

# FY16 Promise Zone Benefits from Partnering Agencies

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services

**Programs with PZ Benefits:**  
CED—Healthy Food Financing Initiative  
Projects

## Community Economic Development Program Healthy Food Financing Initiative Projects

**Website:** <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/community-economic-development/healthy-food-financing>

**Benefit Type:** Grant Competition

**Eligible Communities:** Urban, Rural, Tribal

**Application Deadline:** April 27, 2016

**Eligible Applicants:** Private, non-profit Community Development Corporations (CDCs) with experience in managing economic development projects. This would also include Tribal CDCs with an IRA non-profit status. CDCs must: be governed by a tripartite board of directors that consists of residents of the community served, local businesses, and civic leaders; and have planning, developing, or managing low-income housing or community development projects as their principal purpose.

**Program Description:** The Office of Community Services (OCS) will award up to \$9.5 million in grants (\$800,000 maximum per project) to Community Development Corporations (CDCs) for projects designed to address food deserts; improve access to healthy, affordable foods; and address the economic needs of low-income individuals and families through the creation of business and employment opportunities. CED projects are expected to actively recruit low-income individuals to fill the positions created by CED/HFFI funded development activities, and to assist those individuals to successfully hold those jobs and ensure that the businesses and jobs created remain viable for at least one year after the end of the grant period. CED/HFFI funded projects can be non-construction or construction projects. The grant period for non-construction projects is 3 years; for construction projects, the grant period is 5 years. The CED program permits facility construction as need to support business creation, business expansion, and/or job creation.

**Background:** HHS, U.S. Department of the Treasury, and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) are working together to support projects to increase access to healthy, affordable food in low-income neighborhoods that lack access to health food options. These three agencies aim to expand the availability of nutritious food through the establishment of healthy food retail outlets, including developing and equipping grocery stores, small retailers, corner stores, and farmer markets to help revitalize neighborhoods that currently lack these options.

OCS is encouraging applications from CDCs that target rural areas and underserved areas, and from 30 states and territories that do not have active CED projects.

**Benefits to Promise Zone:** CED applicants involved in the Promise Zone initiative, the applicant can receive bonus points provided that the application demonstrates that the proposed project is located in the shared designated target areas that align with the Promise Zones Initiative or Choice Neighborhoods Program. The applicant must provide a signed letter and complete the OMB form documenting the extent of involvement/ collaboration with these initiatives, and clearly outline roles and responsibilities and any support and/or resources provided as a result of this partnership.

**Funding Opportunities:** For updates on funding, please visit:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/foa/index.cfm?switch=searchresult&type=office&param=OCS&page=OCS>.