

# USDA Support for Opportunity Zones

## Rural Development Priority Programs

**USDA stands ready to partner with rural communities in Opportunity Zones to help attract investors and create jobs. USDA Rural Development has several programs that communities can use to finance projects to build critical infrastructure and improve community services.**

**Currently, the agency has five programs that offer priority points for fiscal year 2020 applications for projects located in Opportunity Zones:**

- [Rural Business Development Grants](#)
- [Solid Waste Management Grants](#)
- [ReConnect Pilot Program](#)
- [Water and Waste Disposal Technical Assistance and Training Grants](#)
- [Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants](#)

### What are Opportunity Zones?

Opportunity Zones bring long-term investments to low-income communities, creating economic activity and jobs. Congress created them in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. They are designated by governors and certified by the U.S. Department of Treasury.

Opportunity Zones provide tax incentives for private-sector investors to deploy capital into the zones. By investing in Opportunity Zones, investors may defer capital gains taxes if they hold their investments for at least five years. Investors are exempt from capital gains taxes if they hold the investments for 10 years.

### Opportunity Zones and Rural Prosperity

Opportunity Zones are expected to generate \$100 billion in private capital investment and bring economic opportunity to American communities that need it most.

### Did you know?

- 23 percent of all Opportunity Zones are in rural communities.
- 35 million Americans live in rural Opportunity Zones.
- 294 Opportunity Zones contain Native American lands.

### For More Information

For more information on prioritized Rural Development financing, contact your [local USDA Rural Development state office](#) or [Jamie.Davenport@usda.gov](mailto:Jamie.Davenport@usda.gov).

To learn more about Opportunity Zones, please visit <https://www.cdfifund.gov/Pages/Opportunity-Zones.aspx> or <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/opportunity-zones-frequently-asked-questions>.

---

**NOTE: Because citations and other information may be subject to change, please always consult the program instructions listed in the section above titled “For More Information.” You may also contact your [local office](#) for assistance. You will find additional forms, resources, and program information at [rd.usda.gov](http://rd.usda.gov). *USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.***