

Census 2020: Implications for Program Management

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Census Proposed Criteria

- The Census Bureau Updates Its Criteria for Delineating Urbanized Areas Every 10 Years
- Census Bureau Published Proposed Criteria in February 2020
- Census Bureau Held Several Webinars During the Spring
- Census Plans to Respond to Comments and Publish the Final Criteria by February/March 2022



New Terminology of *Urban Areas*

- Census Bureau Currently Identifies Urban Clusters Between 2,500 and 50,000 in Population
 - Census Bureau Will No Longer Use the Term *Urban Clusters*
 - Census Bureau Will Now Use the Term *Urban Areas*, to Include *Urbanized Areas*
- No Impact on FTA Programs – 49 USC 5302 Require Urbanized Areas to Have 50,000 in Population for Purposes of Our Programs



Proposed New Thresholds for Housing & Population

- Minimum Threshold for *Urban Areas* Will Be 10,000 Population
- Census Will Also Use a Threshold of 4,000 Housing Units
- Impact on FTA Programs Will Be Minimal
 - 49 USC 5302 Means FTA Will Only Use Urban Areas with 50,000 in Population
 - It's Possible that Some Areas with a Highly Seasonal Population May Now Qualify



Proposal to Incorporate Commuting Patterns

- Adjacent Urban Areas with Shared Commuters will Be Combined Into a Single Urban Area
 - Census Will Not Split Urban Areas from the 2010 Census (e.g. Miami-Palm Beach)
 - Baltimore and Washington Will Remain Separate, but the Boundary Will Shift
 - Many Small Urban Areas Will Be Combined Into Nearby Larger Urban Areas



Changed Treatment of Uninhabited Areas

- Reducing the Size of the Maximum Jump from 2.5 Miles to 1.5 Miles
 - 2.5 Miles Was Used from 1950-1990
 - Certain Communities Might Go from Large Urban to Rural
- Census Will Not Create “Corridors,” Allowing Urban Areas to Be Noncontiguous
 - Minimal Impact on Formula Apportionment
 - Minimal Impact on Planning Programs
 - Possible Impact on Funding Eligibility



Overview of Rural Areas

- Funding Formula Is Largely Based on Population and Land Area, Only a Small Amount is Based on Transit Data
- Eligible for Operating Assistance
- State Is Both the Designated Recipient and the Direct Recipient
- Private Non-profits Are Eligible Subrecipients
- Half Fare Requirements Do Not Apply
- No Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) / Planning Handled by the State



Overview of Small Urban Areas

- Funding Formula Largely Based on Population and Population Density
- STIC Formula Provides Substantial Funding to Small Urban Areas with Lots of Transit Service
- Eligible for Operating Assistance
- State Is the Designated Recipient, but Most Grantees Are Direct Recipients
- Private Non-Profits Can't Be Subrecipients to the Urban Formula Program
- Half-Fare Requirements Apply
- An MPO Must Be Established; Transportation Management Areas must have Transit Representation on the MPO Board



Overview of Large Urban Areas

- Funding Formula Is Largely Based on Transit Service Operations, with Smaller Amounts Based on Population and Population Density
- Only Operators with Fewer than 100 Vehicles Eligible for Operating Assistance
- A Designated Recipient Is Selected by the Governor with Local Officials
- Most Grantees Are Direct Recipients
- Private Non-Profits Can't Be Subrecipients to the Urban Formula Program
- Half-Fare Requirements Apply
- An MPO Must Be Established with Transit Representation on the MPO Board
- Planning Process Must Be Certified by FTA & FHWA
- A Congestion Management Process Is Required
- Expanded Title VI Requirements for Operators with 50+ Vehicles



Illustrative Formula Impacts

	Per Person	Per Low Income Person	Per Bus Vehicle Revenue Mile
UZA Over 1 Million	\$3.86	\$2.54	\$0.49
UZA 200k to 1 Million	\$3.33	\$3.54	\$0.62
UZA 50k to 200k	\$7.81	\$4.51	-
Rural Under 50k	\$4.80	\$2.04	\$0.06

Note:

- Includes 5307, 5311, and 5339 formulas. However, not all formula apportionment factors are shown.
- Urbanized areas also receive amounts based on population density, operating efficiency, and the amount of fixed guideway service.
- Urbanized areas between 50k and 200k can receive additional amounts if they meet certain high-performance benchmarks.
- Rural areas also receive amounts based on land area.



Potential Changes Impacting Communities

- Rural to New Small Urban
- Rural to Pre-existing Small Urban
- Rural or Small Urban to Pre-existing Large Urban
- Small Urban to New Large Urban
- Small Urban Entirely to Rural
- Community in Small/Large Urban to Rural
- Large Urban to Small Urban



NTD Federal Register Notice

- Provides Further Details on Procedures for Implementing the New Census Boundaries
- Sets 1 October 2022 Cutoff Date for Use of New Census Boundaries in FY 2023
- Will Require Everyone to Complete a New FFA-10 Form Upon Release of the New Designations and Boundaries from the 2020 Census
- Comment Period Closes 18 February 2022



Timing of Changes

- Publish Final Urban/Rural criteria in FR Notice: Feb/March 2022
- Census Announcement of New UZAs: Summer 2022
- Grantees Add New Delineations to their 2021 NTD Report or their 2019 NTD Data: Summer/Fall 2022
- Data Anticipated to Be Used for FY 2023 Apportionments
- FY 2022 and Earlier Funding Will Remain Available Based on the 2010 Census Delineations
- FTA Is Required to Use “Most Recent” Census Delineations, Causing a Compressed Timeline



Q&As

Please ask your questions via the Q&A box





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