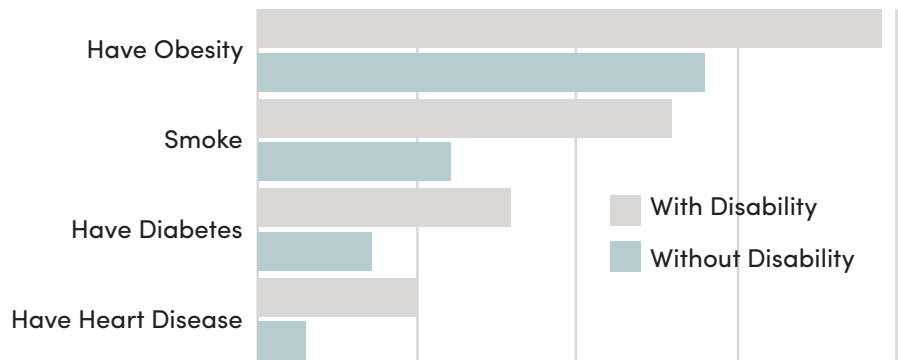
2,677,350 adults in Pennsylvania have a disability⁵

This is equal to 25% or 1 in 4 adults in Pennsylvania



The Governor’s Exception or Exceptional Medically Underserved Population designation offers the ability to “submit a population-specific barrier and/or health status indicator, in lieu of the generally prescribed indicators for the components of the current Index of Medical Underservice formula. The Governor’s Exception avenue provides a flexible local data option for population groups, recognizing that data for the general population of an area may not adequately capture the needs of population groups and that data for certain population groups is often non-existent.”⁴

Why does Pennsylvania need an EMUP? Adults with disabilities in the United States are more likely to⁵



Alternate Health-Status Indicators:

- Disparate impacts of COVID19;
- Experts’ opinions on the appropriateness of the proposed Exceptional Medically Underserved Population designation;
- Extrapolated data from nationwide health-sources like the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, American Community Survey, or Healthy People 2020.



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