

# **HRSA Poverty Assessment and Investment Dashboard User Guide**

**Version 1.0**

**June 2026**

Guidance for Dashboard Users

**Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)**

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

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## Section 1: Background and Purpose

The HRSA Poverty Assessment and Investment Dashboard is a publicly available, interactive data tool that provides a transparent view of how HRSA grant funding reaches America's highest-need communities. The dashboard allows anyone — Congressional staff, researchers, advocates, journalists, and members of the public — to examine how HRSA investments are distributed across communities experiencing high or persistent poverty, by program area, geography, and fiscal year, covering the five most recent full fiscal years.

The dashboard was developed in response to longstanding Congressional interest in directing federal resources toward communities experiencing persistent poverty — areas where economic hardship has endured across generations, limiting access to opportunity, health care, and economic mobility for millions of Americans. Congress has expressed this interest through provisions such as the *10-20-30 provision* of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA, P.L. 111-5)<sup>1</sup>, and later directed HRSA specifically to develop a report on its targeted investments in impoverished areas, as outlined in Title II of House Report 117-403 (enacted as the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, P.L. 117-328).<sup>2</sup> The full text of the Congressional charge to HRSA is reproduced in **Appendix A**.

This dashboard integrates data from three primary federal sources:

- HRSA grant management data — the authoritative source for all HRSA awards, including dollar amounts, recipients, and program area classifications.
- U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) — a comprehensive source of community-level demographic and economic data used to characterize populations living in poverty areas.
- U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) — the source of persistent poverty county designations; high poverty census tract classifications are derived from Census Bureau poverty data.

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<sup>1</sup> Dalaker, J. (2025, March 10). The 10-20-30 Provision: Defining Persistent Poverty Counties. (CRS Report No. R45100).

<sup>2</sup> H. Rept. 117-403 - Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2023. 117th Congress (2021-2022). <https://www.congress.gov/committee-report/117th-congress/house-report/403/1>.

Consistent with the *10-20-30 provision*, this HRSA dashboard primarily reflects information about the agency's **competitive awards** — grants awarded through an open, merit-based competition process. However, the dashboard also tracks **other awards** (non-competitive funding, including formula and block grants and loan repayment programs) and **total awards** (the combination of both). This distinction matters: some communities receive substantial non-competitive HRSA funding regardless of their capacity to compete for grants. Tracking total awards alongside competitive awards gives Congress a more complete picture of HRSA's overall investment reach into poverty areas.

In line with the Congressional charge, the dashboard also examines the characteristics of individuals in communities reached by HRSA funding, disaggregated by race, sex, age, disability status, and urban/suburban/rural residence (**Appendix A**). Key terms are defined in **Appendix B**. HRSA program areas included as dashboard filters (as of January 1, 2025) are described in **Appendix C**. Full technical specifications — including calculation methods, data variable codes, and filter logic — are provided in **Appendix D**.

## Section 2: Notes on the Poverty Definitions Used in the Tool

Poverty is not a uniform condition, and not all federal definitions of poverty capture the same communities. Economic hardship can differ significantly by geography and context. A family living below the federal poverty line in a rapidly growing urban area may face very different challenges than a family in a rural county where poverty has persisted across three generations with little economic mobility. Similarly, a neighborhood where 25% of residents live in poverty may exist within a county that, on average, appears economically stable. As a result, whether a community is identified as a "poverty area" — and whether it is eligible for focused federal investment — depends on the definition applied.

To address these differences, HRSA does not rely on a single poverty definition when assessing the reach of its investments. A single-definition approach risks systematically excluding communities with significant needs that fall outside that definition's criteria. To ensure the broadest and most accurate picture of where poverty exists and where HRSA investments are directed, this dashboard applies **three complementary poverty definitions** — each capturing a distinct dimension of economic hardship across American communities. Together, these measures provide a more comprehensive understanding of where poverty exists and how HRSA resources are distributed, and support a thorough analysis of how the agency meets the requirements of the *10-20-30 provision*.

### Definition: High-Poverty Census Tracts

**What it means:** A census tract where 20% or more of the total population lives below the federal poverty level, based on the most recent U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates. Census tracts are small, stable geographic units defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, typically home to between 1,200 and 8,000 residents. They are roughly equivalent in size to a neighborhood and represent the smallest geographic level at which consistent, reliable poverty and demographic data are available nationwide. The United States contains approximately 85,000 census tracts.

**What this definition captures:** High Poverty Census Tracts identify neighborhoods — within any county, urban or rural, large or small — where poverty is concentrated above a meaningful threshold. This definition is particularly valuable because it cuts through

county-level averages. A wealthy suburban county may contain several census tracts with poverty rates at or above 20%, representing pockets of high need that would be invisible in a county-level analysis.

**Data source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates<sup>3</sup>

## Definition: Persistent Poverty Counties

**What it means:** Counties designated as persistent poverty counties by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) — counties where the poverty rate has remained at or above 20% across multiple consecutive decades, reflecting long-term, entrenched economic hardship.

**What this definition captures:** Persistent poverty counties experience generational economic hardship — structural conditions including lack of economic diversification, geographic isolation, limited educational opportunity, and chronic underinvestment that have kept poverty rates elevated decade after decade. These counties are disproportionately concentrated in the Deep South, Appalachia, the Rio Grande border region, Native American Tribal lands, and parts of the rural West.

**Data source:** U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), FY2023 designations<sup>4</sup>

## Definition: Combined Poverty Areas

**What it means:** Combined Poverty Areas represent the broadest of the three definitions used in this dashboard. This category includes all communities that qualify under either of the above two definitions: all EDA-designated Persistent Poverty Counties and all census tracts in any county that meet the High Poverty Census Tract threshold.

**What this definition captures:** Combined Poverty Areas represent the full universe of communities experiencing significant poverty under any federal standard used in this dashboard. For purposes of tracking HRSA's compliance with the congressional 10% investment mandate, Combined Poverty Areas is the primary reference definition.

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<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2023). American Community Survey 5-year estimates. U.S. Department of Commerce. <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs>

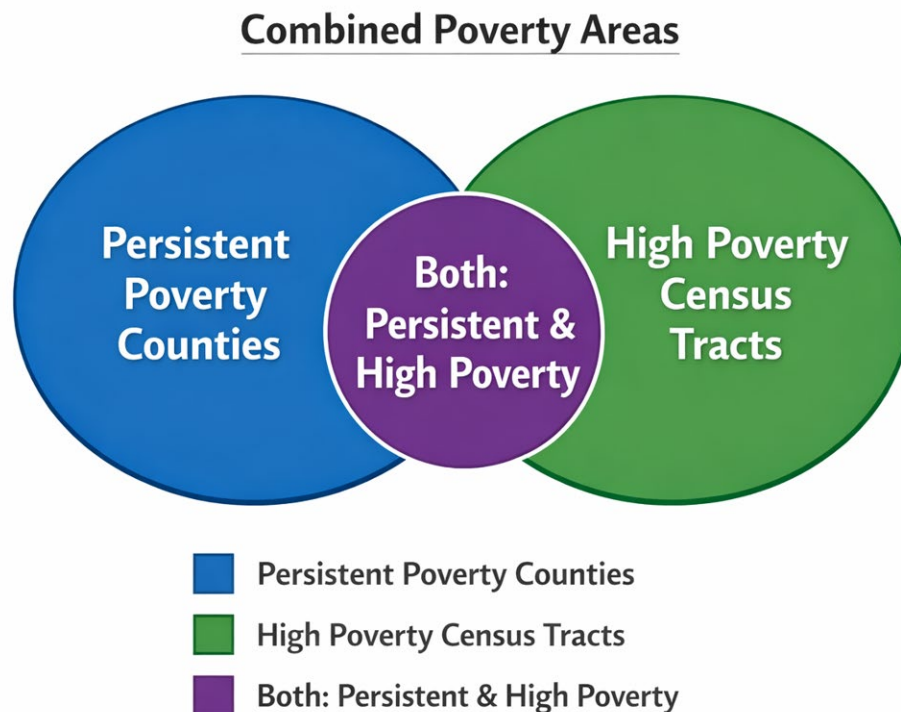
<sup>4</sup> U.S. Economic Development Administration. (2023). FY2023 designations. U.S. Department of Commerce. <https://www.eda.gov>.

**Data sources:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates<sup>3</sup> U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), FY2023 designations<sup>4</sup>

The three poverty definitions have important relationships to note:

- Every **Persistent Poverty County** is included in **Combined Poverty Areas** — but not every census tract within a persistent poverty county is necessarily a High Poverty Census Tract.
- Every **High Poverty Census Tract** is included in **Combined Poverty Areas** — regardless of whether the county it sits in is a Persistent Poverty County.
- Some communities appear under **all three definitions** — census tracts within persistent poverty counties that also individually exceed the 20% poverty threshold.

**Diagram: How Persistent Poverty Counties and High Poverty Census Tracts Define Combined Poverty Areas**



**Note:** Combined Poverty Areas encompasses all three sections of the diagram above — Persistent Poverty Counties, High Poverty Census Tracts, and areas that qualify under both definitions.

Each definition answers a different policy question:

If you want to know...	Use this definition
Which neighborhoods have acute, current poverty — anywhere in the country?	High Poverty Census Tracts
Which counties have faced generational, structural poverty over decades?	Persistent Poverty Counties
What is the full scope of HRSA's reach into all poverty-affected communities?	Combined Poverty Areas



**Note:** All U.S. territories — including Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands — are classified as high poverty areas in this dashboard. The exception is **Puerto Rico**, which is assessed using the same poverty criteria applied to U.S. states. Users may observe that some territories display demographic data showing "0%" for certain measures; this occurs when American Community Survey (ACS) data is not available for that territory or population group. See **Section 4** for more details.

## Section 3: How to Use the Dashboard

The dashboard is designed to answer three core questions relevant to the Congressional mandate:

- *To what extent is HRSA meeting the mandate of allocating at least 10% of competitive, discretionary funding to poverty areas — both in aggregate and by program area?*
- *Which high- and persistent-poverty communities are being reached by HRSA investments — and where do gaps in coverage remain?*
- *How have HRSA's investments in high- and persistent-poverty areas changed over the past five fiscal years?*

The dashboard is optimized for desktop use and is best viewed in a modern web browser such as Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, or Mozilla Firefox.

### Layout

When the dashboard first loads, users will see **one map tab and three analytical tabs** at the top of the screen:




- **One Poverty Areas/Map** — An interactive map showing the geographic distribution of poverty areas across the United States.
- **Three Analytical Tabs** — Three analytical views corresponding to the three poverty definitions (High Poverty Census Tracts, Persistent Poverty Counties, and Combined Poverty Areas), each containing a static map, demographic profile, investment trend chart, and year-by-year investment summary.

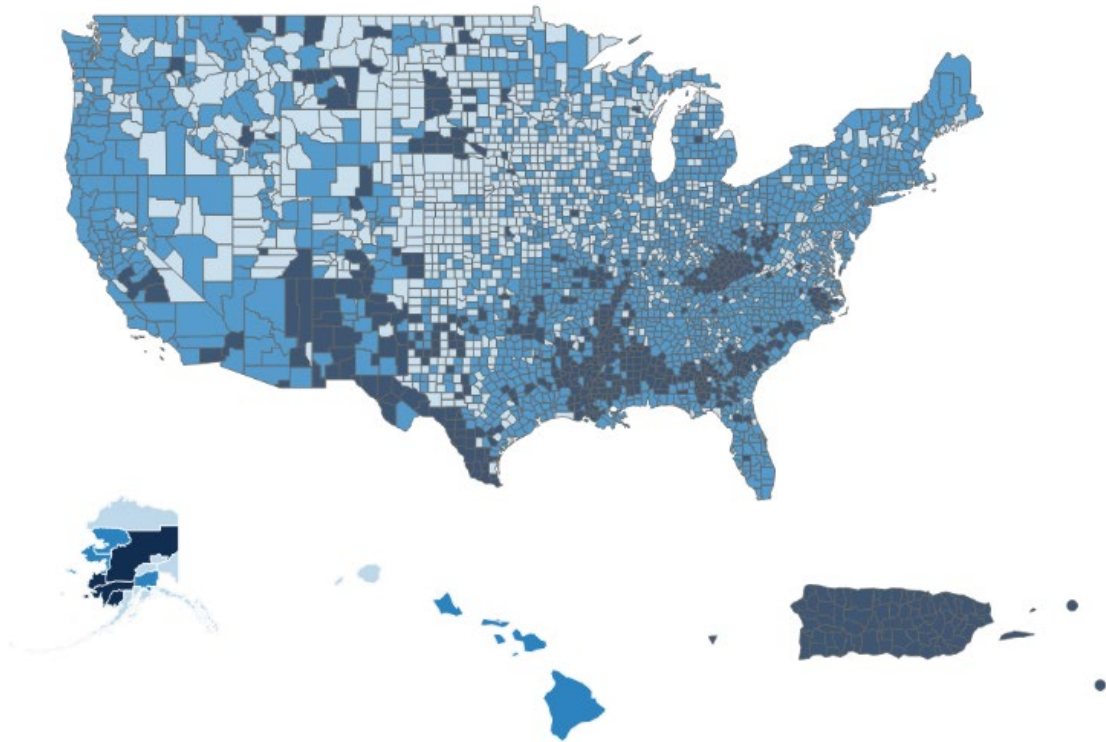


## Poverty Areas Map

### What the Map Shows

Each county is shaded to reflect one of three poverty status categories:

Color	Poverty Status	What This Means
	<b>Not a Persistent Poverty County / No High Poverty Census Tracts</b>	Neither the county nor any census tract within it qualifies as a poverty area
	<b>County Contains High Poverty Census Tracts</b>	At least one census tract within the county exceeds the 20% poverty threshold, but the county as a whole is not a persistent poverty county
	<b>Persistent Poverty Area</b>	The county meets the persistent poverty designation at the county level, i.e. The county, including all its census tracts, meets the poverty criteria.










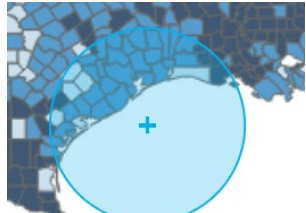
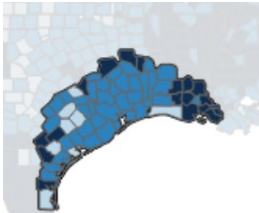

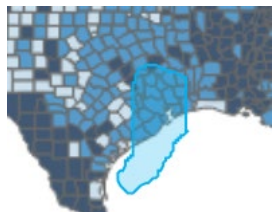
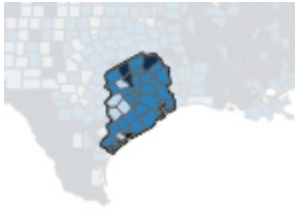


- County Contains High Poverty Census Tracts
- Not a Persistent Poverty County / County has no High Poverty Census Tracts
- Persistent Poverty County

### Interacting with the Map

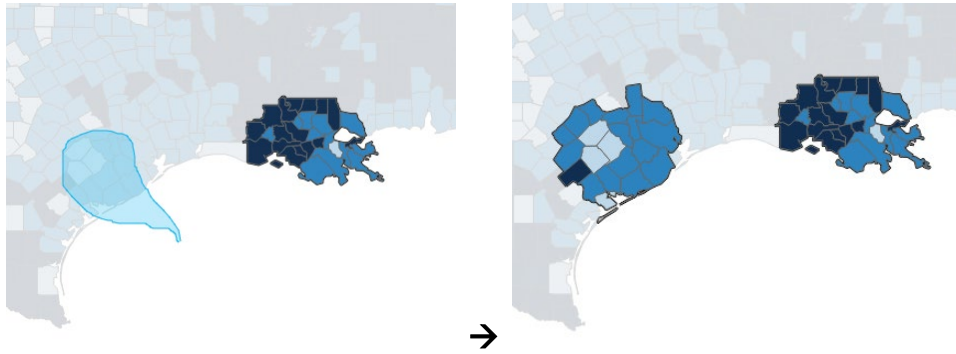
- **Zoom in or out** — Use the scroll wheel or zoom controls to focus on a specific region.
- **Hover over a county** — View a tooltip with the county's name, state, and poverty status.
- **Click on a county** — Display the Census Tract Table to the right, showing a tract-level breakdown.

### Table of icons for maps widgets for users to interact with map

Icon	Function	Function Description
	Zoom in	Zoom in to the current map center
	Zoom out	Zoom out from current map center
	Zoom home	Zoom to default map view
	Zoom area (Z)	Zoom to custom areas (this does not select counties)
	Pan(f)	Click on the icon and then click at the map and hold left mouse key and drag the map around to desired position in the map view.
	Rectangle (A)	To select counties by rectangle, click the icon and then draw a rectangle around areas of interests and counties intersecting with the rectangle will be selected.  
	Radial (S)	To select counties by Radial, click the icon and then click on the map at the center of areas of interests, hold the left mouse key and release it after desired areas are covered. See example here:  
	Lasso (D)	To select counties by Lasso, click the icon and then click on the map at the center of areas of interests, hold the left mouse key and release it after desired areas are covered. See example here:  



**Tip:** Hold the **Ctrl** key to add to your current selection. For example, to add more counties to an existing Lasso selection, hold **Ctrl** and use the Lasso tool to select additional counties — they will be appended to your original list (see below). To deselect, click on any empty area of the map.



### Census Tract Table

Column	Content
<b>Census Tract</b>	The Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) code identifying each census tract within the selected county
<b>Poverty Area</b>	Indicates whether that census tract qualifies as a poverty area under any of the three definitions



**Tip:** Use the Census Tract Table to explore within-county variation in poverty status — a pattern that is not visible in a county-level-only view.

## The Three Poverty Area Tabs

Tab	Poverty Definition
<b>Combined Poverty Areas</b>	All persistent poverty counties plus all high-poverty census tracts in any county
<b>Persistent Poverty Counties</b>	Counties designated by the U.S. EDA as persistent poverty counties
<b>High Poverty Census Tracts</b>	Census tracts in any county where 20% or more of residents live below the federal poverty level



**Tip:** Use the **Combined Poverty Areas** tab as the primary reference for assessing performance against the Congressional mandate to allocate at least 10% of competitive, discretionary funding to poverty areas.

## The Four Views Within Each Tab

View	Description
<b>Static Map</b>	Geographic reference showing where poverty areas are located under that tab's definition
<b>Demographic Table</b>	Side-by-side demographic breakdown of poverty vs. non-poverty areas, and funded vs. unfunded populations
<b>Funding Line Chart</b>	Trend lines showing the percentage of HRSA funding directed to poverty areas over the five most recent fiscal years, with the 10% mandate benchmark line displayed for reference
<b>Investment Breakdown Table</b>	Year-by-year summary of HRSA investments in poverty areas, including dollar amounts, number of awards, and coverage percentages

## Using the Filters

Filter	Type	Default	Views Affected
<b>Program Area</b>	Single-select	All	Demographic Table, Funding Line Chart, Investment Breakdown Table
<b>Funding Type</b>	Single-select	Competitive Awards	Demographic Table, Investment Breakdown Table
<b>State/Territory</b>	Multi-select	All	Demographic Table, Funding Line Chart, Investment Breakdown Table
<b>County</b>	Multi-select	All	Demographic Table, Funding Line Chart, Investment Breakdown Table
<b>Rurality Data Set</b>	Single-select	—	Demographic Table
<b>Urban/Rural</b>	Single-select	—	Demographic Table, Funding Line Chart, Investment Breakdown Table
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	Single-select	Most recent completed fiscal year	Demographic Table

### Filter Descriptions

**Program Area** — Filters all views to show only HRSA investments in a specific program area. The default setting includes all program areas. See **Appendix C** for a complete program listing.

**Funding Type** — Single-select filter with three options: *Competitive Awards* (default), *Other Awards*, and *Total Awards*. This filter does not affect the Funding Line Chart.

**State/Territory** — Filters results to one or more states or territories.

**County** — Filters results to one or more counties. This filter works in conjunction with the State/Territory filter; selecting a state first will limit the available county options.

**Rurality Data Set** — Selects the rurality classification system: *FORHP* (HRSA's rural program eligibility definition) or *RUCA* (USDA's commuting-based classification). This filter must be set before applying the Urban/Rural filter.

**Urban/Rural** — Filters results by urban, suburban, or rural classification based on the selected Rurality Data Set:

- *FORHP*: Rural = areas on the FORHP Non-Metro list; Urban = all other areas.
- *RUCA*: Urban = RUCA code 1; Suburban = RUCA codes 2–3; Rural = RUCA codes 4–10, 99, or unknown.<sup>5</sup>

**Fiscal Year** — Filters the Demographic Table to a specific federal fiscal year. Defaults to the most recently completed fiscal year.



**Tip: What is a federal fiscal year?** The U.S. federal fiscal year runs from October 1 through September 30. For example, FY2025 covers October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025.

## Practical Examples for Common Use Cases

### Example 1: Is HRSA meeting the 10% mandate in my state?

1. Open the **Combined Poverty Areas** tab.
2. Under **State/Territory**, select your state.
3. In the **Investment Breakdown Table**, review the "Percent of total dollar amount of HRSA grants going to poverty areas" column for performance by fiscal year.
4. In the **Funding Line Chart**, check whether the trend line is above or below the 10% benchmark.

### Example 2: How are Rural Health investments distributed across persistent poverty counties?

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<sup>5</sup> "Suburban" is not an official category within the RUCA classification framework, which is designed primarily to distinguish urban from rural areas based on commuting patterns and population density. RUCA codes 2 and 3 are used here as an operational surrogate for suburban areas given their intermediate characteristics between fully urban (RUCA 1) and rural (RUCA 4–10) designations, consistent with common practice in health policy research. This filter is included to provide additional granularity along the urban-rural continuum. RUCA codes 99 and unknown are grouped with rural, consistent with standard HRSA and FORHP practice for areas where commuting data are unavailable.

1. Open the **Persistent Poverty Counties** tab.
2. Under **Program Area**, select *Rural Health*.
3. Under **Rurality Data Set**, select *FORHP*; then under **Urban/Rural**, select *Rural*.
4. Review the **Demographic Table** and **Investment Breakdown Table**.

**Example 3: Which populations in high poverty census tracts are not being reached by HRSA funding?**

1. Open the **High Poverty Census Tracts** tab.
2. Leave all filters at their default settings for a national view.
3. In the **Demographic Table**, compare the "**High Poverty Census Tracts — Funding: No**" column to "**High Poverty Census Tracts — Funding: Yes**."
4. Differences in racial, ethnic, or geographic composition identify populations in high poverty tracts not currently receiving HRSA investments.

	High Poverty Census Tracts		Other Census Tracts	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Allocated HRSA Grant Program Funding?				
Total number of HRSA grant awards	8,341	0	7,953	0
Dollar Amount of Awards per Capita	\$1,329.21	\$0.00	\$950.69	\$0.00
Population Size	3,108,835	63,115,265	4,402,063	264,956,529
Median household Income	\$41,251.00	\$44,962.11	\$82,819.73	\$91,490.08
Median age (Years)	32.03	35.01	38.40	40.62
<b>Race</b>				
White	54.26%	52.46%	68.15%	71.17%
Black or African American	23.67%	24.27%	12.31%	10.28%
American Indian or Alaska Native	3.34%	2.66%	2.25%	1.64%
Asian	6.45%	3.87%	7.60%	6.96%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.43%	0.34%	0.58%	0.43%
Other	11.85%	16.39%	9.11%	9.52%

## Section 4: Data Sources and Methodology

The dashboard is powered by data from five primary federal sources. Every figure displayed can be traced to a publicly available federal data source and a documented calculation. Data analysts, researchers, and technical users who require full technical specifications — including Census Bureau variable codes and filter logic — should refer to Appendix D: Technical Reference.

### Primary Data Sources

**HRSA Program Data** — HRSA's internal grant management systems serve as the authoritative source for all investment figures in the dashboard, including award counts, dollar amounts, program area assignments, and competitive/non-competitive classifications.



**Note:** Investment figures in this dashboard may differ slightly from figures reported in other HRSA Data Warehouse tools. This reflects the distinct data extraction methodology used here — particularly for funding type classifications (e.g., "competitive" vs. "other"), which involve complex determinations not generally applied in other agency tools and resources.

**U.S. Census Bureau — American Community Survey (ACS)** — The ACS provides all demographic data displayed in the Demographic Table, including population, income, age, race and ethnicity, sex, disability status, and poverty rates. The dashboard uses ACS 5-year estimates for greater statistical reliability at the census tract level. The ACS version reflected in the dashboard corresponds to the dataset currently active in the HRSA Data Warehouse.

**U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)** — The EDA maintains the official federal list of Persistent Poverty Counties. The dashboard currently reflects EDA designations as of FY2023. Counties that have experienced recent economic improvement may still carry a persistent poverty designation until EDA issues an updated list.

**USDA and HRSA — Rurality Classifications** — Two rurality classification systems are available in the dashboard: **FORHP** (HRSA's rural program eligibility definition) and **RUCA**

(USDA's commuting-based census tract classification). RUCA codes reflect 2010 classifications mapped to 2020 census tract boundaries.

**U.S. Census Bureau — TIGER Geographic Boundaries** — TIGER boundary files define the geographic shapes displayed in all maps. The dashboard reflects the TIGER version currently active in the HRSA Data Warehouse.

## How Key Metrics Are Calculated

### Primary Mandate Metric: Percent of Grant Dollars to Poverty Areas

(Total Dollar Amount of HRSA Grants to Poverty Areas ÷ Total Dollar Amount of All HRSA Grants) × 100

### Secondary Metric: Percent of Poverty Areas Receiving HRSA Funding

(Number of Poverty Areas with at Least One HRSA Award ÷ Total Number of Poverty Areas) × 100



**Note – Why both metrics matter:** The dollar percentage tells users how much funding reached poverty areas. The geographic coverage percentage tells users how broadly that funding was distributed — an important distinction for equity-focused oversight.

### Funding Line Chart

Trend Line	Formula
% of Competitive Awards to Poverty Areas	(Competitive Awards to Poverty Areas ÷ Total Competitive Awards) × 100
% of Other Awards to Poverty Areas	(Other Awards to Poverty Areas ÷ Total Other Awards) × 100
% of Total Awards to Poverty Areas	(Total Awards to Poverty Areas ÷ Total Awards) × 100

## Important Data Limitations and Caveats

Users should be aware of the following limitations when interpreting dashboard figures:

- **Funding data alignment** — Investment figures may differ from those in other HRSA Data Warehouse tools due to the distinct data extraction methodology used here, particularly for competitive vs. non-competitive funding classifications.
- **Persistent poverty designations are historical** — Designations reflect FY2023 EDA data. Counties that have experienced recent economic improvement may still carry a persistent poverty designation until EDA issues an update.
- **RUCA codes reflect 2010 classifications** — RUCA codes are applied to 2020 census tract boundaries; rural conditions in some areas may have changed since the codes were assigned.
- **ACS estimates carry a margin of error** — ACS data are based on survey samples, not complete population counts. Estimates for small census tracts may carry greater statistical uncertainty.
- **Territories and Freely Associated States** — ACS data are not available for all U.S. territories. Demographic figures for these geographies may display as "0%," reflecting missing data rather than a zero population.
- **Data versions are periodically updated** — The ACS and TIGER versions reflected in the dashboard are updated periodically. Users should note the active data versions when citing dashboard figures in reports or publications. Information on the latest ACS, TIGER and HRSA grants data can be found at <https://data.hrsa.gov/data/data-sources>.
- **Negative investment values** — Negative investment figures may appear in the dashboard when grant funds have been de-obligated or recouped — for example, when a recipient returns unused funds or an award amount is reduced after initial obligation. Because the dashboard reflects HRSA's transactional grant system, these adjustments are recorded as negative amounts and will reduce the total investment displayed for the selected fiscal year and filters.

## Appendix A: Congressional Charge to HRSA

The text below reproduces the Congressional charge directing HRSA to develop a report on its targeted investments in impoverished areas, as set forth in Title II (Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)) of House Report 117-403 to accompany H.R. 8295, the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2023 (enacted as the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, P.L. 117-328):

*Targeted Investments in Impoverished Areas — The Committee supports targeted investments in impoverished areas, particularly in persistent poverty counties and in other high-poverty census tracts. For purposes of this Act, the term "high-poverty area" means any census tract with a poverty rate of at least 20 percent as measured by the 2016–2020 5-year data series available from the American Community Survey of the Census Bureau and the term "persistent poverty counties" means any county that has had 20 percent or more of its population living in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the 1993 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, the 2000 decennial census, and the most recent Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, or any territory or possession of the U.S. The Committee directs HRSA to develop and implement measures to increase the share of investments in high-poverty census tracts with a poverty rate of at least 20 percent as measured by the 2016–2020 5-year data series available from the American Community Survey of the Census Bureau, and any other impoverished areas the Department determines to be appropriate areas to target. The Committee directs HRSA to submit a report to the Committee within 180 days of enactment of this Act that includes the amount of funds that were targeted to such areas; the percent change from fiscal year 2022 in the amount of funds that were targeted toward such areas; and, to the extent practicable, an assessment of the economic impact of the program on the areas, including data on the categories of individuals impacted by the targeting of funds to such areas under the program, disaggregated by household income, race, gender, age, national origin, disability status, and whether the individuals live in an urban area, suburban area, or rural area.*



**Note on "gender" vs. "sex":** The Congressional charge above uses the term "gender," while this dashboard and User Guide use "sex" as the demographic category label. This is a deliberate methodological choice, not an omission — "sex"

reflects the precise variable definitions used by the U.S. Census Bureau in the underlying ACS data (DP05\_0002E, DP05\_0003E), and ensures that the demographic categories displayed in the dashboard are directly traceable to their source data. HRSA's use of "sex" is fully responsive to the Congressional directive; the label difference reflects data standardization, not a gap in coverage.



**Note on demographic disaggregation categories:** The demographic variables reflected in this dashboard are household income, race, sex, age, disability status, and urban/suburban/rural residence. The variables selected reflect those for which reliable, census-tract-level ACS data are available and consistently defined across all geographies in the United States covered by the dashboard.

## Appendix B: Glossary of Key Terms

The following terms appear throughout this User Guide and the dashboard. Definitions reflect how each term is used specifically within this dashboard.

**American Community Survey (ACS)** — An ongoing U.S. Census Bureau survey collecting detailed demographic, social, economic, and housing data about American communities. This dashboard uses ACS 5-year estimates at the census tract level.

**Award** — A grant or funding mechanism through which HRSA provides financial support to an eligible recipient to carry out a specific health program or activity. See also: *Competitive Award, Other Awards, Total Awards*.

**Census Tract** — A small, stable geographic unit defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, typically containing 1,200–8,000 residents and roughly equivalent in size to a neighborhood. The United States contains approximately 85,000 census tracts. Census tracts represent the smallest geographic level at which consistent, reliable poverty and demographic data are available nationwide.

**Combined Poverty Areas** — The broadest poverty definition used in this dashboard, encompassing all communities that qualify as either a Persistent Poverty County or a High Poverty Census Tract. Combined Poverty Areas is the primary reference definition for assessing HRSA's compliance with the 10% mandate.

**Competitive Award** — A grant awarded through an open, merit-based competition process evaluated by an independent review panel. The primary funding category used to assess compliance with the 10% mandate.

**Discretionary Funding** — Federal funding allocated through the annual Congressional appropriations process. The 10% persistent poverty investment mandate applies to discretionary funding.

**Economic Development Administration (EDA), U.S.** — A bureau within the U.S. Department of Commerce that maintains the official federal designation list of Persistent Poverty Counties.

**Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) Code** — A numeric code that uniquely identifies geographic areas including states, counties, and census tracts. A standard county FIPS code is five digits.

**Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP)** — The HRSA office that maintains the official definition of rural areas for HRSA program eligibility purposes. One of two rurality classification systems available in this dashboard.

**Federal Poverty Level (FPL)** — The income threshold below which a household is considered to be living in poverty, defined annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Used to classify High Poverty Census Tracts.

**Fiscal Year (FY)** — The U.S. federal government's annual accounting period, running from October 1 through September 30. For example, FY2024 covers October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.

**5-Year Estimates** — ACS data averaged across five consecutive years, providing greater statistical reliability at small geographic levels such as census tracts. See also: *American Community Survey (ACS)*.

**Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)** — The primary federal agency responsible for improving access to health care for people who are uninsured, isolated, or medically vulnerable.

**High Poverty Census Tract** — A census tract where 20% or more of the total population lives below the federal poverty level, based on ACS 5-year estimates.

**HRSA Data Warehouse (HDW)** — HRSA's centralized data repository integrating data from multiple HRSA systems and external sources. The dashboard reflects the ACS and TIGER versions currently active in the HDW.

**Medically Underserved Area/Population (MUA/P)** — A HRSA designation identifying geographic areas or populations with insufficient access to primary care services. MUA/P designations are distinct from the poverty area classifications used in this dashboard.

**Other Awards** — Funding distributed through non-competitive mechanisms, including formula grants, block grants, and loan repayment programs.

**Persistent Poverty County** — A county designated by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) as having maintained a poverty rate at or above 20% across multiple consecutive decades. The dashboard currently reflects FY2023 EDA designations.

**Poverty Area** — A general term for any geographic area qualifying as a poverty area under one or more of the three definitions used in this dashboard: High Poverty Census Tracts, Persistent Poverty Counties, or Combined Poverty Areas.

**Program Area** — A grouping of related HRSA grant programs organized around shared public health goals, used as a filter in the dashboard. See **Appendix C** for a complete listing of program areas and associated programs.

**Rural-Urban Commuting Area Codes (RUCA)** — A USDA census tract-level rurality classification based on population density and commuting patterns. The dashboard uses 2010 RUCA codes mapped to 2020 census tract boundaries. One of two rurality classification systems available in this dashboard.

**Rurality** — The classification of a geographic area as urban, suburban, or rural. The dashboard supports two rurality classification systems: FORHP and RUCA. See each entry for definitions.

**Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (TIGER)** — The U.S. Census Bureau's system of digital geographic boundary files defining the shapes of all U.S. counties, census tracts, and other geographic units. TIGER boundary files are the basis for all maps displayed in the dashboard.

**Tooltip** — A brief information summary that appears when a user hovers over a county or data element on the dashboard map.

**Total Awards** — The combined total of all HRSA funding — both competitive and other awards — regardless of funding mechanism.

**Weighted Average** — An average that accounts for the relative size or importance of each component. In this dashboard, demographic measures such as median household income and median age are calculated as weighted averages using total population as the weight, to ensure that larger census tracts contribute proportionally more to the aggregate figure.

# Appendix C: HRSA Program Areas and Grant Programs

## About This Appendix

HRSA administers dozens of grant programs organized into **program areas** — groupings of related programs sharing common public health goals. These program areas generally align with the agency's organizational structure. For example, the Maternal and Child Health program area reflects investments typically overseen by HRSA's Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

This appendix helps users identify which program area to select when filtering the dashboard and provides context on what each program area covers.



**Tip:** To find a specific program, locate its name in the Full Program Listing below, note its Program Area, and select that Program Area in the dashboard's Program Area filter.



**Note:** Program listings reflect HRSA investments as of January 1, 2025. Programs added after this date may not yet appear in the dashboard.

## Program Area Summary

<b>Program Area</b>	<b>Focus</b>	<b>Associated Agency Subunit</b>
<b>Bureau of Clinician Recruitment and Service</b>	Recruiting health professionals to underserved communities through loan repayment and scholarship programs	HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce
<b>Health Professions</b>	Training the next generation of health professionals across	HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce

<b>Program Area</b>	<b>Focus</b>	<b>Associated Agency Subunit</b>
	medicine, nursing, dentistry, and other disciplines	
<b>Health Workforce</b>	Expanding the health workforce in underserved areas, with a focus on primary care, behavioral health, and rural communities	HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce
<b>Healthcare Systems</b>	Supporting health care infrastructure, poison control, and community-based health systems	HRSA Health Systems Bureau
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	Providing care, treatment, and support for people living with HIV/AIDS through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program and related initiatives	HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau
<b>Maternal and Child Health</b>	Improving the health of mothers, infants, children, and families through research, training, and direct services	HRSA Maternal and Child Health Bureau
<b>Office of the Administrator</b>	Cross-cutting initiatives including global health and state and local partnership programs	HRSA Office of the Administrator
<b>Organ Transplantation</b>	Supporting organ and tissue donation and transplantation	HRSA Health Systems Bureau

<b>Program Area</b>	<b>Focus</b>	<b>Associated Agency Subunit</b>
<b>Primary Health Care</b>	Expanding access to primary and preventive care through federally qualified health centers and related programs	HRSA Bureau of Primary Health Care
<b>Rural Health</b>	Improving health care access and quality in rural communities through grants, research, and technical assistance	HRSA Federal Office of Rural Health Policy
<b>Tele-Health</b>	Expanding telehealth technology to increase access to care in underserved areas	HRSA Office for the Advancement of Telehealth

### **Full Program Listing**

The dashboard's Program Area filter dropdown also contains the full program listing and may serve as a functional substitute for general users.

## Appendix D: Technical Reference for Analysts

### **About This Appendix**

This appendix provides the full technical specification for the calculations, data variables, and filter logic underlying the dashboard. It is intended for data analysts, researchers, and technical users. General users and Congressional staff will find all necessary guidance in the main sections of this User Guide.

### **Census ACS Variable Reference**

To check the latest vintage of Census American Community Survey (ACS) data in use, please visit <https://data.hrsa.gov/data/data-sources>.

<b>Demographic Measure</b>	<b>ACS Variable Code</b>
Total Population	B01001_001E
Total Population: Race, Ethnicity, Sex	DP05_0001E
Race: White	DP05_0066E
Race: Black or African American	DP05_0067E
Race: American Indian or Alaska Native	DP05_0068E
Race: Asian	DP05_0069E
Race: Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	DP05_0070E
Race: Other	DP05_0071E
Ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino	DP05_0073E
Sex: Male	DP05_0002E
Sex: Female	DP05_0003E
Total Population: Disability Status	S1810_C01_001E

<b>Demographic Measure</b>	<b>ACS Variable Code</b>
Disability Status: Disabled	S1810_C02_001E
Population Below Poverty Level	S1701_C02_001E
Percent Below Poverty Level	S1701_C03_001E
Median Household Income	B25119_001E
Median Age	B01002_001E

### **Demographic Table Calculation Formulas**

<b>Row</b>	<b>Calculation</b>
<b>Total number of HRSA grant awards</b>	Count of HRSA awards per column category
<b>Dollar Amount of Awards Per Capita</b>	Sum of awarded dollar amounts ÷ B01001_001E for areas in category
<b>Population Size</b>	Sum of B01001_001E for all areas in column
<b>Median Household Income</b>	Weighted average: Value = B25119_001E; Weight = B01001_001E
<b>Median Age</b>	Weighted average: Value = B01002_001E; Weight = B01001_001E
<b>Race: White</b>	DP05_0066E ÷ Sum of Race Numerators × 100
<b>Race: Black or African American</b>	DP05_0067E ÷ Sum of Race Numerators × 100
<b>Race: American Indian or Alaska Native</b>	DP05_0068E ÷ Sum of Race Numerators × 100
<b>Race: Asian</b>	DP05_0069E ÷ Sum of Race Numerators × 100
<b>Race: Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</b>	DP05_0070E ÷ Sum of Race Numerators × 100
<b>Race: Other</b>	DP05_0071E ÷ Sum of Race Numerators × 100

Row	Calculation
<b>Ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino</b>	$DP05\_0073E \div DP05\_0001E \times 100$
<b>Ethnicity: Non-Hispanic or Latino</b>	$(DP05\_0001E - DP05\_0073E) \div DP05\_0001E \times 100$
<b>Sex: Male</b>	$DP05\_0002E \div DP05\_0001E \times 100$
<b>Sex: Female</b>	$DP05\_0003E \div DP05\_0001E \times 100$
<b>Disability: Disabled</b>	$S1810\_C02\_001E \div S1810\_C01\_001E \times 100$
<b>Disability: Non-Disabled</b>	$(S1810\_C01\_001E - S1810\_C02\_001E) \div S1810\_C01\_001E \times 100$
<b>Rurality (RUCA): Urban/Suburban/Rural</b>	$B01001\_001E \div \text{Sum of } B01001\_001E \text{ for areas in column} \times 100$
<b>Residence (FORHP): Urban/Rural</b>	$B01001\_001E \div \text{Sum of } B01001\_001E \text{ for areas in column} \times 100$



**Note on Race denominators:** "Sum of Race Numerators" refers to the sum of all race group population values within the given column category. This sum serves as the denominator when calculating each race group's share, ensuring that percentages reflect the racial composition of the population within that category rather than the total population.

## Investment Metric Formulas

### Funding Line Chart

Series	Formula
% of Competitive Awards to Poverty Areas	$(\text{Competitive Awards to Poverty Areas} \div \text{Total Competitive Awards}) \times 100$
% of Other Awards to Poverty Areas	$(\text{Other Awards to Poverty Areas} \div \text{Total Other Awards}) \times 100$
% of Total Awards to Poverty Areas	$(\text{Total Awards to Poverty Areas} \div \text{Total Awards}) \times 100$



**Note:** The Funding Type filter does not apply to the Funding Line Chart. All other active filters apply.

### Investment Breakdown Table

Column	Calculation
<b>Total Number of HRSA Grant Awards</b>	Count of distinct awards
<b>Total Number of Grants in Poverty Areas</b>	Count of distinct awards directed to a poverty area
<b>Total Dollar Amount of All HRSA Grants</b>	Sum of all award dollar amounts in the selected fiscal year
<b>Total Dollar Amount of HRSA Grants to Poverty Areas</b>	Sum of award dollar amounts directed to poverty areas
<b>Percent of Total Dollar Amount Going to Poverty Areas</b>	$(\text{Total to Poverty Areas} \div \text{Total All Grants}) \times 100$
<b>Number of Poverty Areas</b>	Distinct count of census tracts or counties flagged as poverty areas under the active tab's definition
<b>Number of Poverty Areas with HRSA Grant Awards</b>	Distinct count of poverty areas with at least one award
<b>Percent of Poverty Areas with HRSA Grant Awards</b>	$(\text{Poverty Areas with Awards} \div \text{Total Poverty Areas}) \times 100$



**Note:** Poverty area counts and percentages reflect only those within the geography selected by active filters. When no geographic filter is applied, figures reflect all poverty areas nationally.



**Note on negative values:** Negative investment figures reflect de-obligations or recoupments recorded in HRSA's transactional grant system; these will reduce aggregate totals for the selected fiscal year and filters.

**Filter Logic and Demographic Table Behavior**

The table below illustrates how the Demographic Table columns are populated under different filter combinations.

<b>Filters Applied</b>	<b>Poverty Areas — Funding: Yes</b>	<b>Poverty Areas — Funding: No</b>	<b>Other Areas — Funding: Yes</b>	<b>Other Areas — Funding: No</b>
<b>Program Area:</b> All / <b>Funding Type:</b> Total Awards	Poverty areas receiving any HRSA award	Poverty areas receiving no HRSA award	Non-poverty areas receiving any HRSA award	Non-poverty areas receiving no HRSA award
<b>Program Area:</b> Health Workforce / <b>Funding Type:</b> Competitive	Poverty areas receiving competitive Health Workforce awards	Poverty areas not receiving competitive Health Workforce awards	Non-poverty areas receiving competitive Health Workforce awards	Non-poverty areas not receiving competitive Health Workforce awards
<b>Program Area:</b> All / <b>Funding Type:</b> Other Awards / <b>State:</b> Ohio	Poverty areas in Ohio receiving Other Awards	Poverty areas in Ohio not receiving Other Awards	Non-poverty areas in Ohio receiving Other Awards	Non-poverty areas in Ohio not receiving Other Awards



**Note on zero values:** Columns displaying all "0%" or "0" values reflect either no awards meeting the active filter criteria, or the absence of ACS demographic data for U.S. territories and Freely Associated States.

**Data Sources and Version Reference**

<b>Data Element</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Business Rules and Notes</b>
HRSA Investment and Funding	HRSA grants management data	May not align with figures in other HRSA Data Warehouse tools, reflecting the distinct data extraction methodology used here — particularly for competitive vs. non-competitive funding classifications
Total Population	Census ACS: B01001_001E	ACS 5-year estimates version currently active in HDW
Median Household Income	Census ACS: B25119_001E	ACS 5-year estimates version currently active in HDW
Median Age	Census ACS: B01002_001E	ACS 5-year estimates version currently active in HDW
Race and Ethnicity	Census ACS: DP05 series	ACS 5-year estimates version currently active in HDW
Sex	Census ACS: DP05_0002E, DP05_0003E	ACS 5-year estimates version currently active in HDW
Disability Status	Census ACS: S1810 series	ACS 5-year estimates version currently active in HDW
Poverty Rate	Census ACS: S1701_C03_001E	Threshold of 20% or more used to classify High Poverty Census Tracts
Rurality: RUCA	USDA Economic Research Service	2010 RUCA codes mapped to 2020 census tract boundaries
Rurality: FORHP	HRSA Federal Office of Rural Health Policy	Current FORHP non-metro counties and census tracts list
Persistent Poverty Counties	U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)	FY2023 designations

<b>Data Element</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Business Rules and Notes</b>
Geographic Boundaries	U.S. Census Bureau TIGER	TIGER version currently active in HDW

*For questions about this document or the dashboard, contact [data@hrsa.gov](mailto:data@hrsa.gov). HRSA Poverty Assessment and Investment Dashboard — <https://data.hrsa.gov/data/povertyinvestment>*