



TITLE VI PROGRAM UPDATE

April 2024

Contents

- 1 INTRODUCTION3**
- 2 PURPOSE4**
- 3 POLICY STATEMENT & RESPONSIBILITIES.....5**
 - 3.1 Objectives.....5
 - 3.2 Title VI Delegation Contacts.....5
- 4 TITLE VI SPECIALIST RESPONSIBILITIES.....6**
 - 4.1 Lake~Sumter MPO Staff6
 - 4.2 Compliance.....7
 - 4.3 Limited English Proficiency (LEP)9
 - 4.4 Program Administration & Title VI Responsibilities9
 - 4.5 Communications & Public Involvement9
 - 4.6 Opportunities for Public Comments.....9
 - 4.7 Strategies for Engaging Title VI Protected Groups 10
 - 4.8 Strategies for Engaging Individuals with Limited English Proficiency 11
 - 4.9 Public Dissemination..... 11
 - 4.10 Planning and Programming..... 11
 - 4.11 Data Collection 12
 - 4.12 Environmental Affairs 12
 - 4.13 Consultant Services & Contracting Services 13
 - 4.14 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program 13
 - 4.15 DBE Program Description 13
 - 4.16 Education & Training..... 14
 - 4.17 LSMPO Training Program 14
- 5 SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE OF LAKE~SUMTER MPO AREA..... 15**
 - 5.1 Ethnic Makeup of Lake~Sumter MPO Region..... 15
 - 5.2 Ethnic Breakdown And Changes Over Time For Lake~Sumter MPO Region 16
 - 5.3 Ethnic Breakdown And Changes Over Time For Lake County 18
 - 5.4 Ethnic Breakdown And Changes Over Time For Sumter County.....20
 - 5.5 Lake & Sumter Counties Comparison Over Time22
 - 5.6 English Language Proficiency For Lake~Sumter MPO Region23
 - 5.7 LSMPO Title VI Spatial Analysis.....24

Figures

- Figure 1. Ethnic Makeup of Lake~Sumter MPO Region (Left)..... 15
- Figure 2. Lake~Sumter MPO Region Hispanic or Latino Population (Right)..... 15
- Figure 3. Lake~Sumter MPO Planning Area Limited English Proficiency Populations25
- Figure 4. Lake~Sumter MPO Planning Area Populations Living in Poverty26
- Figure 5. Lake~Sumter MPO Planning Area Minority Group Populations27

Tables

- Table 1. Lake~Sumter MPO Population Group Changes Over Time – 2021 ACS 17
- Table 2. Lake County Population Group Changes Over Time – 2021 ACS..... 19
- Table 3. Sumter County Population Group Changes Over Time – 2021 ACS21
- Table 4. Lake~Sumter MPO LEP Populations, ACS 202123

1 INTRODUCTION

Representatives of Lake County and Sumter County governments, the fourteen (14) municipalities of Lake County, the five (5) municipalities of Sumter County, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Florida Central Railroad, Lake County Schools, Sumter District Schools, and the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) are involved in the transportation planning process facilitated by the Lake~Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization (LSMPO). The MPO's purpose is to provide effective leadership in the initiation and development of transportation plans, programs, and strategies.

As the governmental body, most directly responsible for the guidance of the transportation planning process, the MPO strives to ensure that the recommendations are in keeping with the goals and standards of the Federal Government, the State, Lake County, Sumter County, and the nineteen (19) incorporated jurisdictions. The MPO functions include, but are not limited to, the preparation of the tasks required by state rule or by federal policy.

The MPO's major annual responsibilities are to perform the tasks of preparing the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the annual List of Priority Projects (LOPP), Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP), and the annual MPO Audit Report. As with all transportation planning legislated by federal and state laws, the MPO is responsible for ensuring adequate representation of and compatibility among state, county, and municipal projects in the transportation planning process. This includes consideration of all modes of transportation with respect to various members of the public. For example, the MPO incorporates into its planning efforts the needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities as outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

As part of the MPO planning process, public involvement is given a major priority. Projects funded through public dollars are to be planned in a manner that encourages public participation and incorporates public comments into planning efforts. As a result, a responsibility is placed on MPOs to develop a plan where the opportunity for public involvement is assured. As part of that plan and involvement process, outreach will be made in accordance with Title VI. The requirements and the procedures for following Title VI requirements are detailed further in this Title VI Plan.

2 PURPOSE

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 provides that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or family status in employment and the provision of government services. The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 broadened the scope of Title VI coverage by expanding the definition of terms "programs or activities" to include all programs or activities of federal aid recipients, sub-recipients, and consultants, whether such programs and activities are federally assisted or not. These requirements include the establishment of a Title VI Nondiscrimination Plan, along with a regular review of its effectiveness and conformity with federal and state law.

This **Title VI Nondiscrimination Plan** works in unison with the LSMPO's **Public Participation Plan (PPP)** and **Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan**, which identify specific techniques for outreach, engagement, and involvement including notification, information, and opportunities for diverse participation.

3 POLICY STATEMENT & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Lake~Sumter MPO assures that no person shall, based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, family or religious status, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, and the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992 be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination or retaliation under any program or activity. The Lake~Sumter MPO further assures that every effort will be made to ensure nondiscrimination in all its programs and activities, whether those programs and activities are federally funded or not. In the event the LSMPO distributes federal aid funds to another governmental entity, the MPO will include Title VI language in all written agreements and will monitor for compliance.

3.1 Objectives

- Identify and analyze relevant demographic data in Lake and Sumter counties to further the effectiveness of the Title VI Nondiscrimination Plan and to ensure that planning products analyze, mitigate, minimize, or avoid disproportionate and adverse impacts on identified minority or low income communities;
- Engage citizens and other interested parties in LSMPO activities through broad notification and proactive opportunities for full and fair participation by communities traditionally underserved in the planning process (i.e., environmental justice); and
- Comply with federal and state requirements associated with Title VI nondiscrimination and the transportation planning process.

3.2 Title VI Delegation Contacts

The Executive Director is responsible for ensuring implementation of the organization's **Title VI Nondiscrimination Plan** and provides direction to the **Title VI Specialist**. The Title VI Specialist, on behalf of the Executive Director, is responsible for the overall management and day-to-day administration of the Title VI program.

Lake~Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization



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4 TITLE VI SPECIALIST RESPONSIBILITIES

The Title VI Specialist is charged with the responsibility for implementing, monitoring, and ensuring the MPO's compliance with Title VI regulations. Title VI responsibilities are as follows:

- Process the disposition of Title VI complaints received by the MPO;
- Collect statistical data (race, color, sex, age, disability, or national origin) of participants in and beneficiaries of state highway programs (e.g., displaced individuals, affected citizens), and impacted communities;
- Conduct annual Title VI reviews of program areas (planning, consultant selection) to determine the effectiveness of program activities at all levels;
- Conduct Title VI reviews of consultants and other recipients of federal aid highway fund contracts administered through the MPO;
- Participate in training programs on Title VI and other related statutes for MPO employees and recipients of federal highway funds;
- Prepare a yearly report of Title VI accomplishments and goals, as required by 23 CFR 200.
- Develop Title VI information for dissemination to the public and, where appropriate, in languages other than English;
- Conduct post grant approval reviews of MPO programs and applicants (e.g., consultants, design and relocation, and persons seeking contracts with the MPO), for compliance with Title VI requirements;
- Identify and eliminate discrimination; and
- Establish procedures for promptly resolving deficiency status and reducing to writing the remedial action agreed to be necessary, all within a period not to exceed ninety (90) days

4.1 Lake~Sumter MPO Staff

Lake~Sumter MPO staff members involved in public involvement are responsible for evaluating and monitoring compliance with Title VI requirements in all aspects of the Lake~Sumter MPO's public involvement process. These staff members will:

- Ensure that all communications and public involvement efforts comply with Title VI/LEP and environmental justice requirements;
- Develop and distribute information on Title VI programs to the public and provide information in languages other than English, as needed;

- Disseminate information to minority media and ethnic/gender related organizations, to help ensure all social, economic, and ethnic interest groups in Lake and Sumter counties;
- Include the Title VI Notice to the Public, full or abbreviated versions in relevant press releases and on the Lake~Sumter MPO website;
- Notify affected, protected groups of public meetings regarding proposed actions, and make the meetings accessible to all residents, including the use of interpreters when requested, or when a strong need for their use has been identified;
- Collect statistical information voluntarily from attendees of public meetings using zip codes, if possible, to track how well different segments of the population are represented; and
- Encourage Lake~Sumter MPO's committees to include representation from Title VI relevant populations.

4.2 Compliance

To ensure compliance with federal Title VI requirements, LSMPO will coordinate LEP efforts in line with the following processes and procedures.

4.2.1 Title VI Program Reviews

The MPO's Title VI Program reviews will be performed by the Title VI Specialist to assess the MPO's administrative procedures, staffing, and resources available for Title VI compliance. All programs will be reviewed annually to assure their effectiveness in compliance with Title VI provisions. This is in addition to the day to day monitoring. Title VI Specialist will coordinate efforts to ensure their equal participation in all programs and activities at all levels. The Title VI Specialist will conduct reviews of consultants and all other sub-recipients of FDOT's federal funds to ensure compliance with Title VI provisions.

4.2.2 Annual Reports

An annual report will be submitted to the FDOT District Five's Title VI Coordinator reviewing Title VI accomplishments achieved during the year. The Title VI Specialist will be responsible for coordination and preparation of the report. A Title VI Annual Report will be submitted to FDOT by June 1st of each year. The report will describe the accomplishments and changes to the program occurring during the preceding year and will also include any changes to the goals and objectives for the upcoming year.

4.2.3 Post Grant Reviews

Review post grant approval procedures to ensure compliance with Title VI requirements.

4.2.4 Complaints

If any individual believes that she or he or any other program beneficiaries have been subjected to unequal treatment or discrimination in their receipt of benefits and/or services, or on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, disability age or income status s/he may exercise their right to file a complaint with the MPO. Every effort will be made to resolve complaints informally at the MPO and consultant level. To file a Title VI complaint, see procedure identified in Appendix C.

4.2.5 Remedial Action

The MPO will actively pursue the prevention of Title VI deficiencies and violations and will take the necessary steps to ensure compliance with all program administrative requirements. When irregularities occur in the administration of the program's operation, corrective action will be taken to resolve Title VI issues, and reducing to writing a remedial action agreed upon to be necessary, all within a period not to exceed ninety (90) days.

- Sub-recipients placed in a deficiency status will be given a reasonable time, (not to exceed ninety (90) days after receipt of the deficiency letter), to voluntarily correct deficiencies;
- The MPO will seek the cooperation of the sub-recipient in correcting deficiencies found during the review. The MPO will also provide the technical assistance and guidance needed to aid the sub-recipient to comply voluntarily;
- When a sub-recipient fails or refuses to voluntarily comply with requirements within the time frame allotted, the MPO will submit to FDOT's Civil Rights Office and the FHWA two (2) copies of the case file and a recommendation that the sub-recipient be found in noncompliance; and
- A follow up review will be conducted within 180 days of the initial review to ensure that the sub-recipient has complied with the Title VI Program requirements in correcting deficiencies previously identified.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

provides that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under a program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)

addresses both social and economic impacts of environmental justice, stressing the importance of providing safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically pleasing surroundings for all Americans. NEPA requires a systematic, interdisciplinary approach to aid in considering environmental and community factors in decision making.

The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987

clarified Title VI to include all programs and activities of federal aid recipients, sub recipients, and contractors whether federally funded or not. It also restored broad coverage intended by Congress, covering classes such as sex, age, and disability.

The Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992

added religion and family status as protected classes.

Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration

issued a memorandum implementing Title VI requirements in metropolitan and statewide planning. The memorandum articulated that environmental justice is just as important during planning stages as it is during the project development stage.

4.3 Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

The U.S. Supreme Court has also interpreted Title VI to prohibit conduct that has a disproportionate effect on limited English proficiency persons; as such conduct constitutes discrimination based on national origin. Executive order requires reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access. LSMPO has developed a separate, yet related, plan to provide access to programs and services in languages other than English. The Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan works in unison with the Title VI Nondiscrimination Plan and the Public Participation Plan (PPP).

4.4 Program Administration & Title VI Responsibilities

Five (5) areas of the Lake~Sumter MPO's responsibilities have been recognized as applicable to Title VI regulations. These areas include:

- Communications & Public Involvement;
- Planning & Programming;
- Environmental Affairs;
- Consultant Contracts; and
- Education and Training.

The first three (3) Title VI applicable areas noted above are interrelated. However, to provide maximum clarification for this plan, these areas have been separated in this section.

4.5 Communications & Public Involvement

The Communications and Public Involvement Program Area applies to and affects the Lake~Sumter MPO's Planning & Programming and Environmental Affairs program areas. It has been treated as a separate program area for purposes of clarity, and consistent with Lake~Sumter MPO's organization. The Lake~Sumter MPO strives

to have important and continuing public involvement in the transportation planning process and to encourage the public to express their ideas and values related to transportation issues. This will help support an open and effective communication channel with citizens in Lake and Sumter counties.

4.6 Opportunities for Public Comments

The Lake~Sumter MPO routinely offers three (3) different ways for citizens to comment on activities, programs, and decisions made at the Lake~Sumter MPO, including:

- **Comments are accepted at any time:** Comments are accepted via an online comment form, by phone, e-mail, U.S. mail, and in person at any board or

committee meeting. Contact information for all Lake~Sumter MPO staff is provided on the website, and contact information for the Lake~Sumter MPO is included in all publications produced for the Lake~Sumter MPO. The Lake~Sumter MPO makes every effort to respond to all comments received.

- **Citizen comments are requested at agency meetings:** All board and committee meetings are open to the public. Meeting dates are posted well in advance on the Lake~Sumter MPO website. Public comments and responses made during these meetings are kept on record in the official meeting summaries. The MPO maintains mailing lists, to which anyone can request to be added.
- **Formal public comment periods for major activities:** Formal public comment and review periods are used to solicit comments on major planning and programming activities. Comment periods are highlighted in Lake~Sumter MPO publications, on the website, and in various press releases. Comments can be made in person, by e-mail, by U.S. mail, or telephone. The Lake~Sumter MPO will make every effort to respond to any comments received and will forward comments to other agencies when appropriate.

4.7 Strategies for Engaging Title VI Protected Groups

The Lake~Sumter MPO understands that there are important segments of the population from who input is seldom, if ever, received. To improve representation of these groups in the transportation planning process, the MPO will take the following steps:

- Public meetings should be held in locations that are accessible by public transit. Also, facilities should be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If a targeted population is in a certain geographic area, then the meeting location should be in that area for their convenience;
- To facilitate involvement of traditionally underserved populations, community leaders, and organizations that represent these groups should be consulted about how to most effectively reach their members. Relationships with these groups should be maintained for future partnerships in the planning process;
- In addition to mainstream media organizations, website postings, and news releases announcing public participation opportunities should be targeted to media that reaches minority and ethnic populations;
- With at least 72-hours advanced notice of the scheduled meeting, deaf (sign language) interpreters, translators, and Braille documents can be provided for public meetings. Notifications of opportunities for public involvement will include contact information for people needing these or other special accommodations; and
- At public meetings, MPO staff should attempt to communicate as effectively as possible. Technical jargon should be avoided an appropriate dress and conduct

are important. For some meetings, it may be best to use trained facilitators or language translators to better communicate with the audience.

4.8 Strategies for Engaging Individuals with Limited English Proficiency

The Lake~Sumter MPO will annually examine the socio-economic characteristics of the region to understand the ethnicities, income levels, and languages that are used in this region and develop strategies to communicate with these population segments. The MPO will attempt to ensure that public notices and meeting materials are published in Spanish or other non-English language when requested and will maintain a list of those MPO staff members who speak a language other than English to provide points of contact for persons needing information.

4.9 Public Dissemination

The Title VI Specialist will disseminate Title VI Program information to MPO employees, sub-recipients, consultants, and beneficiaries as well as the public. Public dissemination will include the posting of public statements, inclusion of Title VI language in contracts, and publishing annually the Title VI Policy Statement in newspapers having a general circulation near proposed projects and announcements of hearings and meetings in minority publications.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the MPO is committed to establishing and maintaining practices that will ensure meaningful access to the MPO's plans and programs by persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP). It is the policy of the MPO to ensure that no person is denied access to plans and programs as the result of the inability or limited ability to communicate in the English language

4.10 Planning and Programming

The Lake~Sumter MPO is responsible for developing long and short range transportation plans to provide efficient transportation services to the Lake and Sumter counties. A wide-ranging transportation planning process is used, which involves guidance from various transportation planning documents.

Primary guidance is provided by:

- The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Regulations 23 CFR 450;
- Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act), reauthorizing surface transportation programs through fiscal year 2020. The FAST ACT took effect on December 4, 2015; and
- State and federal Clean Air Acts (CAA) and amendments.

The Lake~Sumter MPO annually updates and coordinates the MPO's future transportation improvement plans and programs. A comprehensive transportation planning process is used which incorporates input from the public in coordination with the various jurisdictions affected. Planning includes the monitoring and collection of data. Title VI responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Ensure that all aspects of the planning process operation comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964;
- Ensure that various social, economic, and ethnic interest groups are represented in the planning process by disseminating program information to minority media and ethnic/gender related organizations and participating in roundtable meetings in predominantly minority communities;
- Assist the Title VI Specialist in gathering and organizing the Planning section of the Annual Title VI Update Report;
- Review the department's work program and other directives to ensure compliance with Title VI and other nondiscrimination program requirements; and
- Attend public meetings to verify the level of participation of Title VI protected group members when offered in predominantly ethnic minority communities.

4.11 Data Collection

Statistical data on race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, and income status of participants in and beneficiaries of federally funded program will be gathered and maintained by the Title VI Specialist. Each of the Title VI program areas will maintain data to be incorporated in the Title VI Annual Update. The data gathering process will be reviewed regularly to ensure sufficiency of the data in meeting the requirements of the Title VI program administration.

4.12 Environmental Affairs

The concept of environmental justice comprises of the identification and assessment of disproportionately high and adverse effects of programs, policies, or activities on minority and low-income population groups. Regarding regional transportation planning, environmental justice considers the relative delivery of costs and benefits from transportation investment strategies and policies among different segments of society. If a disproportionate impact is recognized, a mitigation plan will be developed and implemented based on feedback from the affected population. Lake~Sumter MPO staff members are responsible for evaluating and monitoring environmental justice compliance with Title VI. MPO staff members will:

- Ensure Title VI environmental justice compliance;
- Analyze and make findings regarding the population affected by the action;

- Analyze and make findings regarding the impacts of planned projects on protected Title VI groups, and determine if there will be a disproportionately high and adverse impact on these groups; and
- Disseminate information to the public on the processes used and findings of any analysis, in accordance with all agency public involvement procedures, including the dissemination of information to groups representing minority media and ethnic/gender related organizations, and the use of public comment periods and public hearings, interpreters, and materials in other languages, as needed.

4.13 Consultant Services & Contracting Services

The Procurement Department of Lake County is responsible for setting policy and establishing procedures for consultant selection, negotiation, and administration of consultant contracts for the MPO. Title VI responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Monitor DBE program requirements;
- Ensure that all consultant contracts administered by the MPO have the appropriate Title VI provisions included;
- Review directives and procedures to ensure Title VI compliance; and
- Maintain necessary data and documentation required for completion of the department's Title VI Annual Report.

4.14 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program

It is Lake~Sumter MPO's policy to encourage all qualified businesses to actively participate in the procurement of all Lake~Sumter MPO sponsored contracts. The Lake~Sumter MPO does not discriminate based on race, color, sex, national origin, age, military status, or disability. The Lake~Sumter MPO has established a [Disadvantaged Business Enterprise \(DBE\) program](#) in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), 49 CFR, Part 26.

4.15 DBE Program Description

It is the Lake~Sumter MPO's policy to ensure that Disadvantaged Businesses (DBE) and Small Businesses (SBE) have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in USDOT assisted contracts. It is also the Lake~Sumter MPO's policy to:

- Ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of USDOT assisted contracts;
- Create a level playing field on which DBE/SBEs can compete fairly for USDOT-assisted contracts;

- Ensure that the DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
- Ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR, Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
- Help remove barriers to the participation of DBE/SBEs in USDOT assisted contracts; and
- Assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the marketplace outside the DBE Program.

4.16 Education & Training

Minorities, women, veterans, individuals with a disability, and other individuals are protected by Title VI and federal and state anti-discrimination laws are provided with equal opportunity and fair treatment in all employment related decisions, including opportunities for education and training.

4.17 LSMPO Training Program

Title VI training will be made available at least annually to employees, consultants, sub-recipients, and program area specialists. The training will provide comprehensive information on Title VI provisions, application to program operations, and identification of Title VI issues and resolution of complaints. A summary of the training conducted will be reported in the MPO's Annual Report.

5 SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE OF LAKE~SUMTER MPO AREA

A review of the 2021 U.S. Census data, specifically the American Community Survey results, for the Lake~Sumter area was conducted to evaluate the distribution of minority populations and low-income households throughout the region. The representation for each of these groups is summarized in the following section.

5.1 Ethnic Makeup of Lake~Sumter MPO Region

The ethnicity distribution in the Lake~Sumter MPO region is detailed in **Figure 1**. The minority population with the largest representation in the area is individuals identifying with Black or African American ethnicity, representing 10.7% of the population. There is some presence of individuals identifying as Asian (2.1%), American Indian (0.3%), and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (0.1%).

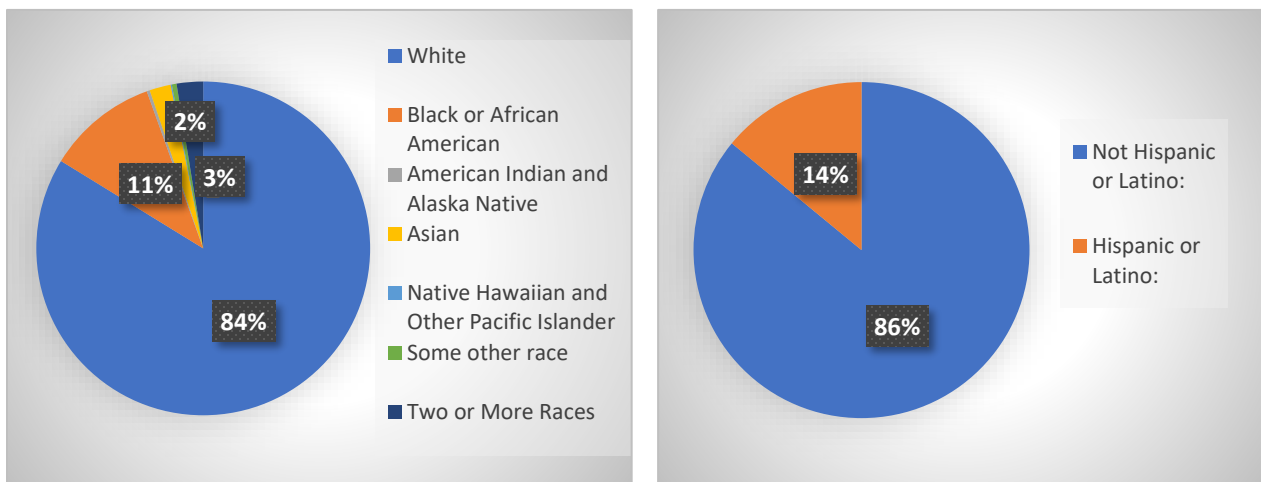


Figure 1. Ethnic Makeup of Lake~Sumter MPO Region (Left)

Figure 2. Lake~Sumter MPO Region Hispanic or Latino Population (Right)

Regarding populations identifying with a Hispanic or Latino heritage, the Lake-Sumter MPO region has 70,537 or 14% throughout Lake and Sumter counties as demonstrated in **Figure 2** on the next page. Most of this population resides in Lake County with 62,917 residents identifying with Hispanic or Latino heritage. Of the total Hispanic or Latino group in Lake and Sumter counties.

5.2 Ethnic Breakdown And Changes Over Time For Lake~Sumter MPO Region

Table 1 provides a comparison of population group changes in the Lake~Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) area, comparing data from 2018 and 2021. A summary of each ethnicity is provided below:

1. **White:** The White population in the MPO area decreased from 385,797 in 2018 to 361,763 in 2021, resulting in a decrease of 24,034. The percentage of White residents in the total population dropped from 84.5% to 83.8%, a decrease of 0.8%.
2. **Black or African American:** The Black or African American population increased from 44,297 in 2018 to 46,388 in 2021, showing a growth of 2,091 individuals. The percentage of Black or African American residents in the total population increased from 9.7% to 10.7%, indicating a 1.0% increase.
3. **American Indian and Alaska Native:** This group saw a decrease from 1,787 in 2018 to 1,271 in 2021, resulting in a decline of 516 individuals. The percentage of American Indian and Alaska Native residents decreased from 0.4% to 0.3%, a 0.1% decrease.
4. **Asian:** The Asian population increased from 7,674 in 2018 to 8,910 in 2021, indicating a growth of 1,236 individuals. The percentage of Asian residents in the total population increased from 1.7% to 2.1%, a 0.4% increase.
5. **Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander:** This group grew from 245 in 2018 to 504 in 2021, with an increase of 259 individuals. The percentage of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander residents remained at 0.1%, indicating a 0.1% increase.
6. **Some other race:** The population in this category decreased significantly from 6,789 in 2018 to 1,969 in 2021, resulting in a decline of 4,820 individuals. The percentage of residents in this category dropped from 1.5% to 0.5%, indicating a 1.0% decrease.
7. **Two or More Races:** The Two or More Races population increased from 9,772 in 2018 to 11,052 in 2021, showing a growth of 1,280 individuals. The percentage of residents in this category increased from 2.1% to 2.6%, a 0.5% increase.

Table 1. Lake~Sumter MPO Population Group Changes Over Time – 2021 ACS

MPO Planning Area	2018	2021	Pop. Change	2018 Percent	2021 Percent	% Change
White	385,797	361,763	-24,034	84.5%	83.8%	-0.8%
Black or African American	44,297	46,388	2,091	9.7%	10.7%	1.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1,787	1,271	-516	0.4%	0.3%	-0.1%
Asian	7,674	8,910	1,236	1.7%	2.1%	0.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	245	504	259	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Some other race	6,789	1,969	-4,820	1.5%	0.5%	-1.0%
Two or More Races	9,772	11,052	1,280	2.1%	2.6%	0.5%

In summary, **Table 1** provides information about the changes in population for various racial and ethnic groups in the Lake~Sumter MPO area between 2018 and 2021. The White population decreased, while the Black or African American, Asian, and Two or More Races populations increased. Some other race experienced a substantial decrease during this period.

5.3 Ethnic Breakdown And Changes Over Time For Lake County

Table 2 provides a comparison of the ethnic breakdown and changes over time for Lake County, comparing data from 2018 and 2021. A summary of each ethnicity is provided below:

1. **White:** The White population in Lake County decreased from 278,353 in 2018 to 254,246 in 2021, resulting in a decrease of 24,107. The percentage of White residents in the total population dropped significantly from 83.0% to 68.45%, a decrease of 14.55%.
2. **Black or African American:** The Black or African American population increased from 35,268 in 2018 to 37,600 in 2021, showing a growth of 2,332 individuals. However, the percentage of Black or African American residents in the total population decreased slightly from 10.5% to 10.39%, a decrease of 0.11%.
3. **American Indian and Alaska Native:** This group saw a decrease from 1,416 in 2018 to 1,008 in 2021, resulting in a decline of 408 individuals. The percentage of American Indian and Alaska Native residents decreased from 0.4% to 0.11%, a decrease of 0.29%.
4. **Asian:** The Asian population increased from 6,588 in 2018 to 7,657 in 2021, indicating a growth of 1,069 individuals. However, the percentage of Asian residents in the total population decreased from 2.0% to 1.61%, a decrease of 0.39%.
5. **Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander:** This group grew from 201 in 2018 to 500 in 2021, with an increase of 299 individuals. The percentage of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander residents decreased slightly from 0.1% to 0.05%, a decrease of 0.05%.
6. **Some other race:** The population in this category decreased significantly from 5,404 in 2018 to 1,569 in 2021, resulting in a decline of 3,835 individuals. The percentage of residents in this category increased from 1.6% to 2.91%, indicating a 1.31% increase.
7. **Two or More Races:** The Two or More Races population increased from 8,132 in 2018 to 9,562 in 2021, showing a growth of 1,430 individuals. The percentage of residents in this category remained at 2.4%, while the percentage in the total population increased to 2.91%, indicating a 0.51% increase.

Table 2. Lake County Population Group Changes Over Time – 2021 ACS

Lake County	2018	2021	Pop. Change	2018 Percent	2021 Percent	% Change
White	278,353	254,246	-24,107	83.0%	68.45%	-14.55%
Black or African American	35,268	37,600	2,332	10.5%	10.39%	-0.11%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1,416	1,008	-408	0.4%	0.11%	-0.29%
Asian	6,588	7,657	1,069	2.0%	1.61%	-0.39%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	201	500	299	0.1%	0.05%	-0.05%
Some other race	5,404	1,569	-3,835	1.6%	2.91%	1.31%
Two or More Races	8,132	9,562	1,430	2.4%	2.91%	0.51%

In summary, **Table 2** provides information about the changes in the ethnic composition of Lake County between 2018 and 2021. The White population decreased significantly, while the Black or African American and Asian populations increased, albeit with a decrease in their proportional representation in the total population. Some other race also saw significant changes, both in terms of population and percentage representation.

5.4 Ethnic Breakdown And Changes Over Time For Sumter County

Table 3 provides a comparison of population group changes in Sumter County, comparing data from 2018 and 2021. A summary of each ethnicity is provided below:

1. **White:** The White population in Sumter County saw a small increase from 107,444 in 2018 to 107,517 in 2021, resulting in a population change of 73 individuals. However, the percentage of White residents in the total population decreased from 88.4% to 85.17%, indicating a 3.23% decrease.
2. **Black or African American:** The Black or African American population decreased from 9,029 in 2018 to 8,788 in 2021, resulting in a decline of 241 individuals. The percentage of Black or African American residents in the total population decreased from 7.5% to 4.82%, a 2.68% decrease.
3. **American Indian and Alaska Native:** This group also saw a decrease from 371 in 2018 to 263 in 2021, resulting in a decline of 108 individuals. The percentage of American Indian and Alaska Native residents increased slightly from 0.3% to 0.52%, a 0.22% increase.
4. **Asian:** The Asian population increased from 1,086 in 2018 to 1,253 in 2021, indicating a growth of 167 individuals. The percentage of Asian residents in the total population increased slightly from 0.9% to 1.07%, a 0.17% increase.
5. **Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander:** This group decreased significantly from 44 in 2018 to 4 in 2021, resulting in a decrease of 40 individuals. The percentage of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander residents decreased from 0.0% to 0.00%, indicating no representation in 2021.
6. **Some other race:** The population in this category saw a substantial decrease from 1,385 in 2018 to 400 in 2021, resulting in a decline of 985 individuals. The percentage of residents in this category increased significantly from 1.1% to 2.61%, indicating a 1.51% increase.
7. **Two or More Races:** The Two or More Races population decreased from 1,640 in 2018 to 1,490 in 2021, resulting in a decrease of 150 individuals. The percentage of residents in this category increased from 1.4% to 2.61%, indicating a 1.21% increase.

Table 3. Sumter County Population Group Changes Over Time – 2021 ACS

Sumter County	2018	2021	Pop. Change	2018 Percent	2021 Percent	% Change
White	107,444	107,517	73	88.4%	85.17%	-3.23%
Black or African American	9,029	8,788	-241	7.5%	4.82%	-2.68%
American Indian and Alaska Native	371	263	-108	0.3%	0.52%	0.22%
Asian	1086	1,253	167	0.9%	1.07%	0.17%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	44	4	-40	0.0%	0.00%	0.00%
Some other race	1385	400	-985	1.1%	2.61%	1.51%
Two or More Races	1640	1,490	-150	1.4%	2.61%	1.21%

In summary, the **Table 3** provides information about the changes in the ethnic composition of Sumter County between 2018 and 2021. The White population remained relatively stable, while the Black or African American population decreased. Some other race and Two or More Races populations increased, and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander became virtually non-existent in the county.

5.5 Lake & Sumter Counties Comparison Over Time

Tables 2 and 3 provide information about population group changes over time for both counties, Lake County and Sumter County, comparing data from 2018 to 2021. Here's a comparison of the two tables:

5.5.1 Lake County (Table 2):

- The White population in Lake County decreased by 14.55%, from 83.0% to 68.45%.
- The Black or African American population in Lake County increased by 2.68%, from 10.5% to 10.39%.
- The Asian population increased by 0.17%, from 2.0% to 1.61%.
- The Some other race population in Lake County increased significantly, from 1.6% to 2.91%, a 1.31% increase.
- The Two or More Races population increased by 1.21%, from 1.4% to 2.61%.

5.5.2 Sumter County (Table 3):

- The White population in Sumter County decreased by 3.23%, from 88.4% to 85.17%.
- The Black or African American population in Sumter County decreased significantly by 2.68%, from 7.5% to 4.82%.
- The Asian population increased by 0.17%, from 0.9% to 1.07%.
- The Some other race population in Sumter County increased significantly, from 1.1% to 2.61%, a 1.51% increase.
- The Two or More Races population increased by 1.21%, from 1.4% to 2.61%.

5.5.3 Common Trends:

- In both counties, the White population decreased, although the decline was much more significant in Lake County (14.55%) compared to Sumter County (3.23%).
- Both counties saw an increase in the Some other race and Two or More Races populations, with a more notable increase in Sumter County.
- Asian populations in both counties saw a slight increase, though the percentage change was relatively small.
- The Black or African American population decreased in both counties, but Sumter County experienced a larger decrease (2.68%) compared to Lake County (0.11%).

In summary, both counties experienced changes in their ethnic compositions, with decreases in White and Black or African American populations in both cases. Lake County saw a more significant shift in its White population, while Sumter County witnessed a substantial increase in the Some other race and Two or More Races categories. These variations are important for understanding the evolving demographics in each county.

5.6 English Language Proficiency For Lake~Sumter MPO Region

Table 4 provides data on Limited English Proficiency (LEP) populations in the Lake~Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the year 2021.

- **Spanish:** There were 12,682 individuals who spoke English "less than very well" in Spanish. This group made up 74% of the LEP population, which is a significant majority of LEP individuals. In terms of the entire MPO population, Spanish speakers with limited English proficiency represented 2.6%.
- **Indo-European languages:** There were 2,123 individuals who spoke English "less than very well" in Indo-European languages. They accounted for 12% of the LEP population. In the overall MPO population, speakers of Indo-European languages with limited English proficiency represented 0.4%.
- **Speak Asian and Pacific Island languages:** 2,036 individuals spoke English "less than very well" in Asian and Pacific Island languages. This group also represented 12% of the LEP population. In the total MPO population, those speaking Asian and Pacific Island languages with limited English proficiency made up 0.4%.
- **Various other Languages:** A group of 392 individuals spoke English "less than very well" in various other languages, accounting for 2% of the LEP population. In the entire MPO population, individuals in this category represented 0.1%.
- **Total:** The combined LEP population across all language groups in the Lake~Sumter MPO in 2021 was 17,233, which constituted 3.6% of the MPO's total population. This figure represents the total number of individuals who spoke English "less than very well."

Table 4. Lake~Sumter MPO LEP Populations, ACS 2021

Language Spoken	Speak English "less than very well"	Percent of MPO Population	Percent of LEP Population
Spanish	12,682	2.6%	74%
Indo-European languages:	2,123	0.4%	12%
Speak Asian and Pacific Island languages:	2,036	0.4%	12%
Various other Languages	392	0.1%	2%
Total:	17,233	3.6%	100%

In summary, **Table 4** presents the distribution of Limited English Proficiency populations in the Lake~Sumter MPO in 2021, highlighting the primary language groups and their proportions within the LEP population and the overall MPO population. Spanish speakers with limited English proficiency comprised the majority of the LEP population in the area.

5.7 LSMPO Title VI Spatial Analysis

A series of maps have been developed to help better understand the spatial distribution of the populations considered under Title VI requirements. [Figure 3](#) through [Figure 6](#) (see next pages) illustrate limited English proficiency, populations living in poverty, and minority populations within the Lake and Sumter Counties.

Lake~Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization

Anyone wishing to contact the LSMPO with comments, questions, or complaints regarding Title VI, please contact:



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Figure 3. Lake~Sumter MPO Planning Area Limited English Proficiency Populations

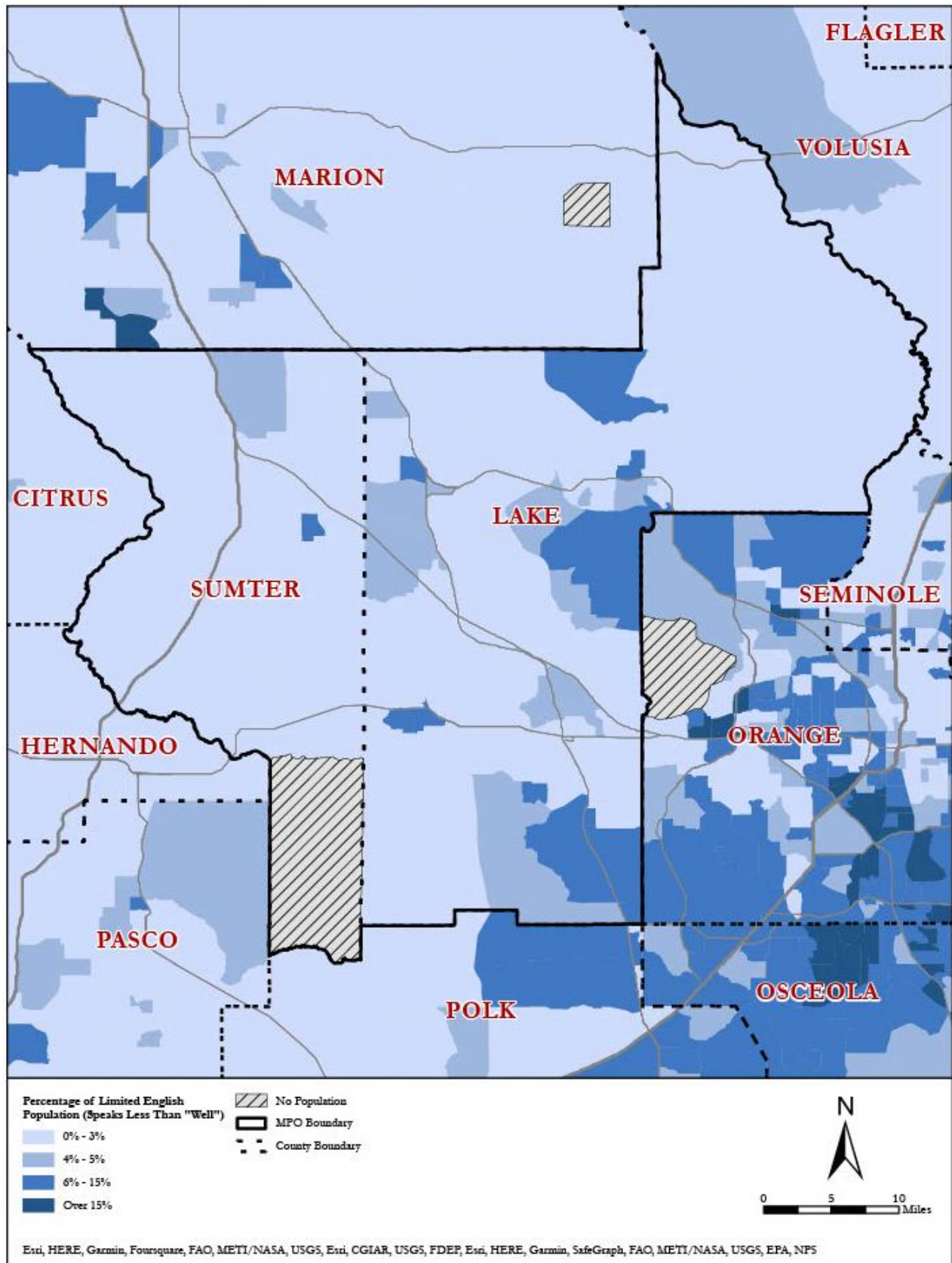


Figure 4. Lake~Sumter MPO Planning Area Populations Living in Poverty

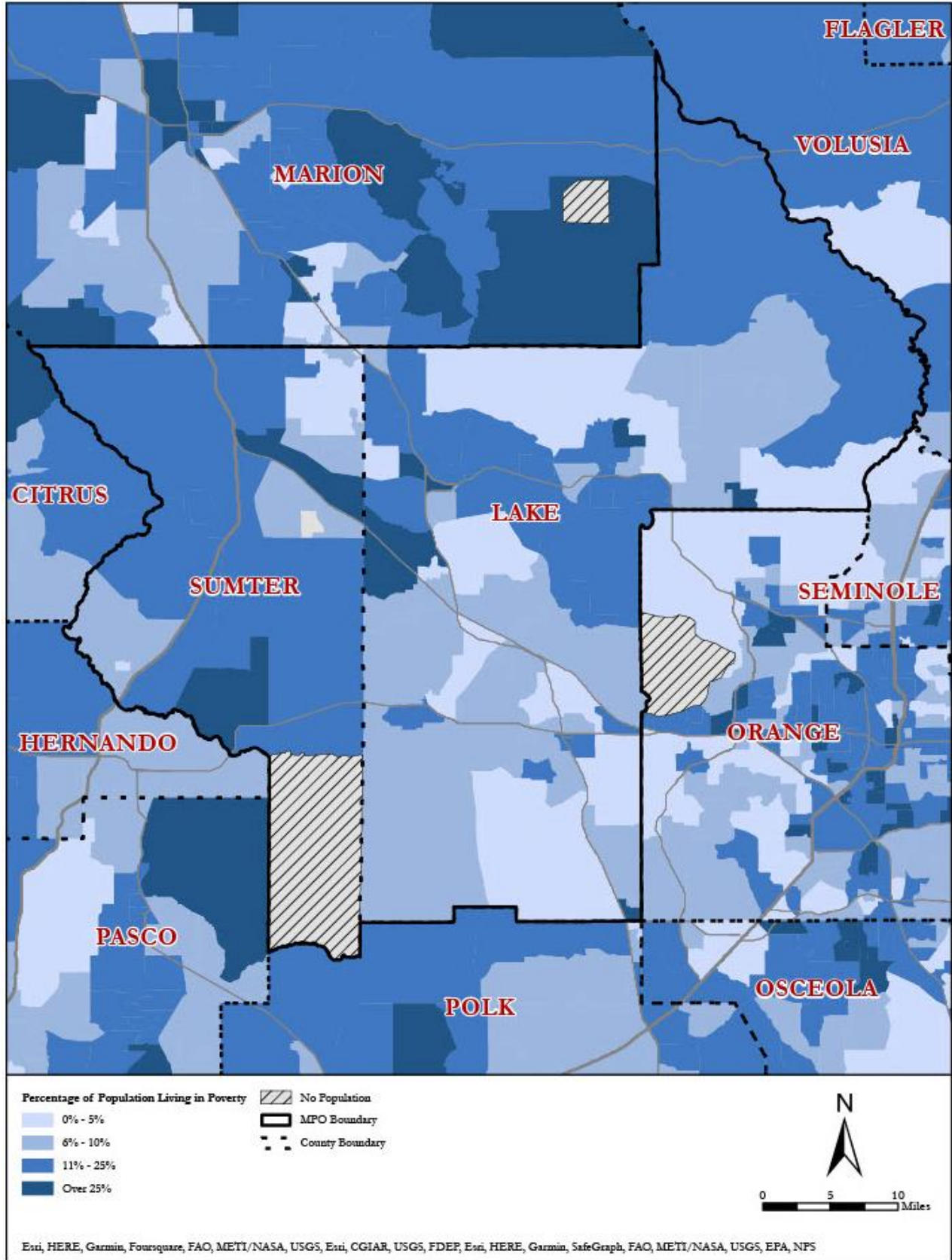


Figure 5. Lake~Sumter MPO Planning Area Minority Group Populations

