

SUMMARY OF 2020 CENSUS CHANGES IN TRAMS

In December of 2022, the U.S. Census Bureau released new urban area boundaries that correspond to the 2020 Census. As a result, all urbanized area (UZA) boundaries, or urban areas with a population of at least 50,000, have changed to some extent between 2010 and 2020. Some have contracted in extent, some have grown in extent, some have traded territory, some were eliminated and are now completely rural, some were eliminated but are now part of another UZA, and some either exceeded or fell below the critical 200,000 in population threshold. Consequently, FTA's Transit Award Management System (TrAMS) has been updated to reflect the appropriate changes to FTA's accounting structure for formula apportionments to UZAs and grant obligations that can be made with those apportioned funds. FTA will apportion FY 2024 formula funding based on this new Census data, and all formula funding from FY 2023 and prior years can continue to be obligated and used according to the program and UZA size and place of performance applicable at the time those funds were apportioned (pre-2020 Census).

The following table summarizes the changes recipients will encounter in TrAMS that account for applicable 2020 Census changes. These changes will be implemented December 7, 2023.

Type of Census Change	Corresponding Change in TrAMS
Completely new UZAs created either from previously rural territory or from other pre-existing UZAs	A whole new record for apportionments, reservations, obligations, etc. was created in TrAMS for completely new UZAs, as formula apportionments will be made available for use in those UZAs beginning in FY 24. For each, a novel 2020 UZA Code is assigned that corresponds to the Parent UZA and Parent State UZA codes for the states or territories within which the new UZA extends and to the respective FTA Cost Center for the FTA region that covers the new UZA.
Pre-existing UZAs that were eliminated (or discontinued) either because they fell below 50,000 in population or because they were absorbed by another pre-existing UZA	Because apportionments for use in these UZAs were made through FY 2023, and the period of availability to obligate FY 2023 and prior fiscal year formula funds continues into subsequent fiscal years, records for these eliminated UZAs were retained for further obligation of funds. These UZAs are tagged in TrAMS as 'discontinued'. The codes assigned to these discontinued UZAs are the same as those previously assigned to them.
Previously bi-state small UZAs now located in a single state	As a result of the 2020 Census, four (4) small UZAs that each previously extended into two (2) states are now only located in one (1) state. Impacted states from which each small UZA contracted received formula apportionments in FY 2023 and in prior fiscal years for those pieces of each applicable UZA separately from the other states within which the UZA extended. Records for these portions of small UZAs that correspond to the state from which the UZA contracted are tagged as discontinued and will remain available to track apportionments and obligations of FY 2023 and prior fiscal year formula funds. Beginning in FY 2024, the impacted states will no longer receive formula apportionments for these pre-existing pieces of each applicable UZA.
Pre-existing small UZAs that are now large UZAs (i.e., crossed the 200,000 in population threshold)	For these there will be two (2) separate records in TrAMS for each, with one (1) reflecting the UZA's previous codes and the other reflecting a new Parent UZA code that matches the 2020 UZA Code to represent that the new large UZA is its own distinct parent UZA separate from that of the state or territory within which it is located. The record representing the pre-existing small UZA status for each will remain available to track apportionments and obligations of formula funds apportioned in FY 2023 and in prior fiscal years. The record representing the new large UZA status for each will be used to track apportionments and obligations of formula funds apportioned in FY 2024 and subsequent fiscal years. While these two (2) separate records will exist in TrAMS to track pre-FY 2024 vs. FY 2024 and later year apportionments and obligations, both will only be visible to your regional office reservationist. Recipients will only see a single record for the UZA.
Pre-existing large UZAs that are now small UZAs (i.e., fell below the 200,000 in population threshold)	For these there will be two (2) separate records in TrAMS for each, with one (1) reflecting the UZA's previous codes and the other reflecting a new Parent UZA code that matches the Parent State UZA code. The record representing the pre-existing large UZA status for each will remain available to track apportionments and obligations of formula funds apportioned in FY 2023 and in prior fiscal years. The record representing the new small UZA status for each will be used to track apportionments and obligations of formula funds apportioned in FY 2024 and subsequent fiscal years. While these two (2) separate records will exist in TrAMS to track pre-FY 2024 vs. FY 2024 and later year apportionments and obligations, both will only be visible to your regional office reservationist. Recipients will only see a single record for the UZA.
UZA Name Changes	Between the 2010 and 2020 Censuses, the names of a number of UZAs changed as a result of changes in the geographic extent of the UZA (i.e., places and/or states or territories engaged by the UZA) or the principality of the places covered by the UZA. The new name for all UZAs that encountered a name change has replaced the pre-2020 Census name in TrAMS. No record for the UZA with the previously different name is being retained separately for apportionment and obligation tracking or reservation purposes, as UZA name changes do not require a separate accounting for pre-FY 2024 apportionments.

Thank you for your attention to these changes. It is important to keep in mind that TrAMS is not a tool that is designed to account for all geographic changes UZAs have encountered as a result of the 2020 Census. Instead, it is a tool that must appropriately capture the necessary accounting structure for apportionments and grant obligations. The TrAMS changes described above should not be used to make assumptions about UZAs' pre-existing Census designations or new geographic extents. To fully understand the place of performance eligibility implications of the 2020 Census changes and whether pre-FY 2024 vs. FY 2024 and beyond formula funds may be used for a particular project or activity in a specific location, recipients should consult the [FTA 2020 Census interactive map](#) or consult with their respective FTA regional office.