

To SALTAC members and associates:

I am happy to announce to you that effective Wednesday, 10/28/09, with President Obama signing the 2010 DHS Appropriations Bill, the definition of “rural” for the purposes of qualifying students for Rural Policing Institute (RPI) training programs has been significantly expanded.

The definition now includes *any area outside of a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as defined by the Office of Management and Budget; and any area located within a MSA in a county, borough, parish, or area under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe with a population of not more than 50,000.*

This is a significant issue as the list of law enforcement agencies that now qualify as “rural” has grown exponentially, and will incorporate some 16,000 agencies, which is actually about 90% of all law enforcement agencies in the country. The previous definition only allowed about 16% of laws enforcement agencies to qualify for RPI-funded training.

As you know the RPI provides tuition-free training to those agencies that qualify, and this fiscal year we are also covering lodging for RPI-qualified students who attend one of our training programs.

I am very excited about this development and would ask you to forward this information to your respective organizations and associations to make as many people as possible aware of this news, because there are now so many more agencies that qualify.

If anyone has questions or needs further information, please contact RPI Chief Chuck Daenzer at 912-267-3266 or via email at charles.daenzer@dhs.gov.

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