

MDA E-News April 27, 2009**\$745,000 for Improvement Projects, Broadband Recovery Funds, Public Housing Units Open in Biloxi, Business and Procurement Opportunities Conference, Gulf Coast Economic Recovery Workshop****In this Issue:**

- [MDA Awards Approximately \\$745,000 for Improvement Projects throughout the State](#)
- [Governor Barbour's Office Accepting Broadband Recovery Funds Proposals through April 30](#)
- [162 Public Housing Units Open Recently in Biloxi: More than 600 to Become Available over Next Three Months](#)
- [Business and Procurement Opportunities Conference Nearing: MDA Urges Partners to Share Registration Information with Local Businesses](#)
- [IEDC to Host Free Workshop on Gulf Coast Economic Recovery](#)

MDA Awards Approximately \$745,000 for Improvement Projects throughout the State

MDA's Community Services Division recently awarded CDBG Economic Development (ED) and CDBG Emergency Public Facilities funding for three improvement projects throughout the state. CDBG ED funds are designed to help local units of government ensure basic community services, environmental quality and economic opportunities for their residents. In order to receive CDBG Emergency Public Facilities funding, a project must prove a particular urgency due to existing conditions that post a threat to the health or welfare of a community (in addition to meeting other criteria). The awards, which total approximately \$745,000, include:

- **CDBG ED**
 - Monroe County (Holley Performance Products) - \$590,000 for public building improvements
- **CDBG Emergency Public Facilities**
 - Town of Metcalfe - \$100,000 for emergency repairs to the sewer lagoon system
 - Wilkinson County Board of Supervisors - \$54,792 for emergency repairs to the courthouse elevator

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

Governor Barbour's Office Accepting Broadband Recovery Funds Proposals through April 30

Governor Haley Barbour has announced a competitive application process for

broadband recovery funds through the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* (ARRA). As a result of the economic stimulus legislation, \$7.2 billion has been designated for broadband infrastructure through the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). BTOP will expand broadband access capabilities throughout the United States, specifically targeting rural and underserved areas.

BTOP funding will be distributed through two federal agencies: \$4.7 billion will be distributed through the Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), and \$2.5 billion will be distributed through the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Services (RUS). While the allocation process has not yet been announced, state officials anticipate that Mississippi will receive approximately \$50 million if the funds are proportionately allocated. While NTIA grants are awarded competitively, each state is guaranteed at least one grant. NTIA and RUS plan to release the funds in three stages: early fall 2009 and two more stages in 2010. The five goals identified by NTIA and RUS for broadband recovery funds are: 1) create jobs; 2) close the broadband gap; 3) stimulate investment in broadband; 4) spread high-speed access to schools, universities, libraries, community centers, job training centers, hospitals and public safety personnel; and 5) encourage demand for broadband.

Interested parties are invited to submit a written proposal, not to exceed 10 pages (including attachments) to the Office of the Governor on or before April 30 at 5:00 p.m. Each proposal should specify how it will meet the five goals required by NTIA and RUS, along with other criteria. The proposals will be evaluated by the Mississippi Broadband Task Force, and a yet-to-be-determined number of proposals will be invited to do an in-person presentation.

For detailed information and proposal requirements, please visit stimulus.ms.gov, and select the "Requests for Proposals and Information" button to the left of the page.

162 Public Housing Units Open Recently in Biloxi; More than 600 to Become Available over Next Three Months

Through the Public Housing Grant Program administered by MDA's Disaster Recovery Division, more than 600 public housing units will become available on the Mississippi Gulf Coast over the next three months. Working with local authorities in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties, the State of Mississippi has allocated \$106 million in federally-appropriated Community Development Block Grant funds to restore the public housing stock which was damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

The first of these projects opened recently with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the McDonnell Avenue Apartments in Biloxi. The \$14.3 million development contains 162 public housing units and was funded entirely from disaster recovery funds administered by MDA. According to Governor Haley Barbour, the public housing units may help those living in temporary housing transition into a more permanent living space, enabling many of them to remain on the Coast and fully realize Mississippi's recovery. Governor Barbour also stated that the units are warm, inviting places in which the residents, neighborhood and community can take pride.

More than 2,500 public housing units are planned for the three coastal counties with more than 1,800 units either complete, under construction or approved for

construction. In addition to the McDonnell Avenue Apartments, other available public housing units include: 196 units at Bay View Place in Biloxi, 76 units at Cadet Point in Biloxi, 96 units at Highland Springs Apartment Complex in Gulfport and 120 units at Regency Way Apartments in Gulfport.

Business and Procurement Opportunities Conference Nearing; MDA Urges Partners to Share Registration Information with Local Businesses

The *2009 Mississippi Business and Procurement Opportunities Conference* is rapidly approaching, and MDA is encouraging its partners to inform their local businesses about the two-day event. The conference, which is expected to attract hundreds of participants, will be held May 5-6 at the Jackson Convention Complex in downtown Jackson.

Co-sponsored by MDA, the Mississippi Procurement Technical Assistance Program and the Mississippi Association of Governmental Purchasing and Property Agents, the event is designed to provide businesses with information on procurement opportunities and encourage partnerships between private companies, governmental entities, larger corporations, the gaming industry and defense companies. It will also highlight procurement opportunities related to the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*. In addition to knowledgeable speakers covering a wide range of topics, keynote speakers will include: Mississippi Lieutenant Governor Phil Bryant, Dr. Robert Wallace, President, Bith Group Technologies, and Leland Speed, Chairman of the Board, Eastgroup Properties and Parkway Properties. MDA executive director Gray Swoope will speak at the May 5 luncheon.

To learn more about the event, including information regarding the May 6 "reverse" trade show, or to register online, please visit www.conference2009.mspsc.com.

IEDC to Host Free Workshop on Gulf Coast Economic Recovery

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC), in partnership with MDA, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration and the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, will hold a free workshop June 10th from 7:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, Two Poydras St., in New Orleans. "Building Resilient Economies: A Free Workshop on Accessing Funding and Resources for Gulf Coast Economic Recovery" will connect economic development practitioners, chamber representatives, foundations and experts to provide critical information on how communities can access funds for long-term recovery.

The workshop is free for attendees from Mississippi and Louisiana, and it is geared toward public- and private-sector representatives in the field of economic development. To view a full conference agenda and to register online, please click [here](#).

For more information on any of these articles, contact us by clicking on the links below. If you have been forwarded this email and would like to subscribe, please contact [Melissa Medley](#) or [Tammy Craft](#).