

**MDA E-News August 31, 2009
Stimulus Opportunities Workshops, SmartSynch Awarded State
Energy Program Grant, Community Services Division Funding
Awarded, Partners and Community Leaders Encouraged to
Register Early for SEUS-Japan 33rd Annual Joint Meeting**

In this Issue:

- [First Series of Stimulus Opportunities Workshops Begins Thursday in Jackson](#)
- [Jackson-Based SmartSynch Awarded \\$3.75 Million State Energy Program Grant](#)
- [MDA's Community Services Division Awards Funding for 22 Projects in Mississippi and Three Continuums of Care](#)
- [MDA Partners, Community Leaders Encouraged to Register Early for SEUS-Japan 33rd Annual Joint Meeting](#)

First Series of Stimulus Opportunities Workshops Begins Thursday in Jackson

This Thursday, September 3, the first series of MDA's *Stimulus Opportunities Workshops* will kick off in Jackson. The workshops are designed to provide beneficial information about the funding opportunities available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA); the first series of workshops will focus primarily on the Build America Bonds and the Recovery Zone Bonds programs. The U.S. Department of the Treasury recently allocated bond authority to numerous Mississippi counties, and this series of workshops will cover methods to help ensure the state's communities can take full advantage of the programs. The schedule for the Build America Bonds and Recovery Zone Bonds workshops is:

- **Jackson** - September 3, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Woolfolk Building, Room 114 South*
- **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., Capps Center
- **Oxford** - September 21, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Oxford Conference Center

The workshops will also touch on MDA's other stimulus programs and will feature Q & A sessions. Informational materials will be provided for attendees to reference following the workshops. County supervisors, county administrators, local economic developers and representatives from Mississippi's Planning and Development Districts are encouraged to attend. While registration is free, MDA asks you to register in advance by e-mailing stimulusworkshops@mississippi.org and entering the date and location of the workshop you plan to attend in the subject line.

To learn more about MDA's stimulus programs, please visit stimulus.mississippi.org.

**Please note the location for the Jackson workshop has been moved from the Woolfolk Building's First Floor Press Room to Room 114 South*

Jackson-Based SmartSynch Awarded \$3.75 Million State Energy Program Grant

SmartSynch, a Jackson-based smart grid infrastructure company, was recently awarded a \$3.75 million grant through the State Energy Program (SEP) to help manage energy consumption and costs at public facilities around Mississippi. This Mississippi company employs smart meters and other services, devices and software to capture and transmit energy usage data, allowing its users to identify energy "leaks" and improve overall energy efficiency. A smart meter is an advanced electrical meter that monitors and reports on energy usage in real-time through a two-way communication network. SmartSynch's SmartMeters use high bandwidth, Internet standards and public wireless networks to facilitate the transfer of energy-use data. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, consumer usage declines as much as 15 percent when they are able to track their energy consumption through smart meters.

The SEP, which is administered by MDA's Energy Division, is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. It is designed to provide grants to address the state's energy priorities and program funding to adopt emerging renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. The grant to SmartSynch is part of approximately \$16 million awarded to the state to administer the SEP. The remainder of the \$40 million allocated to Mississippi for the SEP will be released by the U. S. Department of Energy as the state implements its programs and demonstrates results.

For more information about the SEP or other stimulus programs, please visit stimulus.mississippi.org. To learn more about SmartSynch, please visit www.smartsynch.com.

MDA's Community Services Division Awards Funding for 22 Projects in Mississippi and Three Continuums of Care

MDA's Community Services Division recently awarded **Mississippi Rural Impact Fund (RIF)**, **CDBG Emergency Public Facilities** and **Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG)** funding for 22 projects in Mississippi. The RIF Program is designed to assist with the location or expansion of businesses in rural areas by providing grants to rural communities. In order to receive CDBG Emergency Public Facilities funding, a project must prove a particular urgency due to existing conditions that pose a threat to the health or welfare of a community. ESG funds are designed to provide assistance to homeless individuals and families. The awards include:

- **RIF**
 - City of Fulton - \$200,000 for sewer improvements
- **CDBG Emergency Public Facilities**
 - Sharkey County - \$81,185 for emergency sewer improvements
- **ESG (all funds are used for facility operations and maintenance)**
 - Safe Haven (Columbus) - \$30,300
 - Center for Violence Prevention (Pearl) - \$75,000
 - Pine Belt Mental Healthcare Resources (Hattiesburg) - \$75,000
 - City of Tupelo - \$75,000
 - Community Care Network (Ocean Springs) - \$75,000
 - Multi-County Community Action Agency (Meridian) - \$75,000
 - Care Lodge (Meridian) - \$75,000
 - Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence (Biloxi) - \$75,000
 - New Hope Village (Holly Springs) - \$65,000
 - Haven House Family Shelter (Vicksburg) - \$75,000
 - Safe, Inc. (Tupelo) - \$75,000
 - Recovery House (Columbus) - \$75,000
 - City of Hattiesburg - \$75,000
 - The Guardian Shelter (Natchez) - \$75,000
 - Mississippi Children's Center (Vicksburg) - \$75,000
 - WWISCA (Greenville) - \$60,000
 - House of Grace (Southaven) - \$72,496
 - Mountain of Faith Ministries (Vicksburg) - \$75,000

- Bolivar County Community Action Agency (Cleveland) - \$75,000
- Domestic Abuse Family Shelter (Laurel) - \$13,929

The Community Services Division has also awarded over \$13 million in **Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)** funding to three continuums of care in the state. Established under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), HPRP is funded through the Department of Housing and Urban Development's \$1.5 billion Homelessness Prevention Fund and provides assistance to individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. HPRP funding can be used for financial assistance, housing relocation and stabilization services, data collection and evaluation and administrative costs. The three continuums of care that received awards are:

- Partners to End Homelessness Continuum of Care (Metro Jackson area) - \$2,200,489
- Open Doors Continuum of Care (Coastal Counties) - \$2,961,348
- Mississippi United to End Homelessness Continuum of Care (Balance of State) - \$7,919,621

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

MDA Partners, Community Leaders Encouraged to Register Early for SEUS-Japan 33rd Annual Joint Meeting

MDA would like to remind its economic development partners that the Southeast U.S. - Japan (SEUS-Japan) 33rd Annual Joint Meeting will be held October 18-20 in Tokyo. MDA Executive Director Gray Swoope will be leading a delegation of MDA staff, state officials, business leaders and other partners to Japan to take part in this exciting opportunity, and economic developers and community leaders around the state are invited to join the delegation.

The event allows attendees to network with customers, industrial investors and Japanese businesses. It also provides opportunities for participants from both Japan and the Southeast U.S. to form mutually-beneficial relationships. Space is limited, so anyone planning to attend is urged to register early by calling (601) 359-3155 or e-mailing lcleveland@mississippi.org. For more information about the SEUS-Japan Association, please visit www.seus-japan.org.

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](#).