

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Immigrant Investor Program
131 M Street, NE, Mailstop 2235
Washington, DC 20529



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

Date: November 6, 2023

Smith Texarkana Regional Center, LLC
C/O Stephen H. Smith
9500 Roosevelt Way NE, Suite 300
Seattle, WA 98115

Application: Form I-956
Application for Regional Center Designation

Applicant(s): Smith Texarkana Regional Center, LLC

Re: Initial Regional Center Designation
INF2300003396 / RC2300003396

On April 4, 2023, Smith Texarkana Regional Center, LLC ("the Regional Center") filed a Form I-956 to request designation as a regional center under the Regional Center Program (the "Program") in accordance with section 203(b)(5)(E) of the Immigration and Nationality Act ("INA").

Effective as of the date of this notice, USCIS approves the Form I-956 and designates Smith Texarkana Regional Center, LLC as a regional center under the Program. The regional center designation is non-transferable.

Legal Notice: This approval and designation of a regional center under the Regional Center Program does not constitute or imply an endorsement or recommendation by USCIS, the United States Government or any instrumentality thereof, of the investment opportunities, projects or other business activities related to or undertaken by such regional center. Except as expressly set forth in this approval and designation, USCIS has not reviewed any information provided in connection with or otherwise related to the regional center for compliance with relevant securities laws or any other laws unrelated to eligibility for designation as a regional center. Accordingly, USCIS makes no determination or representation whatsoever regarding the compliance of either the regional center or its associated new commercial enterprises and job creating entities with such laws.

I. Regional Center Designation

A. Geographic Area

Under INA § 203(b)(5)(E)(iii), “[a] regional center shall operate within a defined, contiguous, and limited geographic area, which shall be described in the proposal and be consistent with the purpose of concentrating pooled investment within such area.”

The applicant has been approved to operate within the following geographic area:

States	Counties/Cities	Census Tracts
Arkansas	All counties	N/A
Louisiana	All counties	N/A
Oklahoma	All counties	N/A
Texas	All counties	N/A

II. Annual Statement and Integrity Fund

Regional centers approved for participation in the Program must submit Form I-956G, Regional Center Annual Statement, to provide information and certifications regarding compliance with Program requirements in accordance with INA § 203(b)(5)(G). Regional Centers should refer to Form I-956G and Form I-956G Instructions for the specific evidentiary and filing requirements.

Failure to file Form I-956G in a timely manner for each federal fiscal year in which the Regional Center has been designated will result in sanctions, and may ultimately result in the termination of the approval and designation of the Regional Center. USCIS will review each annual statement and will notify the Regional Center should the statement be inadequate.

Every year on October 1, each designated regional center with 20 or fewer total investors in the preceding fiscal year in its NCEs must pay \$10,000 to the EB-5 Integrity Fund (the “Fund”). Designated regional centers with 21 or more petitioners in the preceding fiscal year must pay \$20,000 to the Fund.

USCIS will impose a reasonable penalty, which shall be deposited into the Fund, if the Regional Center does not pay the fee required within 30 days after the date on which such fee is due. USCIS may sanction, and ultimately terminate, any regional center that does not pay the fee required within 90 days after the date on which the fee is due.

III. Record Keeping and Audits

Under INA § 203(b)(5)(E)(vii), each regional center shall make and preserve, during the 5-year period beginning on the last day of the Federal fiscal year in which any transactions occurred, books, ledgers, records, and other documentation from the Regional Center, NCEs, or JCEs used to support any claims, evidence or certifications contained in the regional center's annual statements and associated petitioners by aliens seeking classification.

USCIS shall audit each regional center not less frequently than once every 5 years. Each audit shall include a review of any documentation required to be maintained for the preceding 5 years and a review of the flow of alien investor capital into any capital investment project. USCIS may terminate the designation of a regional center that fails to consent to an audit or deliberately attempts to impede such an audit.

IV. Persons Involved with the Regional Center

Under INA § 203(b)(5)(H)(iv), a regional center may not knowingly involve a person with the regional center in violation of INA § 203(b)(5)(H)(i) or (ii). Within 14 days of acquiring knowledge that a person was involved with the regional center in violation of INA § 203(b)(5)(H)(i) or (ii), the regional center must take commercially reasonable efforts to discontinue the prohibited person's involvement and/or provide notice to the Secretary.

V. Securities Law Oversight and Records Requirements

Under INA § 203(b)(5)(I)(iii), each regional center shall use commercially reasonable efforts to monitor and supervise compliance with the securities laws in relations to all offers, purchases, and sales of, and investment advice relating to, securities made by parties associated with the regional center. The regional center must maintain records, data, and information relating to all such offers, purchases, sales, and investment advice during the 5-year period beginning on the date of their creation. The regional center must also make the records, data, and information available to the Secretary or to the Securities and Exchange Commission upon request.

VI. Written Agreements with Direct and Third-Party Promoters

Under INA § 203(b)(5)(K)(iii), each regional center, NCE, and affiliated JCE must maintain a written agreement between or among such entities and each direct or third-party promoter operating on behalf of such entities that outlines the rules and standards prescribed under INA § 203(b)(5)(K)(i).

VII. Fund Administration

Under INA § 203(b)(5)(Q), each NCE sponsored by the regional center shall deposit and maintain the capital investment of each alien investor in a separate account, including amounts held in escrow. The amounts may only be transferred to another separate account or a JCE; be deployed into the capital

investment project for which the funds were intended; or be transferred to the alien investor who contributed the funds as a refund of that investor's capital investment, if permitted.

If amounts are transferred to an affiliated JCE, the affiliated JCE shall maintain such amounts in a separate account until deployed into the capital investment project for which they were intended; and, not later than 30 days after the amounts are deployed provide written notice to the fund administrator that a construction consultant or other individual authorized verified that the amounts have been deployed into the project.

The fund administrator shall be independent of, and not directly related to, the new commercial enterprise, the regional center associated with the new commercial enterprise, the job creating entity, or any of the principals or managers of such entities. The fund administrator shall monitor and track any transfer of amounts from the separate account; serve as a cosignatory on all separate accounts; verify that the transfer complies with all governing documents, including organizational, operational, and investment documents; and approve such transfer with a written or electronic signature.

VIII. Requirements for Regional Center Investors

A petitioner seeking to pool his or her investment with 1 or more additional petitioners seeking classification under INA § 203(b)(5) must file a Form I-526E, Petition for Classification by Regional Center Investor, for such classification under the Program in accordance with INA § 203(b)(5)(E). A petitioner filing for classification under INA § 203(b)(5)(E) may file a petition with the Secretary only after the Regional Center has filed a Form I-956F, Application for Approval of an Investment in a Commercial Enterprise, in accordance with INA § 203(b)(5)(F), and the petitioner should include the receipt notice of their associated Form I-956F with their petition for classification under INA § 203(b)(5)(E).

If the applicant has any questions concerning the regional center designation under the Program, please contact USCIS by email at:

USCIS.ImmigrantInvestorProgram@uscis.dhs.gov

Smith Texarkana Regional Center, LLC

RC2300003396

INF2300003396

Page 5

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alissa Emmel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "A" and "E".

Alissa L. Emmel

Chief Immigrant Investor Program

cc: Robert C. Divine, Esq.
Baker Donelson
633 Chestnut St., Suite 1900
Chattanooga, TN 37450