



State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J. COX
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Workforce Services

JON S. PIERPONT
Executive Director

CASEY R. ERICKSON
Deputy Director

GEOFFREY T. LANDWARD
Deputy Director

Targeted Employment Areas as Defined by the EB-5 Investor Visa Program (Updated January, 2014)

To all concerned. Targeted Employment Areas (TEAs) as defined by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' (USCIS) EB-5 Investor Visa Program are defined as: 1. A rural area or 2. A non-rural area that has experienced high unemployment (150 percent of the national average unemployment rate during a comparable 12-month period), or a city in a rural area with a population of 20,000 or more that has experienced high unemployment.

Rural areas are defined as counties lying outside of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA). The federal government's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) determines official MSA designations. These are redefined every ten years following a decennial census. In OMB Bulletin No. 13-01 dated February 28, 2013, OMB released its new MSA designations based upon the 2010 decennial census.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/bulletins/2013/b13-01.pdf>

In Utah, two changes occurred. First, Box Elder County was moved into the Ogden-Clearfield MSA. Therefore, for purposes of the EB-5 Investor Visa Program, Box Elder County can no longer be certified as a TEA under a rural designation.

A second Utah change under the new MSA designations is that Summit County was removed from the Salt Lake City MSA and was given its own micropolitan designation called Summit Park. For purposes of the EB-5 Investor Visa Program, Summit County can now be certified as a TEA under a rural designation.

Utah will fully implement and update its TEA webpage to reflect these changes with the release of 2013 annual unemployment rates and the reevaluation of TEA designations within Utah MSAs. This update is scheduled for early 2014. However, with the 2013 release of new MSA designations, Utah will immediately accept all changes made within MSA definitions and their implications upon the EB-5 Investor Visa Program.

With the exception of the two aforementioned counties impacted by the redefining of Utah's MSAs, all other TEA designations as presented on the department's TEA website are valid.

For additional questions or information about the TEA area designation or status, contact Mark Knold (mknold@utah.gov) at 801-526-9458.

More information about the EB-5 Investor Visa Program can be found on the USCIS website www.uscis.gov.