



Photo courtesy of
Federation of Appalachian
Housing Enterprises

Housing Assistance Council



1025 Vermont Ave., NW
Suite 606
Washington, DC 20005
202-842-8600 ph
202-347-3441 fax

Poverty Continues to be Higher in Rural Areas

The poverty rate for the United States increased between 2007 and 2008, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's most recent estimates released on September 10, 2009. The official poverty rate increased to 13.2 percent, up 0.8 percent from 2007. Overall, the Census Bureau estimates that 39.8 million people were in poverty in 2008, up from 37.3 million in 2007. The poverty rate for people living outside of metropolitan areas was higher than the national level at 15.1 percent, and was statistically unchanged from 2007. Overall, 7.3 million people outside metropolitan areas had incomes below the poverty level in 2008.

Census figures also revealed that incomes were down across the nation in 2008. Nationwide real household median income declined 3.6 percent between 2007 and 2008, from \$52,163 to \$50,303. Outside of metropolitan areas, the median household income was \$40,785 in 2008, down 3.3 percent from 2007.

The Housing Assistance Council

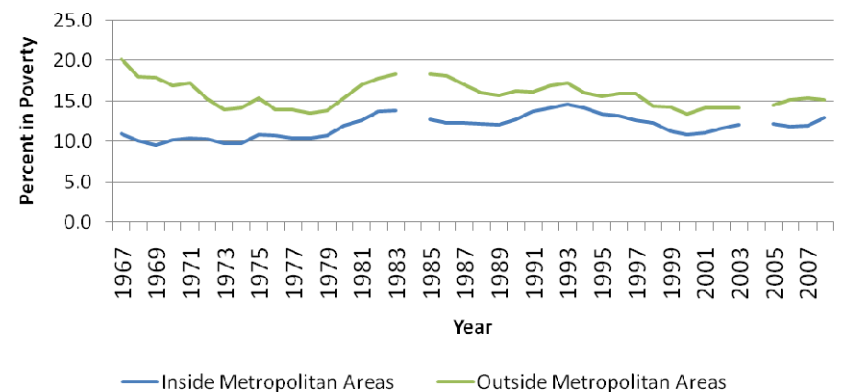
HAC is a national nonprofit organization that supports affordable housing efforts in rural areas of the United States. HAC provides technical housing services, seed money loans from a revolving fund, housing program and policy assistance, and research and information services. HAC is an equal opportunity lender.

For more information about rural housing, visit HAC online.



www.ruralhome.org

Poverty By Residence 1967 - 2008



1 Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

For more information on poverty and income figures download the U.S. Census Bureau's new report: Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States:2008 at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2009pubs/p60-236.pdf>. Local data for income, poverty and health insurance coverage will be available Tuesday, Sept. 22, when the Census Bureau releases new socio-economic, housing and demographic data from the 2008 American Community Survey.



Housing Assistance Council