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(iii) List and describe new partnerships or alliances formed.

(iv) Identify problems or obstacles not otherwise anticipated in the strategic plan.

(v) Describe solutions developed or efforts to address the problems and obstacles.

(vi) Identify practices or concepts which were found especially effective in implementing the strategic plan.

(2) Benchmark progress report. For each benchmark goal the community will provide a current measure of the baseline condition which is the subject of targeted improvement and whether the current measure represents an improvement from the baseline condition as initially stated in the strategic plan. For each benchmark activity the community will provide a status report in form and substance acceptable to USDA.

(c) Timely State data. Where not prevented by State law, nominating State governments must provide the timely release of data requested by USDA for the purposes of monitoring and assisting the success of Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities.

§ 25.402 Periodic performance reviews.

USDA will regularly evaluate the progress in implementing the strategic plan in each designated Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community on the basis of performance reviews to be conducted on site and using other information submitted. USDA may also commission evaluations of the Empowerment Zone program as a whole by an impartial third party. Evidence of continual involvement of all segments of the community, including low income and disadvantaged residents, must be evidenced in the implementation of the strategic plan.

§ 25.403 Responsibility of lead managing entity.

(a) Financial. The lead managing entity will be responsible for strategic plan program activities and monitoring the fiscal management of the funds of the Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community.

(b) Reporting. The lead managing entity will be responsible for developing the reports required under this subpart.

(c) Cooperation. All entities with significant involvement in implementing the strategic plan shall cooperate with the lead managing entity in its compliance with paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section.

§ 25.404 Validation of designation.

(a) Maintaining the principles of the program. The empowerment zone, enterprise community or champion community (the designated community)