

# FY15 Promise Zone Benefits from Partnering Agencies

**Agency:** United States  
Department of Agriculture

**Programs with PZ Benefits:**  
Self-Help  
Section 523 TA Grants

## Self-Help Section 523 TA Grants

**Website:** [http://rurdev.sc.egov.usda.gov/HAD-Self-Help\\_Grants.html](http://rurdev.sc.egov.usda.gov/HAD-Self-Help_Grants.html)

**Benefit Type:** Technical Assistance Grants

**Eligible Communities:** Rural, Tribal

**Benefits to Promise Zone:** Self-Help Section 523 TA Grants serve only very low- and low-income areas. Through this existing priority, the program can provide grantees and grant applicants contributing to Promise Zone strategies with program benefits.

**Eligible Applicants:** Any State, political subdivision, private or public nonprofit corporation is eligible to apply.

**Funding Amount:** Technical Assistance Grant amounts are directly correlated to the number of homes the grantee proposes to construct in a two year period. Grants range from approximately \$200,000 to over \$1 million, with an average of approximately \$500,000.

**Program Description:** Self-Help Technical Assistance Grants provide financial assistance to qualified nonprofit organizations and public bodies that will aid needy very low and low-income individuals and their families to build homes in rural areas by the self-help method. Section 523 Grants are used to pay salaries, rent, and office expenses of the nonprofit organization. Pre-development grants up to \$10,000 may be available to qualified organizations.

Eligible organizations may use technical assistance funds to hire the personnel to carry out a technical assistance program for self-help housing in rural areas; to pay necessary and reasonable office and administrative expenses; to purchase or rent equipment such as power tools for use by families participating in self-help housing construction; and to pay fees for training self-help group members in construction techniques or for other professional services needed. Funds will not be used to hire personnel to perform any construction work, to buy real estate or building materials, or pay any debts, expenses or costs other than previously outlined for participating families in self-help projects.

**Application:** Applications are handled by USDA Rural Development field offices. To file an application, contact the [local Rural Development office](#) in your area.