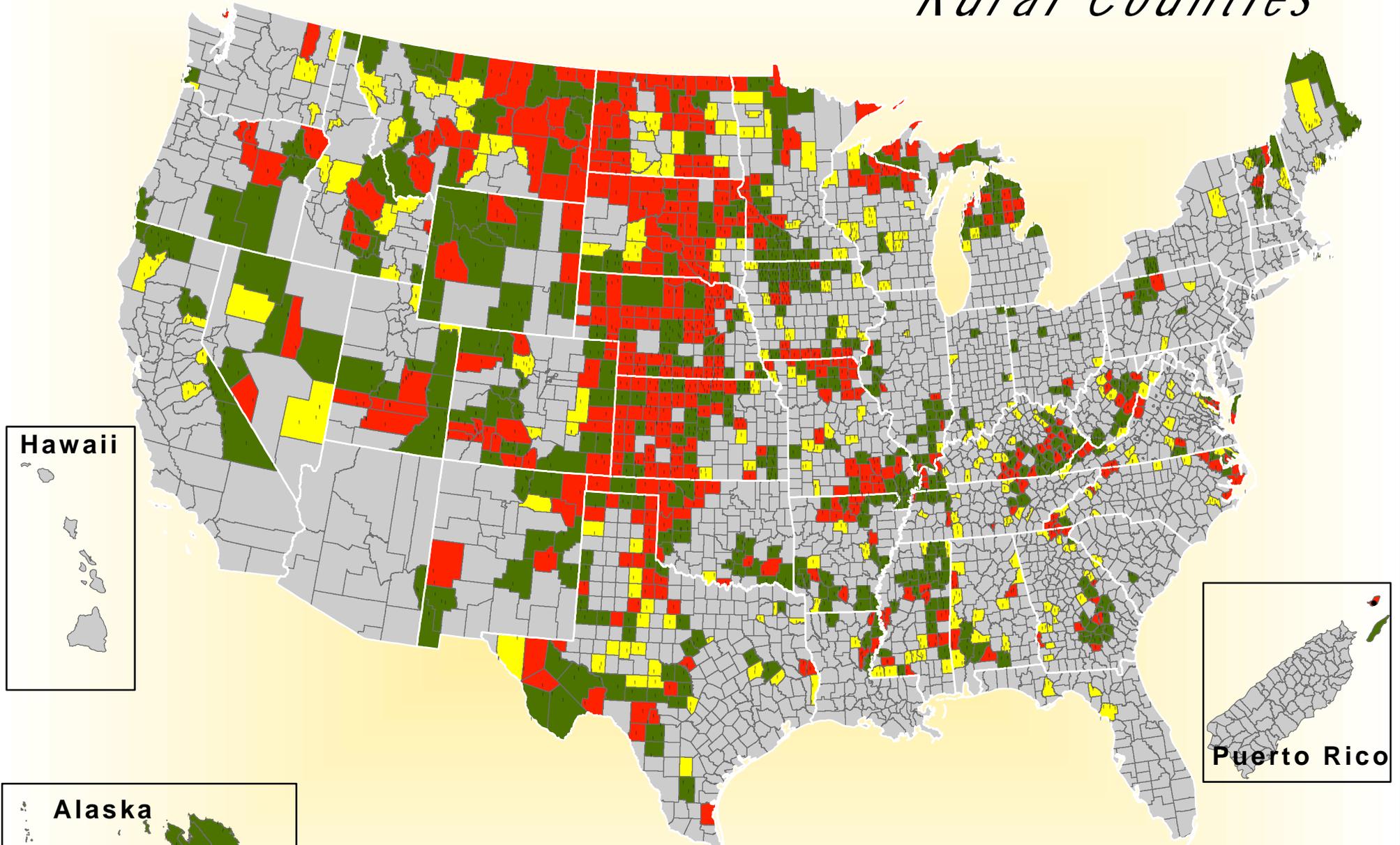


Geographically Targeted Assistance within Rural Designated Counties

Federal Agencies such as the U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) design rural development programs assisting rural communities with housing, public utilities, community facilities, renewable energy initiatives, farm programs, and health care. These rural development programs are geographically targeted and designed to offset barriers to development such as poverty, sparse population, population decline, unemployment and underemployment. Geographically targeted assistance sources for rural counties include payment subsidies, technical assistance, grants, direct loans and government guaranteed loans, etc .

Generally, eligibility requirements for rural development programs vary by type of assistance and program. Eligibility requirements for programs require the recipient to reside within a rural designated county. Federal agencies have varying definitions of what defines a rural county. Generally, U.S Census Bureau definitions are too broad and include all counties not residing within a OMB defined metropolitan area. To help classify rural counties in the U.S, USDA has developed several classification methods measuring rurality in America. These classification schemes have been used to determine eligibility for federal programs that assist rural areas. One classification method developed by the Economic Research Service within USDA is the Rural-Urban Continuum Codes. These codes classify all U.S counties by degree of urbanization and adjacency to a metropolitan area. These codes were last updated in 2003 and are scheduled to be revised in 2013 to reflect decennial census data. The attached map highlights all the counties within the U.S defined as the most rural by Economic Research Service Continuum Codes and corresponding table shows the number of public libraries residing within these designated counties by state. This map highlights the large number public libraries residing within rural communities and the possible opportunities these public facilities have for geographically targeted funding programs.

Public Libraries within USDA Defined Rural Counties



Hawaii

Alaska

Puerto Rico

All other designations
 Public libraries residing in the most rural counties. Total number equals 2, 860

Highest Rural County Designations

7 Nonmetro county with urban population of 2,500-19,999, not adjacent to a metro area. Public libraries located within 1,409

8 Nonmetro county completely rural or less than 2,500 urban population, adj. to metro area. Public libraries located within 581

9 Nonmetro county completely rural or less than 2,500 urban population, not adj. to metro area. Public libraries located within 870

**Number of Libraries Located within USDA Highest Rural
Designated Counties.**

State	Libraries in Designation 7	Libraries in Designation 8	Libraries in Designation 9	Total Libraries Per State		Libraries in Designation 7	Libraries in Designation 8	Libraries in Designation 9	Total Libraries
Alabama	9	26	10	45	New York	17	5	0	22
Alaska	39	19	14	72	North Carolina	10	14	17	41
Arizona	4	0	0	4	North Dakota	10	18	45	73
Arkansas	44	9	16	69	Ohio	30	1	2	33
California	31	14	0	45	Oklahoma	30	2	15	47
Colorado	40	11	29	80	Oregon	21	0	12	33
Connecticut	0	0	0	0	Pennsylvania	20	3	7	30
Delaware	0	0	0	0	Rhode Island	0	0	0	0
District of Colu	0	0	0	0	South Carolina	2	1	0	3
Florida	0	8	0	8	South Dakota	31	14	57	102
Georgia	20	20	13	53	Tennessee	12	17	8	37
Hawaii	0	0	0	0	Texas	51	31	28	110
Idaho	15	12	7	34	Utah	22	3	20	45
Illinois	56	7	14	77	Vermont	52	7	20	79
Indiana	17	12	0	29	Virginia	16	17	17	50
Iowa	115	53	53	221	Washington	5	12	4	21
Kansas	73	14	93	180	West Virginia	27	11	12	50
Kentucky	59	24	35	118	Wisconsin	15	54	21	90
Louisiana	12	1	8	21	Wyoming	42	0	12	54
Maine	50	18	0	68	Puerto Rico	0	0	1	1
Maryland	0	0	0	0					
Massachusetts	8	0	0	8					
Michigan	84	12	35	131					
Minnesota	61	20	29	110					
Mississippi	54	23	18	95					
Missouri	50	22	46	118					
Montana	29	18	30	77					
Nebraska	66	7	113	186					
Nevada	9	5	5	19					
New Hampshire	32	16	0	48					
New Jersey	0	0	0	0					
New Mexico	19	0	4	23					

-Designation 7 represents Nonmetro counties with urban population of 2,500-19,999, not adjacent to a metro area. Public Libraries Located Within these counties in U.S equals 1,409

-Designation 8 represents Nonmetro counties completely rural or less than 2,500 urban population, adj. to metro area. Public Libraries Located Within these counties in U.S equals 581

-Designation 9 represents Nonmetro counties completely rural or less than 2,500 urban population, not adj. to metro area. Public Libraries Located Within these counties in U.S equals 870