

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

USDA Rural Development has completed its 2020 decennial United States census review for all areas under its jurisdiction to identify areas that no longer qualify as rural for USDA Rural Housing programs. Based on the review of the areas within the state of Delaware/Maryland using 2020 US census data, and rural area guidance located in Handbook [HB-1-3550, Chapter 5](#), the rural eligibility designation has changed for the following areas:

Areas whose rural eligibility designations is changing from eligible to ineligible (these areas no longer qualify as rural for USDA Housing Programs):

- 1) The following counties in Maryland are going from eligible to ineligible due to the expansion of the current ineligible areas around the city limits to include all annexed areas since 1990.
 - a. Allegany County, area of Cumberland
 - b. Baltimore County, area of Randallstown
 - c. Carroll County, Westminster
 - d. Frederick County, area of Fort Detrick/Kemp Lane, Gas House Pike, Urbana and Linganore.
 - e. Harford County, area of Bel Air North
 - f. Wicomico County, area of Salisbury

- 2) The following Delaware area is going from eligible to ineligible due to the expansion of the ineligible areas around the city limits to include all annexed areas since 1990.
 - a. Kent/Sussex County – area of Smyrna

Changes become effective October 1, 2023.

The updated rural area map can now be viewed on our [eligibility website](#). Users will need to click on the program, for example: “Single Family Housing Direct”, and then click on “Proposed Eligibility Areas” from the menu options.

For a full list of changes, additional details, or questions about specific changes, please contact the Delaware/Maryland Rural Development Housing Program Staff at (302) 857-3595.