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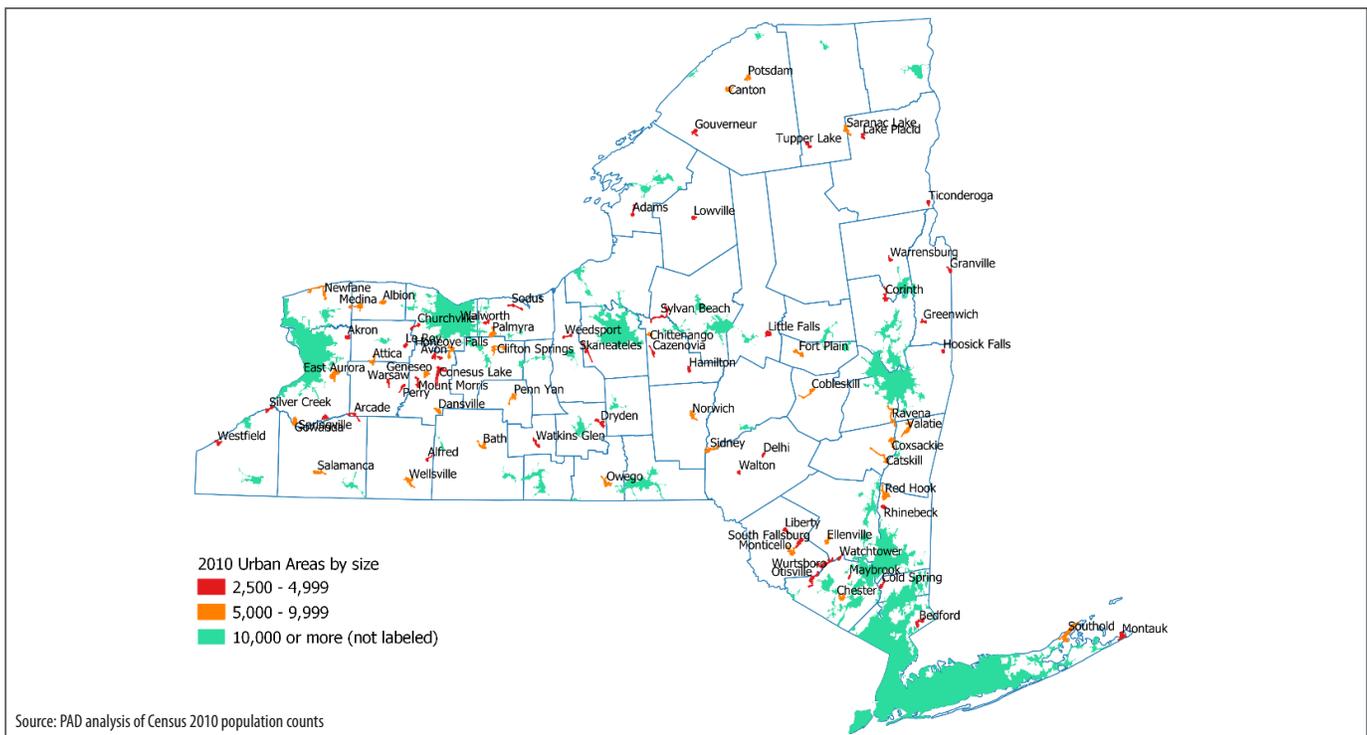
Changing Definitions for Core and Urban Areas: Federal Funding Eligibility Impacts

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Proposed changes to how *core based* and *urban* areas are defined could have significant implications for future funding eligibility, particularly for rural communities.¹ *Core Based Statistical Areas* (CBSA) include core counties and surrounding counties which have social and economic ties to the urban core. CBSA's are divided into micropolitan (population 10,000-50,000) and metropolitan (population > 50,000); counties not part of metro areas are often referred to as rural. A proposed increase in the threshold between micro- and metropolitan areas from 50,000 to 100,000 would essentially reclassify metro- areas in this range as micropolitan^{2,3}. The public comment period for this proposal ended on March 19th.

A change in the criteria for urban areas has also been proposed. Currently, densely populated areas with 2,500 persons or more

qualify as urban, with the rest defined as rural. The proposed definition shifts from using population to housing density and increases the threshold from 2,500 persons to 4,000 housing units or 10,000 persons. In NYS there are about 120 areas defined as urban according to 2010 Census counts; the 80 areas with between 2,500 and 10,000 people would thus be re-defined as rural if the proposed changes are approved after the 2020 Census numbers are final. The NYS map displays these 80 urban areas in red and orange. Concerns about these proposals include the disproportionately negative impacts these changes could have on lower capacity, poor, and rural communities. The ability to compare data over time with changed delineations will also be challenging⁴. These proposed changes are in a federal register notice and open for comments prior to the May 20th deadline⁵.



¹ Federal Funding for Rural America: The Role of the Decennial Census: <https://gwipp.gwu.edu/sites/g/files/zaxdzs2181ff/downloads/Counting%20for%20Dollars%233%20Federal%20Funds%20for%20Rural%20America%2012-18.pdf>

² Official recommendations on Metro- and Micropolitan Areas: <https://www.regulations.gov/document/OMB-2021-0001-0001>

³ Map of proposed CBSA changes: <https://www.regulations.gov/document/OMB-2021-0001-0004>

⁴ https://drive.google.com/file/d/12awuOjOrBwXd9TrtQgtw-dPS_Sc68lUY/view

⁵ Federal Register Notice on Urban/Rural: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-02-19/pdf/2021-03412.pdf>

