

RURAL OPPORTUNITY ZONE PROGRAM

TWO-YEAR EXTENSION INFORMATION



[SB47](#) was signed on May 17, 2021, which extends the Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ) program for two additional years (through 2023). In addition, SB47 now includes counties with a population under 40,000, which means that 95 counties are now eligible to participate in the ROZ program.

With 18 new counties eligible this year, the Department of Commerce will be hosting Zoom meetings to review the benefits that come with being a ROZ County, including how counties, cities, employers, and foundations can participate in the Student Loan Repayment Assistance aspect of the program. The one-hour Zoom meetings will consist of a ROZ overview, which will take about 20 minutes, with the remainder of time allocated for questions and answers.

You can register to attend one or more of the meetings by using the following links:

- May 19, 2021, 11 a.m. (CST)
- May 20, 2021, 1 p.m. (CST)
- [May 21, 2021, 10 a.m. \(CST\)](#)
- [May 24, 2021, 12 p.m. \(CST\)](#)
- [May 25, 2021, 12 p.m. \(CST\)](#)
- [May 25, 2021, 5 p.m. \(CST\)](#)
- [May 26, 2021, 12 p.m. \(CST\)](#)

Please share this information along to any person or organization in your county who may be interested in becoming a Partner Sponsor in the ROZ program. These meetings are focused on sponsors, not applicants. Sponsors include counties, cities, employers and foundations.

Do not send the meeting information to potential applicants. Updated information for applicants will be available in the near future.

We are updating the Kansas Department of Commerce website to reflect the additional ROZ information and updated ROZ Guidelines. The ROZ map will be updated soon to reflect the counties that opt into the ROZ Student Loan Repayment Assistance portion of ROZ.

Important information if you cannot attend:

All counties wishing to participate in the ROZ program for calendar year 2021 must have a Resolutions submitted no later than June 30, 2021. All counties wishing to participate in the ROZ program year 2022 will need to have a Resolution turned in by January 31, 2022.

Counties that do not submit a Resolution by June 30 will be completely opted out of the ROZ program for 2021.

Template resolutions can be found at www.kansascommerce.gov/roz.