

MDA E-News August 24, 2009
CDBG-Recovery Program Plan; 18 Projects Awarded Funding,
Stimulus Opportunities Workshops, MDA Financial Resources
Division Director, Redfish Cup, ARRA Stimulus Programs Webinars

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HUD Approves State's CDBG-Recovery Program Plan; 18 Projects Awarded Funding

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently approved the State of Mississippi's plan to administer the Community Development Block Grant - Recovery (CDBG-R) Program, which is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Approximately \$8 million has been allocated to the state for the program, which funds needed infrastructure projects, basic services to residents and activities that promote energy-efficiency and conservation by rehabilitating or retrofitting existing buildings.

Eighteen projects in the state were recently awarded CDBG-R funding. These include:

- Town of Terry - \$328,000 to construct a new library
- Simpson County - \$500,000 to expand the county's Department of Human Services building
- Town of Raleigh - \$347,000 to construct a new senior citizens center
- City of Lexington- \$250,000 to provide ADA improvements to City Hall
- Montgomery County - \$116,600 to rehabilitate the old armory

building in Winona to house the Department of Human Services' Family and Children's Services Division

- City of Grenada - \$1,784,845 to construct a senior citizens center
- Town of Coldwater - \$500,000 to construct a new community center
- Tallahatchie County - \$460,000 to construct a new fire station/community center
- City of Belzoni - \$401,700 to renovate the storm drainage system
- Town of Boyle - \$124,984 to add storm drainage pipes
- Washington County - \$622,162 for street reconstruction
- City of Ellisville - \$1,000,000 to construct a new community center/special needs shelter
- Town of Gloster - \$100,000 to renovate the existing library
- Town of Roxie - \$210,000 for street reconstruction
- Town of Algoma - \$410,000 for a new street and street reconstruction
- Monroe County - \$1,289,270 to construct a new building for the Health Department
- City of Starkville - \$887,328 to construct a fire station
- Town of Jumpertown - \$100,000 to provide ADA improvements to town hall

For more information regarding Mississippi's stimulus programs, please visit stimulus.mississippi.org.

MDA to Host *Stimulus Opportunities Workshops* to Provide Information about Stimulus Programs Created through ARRA

Throughout September, MDA will be hosting *Stimulus Opportunities Workshops*, a series of workshops that will provide pertinent information about funding opportunities available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The first series will focus on the Build America Bonds and Recovery Zone Bonds (Economic Development and Facilities) Programs. Recently, the U.S. Department of the Treasury allocated bond authority to many counties in Mississippi. As many of these bond allocations are too small to enable the counties to use the bonds effectively, the sessions will provide information on ways to ensure that Mississippi's communities are able to take full advantage of the program. The series will also touch on MDA's other stimulus programs, and each workshop will feature a Q & A session. The schedule for this series of *Stimulus Opportunities Workshops* follows:

- **Jackson** - September 3, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Woolfolk Building, First Floor Press Room
- **Hattiesburg** - September 9, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Hattiesburg Convention Center

- **Meridian** - September 10, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., East Mississippi Business Development Corporation building
- **Indianola** - September 14, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Cap Center
- **Oxford** - September 21, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Location to be announced

Mississippi's county supervisors, county administrators, local economic developers and representatives from the state's Planning and Development Districts are encouraged to participate in the workshops. Informational materials will be provided for attendees to reference following the workshops. Registration is free of charge, but pre-registration is preferred. To register, please e-mail stimulusworkshops@mississippi.org, and in the subject line, please enter the date and location of the program you wish to attend.

McCarthy Retiring as MDA Financial Resources Division Director; Gelston to Assume Position

Jay McCarthy, MDA Financial Resources Division director, will retire at the end of August after 23 years of state service. McCarthy began his career with MDA in 1986, working in research. He then served the agency for many years as a project manager before assuming the position of Financial Resources Division director in 2005. McCarthy's vast knowledge of loans, grants, taxes and state incentive programs has played a key role in Mississippi's economic development over the years. Following his retirement from MDA, he will pursue a career with Stevens, Inc., where he will serve as vice president of public finance.

Kathy Gelston, CPA, will succeed McCarthy as Financial Resources Division director, effective August 31. Gelston has served MDA as a bureau manager within the division since 2005. Her prior experience includes two years with KPMG as a state and local tax manager and 12 years as the deputy director of audit and compliance for the Mississippi State Tax Commission.

MDA Executive Director Gray Swoope expressed his gratitude for McCarthy's hard work and dedication to MDA and Mississippi over the years, stating that his experience and skills have been beneficial to MDA, the many organizations he has worked with during his time with the agency and the state as a whole. Swoope added that Gelston's abilities and talents will serve the Financial Resources Division well, and her knowledge will continue to benefit economic development in Mississippi.

To contact MDA's Financial Resources Division, please call (601) 359-3552, or e-mail financial@mississippi.org.

Redfish Cup Returning to Mississippi Gulf Coast for Second Year in a Row

In 2008, the Redfish Cup, the nation's premier saltwater fishing championship, visited the Mississippi Gulf Coast for its season-ending championship, marking the event's first visit to the area since its inception seven years earlier. The Redfish Cup will once again return to the area August 27-30, thanks to the hospitality shown by the residents of Biloxi and D'Iberville in 2008. MDA provided funding for the event through the South Mississippi Tourism Industry Restoration Grant Program, a \$5 million grant program for advertising, promotion and events marketing funded by Disaster Recovery Community Development Block Grant dollars awarded to the state.

During last year's Redfish Cup, fishing enthusiasts from around Mississippi were witness to some of the largest redfish ever weighed in the event's history, setting new single-day and two-day weight records. In fact, while the Coast is regaining its pre-Katrina status as a "destination hotspot," a larger redfish slot size and plenty of fish have also lured some of the country's top fishermen to the area.

The 2009 Redfish Cup can be seen from Biloxi Saturday morning, August 29, at 9:30 a.m. CST on ESPN2. To learn more, please visit www.redfishcup.com.

MDA to Host Two Webinars to Cover ARRA Stimulus Programs

As part of the ongoing effort to communicate information about the stimulus funding opportunities created through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), MDA will host two Webinars to cover topics related to the stimulus programs administered by the agency. The first Webinar will be held **Tuesday, September 29, at 10:00 a.m.** and will cover such stimulus programs as the Community Development Block Grant Program, the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, Build America Bonds and Recovery Zone Bonds. The second Webinar, which will be held **Tuesday, October 13, at 10:00 a.m.** and will cover all energy-related stimulus programs. MDA invites you to participate in these two important events, so be sure to mark your calendar now! More information regarding each Webinar will be made available in the coming weeks.

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](#).