

J-1 Visa Prioritization Matrix:

Design: The IPHCA team has developed the associated “J-1 Visa Prioritization Matrix” to identify “pockets of need.” This matrix aims to identify counties within Indiana where there is the highest opportunity to reach vulnerable and underserved Hoosiers. County-level data from 3 key sources were leveraged to inform the outcomes of this matrix. Prioritization is calculated using three steps. First, each metric is scaled in quintiles (1-5), then weighted, and finally given a score out of 5 to assign a rank from 1-92 (92 representing the 92 counties in Indiana).

Source Data:

- Medically Underserved Area/Population (MUA/P)
 - When a county has a partial county MUA/P, it will be applied to the whole county for the purpose of the calculation.
 - Source: HRSA
 - More information: <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area/mua-find>
- Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)
 - When a county has a partial county HPSA (geographic or population), the highest score will be applied to the whole county for the purpose of the calculation.
 - Facility HPSA score is not included in the scale for the assigned county-level HPSA calculation but will be hand-entered by the reviewer on a case-by-case basis.
 - Source: HRSA
 - More Information: <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area/hpsa-find>
- Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)
 - The social vulnerability index refers to the potential negative effects on communities caused by external stresses on human health. Such stresses include natural or human-caused disasters, or disease outbreaks. Reducing social vulnerability can decrease both human suffering and economic loss.
 - Source: CDC
 - More Information: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/index.html>

Scaling: The tool has three key components that allow for it to give an “apples to apples” comparison of all variables. The key components are **scaling, weighting, and ranking**. To scale, we must be able to compare, for example, an SVI score of .1234 to a HPSA score of 10 and a binary (yes/no) MUA/P designation. This tool utilizes quintiles based on each variable’s upper and lower extremities. The upper and lower extremities are listed in Figure 1.1. Once the quintiles for the measure are determined, each county is given a “criteria score” from 1-5 with respect to the raw data range.

Figure 1.1

Criteria Scale		Less Opportunity			Most Opportunity	
		1	2	3	4	5
SVI	Low	0	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.8
	High	0.1999	0.3999	0.5999	0.7999	1
MUA	Low	No				Yes
	High					
HPSA	Low	1	5	10	15	20
	High	4.99	9.99	14.99	19.99	25

Weighting: Once scaling is determined, the measure is then assigned a weight. As the name suggests, the weight reflects the variable’s relevance to the overall calculation. Both HPSA and MUA/P variables carry an equal weight of 45% each. SVI was awarded a weight of 10% to the overall calculation to function as a “tie-breaker”

Figure 1.2

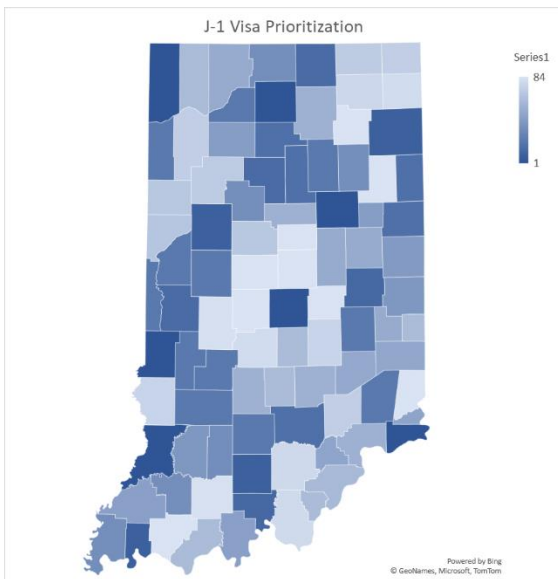
Weighting					
Criterion 1		Criterion 2		Criterion 3	
Medically Underserved Area		Health Professional Shortage		Social Vulnerability Index	
Weight:	45.0%	Weight:	45.0%	Weight:	10.0%
1= Not Designated 5= Designated		1= Less opportunity 5= More opportunity		1=Less Opportunity 5=More Opportunity	

Ranking: Results from adding together the weighted scale of each variable determine the “rank”. Each of the three variables are added together to give an “outcomes score” with a maximum of 5. The county with the highest score will be assigned a rank of 1, the second highest a 2, and so on with all remaining counties. Note that a few “ties” still yield some counties sharing the same rank number.

County	EXAMPLE						Outcomes Score	Priority Rank
	Criterion 1	Weight 1	Criterion 2	Weight 2	Criterion 3	Weight 3		
	1	1	2	2	3	3		
County A	5	2.25	3	1.35	3	0.30	3.90	12
County B	5	2.25	1	0.45	3	0.30	3.00	43
County C	5	2.25	1	0.45	2	0.20	2.90	51
County D	1	0.45	3	1.35	2	0.20	2.00	68
County E	5	2.25	2	0.90	2	0.20	3.35	32
County F	1	0.45	1	0.45	1	0.10	1.00	84
County G	5	2.25	1	0.45	1	0.10	2.80	56
County H	5	2.25	3	1.35	1	0.10	3.70	27
County I	5	2.25	3	1.35	4	0.40	4.00	8

Heat Map

A “heat map” visual was generated in a separate tab to depict the number county with the highest need in dark blue and the county with the least need in light blue.



Priority Matrix Template Reference

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- Praxie : <https://praxie.com/project-prioritization-matrix-online-software-templates/>

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