

Potential Options for Alternative Population Designation Scoring Approaches

Return to Community-Level scoring for all parameters except P2P and potentially Health Status

- Pro's – preserves parallel construction to MUA/ preserves historical approach to MUP scoring
- Con's – Low weight given to the P2P/Health status means difference from MUA is based on a minority of the score / Perpetuates process of combining overall community characteristics with characteristics of a minority of the community / gives more credit to the low income group as they become a greater portion of the total population (theoretically the opposite of the reason for a pop designation)

Revise the threshold up for MUP:

- Pro's - least disruptive to current committee decisions
- Con's – Doesn't address underlying problem in the scoring / doesn't address role of low income in the HPSA mid-range (no easy threshold adjustment) / threshold would be unique to low income so every potential pop group would need a separately established threshold / leaves little room for differentiation amongst communities as they will mostly score near the top / need reliable low income data for P2P and other numbers to create a different threshold

Drop Barrier/ATP factors from scoring:

- Pro's – recognizes that these factors are being targeted directly in a population-specific process (as opposed to a proportion within a larger population) / even just dropping the ATP factor would help
- Con's – Need to develop new weights for remaining factors (could do proportional to current weights). Likely requires a new threshold to be set based on data that is not going to be easily available (low income P2P and health status) / Creates a notable difference between pop and geo methods.

Change the weights to reduce influence of demographic factors:

- Pro's – Can set below the threshold to avoid automatic designation based on demographics (geo or pop process)
- Con's - Doesn't address underlying problem in the scoring / Would need to set very low to give other factors significant influence before hitting current threshold

Note – rescaling variables is another option but wouldn't have much of an impact since the equal-interval concept only cares about the high/low of the range, not how many variables fall at the high/low end of the scale – would only matter if the current scale doesn't go high enough but not if too many places fall near the high end of the existing range