The 2020 Secretary’s Award for Public-Philanthropic Partnerships

The Rockefeller Foundation
National Opportunity Zone Capacity Building Initiative and Academy

New York, NY

Challenge
To help cities build a pipeline of bankable projects that move beyond early stages of planning and attract private investment in economically distressed areas.

Innovation
Outcomes will be supported through three initiative tracks: promote and disseminate the Opportunity Zone (OZ) Reporting Framework, install a Chief Opportunity Zone Officer with two engagement specialists in six partner municipalities who will drive responsible and effective private investment, and create a National Opportunity Zone Academy, which will provide seven urban areas with technical assistance to produce community-led approaches to development.

Overview
The Rockefeller Foundation partnered with 15 public agencies across 13 urban areas to provide them with the resources, training, and networking opportunities to develop modified investment prospectuses. These prospectuses will speak to the strengths of their OZ in a format that will resonate with investment firms while benefiting the communities in those OZs. The aim is to assist public-partners in developing investments that avoid displacing low-income families in targeted areas while ensuring that employment opportunities created by those investments benefit low-wage workers.

Partners
Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Miami-Dade County, and 14 municipal agency partners.