



June 13, 2022

Rural Development
Innovation Center

Regulations
Management Division

1400 Independence
Avenue, SW
Mail Stop 0794
Washington, DC
20250

Voice 202-690-1078

TO: State Directors
Agency Administrators
Deputy Administrators
Assistant Administrators
Program Directors
Rural Development

ATTN: All Employees

FROM: Justin Maxson /s/ *Justin Maxson*
Deputy Under Secretary

SUBJECT: Exclusion of Incarcerated Prison and Military Populations When
Determining Rural Area Population

Purpose

Section 6301 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (the 2018 Farm Bill) requires the exclusion of certain prison and military populations from the definition of rural area contained in the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (Con Act) and used in the Rural Electrification (RE) Act. This memo explains how these exclusions impact the list of communities that are eligible for Rural Development (RD) programs in the RD agencies governed by the Con Act's definition of rural in 7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13). At the end of this memo is a listing of cities whose populations with the new exclusions are lowered enough to make them eligible for various programs.

Background

Section 6301 of the Farm Bill amends the rural definition in Section 343(a)(13) of the Con Act and excludes the following from rural area population counts:

- Individuals incarcerated on a long-term or regional basis
- The first 1,500 individuals who reside in housing located on a military base

EXPIRATION DATE:
April 30, 2023

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:
Administrative/Other Programs

Since these exclusions reduce the area populations that determine eligibility for RD programs, the Innovation Center's Data Analytics Division analyzed whether additional communities had become eligible for RD program benefits. The analysis considers the following population limits relevant to RD program eligibility:

- 50,000
- 20,000
- 10,000
- 5,000
- 2,500

With respect to the upper limit of 50,000, the Rural Definition establishes community eligibility for all areas other than cities or towns whose population exceeds 50,000; and any urbanized areas adjacent or contiguous thereto. This analysis identifies cities and towns whose populations declined below 50,000, as well as any adjoining urbanized areas that would also become eligible for program benefits with the exclusion of the specified prison and military base populations.

Similarly, among RD programs whose population eligibility limit for program benefits is 20,000, **some** programs are further restricted to rural residents living outside of urbanized areas adjacent or contiguous to cities and towns whose populations exceed 50,000. The second table below identifies areas whose populations fell below 20,000 with the implementation of the military base and prison population exclusions. It also indicates which of those places are in urbanized areas adjacent or contiguous to cities or towns whose population exceeds 50,000. RD program benefits for populations that do not exceed 20,000 cannot be extended in these towns if the program in question has an urbanized area eligibility restriction of this kind.

Results of Analysis

The analysis shows that 151 cities and towns are now eligible for various program benefits due to the new military and prison exclusions:

- 4 cities/towns whose populations previously exceeded 50,000 fall below 50,000 with the exclusion.
- 12 cities/towns whose populations previously exceeded 20,000 fall below 20,000 with the exclusions.
- 30 cities/towns whose populations previously exceeded 10,000 fall below 10,000 with the exclusions. . (This includes Florence, AZ, whose population declined from more than 25,000 to less than 8,000. Consequently, the town is also included in the above 12 cities/towns with populations now less than 20,000 that are newly eligible for program benefits.)
- 40 cities/towns whose populations previously exceeded 5,000 fall below 5,000 with the exclusions.
- 67 cities/towns whose populations previously exceeded 2,500 fall below 2,500 with the exclusions.. (This includes Jessup, MD, whose population declined from more than 5,000 to less than 1,400. Consequently, the town is also included in the above 40 cities/towns with populations now less than 5,000 that are newly eligible for program benefits.)

- Exclusions that reduced city and town populations below 50,000 did not result in any contiguous or adjacent rural areas becoming eligible for RD program benefits

The details of these findings are presented more fully in the attached tables. All of these results are based on 2010 decennial census data. The newly eligible areas for some programs are now reflected in the eligibility maps on the Rural Development website (<https://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/eligibility/welcomeAction.do>). The Innovation Center will do this analysis again when 2020 decennial census data becomes available.

Please direct all questions pertaining to this Unnumbered Letter to John Delaney, Data Analytics Division, Rural Development Innovation Center, at (202) 720-9705 or at John.Delaney@usda.gov.

Sent by Electronic Mail _____ at _____ by the Rural Development Innovation Center.

Attachment

<i>Cities and towns made eligible for RD programs because of the exclusion of prison and military base populations in the city or town that previously had a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants</i>			
Locality / Census Place	State	Population Prior to Exclusions	Population minus Military & Prison
Buckeye – town <i>Part of the Avondale Goodyear UA</i>	AZ	50,876	45,792
Delano – city	CA	53,041	42,511
Troy – city <i>Inside Urbanized Area of Albany, NY</i>	NY	50,129	49,910
Albany – city	OR	50,158	49,863

<i>Cities and towns made eligible for RD programs because of the exclusion of prison and military base populations in the city or town that previously had a population of greater than 20,000 inhabitants.</i>			
Locality / Census Place*	State	Population Prior to Exclusions	Population minus Military & Prison
Florence – town*	AZ	25,536	7,836
Blythe – city	CA	20,817	13,098
Corcoran – city	CA	24,813	12,580
Soledad – city	CA	25,738	15,690
Wasco – city	CA	25,545	19,835
Crest Hill – city*	IL	20,837	17,677
Hammond – city	LA	20,019	19,998
Gardner – city	MA	20,228	19,207
Lino Lakes – city*	MN	20,216	18,855
Havelock – city	NC	20,735	19,235
Lebanon – city*	OH	20,033	19,827
Marysville – city	OH	22,094	19,319

** Names of places followed by an asterisk are in Urbanized Areas adjacent or contiguous to cities/towns whose population exceeds 50,000. Programs with eligibility restrictions regarding Urbanized Areas of this kind cannot provide benefits to these places, regardless of a population of 20,000 or less. See page 2 of this analysis for further explanation.*

<i>Cities and towns made eligible for RD programs because of the exclusion of prison and military base populations in the city or town that previously had a population of greater than 10,000 inhabitants</i>			
Locality / Census Place	State	Population Prior to Exclusions	Population minus Military & Prison
Atmore – <i>city</i>	AL	10,194	7,306
Eloy – <i>city</i>	AZ	16,631	9,338
Florence – <i>town</i>	AZ	25,536	7,836
Malvern – <i>city</i>	AR	10,318	8,950
Avenal – <i>city</i>	CA	15,505	9,082
Susanville – <i>city</i>	CA	17,947	9,634
Tehachapi – <i>city</i>	CA	14,414	8,511
Groton – <i>city</i>	CT	10,389	9,395
East Milton – <i>CDP</i>	FL	11,074	7,791
Cusseta-Chattahoochee <i>County unified government</i>	GA	11,267	9,767
Jesup – <i>city</i>	GA	10,214	8,147
Lansing – <i>city</i>	KS	11,265	8,923
Mayfield – <i>city</i>	KY	10,024	9,942
Benton Harbor – <i>city</i>	MI	10,038	9,956
Ionia – <i>city</i>	MI	11,394	6,249
Harrisonville – <i>city</i>	MO	10,019	9,930
Berlin – <i>city</i>	NH	10,051	9,293
Woodbury – <i>city</i>	NJ	10,174	9,790
Ogdensburg – <i>city</i>	NY	11,128	9,902
Port Royal – <i>town</i>	SC	10,678	9,178
Manchester – <i>city</i>	TN	10,102	9,886
Millington – <i>city</i>	TN	10,176	9,895
Paris – <i>city</i>	TN	10,156	9,990
Bonham – <i>city</i>	TX	10,127	7,751
Gatesville – <i>city</i>	TX	15,751	7,585
Raymondville – <i>city</i>	TX	11,284	8,084
Elkhorn – <i>city</i>	WI	10,084	9,752
Portage – <i>city</i>	WI	10,324	9,295
Waupun – <i>city</i>	WI	11,340	8,303
Vega Alta zona urbana – <i>city</i>	PR	10,266	9,970

<i>Cities and towns made eligible for RD programs because of the exclusion of prison and military base populations in the city or town that previously had a population of greater than 5,000 inhabitants</i>			
Locality / Census Place	State	Population Prior to Exclusions	Population minus Military & Prison
Holbrook – city	AZ	5,053	4,763
Crescent City – city	CA	7,643	4,167
Calipatria – city	CA	7,705	3,541
Ione – city	CA	7,918	3,758
Valparaiso – city	FL	5,036	3,789
Jackson – city	GA	5,045	4,945
Blakely – city	GA	5,068	4,993
McRae – city	GA	5,740	3,969
Glenwood – city	IA	5,269	4,961
Anamosa – city	IA	5,533	4,483
Clarinda – city	IA	5,572	4,322
Pinckneyville – city	IL	5,648	3,325
Hillsboro – city	IL	6,207	4,288
Lawrenceburg – city	IN	5,042	4,794
Westville – town	IN	5,853	2,675
Buckner – CDP	KY	5,837	2,899
Mansfield – city	LA	5,001	4,903
St. Gabriel – city	LA	6,677	3,092
West Concord – CDP	MA	6,028	4,906
Jessup – CDP	MD	7,137	1,369
St. Louis – city	MI	7,482	3,799
Bowling Green – city	MO	5,334	3,376
Charleston – city	MO	5,947	4,222
Bonne Terre – city	MO	6,864	4,294
Carthage – city	MS	5,075	4,744
Edenton – town	NC	5,004	4,981
Grafton – village	OH	6,636	2,591
Watonga – city	OK	5,111	3,028
Holdenville – city	OK	5,771	4,410
Sheridan – city	OR	6,127	4,332
Jonesborough – town	TN	5,051	4,618
Anthony – town	TX	5,011	3,083
Hutchins – city	TX	5,338	3,174
Post – city	TX	5,376	3,320
Rusk – city	TX	5,551	3,980
Childress – city	TX	6,105	4,745
West Livingston – CDP	TX	8,071	4,274
Big Stone Gap – town	VA	5,614	4,476
Medical Lake – city	WA	5,060	4,895
Airway Heights – city	WA	6,114	3,930

<i>Cities and towns made eligible for RD programs because of the exclusion of prison and military base populations in the city or town that previously had a population of greater than 2,500 inhabitants</i>			
Locality / Census Place	State	Population Prior to Exclusions	Population minus Military & Prison
Seward – <i>city</i>	AK	2,693	2,144
Clayton – <i>town</i>	AL	3,008	1,284
Swift Trail Junction – <i>CDP</i>	AZ	2,935	1,649
French Camp – <i>CDP</i>	CA	3,376	1,966
Blountstown – <i>city</i>	FL	2,514	2,475
Carrabelle – <i>city</i>	FL	2,778	1,358
Jasper – <i>city</i>	FL	4,546	1,609
Abbeville – <i>city</i>	GA	2,908	1,061
Alamo – <i>town</i>	GA	2,797	886
Claxton – <i>city</i>	GA	2,746	2,375
Dawsonville – <i>city</i>	GA	2,536	2,399
Helena – <i>city</i>	GA	2,883	1,737
Lumpkin – <i>city</i>	GA	2,741	1,145
Nicholls – <i>city</i>	GA	2,798	905
Raoul – <i>CDP</i>	GA	2,558	1,013
Springfield – <i>city</i>	GA	2,852	2,357
Unadilla – <i>city</i>	GA	3,796	2,032
Marengo – <i>city</i>	IA	2,528	2,497
Sumner – <i>city</i>	IL	3,174	816
Ellsworth – <i>city</i>	KS	3,120	2,280
Brandenburg – <i>city</i>	KY	2,643	2,496
Eddyville – <i>city</i>	KY	2,554	1,693
West Liberty – <i>city</i>	KY	3,435	1,555
Jackson – <i>town</i>	LA	3,842	2,280
Richwood – <i>town</i>	LA	3,392	1,547
Jessup – <i>CDP</i>	MD	7,137	1,369
Potomac Park – <i>CDP</i>	MD	2,530	875
Charlevoix – <i>city</i>	MI	2,513	2,462
Bayport – <i>city</i>	MN	3,471	1,884
Moose Lake – <i>city</i>	MN	2,751	1,623
Rush City – <i>city</i>	MN	3,079	2,099
Sandstone – <i>city</i>	MN	2,849	1,534
Licking – <i>city</i>	MO	3,124	1,525
Tipton – <i>city</i>	MO	3,262	2,109
Vandalia – <i>city</i>	MO	3,899	2,473
Lucedale – <i>city</i>	MS	2,923	2,449
Tutwiler – <i>town</i>	MS	3,550	1,190
Lillington – <i>town</i>	NC	3,194	2,213
Polkton – <i>town</i>	NC	3,375	1,185
Skippers Corner – <i>CDP</i>	NC	2,785	2,297

Clayton – <i>town</i>	NM	2,980	2,351
Milan – <i>village</i>	NM	3,245	1,990
Santa Rosa – <i>city</i>	NM	2,848	2,282
Dannemora – <i>village</i>	NY	3,936	1,121
Riverside – <i>CDP</i>	NY	2,911	1,881
Lucasville – <i>CDP</i>	OH	2,757	1,346
Hinton – <i>town</i>	OK	3,196	1,511
Hominy – <i>city</i>	OK	3,565	2,383
Cambridge Springs – <i>borough</i>	PA	2,595	1,601
Coudersport – <i>borough</i>	PA	2,546	2,500
Marienville – <i>CDP</i>	PA	3,137	958
McCormick – <i>town</i>	SC	2,783	1,539
Blountville – <i>CDP</i>	TN	3,074	2,499
Clifton – <i>city</i>	TN	2,694	795
Dandridge – <i>town</i>	TN	2,812	2,497
Mountain City – <i>town</i>	TN	2,531	2,417
Tiptonville – <i>town</i>	TN	4,464	2,113
Whiteville – <i>town</i>	TN	4,638	1,182
Eden – <i>city</i>	TX	2,766	1,210
Overton – <i>city</i>	TX	2,554	2,486
Venus – <i>town</i>	TX	2,960	1,918
Gunnison – <i>city</i>	UT	3,285	1,773
Dublin – <i>town</i>	VA	2,534	1,843
Okanogan – <i>city</i>	WA	2,552	2,384
Juneau – <i>city</i>	WI	2,814	2,318
New Lisbon – <i>city</i>	WI	2,554	1,529
Stanley – <i>city</i>	WI	3,608	2,108