

March 26, 2004

SUBJECT: Summer Food Service Program (SFSP): Using Metropolitan Statistical Area Data for Determining Rural Administrative Reimbursements

TO: Regional Directors
Child Nutrition Programs
All Regions

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Regulations provide additional administrative reimbursements to sponsoring organizations for meals served to sites in rural locations (7CFR225.9(d)(8)(iii)). The term *Rural* is defined in the SFSP Regulations (7CFR225.2) as (a) any area in a county which is not a part of a Metropolitan Statistical Area or (b) any “pocket” within a Metropolitan Statistical Area which, at the option of the State agency and with FNSRO concurrence, is determined to be geographically isolated from urban areas.

Please be advised that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has recalculated the Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) based upon the Census Bureau's decennial Census of 2000. The OMB website provides an Adobe Acrobat file (.pdf format) that provides a convenient reference for future use <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/bulletins/b03-04-attach.pdf>. Furthermore, OMB has produced an errata sheet that includes data corrections that must be taken into consideration when using the MSA data, and is available at this link http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/bulletins/b03-04_errata.html.

As we were examining the MSA data for use in the SFSP, we observed that OMB Bulletin No. 03-04, titled *Revised Definitions of Metropolitan Statistical Areas, New Definitions of Micropolitan Statistical Areas and Combined Statistical Areas, and Guidance on Uses of the Statistical Definitions of These Areas* introduces two new concepts that require consideration.

A **Metropolitan Statistical Area** is a locale where at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more population, plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core as measured by commuting ties. By contrast, a **Micropolitan Statistical Area**, which is a new set of statistical areas based upon the 2000 Census, is defined as having at least one urban cluster of at least 10,000 but less than 50,000 population, plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core as measured by commuting ties.

In addition, OMB has given special consideration to the six “New England” States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. For these six States, the New England City and Town Areas (NECTA) are defined using the same criteria as Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas and are identified as either metropolitan or micropolitan based respectively on the presence of either an urbanized area of 50,000 or more population or an urban cluster of at least 10,000 but less than 50,000 population.

Since the concept of Micropolitan Statistical Area and NECTA are new and not contained in the SFSP regulations, we will continue to consider only those locales not designated as Metropolitan Statistical Areas to be rural for purposes of the SFSP.

Please share this information with your State agencies as soon as possible. If you have any questions please contact Keith Churchill or Ron Ulibarri.

Original Signed

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