



C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor
Bobbi-Jo Meuleman, Director

Application for Opportunity Zone Designation

NOTE! The U.S. Department of the Treasury has not completed its rule making on the Opportunity Zone program. At this time the Department of Commerce is collecting applications for qualifying census zone tracts to be designated an Opportunity Zone. Selection criteria will be determined upon publication of the U.S. Department of the Treasury rules. All communications, maps, documents and applications related to the Opportunity Zone and provided by the Department of Commerce are for planning purposes only and may be subject to change based upon the U.S. Department of the Treasury's final rule.

What is an Opportunity Zone?

Opportunity Zones are a new community development program established by Congress in the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017 to encourage long-term investments in low-income urban and rural communities. Private investment vehicles that place 90% or more of their funds into an Opportunity Zone can earn tax breaks on the capital gains generated through those investments. Tax benefits increase the longer the investments are in place. A more thorough explanation of the tax benefits can be read [here](#). The tracts are U.S. Census tracts that meet the U.S. Treasury Department's qualifications for New Market Income Tax credits. These are U.S. Census tracts where the poverty rate is 20% or greater and/or family income is 80% or less area income. Idaho has 109 eligible tracts.

How does the program work?

The governor of each state may designate up to 25% of its "low income census tracts" as Opportunity Zones subject to approval from the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Idaho may designate up to 27 Opportunity Zones. To help identify eligible census tracts and communities interested in an Opportunity Zone designation, Idaho Commerce has created this short application. Please take the following steps to research low income census tracts and submit a request for Opportunity Zone designation if eligible.

Step 1. Is your community located in one of the following counties: Ada, Adams, Bannock, Benewah, Bingham, Bonner, Bonneville, Boundary, Camas, Canyon, Cassia, Clark, Clearwater, Elmore, Gem, Gooding, Jerome, Kootenai, Latah, Lewis, Madison, Minidoka, Nez Perce, Owyhee, Payette, Shoshone, Twin Falls, Valley, or Washington?

If No, STOP, you are not eligible to apply for Opportunity Zone designation. If yes, proceed to Step 2.

Step 2. Does your community contain an eligible census tract? This determination can be made by locating the community on the official [New Market Tax Credit eligibility map](#) (Map). Use the zoom on the left of the screen, or enter an address or zip code in the search bar on the top right, to zoom in on your community in Idaho. Next select the legend button located on the right hand side of the screen by clicking on the image that looks like a stack of paper. When the legend opens select "**2011-2015 Census Tract All**" to display the eligible census tracts. Eligible census tracts appear as shaded areas on the map. Zoom in or out to

see the tract boundaries. Your web browser will require Adobe Flash-player to display the map. You can download and install Adobe Flash-player for free [here](#).

*If No, **STOP**, you are not eligible to apply for Opportunity Zone designation. If yes, proceed to Step 3.*

Step 3. Applicants must self identify each eligible tract they wish to be considered for an Opportunity Zone designation and submit **ONE APPLICATION FOR EACH REQUESTED DESIGNATION**. Many communities may contain a mix of eligible and ineligible census tracts. Use the map to identify each census tract number by clicking on an area of the map to display a pop up box. The box will contain the census tract number, the population, median income percentage and poverty rate for each census tract you will apply for designation. You will need this information to complete the application. *If you are nominating more than one census tract you must prioritize each tract.*

Once you have determined eligibility and gathered your census tract number and other data, proceed to the application questions.

2018 Application for Opportunity Zone Designation

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE'S ONLINE PORTAL. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS ARE CITIES, COUNTIES AND TRIBES. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS WITH EXISTING PORTAL ACCESS SHOULD USE THE SAME USER NAME TO ACCESS THE APPLICATION. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS THAT DO NOT HAVE EXISTING PORTAL ACCESS CAN REQUEST ACCESS BY EMAILING: grants@commerce.idaho.gov

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You must submit one application for each Opportunity Zone designation you are seeking. The last seven questions allow for a maximum of 3,000 characters (2 long paragraphs). Start typing and a bar will show your progress.

Question: Enter the census tract number you are requesting to have designated as an Opportunity Zone. Enter the number exactly like this: 2011-2015 Census Tract 16001000202.

Question: If you are applying for more than one Opportunity Zone designation you must rank your applications in your preferred order of priority. Enter the rank of this specific application in the following format: x of x. (For example 3 of 5 or 1 of 5, etc.).

Question: What is the population of the census tract identified in the first question?

Question: What is the median income % of the census tract identified in the first question?

Question: What is the poverty rate % of the census tract identified in the first question?

Question: Describe the current state of the census zone tract. Include a brief description of the positive and negative features of the tract as well as the features of any contiguous tracts?

Question: Does this census zone tract have any environmental or health and safety issues that need to be resolved before development could begin? Could those issues be resolved through development?

Question: Describe your community's current relationship with businesses and property owners in this census tract. Describe any recent development activity, such as businesses starting, housing developments, or other investments in or around the area.

Question: Has the census tract area experienced any significant layoffs due to business closures or relocations? If yes, provide information about the layoffs (number of jobs, type of businesses etc.).

Question: Describe the type of industry/business that you anticipate may be interested in developing this census zone tract. Is there a niche market opportunity, specialized workforce available, housing development opportunity or other infrastructure advantage?

Question: Briefly explain what it would mean to your community to have this census tract designated as an Opportunity Zone.

Signature & Submission

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Your identity has been authenticated through the login process with a unique email address and password available only to you. You agree that by typing your name, title and date below, you are electronically signing the application. By electronically signing the application, you acknowledge and represent that you understand and accept all the terms and conditions stated within the application and declare that the information provided is true. You further declare that you have been authorized by the applicant entity named herein, to submit this application.

Question: Type your full name

Not Answered

Question: Type your title

Not Answered