



ROY COOPER
Governor

ANTHONY M. COPELAND
Secretary

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The North Carolina Department of Commerce has developed a statewide system for identifying Targeted Employment Areas in North Carolina to meet the criteria of the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program.

The regulations for determining Targeted Employment Areas are set forth in Title II, Chapter 1 of the Immigration Nationality Act. Specifically, Section 203(b)(5)(B) provides in pertinent part as follows:

- I. Targeted employment area defined. - In this paragraph, the term “targeted employment area” means, at the time of the investment, a rural area or an area which has experienced high unemployment (of at least 150 percent of the national average rate).
- II. Rural area defined. - In this paragraph, the term “rural area” means any area other than an area within a metropolitan statistical area or within the outer boundary of any city or town having a population of 20,000 or more (based on the most recent decennial census of the United States). 8 U.S.C. 1153 § 203(b)(5)(B).

County areas that qualify for Targeted Employment Area status based on rural criteria are:

Alleghany	Cherokee	Halifax	Montgomery	Sampson	Warren
Ashe	Chowan	Hertford	Moore	Scotland	Washington
Avery	Clay	Hyde	Northampton	Stanly	Watauga
Beaufort	Columbus	Jackson	Pasquotank	Surry	Wilkes
Bertie	Dare	Macon	Perquimans	Swain	Yancey
Bladen	Duplin	Martin	Polk	Transylvania	
Carteret	Graham	McDowell	Richmond	Tyrrell	
Caswell	Greene	Mitchell	Rutherford	Vance	

For calendar year 2018, the national unadjusted unemployment rate averaged 3.9 percent. Therefore, a non-rural area qualifies as a high unemployment area if its 2018 annual average rate was at least 5.9 percent. County areas that qualify for the Targeted Employment Area status based on high unemployment are:

Edgecombe	Graham	Halifax	Hyde	Robeson
Scotland	Tyrrell	Warren	Washington	Wilson

Requests to certify TEAs consisting of multiple census tracts will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. They must be contiguous, include all tracts bordering the tract in which the project is located, and contain no more than ten census tracts. If a proposed TEA contains more than ten census tracts or does not include all bordering tracts, please provide supporting documentation that the proposed TEA reflects the geographic area in which the enterprise is principally doing business and an explanation of how the investment will primarily benefit the census tracts included.

A complete list of sub county qualifying areas can be found in the accompanying excel spreadsheet. If you have questions or require additional information about the TEA status of an area, please contact the Labor and Economic Analysis Division at 919-707-1500.