

PUBLIC NOTICE

USDA Rural Development New Hampshire

Notice of Potential Changes to Eligible Area Maps for USDA Rural Development Housing Programs

The U.S. Census Bureau delineates urban and rural areas in a decennial census, and according to characteristics of population and economic activity. These rural and urban definitions impact how a community may access federal funding from various federal agencies. This includes funding from USDA Rural Development's Housing Programs, Business Programs and Utilities programs. The result of the updated definition is a review of all areas of the country that are designated "Rural", to determine if which areas still qualify and which areas may no longer qualify.

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. USDA Rural Development Housing Programs are now conducting their review of eligible communities.

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 New Hampshire:

Currently eligible communities under review:

1. Somersworth, NH – Population & Population density in an MSA

Ineligible communities under review (expansion of ineligible areas):

2. Pinardville, NH – Part of Manchester not Goffstown

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 HousingVT.NH@usda.gov. For details, or questions about specific changes, please contact the New Hampshire Rural Development Housing Program staff at (603) 223-6064.

The public shall have 90 days from the date of this public notice (March 7, 2023) to submit comments regarding the potential loss or reinstatement of eligibility for Rural Development housing programs. Comments should be sent to nj.originations@usda.gov. For details, or questions about specific changes, please contact the New Jersey Rural Development Housing Program staff at (856) 285-7658.

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