FY24 Isolated Areas of Distress Methodology

(Attainment Counties Only)

In accordance with 40 U.S.C. § 15702, the SCRC will designate as isolated areas of distress, areas located in counties designated as attainment counties that have high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration.

Methodology

To be classified as an isolated area of distress, a census tract located within an attainment county must meet two of the three conditions below:

> 1.) census tracts at or above 18.8% (at least 150% of U.S. Poverty Rate)
>
> 2.) census tracts with a Median Household Income below $50,086 (less than 67% of the U.S. Median Household Income)
>
> 3.) census tracts designated as a Historical Disadvantage Community

Data used in the methodology are sourced from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey 2021 5-Year Estimates and the U.S. Department of Transportation's (U.S. DOT) Historically Disadvantaged Communities classification that utilizes principles of the Justice40 Initiative. The Justice40 Initiative was created by Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. Justice40 sets a goal of certain federal investments flowing to disadvantaged communities.

US DOT used the 6 categories below to assess the overall level of disadvantage of communities:

Source: US Dept of Transportation, Justice40 Fact Sheet