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

(1) End of the tenth calendar year beginning on or after the designation date;
(2) Termination date designated by the state and local governments in their application for nomination;
(3) Date the Secretary revokes the designation; or
(4) Date the Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community modifies its boundary without first obtaining the written approval of the Secretary.

§ 25.5 Waivers.

The Secretary may waive any provision of this part in any particular case 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.

§§ 25.6–25.99 [Reserved]

Subpart B—Area Requirements

§ 25.100 Eligibility requirements.

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;
(c) Meets the area size and boundary requirements of §25.103;
(d) Is located entirely within the jurisdiction of the general local government making the nomination; and
(e) Meets the poverty rate criteria contained in §25.104.

(f) Provision for Alaska and Hawaii. A nominated area in Alaska or Hawaii shall be presumed to meet the criteria of paragraphs (b), (c), and (e) of this section if, for each Census tract or block group in the area, at least 20 percent of the families in such tract have an income which is 50 percent or less of the statewide median family income.

§ 25.101 Data utilized for eligibility determinations.

(a) Source of data. The data to be employed in determining eligibility pursuant to this part shall be based on the 1990 Census, and from information published by the Bureau of Census and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, provided, however, that for purposes of demonstrating outmigration pursuant to §25.104(b)(2)(iii), data from the 1980 Census and interim data collected by the Bureau of Census for the 1990–1994 period may be used. 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, except:

(1) Nominated areas in Alaska and Hawaii shall coincide with the boundaries of census tracts or block groups as such term is used for purposes of the 1990 Census;
(2) Developable sites are not required to coincide with the boundaries of Census tracts; and
(3) Nominated areas wholly within an Indian reservation are not required to adhere to census tract boundaries if sufficient credible data are available to show compliance with other requirements of this part. The requirements of §25.103 are otherwise applicable.

§ 25.102 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, levels of public assistance, numbers of persons or families in poverty or similar data.

(b) Unemployment. The degree of unemployment shall be demonstrated by the provision of information on the number of persons unemployed, underemployed (those with only a seasonal or part-time job) or discouraged workers (those capable of working but who have dropped out of the labor market—
Office of the Secretary, USDA § 25.104

§ 25.104 Poverty rate.

(a) General. Eligibility of an area on the basis of poverty shall be established in accordance with the following poverty rate criteria specific to Round I, Round II, Round IIS and Round III designated areas:

(1) Round I—(i) In each Census tract, the poverty rate may not be less than 20 percent;

(2) For purposes of applying paragraph (a)(1) of this section to Round II, Round IIS and Round III designations:

(i) A Census tract larger than 1,000 square miles shall be reduced to a 1,000 square mile area with a continuous boundary, if necessary, after application of §§ 25.103(b)(2)(i) and (iii);

(ii) Land owned by the Federal, State or local government may (and in the event the Census tract exceeds 1,000 square miles, will) be excluded in determining the square mileage of the nominated area; and

(iii) Developable sites, in the aggregate not exceeding 2,000 acres, may (and in the event the Census tract exceeds 1,000 square miles, will) be excluded in determining the square mileage of the nominated area;

(3) For purposes of applying paragraph (a)(2) of this section to Round II, Round IIS and Round III designations, the following shall not be treated as violating the continuous boundary requirement nor the limit on the number of noncontiguous parcels:

(i) Exclusion of excess area pursuant to paragraph (b)(2)(i) of this section;

(ii) Exclusion of government owned land pursuant to paragraph (b)(2)(ii) of this section; or

(iii) Exclusion of developable sites pursuant to paragraph (b)(2)(iii) of this section; and

(4) Paragraph (a)(5) of this section shall not apply where a Round I Enterprise Community is applying either in its entirety or together with an additional area for a Round II Empowerment Zone designation.