

NOTICE OF POTENTIAL CHANGES TO ELIGIBLE AREA MAPS FOR USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT HOUSING PROGRAMS

USDA Rural Development is conducting a review of all areas under its jurisdiction to identify areas that no longer qualify as rural for housing programs. The last rural area reviews were performed in 2017-2018 using 2015 American Community Survey (ACS) data. Rural area designations are reviewed every five years. This review will utilize the 2020 United States decennial census data.

Based on the 2020 US census data and rural area guidance located in Handbook [HB-1-3550, Chapter 5](#), the rural eligibility designation is under review for the following areas in Maryland /Delaware:

Currently eligible communities under review:

Maryland:

1. Calvert County - Chesapeake Ranch Estates
2. Charles County - LaPlata
3. Frederick County – Fort Detrick Area/Kemp Lane
-Gas House Pike Area
4. Worcester – Ocean Pines

Delaware:

1. Kent/Sussex – Smyrna
2. Kent/Sussex – Milford

Ineligible communities under review (expansion of ineligible areas):

Maryland:

1. Allegany County – Cumberland
2. Baltimore – Owings Mills
-Randallstown
3. Carroll County - Westminster
4. Cecil - Elkton
5. Frederick County – Lingamore
- Urbana
6. Harford County - Bel Air North
7. Howard County -Ellicott City
8. St. Mary's County – Lexington Park
9. Wicomico County - Salisbury

Delaware:

1. New Castle – Middletown

The public shall have 90 days from the date of this public notice to submit comments regarding the potential loss of eligibility for Rural Development housing programs. Comments should be sent to Janet.Brittingham@usda.gov. For details, or questions about specific changes, please contact the Maryland/Delaware Rural Development Housing Program staff at (302) 857-3595.