

## MDA E-News April 12, 2010

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### MDA Awards Nearly \$240,000 for Three Improvement Projects in the State

Mississippi Development Authority's Community Services Division recently awarded **CDBG Emergency Public Facilities** funds for three improvement projects in Mississippi. To receive CDBG Emergency Public Facilities funding, a project must demonstrate a particular urgency due to existing conditions that pose a threat to the health or welfare of a community. The CDBG Emergency Public Facilities awards, which total nearly \$240,000, include:

- Alcorn County - \$99,599 for road/culvert improvements
- Town of Golden - \$54,700 for sewer improvements
- Town of Walnut - \$85,000 for water line improvements

To learn more about the funding programs available through MDA's Community Services Division, please visit [www.mississippi.org](http://www.mississippi.org) and select the Community and Asset Development link located near the top of the page.

### MDA To Host Model Contractor Development Program in Tunica, Miss.

The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) will host its Model Contractor Development Program (MCDP) workshop series beginning **April 13, 2010, from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.** at the Tunica Museum located at 4063 US Highway 61 North in Tunica, Miss.

The MCDP workshop series is designed to teach small contractors the business practices they need to improve their company's operations and to increase their bonding capacity. The workshop is open to all small contractors, but participants must enroll their companies in the [Mississippi Procurement Technical Assistance Program](#). Also, each company's representative must agree to attend at least seven of the nine workshop sessions.

In addition to the April 13 kickoff, the remaining sessions will be held each Tuesday night through June 8, also from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the Tunica Museum. The complete schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, April 13 - *Kickoff Orientation*
- Tuesday, April 20 - *Business Planning and Management for Contractors*
- Tuesday, April 27 - *Banking and Finance for Contractors*
- Tuesday, May 4 - *Bonding and Insurance for New and Emerging Contractors*
- Tuesday, May 11 - *Construction Accounting and Financial Management*
- Tuesday, May 18 - *Marketing, Estimating, Bidding*
- Tuesday, May 25 - *Project Management and Field Operations*
- Tuesday, June 1 - *Claims and Dispute Resolution*
- Tuesday, June 8 - *Success Stories: Why Some Contractors Succeed and Others Fail*

The event is being sponsored by MDA, The Surety & Fidelity Association of America, Harrell Contracting Group, Tunica County and the Delta Contract Procurement Center.

The workshops are free-of-charge, but pre-registration is required. **To register, visit [www.mspsc.com](http://www.mspsc.com), select "Events" and then April 13, or call (662) 363-1465.** Seating is limited, so interested parties are encouraged to register early. To learn more about MCDP, please contact MDA's Minority and Small Business Development Division at (601) 359-3448.

#### **April 14 Webinar to Present Information on Recovery Zone Bond Allocations**

**On April 14 at 10:00 a.m.,** the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) will present a **free Webinar on Recovery Zone bond allocations** and how these bond programs, created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), can be used to benefit Mississippi communities. Eligible activities, the application process and the bond issuance process will be discussed at the Webinar, and all county officials, economic developers, bond specialists and other interested parties are encouraged to participate.

The presenters for the Webinar will be MDA Financial Resources Division Director Kathy Gelston and attorney Michael Russ of the Mississippi Business Finance Corporation. The speakers will discuss the two types of Recovery Zone (RZ) bonds created by ARRA: RZ Economic Development bonds and RZ Facility bonds. These bonds, which must be issued by December 31, 2010, are designed to spur economic growth in Mississippi communities. Following the presentation on RZ bond allocations, a short Q&A session will follow to answer participants' questions.

**To register for this event, please [visit this Webinar registration site](#).** For more information, please email [mdawebinars@mississippi.org](mailto:mdawebinars@mississippi.org).

### **New Tourism Web Site Offers High-Quality Images of Mississippi to Promote Attractions Throughout the State**

The Mississippi Development Authority's Tourism Division recently announced that its **new online photography gallery** [www.SeeMiss.com](http://www.SeeMiss.com), a Web site offering high quality Mississippi images for media, educational and general usage, is now live. SeeMiss.com provides a wide variety of photographs of locations, attractions and general sights around Mississippi.

The site features vibrant, full-color photography in more than 20 categories, including accommodations, culture and arts, events and festivals, outdoor activities and scenic beauty, with new images being added regularly. Users must register to receive a password to access the images at [www.SeeMiss.com](http://www.SeeMiss.com). The registration process is simple, and approval and password assignment is fast and efficient.

[SeeMiss.com](http://www.SeeMiss.com) is one of several initiatives by the MDA Tourism Division's Communications and Advertising team to use the latest technology to promote Mississippi for leisure and business travel. New HD-360 virtual tours have been added to the main tourism Web site, [www.VisitMississippi.org](http://www.VisitMississippi.org), a revamped electronic newsletter was launched last month and the state's latest advertising campaign will soon kick off across the Southeast.

For more information, contact MDA's Tourism Division at (601) 359-3297 or (866) SEE-MISS.

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