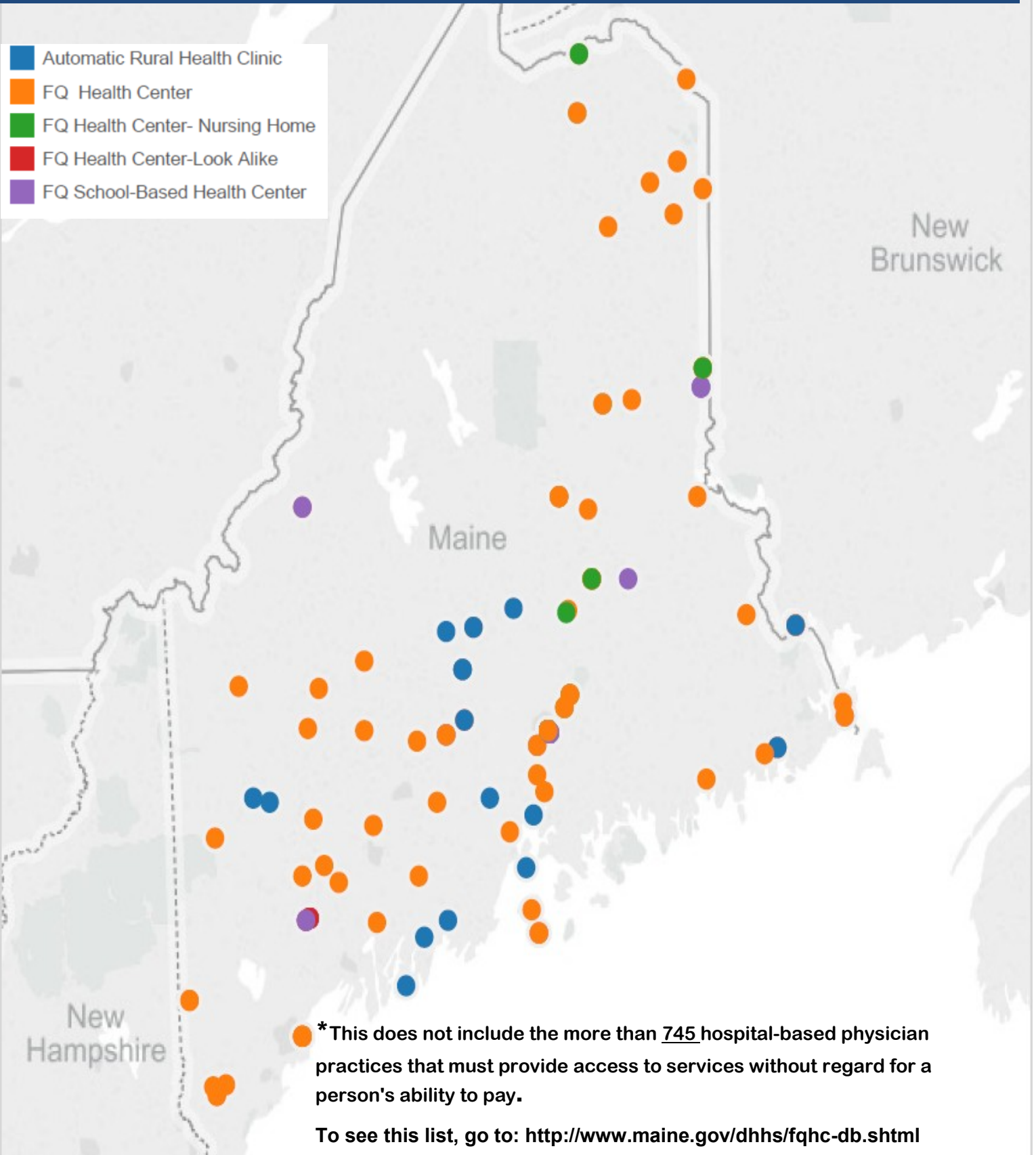


Maine's 144 Federally Qualified Health Centers*

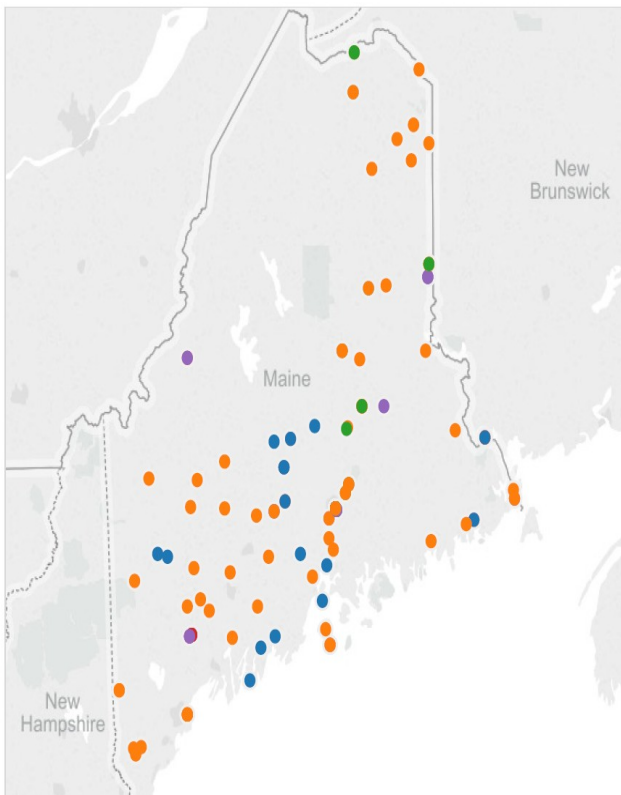


Federally funded health centers must provide access to services *without regard for a person's ability to pay.*

According to the Health Resources and Services Administration:

The ability to pay is determined by a patient's annual income and family size according to the most recent U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Federal Poverty Guidelines. The schedule of discounts must:

- Be made available for all individuals and families with an annual income below 200 percent of the poverty guidelines
- Provide for a full (100 percent) discount for all individuals and families with an annual income below 100 percent of the poverty guidelines
- Nominal fees may be collected from individual or families with an annual income at or below 100 percent of the poverty guidelines when imposition of such fees is consistent with project goals.



Types of Federally Qualified Health Centers

Federally Qualified Health Center: Federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) include all organizations receiving grants under Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act. FQHCs qualify for enhanced reimbursement from Medicare and Medicaid, as well as other benefits. FQHCs must serve an underserved area or population, offer a sliding fee scale, provide comprehensive services, have an ongoing quality assurance program, and have a governing board of directors.

Federally Qualified Health Center-Look Alike: Federally qualified health center look-alike program includes all aspects of the federally qualified health center program but does not receive federal grant funding. The Program does, however, serve an underserved area or population, offer a sliding fee scale, provide comprehensive services, have an ongoing quality assurance program, and have a governing board of directors.

Federally Qualified Health Center- Nursing Home: Federally qualified health centers and federally qualified health center look-alikes can operate nursing homes for the delivery of primary care services. The nursing homes are available to the population without regard for ability to pay.

Federally Qualified School-Based Health Center: Federally qualified health centers and federally qualified health center look-alikes can operate school based health center site for the delivery of primary care services. The school-based sites must provide, independently or in conjunction with another site(s), all required primary and preventive health care services to the students of the school as well as the general underserved population in the service area without regard for ability to pay.

Automatic Rural Health Clinic (ARHC) In order to be eligible for the automatic designation, these clinics must be in location where there is a shortage of health professionals to provide primary, dental, and mental health care services demonstrate that they meet several requirements, including that the clinic cannot deny requested health care services, and shall not discriminate in the provision of services to an individual whose services are paid by Medicare, Medicaid, or State Child Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). The full list of requirements can be found at: bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/hpsas/ruralhealthhpsa.html