



CDBG 2008 Application Cycle Special Community Designations

State Enterprise Zones (Section 290.0065, Florida Statutes)

Florida's Enterprise Zone program was created to provide tax incentives and benefits to businesses locating in economically-distressed areas and to encourage the provision of employment for residents of such areas. This public-private partnership creates a favorable business climate that spurs the social, economic, and community development of distressed areas. An **Enterprise Zone**, designated by the State of Florida, is an area targeted for economic revitalization. Tax savings are offered to businesses that are located within a designated Enterprise Zone who employ zone residents, rehabilitate real property or purchase business equipment. Tax incentives are also available to businesses who pay either the Florida Corporate Income Tax or the Florida Sales and Use. The following communities have a designated **Enterprise Zones** located within their jurisdiction:

Bradenton	Gainesville	Miami - Dade County
Brooksville/Hernando County	Glades County	Oak Hill
Broward County	Gulf County	Okeechobee County
Calhoun County	Hamilton County	Orange County
Century County	Hardee County	Pahokee
Clearwater	Hendry County	Palm Beach County
Cocoa	Highlands County	Palmetto/Manatee County
Crestview/Okaloosa County	Hillsborough County	Pensacola
Daytona Beach	Holmes County	Putnam County
DeFuniak Springs	Immokalee (Collier County)	St. Marks
DeSoto County	Indian River County/Vero Beach	St. Petersburg
Escambia County	Jackson County	Sarasota County
Everglades City	Jacksonville	Sumter County
Ft. Myers/Lee County	Kissimmee/Osceola County	Tallahassee/Leon County
Ft. Pierce	Lake Apopka	Tampa
Franklin County	Lakeland	Taylor County
Freeport	Liberty County	Wakulla County
Gadsden County	Madison County	Walton County
		Washington County

(You may contact the Governor's Office of Trade, Tourism and Economic Development at 850/487-2568 for further information.)

Federal Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities and Champion Communities

The federal Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community (EZEC) legislation enacted in 1993 resulted in the federal designation of more than 100 **Empowerment Zones** and **Enterprise Communities** in 42 states, including Florida. The federal legislation initially authorized more than \$2 billion in tax incentives and \$1 billion in social services block grants to assist in the revitalization and development of these communities. The EZEC program was designed to encourage a collaborative and comprehensive approach to addressing economic needs of communities. Florida has two **federal Empowerment Zones**: Miami-Dade County and the City of Jacksonville. **Champion Communities** are cities and counties which applied for the Empowerment Zone designation, were unsuccessful in obtaining it, and were designated Champion Communities. Currently, Florida has four federal **Enterprise Communities**: Tampa; Jackson County; Immokalee, and Hendry County.

Champion Communities

Madison County
Hardee County
Highlands

Glades Community
DeSoto County
Gadsden County

Hamilton County

HUD Designated Renewal Communities

HUD has now added a new category of communities, referred to as **Renewal Communities**, in which concentrated efforts at community improvements and economic development activities are encouraged. No Florida communities have received the designation as of this date.

Areas of Critical State Concern

The Division of Resource Planning and Management within the Department of Community Affairs administers the Areas of Critical State Concern Program authorized by Section 380.05, Florida Statutes, and Rule 9J-1, Florida Administrative Code. This program is responsible for protecting resources and public facilities of major statewide significance. The Division reviews all local development projects within the designated areas and may appeal to the Administration Commission any local development orders which are not consistent with state guidelines. The Division is also responsible for reviewing and approving amendments to comprehensive plans and land development regulations proposed by local governments within the designated areas. Currently, **Areas of Critical State Concern** are located in the following communities:

Apalachicola
Key West
Florida Keys (Monroe County)
Green Swamp (Lake and Polk Counties)
Big Cypress Swamp (Dade, Monroe and Collier Counties)

Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern

The Governor's Office of Trade, Tourism and Economic Development (OTTED) has identified three rural areas of critical economic concern:

1. First Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (counties of Washington, Holmes, Liberty, Calhoun, Gulf, Franklin, Gadsden and Jackson)
2. Second Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (counties of DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee; area within the city limits of Pahokee, Belle Glade and South Bay; and the area around Immokalee included in the round two Federal Rural Enterprise Community designation)
3. Third Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (counties of Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Putnam, Suwannee, Taylor and Union)

Front Porch Communities

The Front Porch Initiative was created to assist local communities in meeting needs and resolving problems that can be addressed through a grass roots approach. This initiative is designed to provide under-served communities the means by which to make their neighborhoods healthy. To date, **20** neighborhoods have been designated as Front Porch Communities. Front Porch Communities have undergone a process of examining needs and developing plans to overcome pressing problems. These communities share a vision and form a unique relationship between residents, government, and service providers in an attempt to learn new ways to resolve community issues such as crime prevention, housing and beautification.

Bartow	Jacksonville	Sarasota
Bradenton	Miami	St. Petersburg
Daytona Beach	Ocala	Sylvania Heights
Ft. Lauderdale	Opa-Locka	Tallahassee
Gainesville	Orlando	Tampa
Gifford	Pensacola	West Palm Beach
Immokalee	Sanford	

Remember, you MUST be able to provide documentation of any special designation claimed on an application. Further, the Department must be able to verify such designation with the appropriate agency. If you believe that your community has a designation, but does not appear on the list, please contact the CDBG Program at (850) 922-1887.