

B. Metropolitan Areas Protection and Standardization Act of 2021

The Metropolitan Areas Protection and Standardization Act of 2021 (MAPS Act),²⁵ enacted on December 5, 2022, prohibits changes to the standards of CBSA delineations to propagate²⁶ automatically for any non-statistical use by any domestic assistance program and instead requires changes to propagate if they are affirmatively adopted through notice and comment rulemaking pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553, by a relevant agency that determines such a propagation supports the purposes of the program and is in the public interest.²⁷

Since an applicant's eligibility for certain of FEMA's grant programs (*i.e.*, UASI, NSGP, PSGP, TSGP, THSGP, and RCPGP) depends in part on the applicant's location with respect to specific MSAs, changing which version of the MSA delineations is used could change which applicants are eligible. Consistent with the requirements of the MAPS Act, FEMA is now requesting comment on whether the use of the latest editions of OMB's MSA delineations in these grant programs supports the purposes of the programs and is in the public's interest.

III. 2023 CBSA Delineations

OMB published revised CBSA delineations on July 21, 2023, based on the application of the 2020 Standards to Census Bureau data from the 2020 Decennial Census, the American Community Survey, and Census Population Estimates Program for 2020 and 2021.²⁸ The 2023 delineations update and supersede the previous version of the delineations issued on March 6, 2020,²⁹ and make the following changes:

1. The Springfield, MA, and New Haven, CT, MSAs are no longer among the 100 most populous MSAs due to

changes to the county composition of some MSAs.

2. The Jackson, MS, and Fayetteville, AR, MSAs now do qualify as part of the 100 most populous MSAs due to either changes in county composition or due to changes in population values.

3. Twenty-seven MSAs changed their name due to changes in principal city population or due to changes in which States are part of the MSA. For example, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI MSA is now Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN MSA due to the removal of the one Wisconsin county that was part of the MSA.³⁰

4. MSAs in Connecticut were updated to use the new planning regions in place of counties.³¹

5. The composition of 29 MSAs, including the 2 MSAs that join the top-100 list and the 2 that drop off, changed because counties or county equivalents were added or removed from the MSA delineations. For example, Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC MSA lost two counties and gained another and is now Virginia Beach-Chesapeake-Norfolk, VA-NC MSA.

5.1. There are 22 counties removed from MSAs, of which 6 are old Connecticut counties that get replaced by the 5 new planning regions.

5.2. There are 30 counties added to MSAs, of which 5 are the new Connecticut planning regions and 11 are in the MSAs of Jackson, MS, and Fayetteville, AR.

FEMA's assessment of the changes in the 2023 MSA delineations found that there would be no changes in the geographic eligibility for any Tribal Nations under THSGP.

The revisions in the 2023 MSA delineations change which MSAs qualify as the 100 most populous MSAs considered for the UASI risk assessment. Changes to this list impact which jurisdictions are eligible to receive funding, the overall risk methodology, the resultant risk scores, and the allocations. In addition to the UASI grant program, the MSA delineations are also used to determine eligibility for THSGP, NSGP, PSGP, TSGP, and RCPGP.

Based on a review of FEMA historical grant data, there was no UASI data

available for the 22 counties that were removed from the 2023 MSA delineations, which indicates that FEMA did not provide any UASI funding for these areas in the past 10 years. Therefore, FEMA expects that the removal of these counties would not impact grant allocations under the 2023 delineations. Furthermore, we do not have any grant data for the 30 counties that were newly added due to MSA updates, so we are unable to measure the impact of these changes on grant allocations. Because UASI funding is capped, any economic impacts would result in a different distribution of funds (the newly added counties would become eligible while the removed counties would lose eligibility), but total funding would not change.

Consistent with the requirements of the MAPS Act, FEMA seeks public comment on the use of the 2023 MSA delineations for the following FEMA grant programs: UASI, NSGP, PSGP, TSGP, THSGP, and RCPGP. Stakeholders are encouraged to provide specific feedback on whether using the 2023 MSA delineations would support the purposes of these grant programs and be in the public interest.

Deanne Criswell,

Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

[OMB Control Number 1615-NEW]

Agency Information Collection Activities; New Collection: USCIS Adult Citizenship Educator of the Year

AGENCY: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: 60-Day notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment upon this proposed new collection of information. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the information collection notice is published in the **Federal Register** to obtain comments regarding the nature of the information collection, the categories of respondents, the estimated burden (*i.e.*, the time, effort, and

²⁵ Public Law 117-219, 136 Stat. 2271.

²⁶ Propagate is defined as reproduce or spread information., Black's Law Dictionary, <https://thelawdictionary.org/propagate/> (last accessed July 24, 2024). Here, this refers to how statutory, regulatory, or administrative provisions referring to CBSAs, but not specifying a particular version of the CBSA standards or delineations, should be read—do these provisions always mean the latest versions of the CBSA standards or delineations, or some older versions? The MAPS Act requires that these provisions not be read to refer to CBSA delineations issued after the enactment of the MAPS Act, unless an agency follows the appropriate processes.

²⁷ See 31 U.S.C. 6309.

²⁸ OMB Bulletin No. 23-01 (July 21, 2023), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/OMB-Bulletin-23-01.pdf>.

²⁹ OMB Bulletin No. 20-01 (Mar. 6, 2020), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Bulletin-20-01.pdf>.

³⁰ For more information on principal cities and Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area titles, see U.S. Census Bureau, *Metropolitan and Micropolitan, About* (July 25, 2023), <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/metro-micro/about.html>.

³¹ For more information on Connecticut planning regions, see State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, *Planning Regions and Regional Councils of Governments*, <https://portal.ct.gov/opm/igpp/org/planning-regions/planning-regions-overview> (last accessed July 25, 2024).

resources used by the respondents to respond), the estimated cost to the respondent, and the actual information collection instruments.

DATES: Comments are encouraged and will be accepted for 60 days until December 9, 2024.

ADDRESSES: All submissions received must include the OMB Control Number 1615-NEW in the body of the letter, the agency name and Docket ID USCIS-2024-0007. Submit comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal website at <https://www.regulations.gov> under e-Docket ID number USCIS-2024-0007.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: USCIS, Office of Policy and Strategy, Regulatory Coordination Division, Samantha Deshommes, Chief, telephone number (240) 721-3000 (This is not a toll-free number. Comments are not accepted via telephone message). Please note contact information provided here is solely for questions regarding this notice. It is not for individual case status inquiries. Applicants seeking information about the status of their individual cases can check Case Status Online, available at the USCIS website at <https://www.uscis.gov>, or call the USCIS Contact Center at 800-375-5283 (TTY 800-767-1833).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments

You may access the information collection instrument with instructions or additional information by visiting the Federal eRulemaking Portal site at: <https://www.regulations.gov> and entering USCIS-2024-0007 in the search box. Comments must be submitted in English, or an English translation must be provided. All submissions will be posted, without change, to the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <https://www.regulations.gov>, and will include any personal information you provide. Therefore, submitting this information makes it public. You may wish to consider limiting the amount of personal information that you provide in any voluntary submission you make to DHS. DHS may withhold information provided in comments from public viewing that it determines may impact the privacy of an individual or is offensive. For additional information, please read the Privacy Act notice that is available via the link in the footer of <https://www.regulations.gov>.

Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies should address one or more of the following four points:

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary

for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Overview of This Information Collection

(1) *Type of Information Collection:* New Collection.

(2) *Title of the Form/Collection:* USCIS Adult Citizenship Educator of the Year.

(3) *Agency form number, if any, and the applicable component of the DHS sponsoring the collection:* G-1607NO; G-1607NE; USCIS.

(4) *Affected public who will be asked or required to respond, as well as a brief abstract: Primary:* Individuals or households. USCIS will notify the public that this new award and information collection has been created to seek nominations for the ACEY Award. USCIS will seek nominations by publishing an announcement to the public via various media outreach options typically used by USCIS to inform the public of new programs and initiatives. The individual or organization will use the Form G-1607NO, USCIS Adult Citizenship Educator of the Year (ACEY) Nomination Form to submit their nominee for the ACEY Award. USCIS would then send the potential nominee the Form G-1607NE, USCIS Adult Citizenship Educator of the Year (ACEY) Award Nominee Form, as applicable, to complete if the potential nominee is interested in accepting the award.

(5) *An estimate of the total number of respondents and the amount of time estimated for an average respondent to respond:* The estimated total number of respondents for the information collection G-1607NO is 200 and the estimated hour burden per response is 0.5 hours; the estimated total number of respondents for the information collection G-1607NE is 200 and the estimated hour burden per response is 0.85 hours.

(6) *An estimate of the total public burden (in hours) associated with the collection:* The total estimated annual hour burden associated with this collection is 270 hours.

(7) *An estimate of the total public burden (in cost) associated with the collection:* The estimated total annual cost burden associated with this collection of information is \$0. The interaction of the form incurs no cost as the submission process and communications are all transmitted electronically.

Dated: October 3, 2024.

Jerry L. Rigdon,

Deputy Chief, Regulatory Coordination Division, Office of Policy and Strategy, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2024-0141; FXIA16710900000-245-FF09A30000]

Foreign Endangered Species; Receipt of Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of permit applications; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on applications to conduct certain activities with foreign species that are listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). With some exceptions, the ESA prohibits activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is issued that allows such activities. The ESA also requires that we invite public comment before issuing permits for any activity otherwise prohibited by the ESA with respect to any endangered species.

DATES: We must receive comments by November 8, 2024.

ADDRESSES: *Obtaining Documents:* The applications, application supporting materials, and any comments and other materials that we receive will be available for public inspection at <https://www.regulations.gov> in Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2024-0141.

Submitting Comments: When submitting comments, please specify the name of the applicant and the permit number at the beginning of your comment. You may submit comments by one of the following methods:

- *internet:* <https://www.regulations.gov>. Search for and