

# **List of Rural Counties And Designated Eligible Census Tracts in Metropolitan Counties**

Updated Census 2010

The Office of Rural Health Policy uses two methods to determine geographic eligibility for its grant programs. As in prior years, all counties that are not designated as parts of Metropolitan Areas (MAs) by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) are considered rural. Any county that is not a part of a Metropolitan Area is considered rural. Counties classified as Micropolitan are non-Metropolitan. The current list of MAs, issued in 2013, and updates are available on the Internet at

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/metroareas/metrodef.html>

Due to the fact that entire counties are designated as Metropolitan when, in fact, large parts of many counties may be rural in nature, the Office of Rural Health Policy has sought an alternative method of looking at sub-county sections of these Metropolitan counties that would allow sections to be designated rural. The Goldsmith modification was originally developed and used to identify rural Census tracts in large Metropolitan counties.

The Office of Rural Health Policy has funded the development of the Rural Urban Commuting Area Codes (RUCAs) to designate "Rural" areas within MAs. Census tracts with RUCA codes 4 through 10 are considered rural for the purposes of Rural Health grants. While use of the RUCA codes has allowed identification of rural census tracts in Metropolitan counties, among the more than 60,000 tracts in the U.S. there are some that are extremely large and where use of RUCA codes alone fails to account for distance to services and sparse population. In response to these concerns, ORHP has also designated as rural census tracts with RUCA codes 2 or 3 that are at least 400 square miles in area with a population density of no more than 35 people. More information on RUCAs is available at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/rural-urban-commuting-area-codes.aspx>

To determine whether a county or a particular address is designated rural, visit the webpage [Rural Health Grants Eligibility Advisor](#).

The attached list is in two Sections. The Territories of the United States are included in these lists.

**Section I** is a list of non-Metro counties arranged by State. The entire area of these counties is considered rural.

**Section II** is a list of Metropolitan counties in which we have identified certain Census Tracts that are considered rural. Only the area of the identified tracts is considered rural in those Metropolitan counties.

**Please check the lists carefully.**

**For further information, contact the Office of Rural Health Policy at (301) 443-0835.**

*Metropolitan County.  
All census tracts in the  
county qualify as rural.*

Uintah  
Wasatch  
Wayne

**VERMONT**

Addison  
Bennington  
Caledonia  
Essex  
Lamoille  
Orange  
Orleans  
Rutland  
Washington  
Windham  
Windsor

**VIRGINIA**

Accomack  
Alleghany  
Bath  
Bland  
Brunswick  
Buchanan  
Buena Vista City  
Carroll  
Charlotte  
Covington City  
Cumberland  
Danville city  
Dickenson  
Emporia City  
Essex  
Franklin City  
Galax City  
Grayson  
Greensville  
Halifax  
Henry  
Highland

King and Queen  
King George  
Lancaster  
Lee  
Lexington City  
Louisa  
Lunenburg  
Madison  
Martinsville city  
Mecklenburg  
Middlesex  
Northampton  
Northumberland  
Norton city  
Nottoway  
Orange  
Page  
Patrick  
Pittsylvania  
Prince Edward  
Richmond  
Rockbridge  
Russell  
Shenandoah  
Smyth  
Southampton  
Surry  
Tazewell  
Westmoreland  
Wise  
Wythe

**VIRGIN ISLANDS**

All of US Virgin Islands

**WASHINGTON**

Adams  
Clallam

**Columbia**

*This county is eligible  
even though it is  
designated as a  
Metropolitan County.*

*All census tracts in the  
county qualify as rural.*

Ferry  
Garfield  
Grant  
Grays Harbor  
Island  
Jefferson  
Kittitas  
Klickitat  
Lewis  
Lincoln  
Mason  
Okanogan  
Pacific  
San Juan  
Wahkiakum  
Whitman

**WEST VIRGINIA**



Barbour

Braxton

Calhoun

Doddridge

Gilmer

Grant

Greenbrier

Hardy

Harrison

Jackson

Lewis

Logan

Marion

Mason

McDowell

Mercer

Mingo

Monroe

Morgan

Nicholas

Pendleton

Pleasants

Pocahontas

Randolph  
Ritchie  
Roane  
Summers  
Taylor  
Tucker  
Tyler  
Upshur  
Webster  
Wetzel  
Wyoming



**WISCONSIN**

Adams  
Ashland  
Barron  
Bayfield  
Buffalo  
Burnett  
Clark  
Crawford  
Dodge  
Door  
Dunn  
Florence  
Forest  
Grant  
Green Lake  
Iron  
Jackson  
Jefferson  
Juneau  
Lafayette  
Langlade  
Lincoln  
Manitowoc  
Marinette  
Marquette  
Menominee  
Monroe  
Oneida  
Pepin  
Polk  
Portage

Price  
Richland  
Rusk  
Sauk  
Sawyer  
Shawano  
Taylor  
Trempealeau  
Vernon  
Vilas  
Walworth  
Washburn  
Waupaca  
Waushara  
Wood

**WYOMING**

Albany  
Big Horn  
Campbell  
Carbon  
Converse  
Crook  
Fremont  
Goshen  
Hot Springs  
Johnson  
Lincoln  
Niobrara  
Park  
Platte  
Sheridan  
Sublette  
Sweetwater  
Teton  
Uinta  
Washakie  
Weston

53007960400  
**Columbia County**  
*All census tracts in the county qualify as rural.*  
**Cowlitz County**  
53015001800  
**Douglas County**  
53017950100  
53017950200  
**Franklin County**  
53021020700  
53021020800  
**King County**  
53033032800  
**Pend Oreille County**  
53051970100  
53051970200  
53051970300  
**Pierce County**  
53053070100  
**Skagit County**  
53057940200  
53057940300  
53057940400  
53057940500  
53057940600  
53057940700  
53057950100  
53057951100  
**Skamania County**  
53059950100  
53059950400  
**Snohomish County**  
53061053700  
53061053801  
**Stevens County**  
53065941000  
53065950100  
53065950200

53065950300  
53065950500  
53065950600  
53065950700  
53065950800  
53065950900  
**Thurston County**  
53067012710  
53067012720  
53067012730  
**Walla Walla County**  
53071920100  
**Whatcom County**  
53073010100  
53073010301  
53073010302  
53073010303  
53073010401  
53073010403  
53073010404  
53073011000  
**Yakima County**  
53077001800  
53077001901  
53077001902  
53077002001  
53077002002  
53077002101  
53077002102  
53077002200  
53077002701  
53077003001  
53077940002  
53077940003  
53077940005  
53077940006

**WEST VIRGINIA**



**Fayette County**  
54019021000 -Hico  
**Hampshire County**  
54027968400 -Romney  
**Hancock County**  
54029020900 -Carmyville / Arroyo  
54029021500 -Chester  
**Mineral County**  
54057010500 -Keyser  
54057010600 -Keyser / Mineral  
**Preston County**  
54077964000 -Kingwood  
54077964200 -Terra Alta  
54077964500 -Rowelsburg / Tennet  
**Wood County**  
54107010200 -Williams town

**WISCONSIN**

**Calumet County**  
55015020100  
55015020500  
55015020600  
**Chippewa County**  
55017010900  
55017011200  
**Columbia County**  
55021970100  
55021970300  
55021970400  
55021970500  
55021970600  
55021971100  
55021971200  
**Dane County**  
55025013100  
**Douglas County**  
55031030300

<https://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/Transforming-Clinical-Practices/>

<https://aidsetc.org/topic/practice-transformation>

**“Primary Care”** – the level of a health services system that provides entry into the system for all new needs and problems, provides person-focused (not disease-oriented) care over time, provides care for all but very uncommon or unusual conditions, and coordinates or integrates care, regardless of where the care is delivered and who provides it. It is a means by which the two main goals of a health services system, optimization and equity of health status are approached.<sup>25</sup>

**“Program Completer”** – is an individual who has completed all requirements for a non-degree bearing training program or training activity. This term differs from graduates since an official degree or diploma is not conferred.

**“Underserved Area/Population”** – includes:

- The Elderly, Individuals with HIV-AIDS, Substance Abuse, Homeless, and Victims of Domestic Violence
- Homeless Populations
- Health Professional Shortage Areas/Populations
- Medically Underserved Areas/Populations
- Migrant and Seasonal Farm workers
- Nurse Shortage Areas
- Residents of Public Housing
- Rural Communities
- Rural Health Clinic

The HRSA website has a page where you can search for eligible counties, or eligible census tracts inside Metro counties, at <http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/RuralAdvisor/>. A complete list of eligible areas can be downloaded from that page.<sup>26</sup>

**“Underrepresented Minorities”** – an individual from a racial and/or ethnic group that is considered inadequately represented in a specific profession relative to the numbers of that racial and/or ethnic group in the general population.<sup>27</sup> For purposes of this program the term “racial and ethnic minority group” includes Blacks or African-Americans, Native Americans, Alaska Natives, Eskimos, Aleuts, Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders, Hispanics or Latinos, and certain Asian subpopulations (other than Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Asian Indian, or Thai). The term “Hispanic” means individuals whose origin is Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or any other Spanish-speaking country.

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<sup>25</sup> Definition retrieved from The John Hopkins Primary Care Policy Center. <http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-primary-care-policy-center/definitions.html>

<sup>26</sup> Retrieved from the HRSA, Office of Rural Health Policy: [http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/policy/definition\\_of\\_rural.html](http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/policy/definition_of_rural.html)

<sup>27</sup> Public Health Service Act, Section 799B(10)

