

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 Minnesota, 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 ineligible to eligible (these areas now qualify as rural for USDA Housing Programs):

- 1) Homer – Expansion of the eligible areas to include the city limits since the last rural area review.
- 2) Rice Lake – Expansion of the eligible areas to include the city limits since the last rural area review.
- 3) Austin Metropolitan Statistical Area – Expansion of the eligible areas outside of the city limits since the last rural area review.
- 4) Duluth Metropolitan Statistical Area – Expansion of the eligible areas outside of the city limits since the last rural area review.
- 5) Mankato Metropolitan Statistical Area – Expansion of the eligible areas outside of the city limits since the last rural area review.
- 6) Moorhead Metropolitan Statistical Area – Expansion of the eligible areas outside of the city limits since the last rural area review.
- 7) Rochester Metropolitan Statistical Area – Expansion of the eligible areas outside of the city limits since the last rural area review.
- 8) St. Cloud Metropolitan Statistical Area – Expansion of the eligible areas outside of the city limits since the last rural area review.
- 9) Twin Cities Metropolitan Statistical Area – Expansion of the eligible areas outside of the city limits since the last rural area review.
- 10) Winona Metropolitan Statistical Area - Expansion of the eligible areas outside of the city limits since the last rural area review.

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

- 1) Hermantown – Expansion of the ineligible areas to include the city limits since the last rural area review.

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.

August 31, 2023

For a full list of changes, additional details, or questions about specific changes, please contact the Minnesota Rural Development Housing Program Staff at 763-689-3354 ext. 108 or by email at sfdirectMN@usda.gov .