

## **Definition: Qualified Rural Community**

### Rural Practice Program

Participants signing contracts **ON OR AFTER AUGUST 2007**, a qualified rural community is defined as:

An area reasonably determined by the Board to be medically underserved.

Medically underserved means an area determined by the Board to have unmet needs for medical services due to factors including without limitation:

- The ratio of primary care physicians to population
- Infant mortality rate
- Percentage of population below federal poverty level as of January, 2007
- Percentage of resident individuals over age 60
- Percentage of physicians over age 60
- Accessibility within the area to primary care medicine
- Other relevant criteria the Board deems necessary

Participants who signed contracts **PRIOR TO AUGUST 2007**, a qualified rural community is defined as:

- A community within a health professions shortage area as determined by the Board.
- A community having a population under 15,000 according to the most recent federal census taken prior to execution of the Rural Practice contract