

# **Opportunity Zones**

July 12, 2018



## **Opportunity Zones Background**

- Enacted in tax reform (Tax Cuts and Jobs Act)
  - Investing in Opportunity Act, bipartisan support (114<sup>th</sup>, 115<sup>th</sup> Congress)
  - Senators Scott and Booker, Congressmen Tiberi and Kind
  - Economic Innovation Group
- Tax benefits to encourage individuals and corporations to invest in distressed communities – Opportunity Zones
  - IRS will oversee, not a tax program
  - No reporting requirements, state oversight, or investment mandates
- Opportunity Fund vehicle could reduce transactional friction and connect investors to overlooked but credit-worthy investment opportunities
- Equity investments in growth-stage businesses and real estate
  - Intent was to spur economic growth and job creation



#### **Overview of Structure**

Private Capital:
Investment
income subject to
capital gains tax
~ \$6 trillion market

Investment Vehicle:
Opportunity

Fund

#### \*Investments must occur within Opportunity Zones

- distressed census tracts (same basis as NMTC QCTs) or contiguous tracts. Ineligible investments in "sin businesses" analogous to NMTC program apply.

#### **Eligible Investments\***

Capital or profits interest in a domestic partnership

Stock in a domestic corporation

Tangible property used in a trade or business of the Fund (substantial improvement)

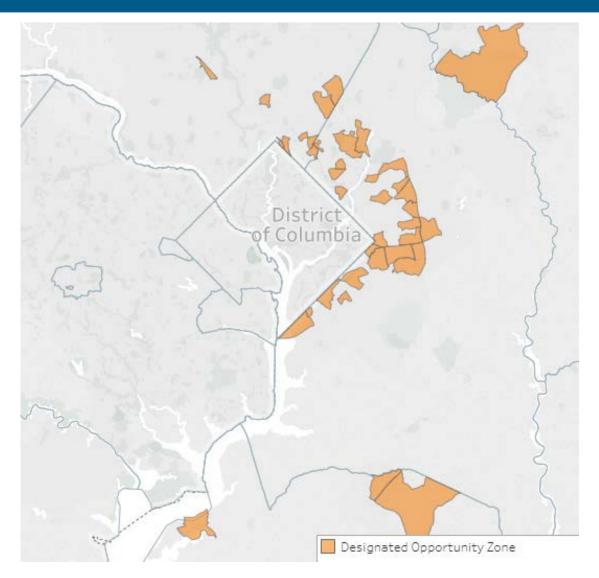


## Opportunity Zones – Washington, D.C, Maryland, Virginia

- 96 Opportunity Zones within Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments footprint (May 2018)
  - District of Columbia: 25 census tracts
  - Suburban Maryland: 47 census tracts
  - Northern Virginia: 24 census tracts
- Statistics of these Opportunity Zones
  - Poverty Rate: 20%
  - Median Family Income: \$63,000
  - Total Population: 435,854

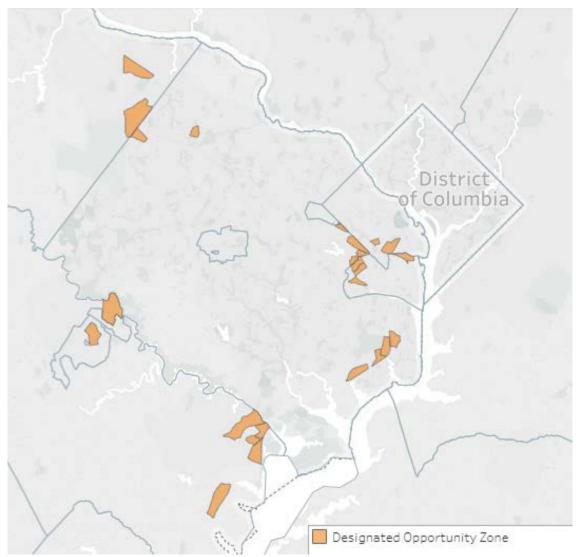


# **Opportunity Zones – Maryland**



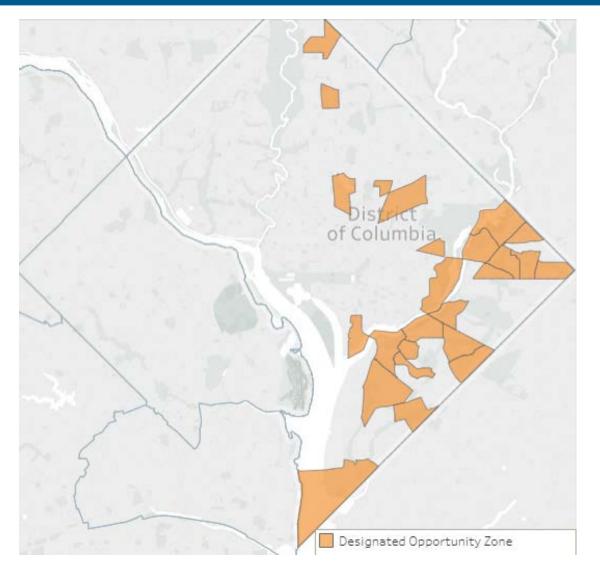


# **Opportunity Zones – Virginia**





## **Opportunity Zones – Washington, D.C.**





### What's Next for States, Cities and Communities

- Key moment for public sector leaders and local stakeholders to get involved. Ensure that investments will:
  - Foster equitable and inclusive economic development
  - Expand access to opportunity for existing residents, local businesses
- Harness existing tools and create new tools and strategies to:
  - Protect residents and business owners from displacement
  - Attract investment aligned with local priorities and community needs
  - Ensure transparency and monitoring of investments



## **Inclusive Growth: Prevent Displacement, Attract Investment**

### Balancing need to prevent displacement and attract investment

#### Prevent Displacement

- Engage existing residents and businesses in small area planning
- Proactive approach to protecting and creating affordable homes and commercial space
  - Example: 27% of residents in Opportunity Zones pay more than half of their income on housing. States and mayors can begin planning to direct resources that ensure subsidized affordable housing stock is preserved.

#### Attract Investment

- Online Portal Make data available, inventory local assets
- Site Tours and Education Convene investors, developers, businesses, philanthropy, community stakeholders, etc.
- Letters of Interest Investors and Fund Managers
- Incent certain types of activity leverage add-on incentives, gap financing, risk mitigation
- Create public funds partner with local financial intermediaries to facilitate deal flow.

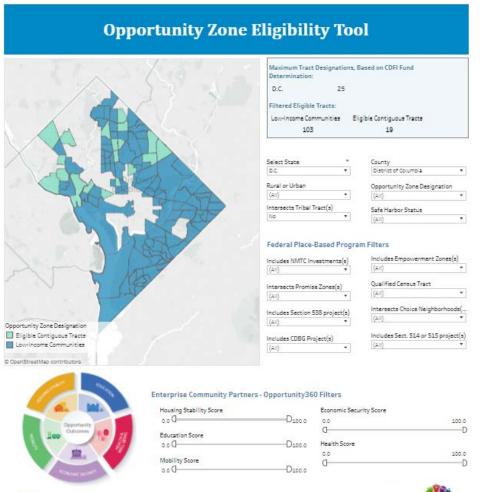
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## **Transparency and Monitoring**

- Uncertain what reporting requirements will be mandated at federal level, and whether that data will be made available to public.
- Advocacy efforts to implement the framework suggested by Congress for tracking and evaluating investment activity and its impact in local communities
  - Joint Economic Committee hearing <u>The Promise of Opportunity Zones</u>
- States and local jurisdictions should collect transaction-level data so that the public and Congress can evaluate the program's effectiveness
  - Can tie disclosure requirements to state-level resources. Has this property or business received Opportunity Fund investments?



## **Opportunity360 Mapping Tool**



#### **Overlays**

- QCT vs Contiguous
- Rural/urban
- Tribal/non-tribal
- Safe Harbor status
- NMTC investments
- Empowerment Zones
- Promise Zones
- Section 538 projects
- Choice Neighborhoods
- CDBG investments
- Section 514/515 projects

#### **Opportunity360 Toggles**

- Housing Stability
- Economic, Health
- Mobility, Education





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#### **Additional Resources**

CDFI Fund, Treasury - Opportunity Zones Resource Page

Economic Innovation Group - Opportunity Zones Landing Page

Council of Development Finance Agencies – Resource Page

#### **Enterprise Community Partners** - Opportunity Zones Information Page

Letter to Treasury on Opportunity Zones Implementation

Updated Opportunity360 Maps

New Podcast: Opportunity Zones – Promises and Pitfalls

Blog Posts: tax benefits for investors, letter to Treasury, etc.

Additional Information and Reading

Sign-up for Breaking News!

Rachel Reilly - Reilly@enterprisecommunity.org www.OpportunityZonesInfo.org



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