

OPPORTUNITY ZONE NOMINATION TOOL INFORMATION COLLECTION

The Community Development Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund) is soliciting public comment on this proposed information collection through the Opportunity Zone (OZ) Nomination Tool, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A). The OZ Nomination Tool is an online form submitted using the CDFI Fund's Awards Management Information System (AMIS). The CDFI Fund intends to collect the below information from the 50 states, U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia (collectively, "States") that wish to nominate certain census tracts as Qualified Opportunity Zones (QOZs).

The OZ Nomination Tool, and instructions for how States should use the Tool to submit QOZ nominations, will be available on the CDFI Fund's website in the Summer of 2026.

Background

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA; Pub. L. 115-97) created a tax incentive for investors who reinvest eligible capital gains into Qualified Opportunity Funds (QOFs) that in turn deploy these resources into certain distressed census tracts in the States which may be designated as Qualified Opportunity Zones (QOZs). A QOF is an investment vehicle that is organized as a corporation or partnership for the purpose of investing in QOZ property (other than another QOF). QOZs are certain low-income community (LIC) eligible census tracts nominated by the States, and certified and designated by the Secretary of the Treasury (Secretary). Taxpayers who invest in a QOZ can receive certain tax benefits for their investments as an incentive to improve economic growth and job creation in underserved communities.

Section 70421 of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA, Pub. L. 119-21), signed into law on July 4, 2025, made the QOZ incentives permanent and, pertinent to this collection of information, established new dates by which eligible census tracts may be nominated as a QOZ by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of a State. The designation period for the first set of new QOZs will begin on July 1, 2026, with additional rounds of designations to follow every ten years thereafter. New approved designations will become effective as of January 1, 2027, and will remain in effect for a similar ten-year period. To take advantage of this incentive, State CEOs must nominate eligible census tracts for designation as a QOZ during a 90-day period, subject to a single 30-day extension period, beginning on July 1, 2026. The Secretary certifies such nominations and designates the eligible census tract as a QOZ within 30 days of receiving notice from the CEO that the State has made its nomination. In response to these statutory requirements, the CDFI Fund will reinstate the OZ Nomination Tool, which will assist the Secretary in the certification and designation process.

Information To Be Collected

The OZ Nomination Tool will collect the following basic information from States' CEOs:

1. **State Name**
2. **State EIN/TIN**
3. **State Chief Executive Officer**
4. **Contact Information for Individual Who Prepared the Nomination Tool**
 - a. Full Name (First Name, Last Name)
 - b. Title
 - c. Phone
 - d. Email

Opportunity Zone Nomination

The OZ Nomination Tool will also collect the following data from States:

1. List of nominated **Opportunity Zone Low-Income Communities (LICs)**

Low Income Communities (LICs) are defined in Title VII, Chapter 4, Subchapter C, Section 70421 of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (Pub. L. 119-21) as follows:

“(c) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—“(1) LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES.—The term ‘low-income community’ means any population census tract if—“(A) such population census tract has a median family income that—“(i) in the case of a population census tract not located within a metropolitan area, does not exceed 70 percent of the statewide median family income, or “(ii) in the case of a population census tract located within a metropolitan area, does not exceed 70 percent of the metropolitan area median family income, or “(B) such population census tract—“(i) has a poverty rate of at least 20 percent, and “(ii) has a median family income that—“(I) in the case of a population census tract not located within a metropolitan area, does not exceed 125 percent of the statewide median family income, or “(II) in the case of a population census tract located within a metropolitan area, does not exceed 125 percent of the metropolitan area median family income.”.

Summary Tabulation

The OZ Nomination Tool will include a visual display summarizing the total number of eligible census tracts as set forth in 26 USC §1400Z-1(d).

Submitting a Nomination

The CDFI Fund will provide full instructions for how to submit a nomination when the OZ Nomination Tool is available later in Summer of 2026.