

NEWSRELEASE

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Mesa County Receives HPSA Designation

GRAND JUNCTION, CO - There is an official shortage of doctors in the Grand Valley, but that is sure to change. For anyone who has been on a waiting list, or has had to utilize emergency room services for standard medical care, the Health Care Development Council and Greg Rajnowski with the Mesa County Health Department have been working hard to find solutions. Through their efforts, Mesa County has now officially received HPSA designation. HPSA, or Health Professional Shortage Area, is defined as “a geographic area, a population group, or a public or nonprofit facility that has a shortage of health professions.” Not only has Mesa County received this designation, but is now in the top tier of HPSA designations in Colorado.

Various scholarship programs and loan repayment options are available to medical professionals in HPSA designated areas. There are available programs that seek to attract international doctors as well. As a HPSA designated area, Mesa County will become an even more attractive place for doctors to live and work. The healthcare/medical field has been identified by the Grand Junction Economic Partnership as a target industry that is critical to the long term economic vitality of the region. The HPSA designation will absolutely have an impact on the number of new doctors moving into the county. The Healthcare Development Council and GJEP know this designation will be a key component for the many new doctors who will ultimately choose Mesa County for their home.

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