



Share Our Strength Rural Map Layers Key

Map Link: <https://arcg.is/0OXSD90>

USDA FNS Rural Designations

This layer reflects the USDA FNS SFSP Rural and Non-Rural county designations. These categorizations are based on the OMB metropolitan and micropolitan areas.

In the map, the rural counties are color-coded darker green on the map. Non-rural areas are color-coded orange. USDA guidance indicates that non-congregate meals can be served in the rural areas.

Potential Rural Pockets

This layer contains a composite of areas categorized as *non-metropolitan* according to three other data sources typically used to identify rural areas—Rural-Urban Continuum (RUCC), rural-urban commuting area (RUCA), and Urban-Influence (UIC) codes.

- **USDA [Economic Research Service \(USDA ERS\) Rural-Urban Continuum \(RUCC\) Codes- 2013](#)**

Rural-Urban Continuum Codes were developed by the [USDA](#). Rural-Urban Continuum Codes form a classification scheme that distinguishes metropolitan (metro) counties by the population size of their metro area, and nonmetropolitan (nonmetro) counties by degree of urbanization and adjacency to a metro area or areas.

In the map, any area with a Primary RUCC code of 4-9 in the table below is considered a potential rural pocket.

2013 Rural-Urban Continuum Codes

Code	Description
Metro counties:	
1	Counties in metro areas of 1 million population or more
2	Counties in metro areas of 250,000 to 1 million population
3	Counties in metro areas of fewer than 250,000 population
Nonmetro counties:	
4	Urban population of 20,000 or more, adjacent to a metro area
5	Urban population of 20,000 or more, not adjacent to a metro area
6	Urban population of 2,500 to 19,999, adjacent to a metro area

Code	Description
7	Urban population of 2,500 to 19,999, not adjacent to a metro area
8	Completely rural or less than 2,500 urban population, adjacent to a metro area
9	Completely rural or less than 2,500 urban population, not adjacent to a metro area

USDA [ERS Rural-Urban Commuting Area \(RUCA\) - 2010](#)

The rural-urban commuting area (RUCA) codes, a detailed and flexible scheme for delineating sub-county components of rural and urban areas. RUCA codes are based on the same theoretical concepts used by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to define county-level metropolitan and micropolitan areas. The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) accepts all non-Metro counties as rural and additionally uses the Rural-Urban Commuting Area (RUCA) codes to assess rurality.

In the map, any area with a Primary RUCA code of 4-10 (Nonmetropolitan areas) in the table below is considered a potential rural pocket.

Primary RUCA codes, 2010

Code	Classification description
1	Metropolitan area core: primary flow within an urbanized area (UA)
2	Metropolitan area high commuting: primary flow 30% or more to a UA
3	Metropolitan area low commuting: primary flow 10% to 30% to a UA
4	Micropolitan area core: primary flow within an urban cluster of 10,000 to 49,999 (large UC)
5	Micropolitan high commuting: primary flow 30% or more to a large UC
6	Micropolitan low commuting: primary flow 10% to 30% to a large UC
7	Small town core: primary flow within an urban cluster of 2,500 to 9,999 (small UC)
8	Small town high commuting: primary flow 30% or more to a small UC
9	Small town low commuting: primary flow 10% to 30% to a small UC
10	Rural areas: primary flow to a tract outside a UA or UC
99	Not coded: Census tract has zero population and no rural-urban identifier information

USDA ERS Urban Influence Codes (UIC) -2013

Urban Influence Codes are divided into two categories--

- Metro counties are divided into two groups according to the population size of the metro area—those in "large" areas have at least 1 million residents and those in "small" areas have fewer than 1 million residents.
- Nonmetro counties include all counties outside metro areas and are delineated as *micropolitan* or *noncore* using OMB's classification.

In the map, any area with a UIC code of 3-12 in the table below is considered a potential rural pocket.

Code	Description
Metropolitan counties	
1	In large metro area of 1+ million residents
2	In small metro area of less than 1 million residents
Nonmetropolitan counties	
3	Micropolitan area adjacent to large metro area
4	Noncore adjacent to large metro area
5	Micropolitan area adjacent to small metro area
6	Noncore adjacent to small metro area and contains a town of at least 2,500 residents
7	Noncore adjacent to small metro area and does not contain a town of at least 2,500 residents
8	Micropolitan area not adjacent to a metro area
9	Noncore adjacent to micro area and contains a town of at least 2,500 residents
10	Noncore adjacent to micro area and does not contain a town of at least 2,500 residents
11	Noncore not adjacent to metro or micro area and contains a town of at least 2,500 residents
12	Noncore not adjacent to metro or micro area and does not contain a town of at least 2,500 residents
Total U.S.	

FY23 SFSP Area Eligibility with Rural Designations

This layer allows you to see area eligibility locations alongside rural locations. The popup shows detailed information about why the census tract is area eligible as well as the RUCC, RUCA, and UIC codes.

Note: There are separate popups for all three layers showing different information. You can toggle between the popups by clicking on the arrow at the top of the popup:

