

Strategic plan means a strategy developed by the applicant, with the participation and commitment of local governments, State government(s), private sector, community members and others, pursuant to the provisions of § 25.200(c) of this part. The plan must include written commitments from the local governments and State(s) that they will adhere to the strategy.

USDA means the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

§ 25.4 Secretarial review and designation.

(a) *Designation.* The Secretary will review applications for the designation of nominated rural areas to determine the effectiveness of the strategic plans submitted by applicants in accordance with § 25.200 of this part. The Secretary will designate up to three rural Empowerment Zones and up to 30 rural Enterprise Communities.

(b) *Period of designation.* The designation of a rural area as an Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community shall remain in full effect during the period beginning on the date of designation and ending on the earliest of:

(1) The close of the tenth calendar year beginning or after the date of designation;

(2) The termination date designated by the State and local governments in their application for nomination; or

(3) The date the Secretary revokes or modifies the designation, in accordance with § 25.402 or § 25.403 of this part.

§ 25.5 Waivers.

The Secretary may waive any provision of this part in any particular case subject only to statutory limitations, for good cause, where it is determined that application of the requirement would produce a result adverse to the purpose and objectives of this part.

Subpart B—Area Requirements

§ 25.100 Eligibility requirements and data usage.

Eligibility Criteria. A nominated rural area may be eligible for designation pursuant to this part only if the area:

(a) Has a maximum population of 30,000;

(b) Is one of pervasive poverty, unemployment, and general distress, as described in § 25.102 of this part;

(c) Does not exceed one thousand square miles in total land area;

(d) Be located entirely within no more than three contiguous States; if it is located in more than one State, the area must have one continuous boundary; if located in only one State, the area may consist of up to three noncontiguous parcels;

(e) Is located entirely within the jurisdiction of the unit or units of general local government making the nomination;

(f) Does not include any portion of a central business district, as this term is used in the most recent Census of Retail Trade, unless the individual poverty rate of each population census tract in the district is not less than 35 percent for an Empowerment Zone and 30 percent for an Enterprise Community; and

(g) Does not include any area within an Indian reservation.

§ 25.101 Data utilized for eligibility determinations.

(a) *Source of data.* The data to be employed in determining eligibility pursuant to the criteria described in § 25.102 of this part shall be based on the 1990 Census, and from information published by the Bureau of Census and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The data shall be comparable in point or period of time and methodology employed.

(b) *Use of statistics on boundaries.* The boundary of a rural area nominated for designation as an Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community must coincide with the boundaries of census tracts, or, where tracts are not defined, with block numbering areas.

§ 25.102 Tests of pervasive poverty, unemployment and general distress.

(a) *Pervasive poverty.* Conditions of poverty must be reasonably distributed throughout the entire nominated area. The degree of poverty shall be demonstrated by citing available statistics on low-income population and levels of public assistance. Poverty is demonstrated by poverty data from the 1990 census.