The newly created **Opportunity Zone Program** is designed to drive long-term capital to distressed communities by providing tax benefits on investments in Opportunity Funds, or “O Funds”. This concept – originally introduced in the **Investing in Opportunity Act** (IIOA) – is the first new community development tax incentive program introduced since the Clinton Administration.
UNDERSTANDING
Opportunity Zones
Communities
A given census tract is a Low-Income Community if it meets at least one of the following requirements:

- The tract has at least a **20%** poverty rate.
- The median family income in the tract is **below** a certain threshold.
- The tract’s population is less than **2,000** people AND it is **within** an empowerment zone AND is **contiguous** with another Low-Income community.
Tracts must meet both of to be eligible for designation under this part of the program:

- Be contiguous with at least one Low-Income Community that has been designated as an Opportunity Zone.
- Have a median family income that does not exceed 125 percent of the median family income of at least one contiguous Low-Income Community.
A jurisdiction identifies 201 low-income communities.

- OR -

51 (or 25%) can be designated as Opportunity Zones

48 with an additional 3 (or 5%) contiguous tracts can be designated as Opportunity Zones
OPPORTUNITY ZONES EXPLORER TOOL

Tracts must meet both of to be eligible for designation under this part of the program:

- Determine eligibility using both 2015 and 2016 ACS data and download the data;
- Overlay federal program data to assist with designation strategies

https://www.enterprisecommunity.org/opportunity360/opportunity-zone-eligibility-tool
THANK YOU

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