

July 26, 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE:

30 Day Public Inspection Period and Comments Received from USDA Rural Development's Periodic Review of Rural Areas in Florida (Housing Programs)

On March 8, 2023, USDA Rural Development issued [a 90-day public notice](#) informing the public that USDA was conducting a periodic review of all areas under its jurisdiction to identify areas that no longer qualify as rural for housing programs. The 90-day public notice listed communities under review for potential eligibility changes and provided the public with a link to submit comments or concerns regarding any potential loss of eligibility.

In accordance with 7 CFR 3550.56 and HB-1-3550, Section 5.3 (C)(1), USDA Rural Development has concluded the 90-day public notice and comment period and has reviewed areas under its jurisdiction to identify areas that no longer qualify as "Rural" for housing programs as well as areas that will now be considered as eligible rural areas.

During the 90-day public comment period, a total of 16 public comments were received. Thank you to all those who submitted comments. Public comments help the Agency better understand how communities are impacted from a potential change in eligibility and are considered throughout the determination process.

The proposed changes to rural designations in Pace, Milton, Ruskin, Callaway, Lynn Haven, Immokalee, Eustis, and Haines City will adversely impact operations of affordable housing organizations and residents.

For a complete review of comments received, or questions regarding rural area boundaries, please contact Single Family Housing Program Director, Daryl Cooper at (352) 338-3435 or via email at SM.RD.FLSFH.ORIGINATION@usda.gov.

The updated rural area map can now be viewed at: [Eligibility \(usda.gov\)](#)

Revised rural boundaries will become effective October 1, 2023. For areas whose designation will change from rural to non-rural, a one-time notice will be published 30 days prior to implementation date confirming the updated boundaries.

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