

(ii) In the determination of the Secretary, has suffered a significant loss of economic base.

(2) The extraordinary expansion of an enterprise zone may not count towards the limitations, provided under subsection (e) of this section, on the number of enterprise zones that the Secretary may designate in a [12-month period] CALENDAR YEAR or that a county may receive in a calendar year.

(3) The Secretary may not grant more than one extraordinary expansion of an enterprise zone throughout the State in any [12-month period] CALENDAR YEAR.

(k) (1) A political subdivision may request the Secretary to designate all or part of an enterprise zone as a focus area for the lesser of:

(i) 5 years; or

(ii) The remainder of the 10-year term of the applicable enterprise zone.

(2) The request may be made on or before any submission date either at the time the political subdivision applies for the designation of a new enterprise zone or after an enterprise zone has been designated by the Secretary.

(3) The Secretary may grant the request if the area is located in an enterprise zone designated by the Secretary and meets at least three of the following criteria:

(i) The average rate of unemployment in the area, or within a reasonable proximity to the area but within the same county, for the most recent 18-month period for which data are available is at least 150 percent of the average rate of unemployment in either the State or the United States, whichever average rate is greater during the same period;

(ii) The population in the area or within a reasonable proximity to the area but within the same county has an incidence of poverty that is 150 percent of the national average;

(iii) The crime rate in the area or within a reasonable proximity to the area but within the same county is at least 150 percent of the crime rate in the political subdivision in which the area is located;

(iv) The percentage of substandard housing in the area or within a reasonable proximity to the area but within the same county is at least 200 percent of the percentage of housing units in the State that are substandard, according to data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, or other State or federal government data deemed appropriate by the Secretary; or

(v) The percentage of square footage of commercial property that is vacant in the area or within a reasonable proximity of the area but within the same county is at least 20 percent, according to data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, or other State or federal government data deemed appropriate by the Secretary.