Ohio | Department of Development

Priority Investment Areas

Distressed

The Ohio Department of Development has identified a) any county, or b) any city with a population of 50,000 or more, as distressed if two of the three following criteria are met:

1. ***Unemployment*** must be 125% or greater of the most recent U.S. 5-year average unemployment rate. **(2003-2008)**
2. ***Per Capita Income*** must be at or below 80% of U.S. per capita income.
3. ***Poverty*** is defined as 20% or greater of persons below the poverty level; in **intercensal years for counties, a percentage of transfer payment income to total county income equal to or greater than 25%.**

Labor Surplus Areas

The classification "Labor Surplus Area" is assigned by the U.S. Department of Labor on a county base unless a county contains a city or cities with a population of 25,000 or more. In that case, the city or cities and the balance-of-county are classified separately. To qualify as a "Labor Surplus Area" during the current period, the average unemployment rate of the specified area for the two-year period **January, 2007 through December, 2008 must be at least 6.3 percent.**

Inner City Areas

Cities having a population in **excess of 100,000** people, which do **not** meet the "Distressed" or "Labor Surplus Area" definitions, may establish, by letter to the Ohio Department of Development, **Targeted Investment Areas.** Areas would be comprised of the most current census block tracts that individually have 20 percent or greater of the tract's general population living at or below the published poverty level and other census block tracts contiguous to such census block tracts within the municipal boundary.

Situational Distress

Cities or counties that experience a closing or downsizing of their major employers, that will adversely affect the local area's economy, may petition the Director of the Department of Development to be declared a situational distress area. Designation is for twelve months with an option to renew. The petition should include written documentation of the adverse effects on the local economy. Petition should make a compelling case as to the unique and deteriorating conditions of the community compared to similar communities across the state.

Additional Information

Maps: http://www.odod.state.oh.us/research/Reports_in_maps_economic_related.htm#G200

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