



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-7000

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

April 22, 2019

Dear Community Partners:

Regarding HUD's newest Request for Information (RFI) in the Federal Register, we are seeking input from your members on ways we can leverage HUD's tools and resources to maximize the positive impact of Opportunity Zones. Created by the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Opportunity Zones are distressed communities in which investors can earn tax benefits for making new, qualified investments in designated areas.

As the Chair of the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council, HUD Secretary Benjamin S. Carson, Sr. is very interested in creating levers HUD can pull to make Opportunity Zones vibrant economic engines for their residents. When responding to the RFI, we ask that you not be wary of making outside the box suggestions. Feel free to answer as many of the questions as you like, but HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD) is particularly interested in your thoughts on these questions specifically:

- What actions can HUD take under existing authorities to minimize all of the regulatory and administrative costs and burdens that discourage public and private investment in urban and economically distressed communities, including Opportunity Zones?
- What tools can HUD provide to make local communities, investors and other stakeholders more aware of the full range of applicable federal financing programs and incentives available to projects located in urban and economically distressed areas, including Opportunity Zones?

If you have any additional questions, please contact Larry Jackson, CPD Program Advisor, via email at Larry.B.Jackson@hud.gov. Thank you for all the work that you do in support of HUD's mission and we look forward to hearing your ideas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David C. Woll, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

David C. Woll, Jr.
Acting Assistant Secretary for
Community Planning and Development