



THIRD ROUND PROMISE ZONES DESIGNATION



PROMISE ZONE COMPETITION

The Obama Administration invites a new round of eligible applicants to apply for a Promise Zone designation. Urban, rural, and tribal communities nationwide are invited to put forward plans to address multiple community revitalization challenges in a collaborative way.

Any community meeting the eligibility criteria can apply for a designation. HUD and USDA will designate 7 Promise Zones across urban, rural and tribal communities in the Spring of 2016.

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

A non-binding [Application Request Form](#) is due **by February 19, 2016 EST**. All Application submissions must be received **by 5:00pm EST on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 via MAX Survey**.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility	Urban	Rural/Tribal
Contiguous boundary ¹	Proposed Promise Zone must have one contiguous boundary and cannot include separate geographic areas.	Rural and tribal Promise Zones must encompass one or more census tract(s) across a contiguous geography; tribal applicants may have non-contiguous areas.
The rate of overall poverty or Extremely Low Income Rate whichever is greater. ²	Must be at or above 32.5 percent.	Must be at or above 20 percent and must contain at least one census tract with a poverty rate at or above 30 percent.
Lead Applicant	UGLG; ³ An office/department of a local government submitting on behalf of the local government under a local delegation of authority; The following entities must apply in partnership with local government: Nonprofit organizations; ⁴ Public Housing Agencies; Community Colleges; Local Education Agencies; Metropolitan Planning Organizations. ⁵	UGLG and Federally recognized tribes; The following entities must apply in partnership with local or tribal government: Nonprofit organizations, Public Housing Agencies; Tribal Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs); Local Education Agencies; Community Colleges.
Population	Minimum 10,000 and Maximum 200,000 residents.	Minimum 10,000 and Maximum 200,000. May not include incorporated municipalities or unincorporated areas with individual populations greater than 50,000.
Letter of Support	Local leadership, including the mayors or chief executives of UGLGs.	Local leadership of UGLGs or tribal areas.
Applications per jurisdiction	One per UGLG.	One per UGLG or tribal area.

¹ Applicants are required to use the Promise Zone mapping tool to show both the boundary and the poverty levels. The mapping tool emails this information as a PDF to the applicant. This PDF, in its entirety, must be included in the application. See page [33](#) for more information on the mapping tool.

² See definition of Extremely Low Income Rate on page 11 of urban application guide.

³ See Definition for UGLG on page 11 of urban application guide.

⁴ Including Workforce Investment Boards(WIBS) and Community Action Agencies(CAA). Examples are illustrative and not exhaustive. See Definition of nonprofit on page 29.

⁵ See Definitions for Urban Lead Applicant and urban subcategories on pages 11-14 of urban application guide.

PROMISE ZONES INITIATIVE

OVERVIEW

In his 2013 State of the Union address, President Obama announced his plan to work with local communities and businesses to create jobs, increase economic security, expand educational opportunities, increase access to quality, affordable housing and improve public safety by creating 20 “Promise Zones” across the country. On January 9, 2014, the first urban, rural, and tribal Promise Zones were announced in a ceremony at the White House. They are located in: San Antonio, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Southeastern Kentucky, and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. On April 28, 2015, the Obama Administration announced eight additional promise zones. The second round promise zones are: Camden, NJ; Hartford, CT; Indianapolis, IN; Minneapolis, MN; Sacramento, CA; St. Louis, MO; South Carolina Low Country; and Pine Ridge Indian Reservation of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, SD.

For communities selected, the federal government will partner to help the Promise Zones access the resources and expertise they need. To date, there are 13 federal agencies working in close collaboration to provide resources and expertise to urban, rural, and tribal Promise Zones to expand economic mobility and opportunity in their communities.

BENEFITS

Promise Zone Designees receive:

- Opportunity to engage Five AmeriCorps VISTA members in the Promise Zone.
- A federal liaison assigned to assist with navigating federal programs.
- Preferences for certain competitive federal programs and technical assistance from participating agencies.
- Promise Zone tax incentives if enacted by Congress.

Promise Zone designations will have a term of ten years and may be extended as necessary to capture the full term of availability of the Promise Zone tax incentives if enacted by Congress.

During this term, the specific benefits made available to Promise Zones will vary from year to year, and sometimes more often than annually, due to changes in the agency policies and changes in appropriations and authorizations for relevant programs. All assistance provided to Promise Zones is subject to applicable regulations, statutes, and changes in federal agency policies, appropriations, and authorizations for relevant programs. For a list of the participating federal agencies, along with the programs affiliated with the Promise Zone initiative, visit [HUD's website](#).

RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

Read more about the urban, rural and tribal application guides, *the Frequently Asked Questions*, and the schedule for informational webcasts and webinars on [HUD's website](#).

Application related questions should be directed by email to: Promisezones@hud.gov.

To receive information about upcoming webcasts, webinars, and funding and technical assistance opportunities, please join the [Promise Zone mailing list](#).