



MAKING CRA WORK FOR RURAL AMERICA

Partnerships and Opportunities for Rural Community Reinvestment

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HOUSING ASSISTANCE COUNCIL

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Outline

- ▶ CRA-related community development rural context
- ▶ Rural community development project examples
 - ▶ Important factors
 - ▶ In Depth: Coastal Kids Preschool



Rural CRA-related Projects

- ▶ Rural community development projects which earn lenders CRA credit are limited

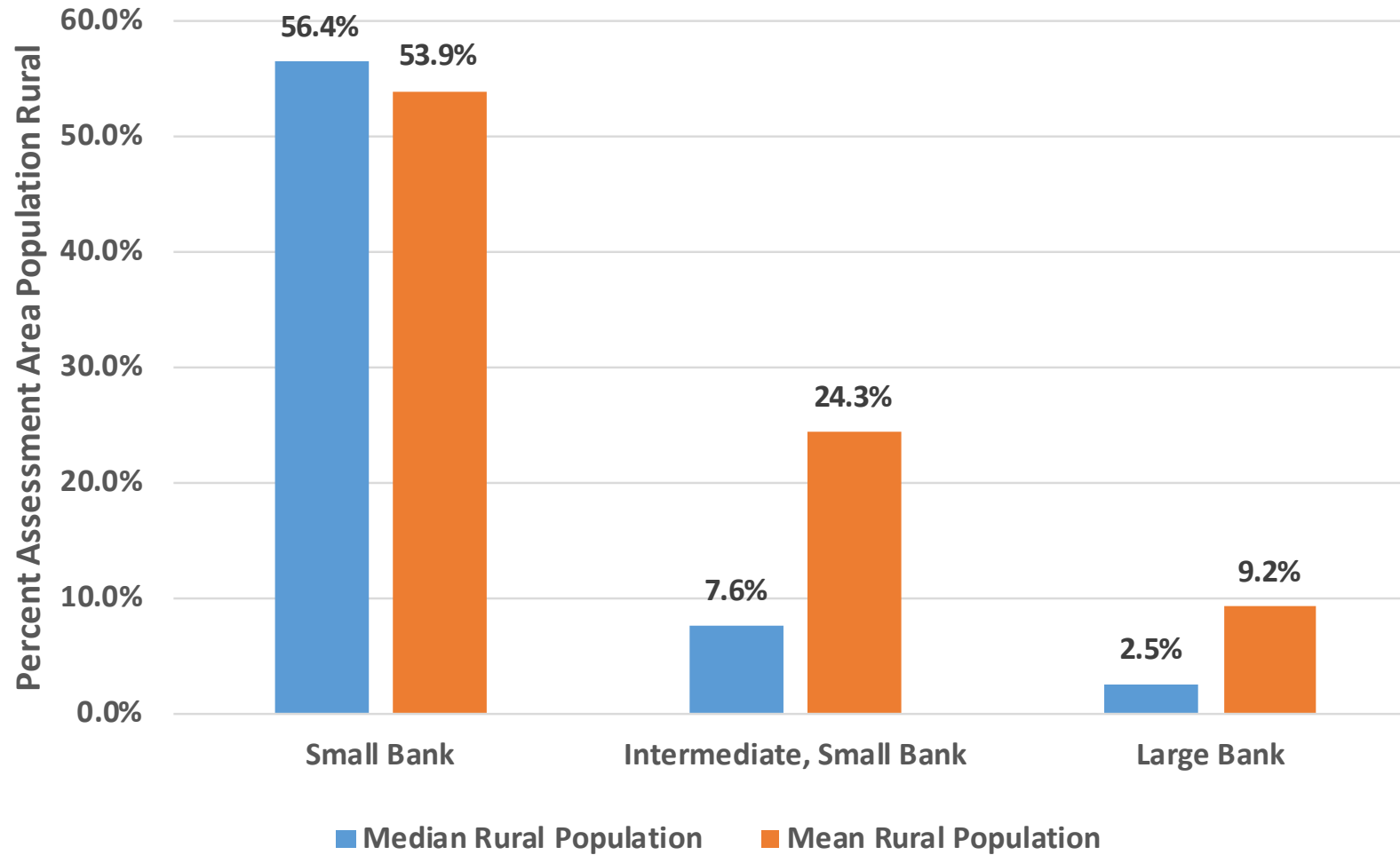
- ▶ Small asset banks, a majority of which have substantial rural assessment areas, are not tested on community development/investment.

Rural CRA-related Projects

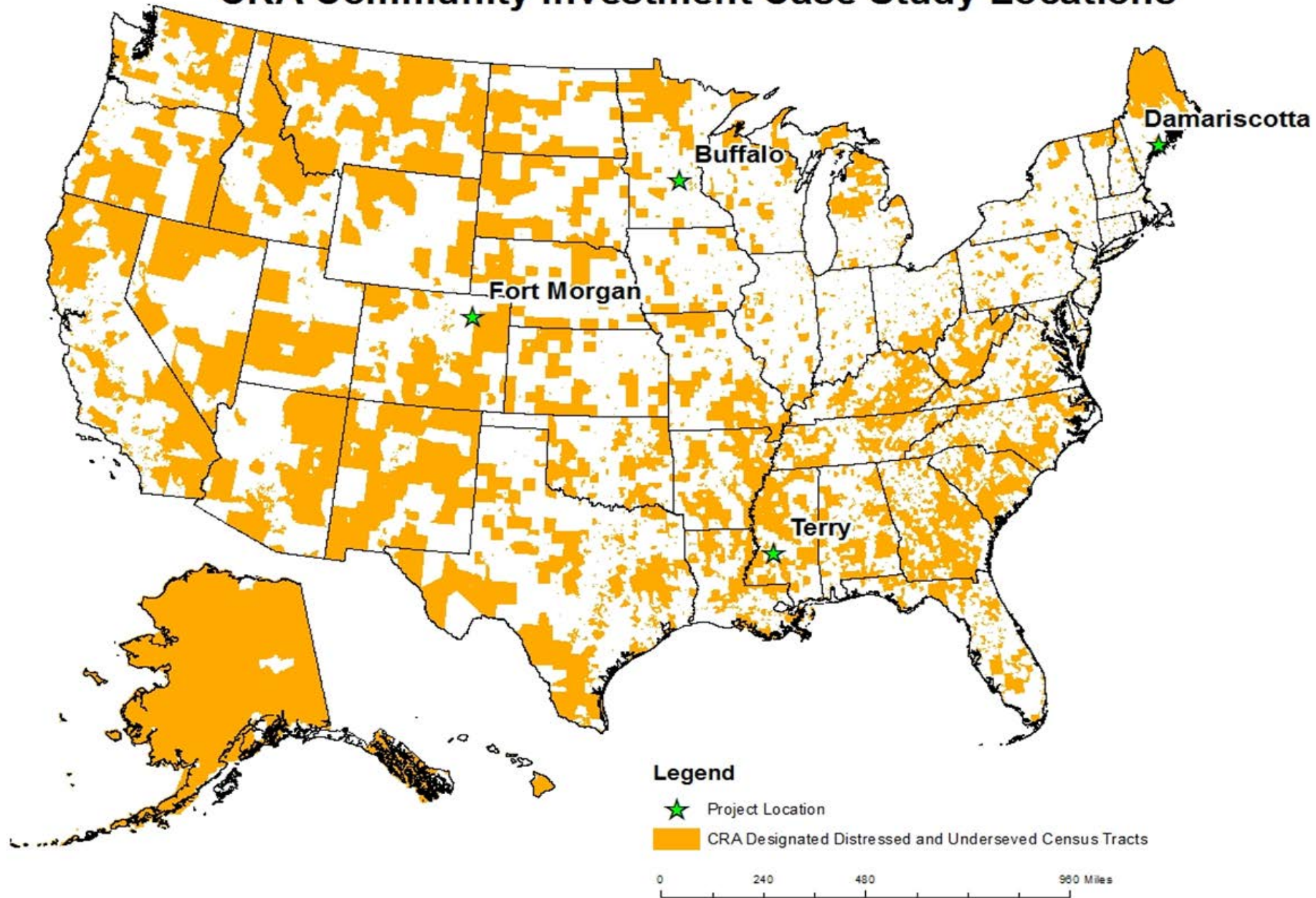
- ▶ “In light of these uncertainties, some observers noted that banks tended to take the safe route and concentrate their community development activities where CRA consideration would be assured. In many cases that will leave CRA activities concentrated in metropolitan areas where banks’ assessment areas are located.” (Remarks Thomas J. Curry, Comptroller of the Currency, March 12, 2014)



FDIC-Insured Lenders 2014 by Estimated Rural Assessment Area Population and Asset Size



CRA Community Investment Case Study Locations





Case Study Details

Location	Organizations	Lenders	Activity
Damariscotta, ME	Genesis Community Loan Fund	Bath Savings Institution	Preschool Expansion - Loan
Fort Morgan, CO	Community Resources & Housing Development Corp.	Wells Fargo	Farmworker Housing -Loan
Buffalo, MN	Podawiltz Development Corporation	Bremer Bank	Development of Low- and Moderate-Income Housing - Loan
Terry, MS	Hope Enterprise Corporation/Hope Credit Union	Regions Bank	Bank Branch - Donation

Common Elements

- ▶ Relationships between local organizations and banks
- ▶ Bank staff understanding of community lending
- ▶ Knowledge of funding streams
- ▶ Bank philosophy



Coastal Kids Preschool Project



Jane Irish
Director of Development
Genesis Community
Loan Fund
Brunswick, Maine



More Information

- ▶ HAC report: “Making CRA Work in Rural America: Partnerships and Opportunities for Rural Community Reinvestment”
- ▶ Upcoming Webinar. April 13th. “Identifying Outstanding Lenders and Increase CRA Related Activity in Rural Communities”
- ▶ Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC) website:
<https://www.ffiec.gov/cra/default.htm>



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