

MDA E-News September 9, 2009**Funding Awarded for Projects, Webinars Scheduled, MDA Tourism Director Elected Chairman of Travel South USA, MSWTC Begins Using CenTradeX, SEUS-Japan Registration Deadline Draws Near, EPA Region 4 to Host Webinar****In this issue:**

- [MDA Community Services Division Awards Funding for Four Improvement Projects in Mississippi](#)
- [Mark Your Calendar: Stimulus Funding Opportunities Webinars Scheduled for September 29 and October 13](#)
- [MDA Tourism Director Ray Elected Chairman of the Board for Travel South USA](#)
- [Mississippi World Trade Center Employs CenTradeX Database Company to Provide Mississippi Companies with Trade Information](#)
- [September 15 Registration Deadline for SEUS-Japan 33rd Annual Joint Meeting Drawing Near](#)
- [EPA Region 4 to Host Brownfields Grant Writing Tips Webinar on September 17](#)

MDA Community Services Division Awards Funding for Four Improvement Projects in Mississippi

MDA recently awarded Capital Improvements Revolving Loan (CAP Loan), CDBG Economic Development (CDBG ED) and CDBG Emergency Public Facilities funding for four improvement projects located throughout the state. The CAP Program is designed to provide loans in order to finance capital improvements. CDBG ED funds 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 pose a threat to the health or welfare of a community. The awards, which total approximately \$4.7 million, include:

- **CAP Loan***
 - City of Tupelo (Cooper Tire) - \$1.5 million for building improvements
 - Lee County (Cooper Tire) - \$1.5 million for building improvements

- **CDBG ED**

- City of Okolona (United Furniture Industries) - \$1,100,000 for building improvements
- Wayne County (Jarden Corporation) - \$514,097 for infrastructure improvements

- **CDBG Emergency Public Facilities**

- Town of McLain - \$39,772 for infrastructure improvements

****The two CAP Loans are a joint effort between the City of Tupelo and Lee County.***

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

Mark Your Calendar: Stimulus Funding Opportunities Webinars Scheduled for September 29 and October 13

On September 29 at 10:00 a.m., MDA will be hosting a Webinar focusing on economic stimulus funding opportunities created through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). MDA Community Services Director Steve Hardin will discuss the [Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program \(HPRP\)](#) and the [Community Development Block Grant - Recovery \(CDBG-R\) Program](#). He will also touch on the [Neighborhood Stabilization Program \(NSP\)](#). Kathy Gelston, MDA Financial Resources Division director, will present an overview of the [bond programs](#) made available through ARRA, and Manning McPhillips, MDA stimulus director, will focus on the Broadband Deployment and Adoption and Workforce Development programs. The Webinar, which will last approximately 45 minutes, will conclude with a Q&A session.

This Webinar will be beneficial to city and county officials, local economic developers, representatives from the state's universities and junior colleges and others. To learn if the programs to be discussed in this particular Webinar can benefit your organization or community, please visit stimulus.mississippi.org , or simply follow the above hyperlinks.

Additionally, on October 13 at 10:00 a.m., MDA will present a Webinar focusing solely on energy-related stimulus programs. This Webinar will benefit a very broad audience, ranging from city officials to utilities to the general public, so make plans now to participate. More detailed information regarding the energy Webinar will be made available in upcoming issues of MDA's e-News.

To register for the September 29 Webinar, please visit www.mississippi.org, and click on the Webinars and Programs button located to the right of the page.

MDA Tourism Director Ray Elected Chairman of the Board for Travel South USA

MDA Tourism Division Director Craig Ray was recently elected as chairman of Travel South USA's Board of Directors. Travel South USA, America's oldest and largest regional travel promotion organization, is the official regional destination marketing organization for the 12 southern state tourism offices. According to Liz Bittner, executive director of Travel South USA, Ray has the right credentials to guide the organization to meet the needs of its members, while continuing to harness the collective power of the states.

Since 2004, Ray has served as director of MDA's Tourism Division, helping promote the state as a destination for business and leisure travel. The division operates Mississippi's welcome centers, and it houses the Mississippi Film Office and manages the Mississippi Hometown Retirement Program. Under Ray's leadership, the division also markets the state to group and consumer travelers domestically and internationally by working with tour operators, travel and meeting planners, assisting communities with tourism development, helping consumers with requested information, conducting industry research and promoting Mississippi through worldwide media.

To learn more about MDA's Tourism Division, please visit www.visitmississippi.org. Consumers wanting to learn more about Travel South USA should visit www.TravelSouthUSA.com.

Mississippi World Trade Center Employs CenTradeX Database Company to Provide Mississippi Companies with Trade Information

The Mississippi World Trade Center, a non-profit membership organization dedicated to assisting Mississippi businesses with all aspects of international trade, recently began using CenTradeX, a web-based database company that offers companies a worldwide competitive advantage by providing the most comprehensive trade information available. The program allows users to find information regarding import and export activity, as well as any industry or product they may be researching, for 200 countries and all 50 states.

According to Barbara Travis, Mississippi World Trade Center executive director, the use of CenTradeX will allow the organization to provide its members, which include Mississippi companies and economic developers, with the opportunity to quickly locate detailed information pertaining to trade virtually anywhere in the world.

The Mississippi World Trade Center provides a central source of business information and helps Mississippi companies find and capitalize on trade all over the world. Through its affiliation with the World Trade Centers Association, the organization delivers access to the services of over 300 World Trade Centers in 95 countries. For more information about the Mississippi World Trade Center, including membership information, please contact Barbara Travis at (601) 353-0909, e-mail btravis@mswtc.org, or visit www.mswtc.org. To learn more about CenTradeX, please visit www.centradex.com.

September 15 Registration Deadline for SEUS-Japan 33rd Annual Joint Meeting Drawing Near

The September 15 deadline to register for the Southeast U.S. - Japan (SEUS-Japan) 33rd Annual Joint Meeting is rapidly approaching, and MDA would like to remind its partners to register now for this unique networking event. MDA Executive Director Gray Swoope will lead a delegation of state officials and business leaders to Tokyo for the meeting, which is slated for October 18-20. The event will provide opportunities for networking between business leaders, economic development officials and others, with the goal of creating mutually-beneficial relationships.

To register, please visit www.mississippi.org/seus-japan, print and complete the downloadable registration form, and fax it to (601) 359-3605 by September 15. A conference fee of \$500 per person, payable by check to the Mississippi Development Authority, must be received by September 21. For more information, please call (601) 359-3155, or e-mail lcleveland@mississippi.org. To learn more about the SEUS-Japan Association, please visit www.seus-japan.org.

EPA Region 4 to Host Brownfields Grant Writing Tips Webinar on September 17

On Thursday, September 17, from noon to 2 p.m., EPA Region 4 is holding a Brownfields Grant Writing Tips Webinar to help prospective Brownfields grant applicants and grant writers understand the FY 2010 Proposal Guidelines for Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund and Cleanup Grants. The Webinar is geared toward representatives of eligible Brownfields applicants, including states, tribes, local governments, quasi-governmental organizations, non-profit organizations and grant writers. Participants should enter the Webinar with at least a basic understanding of Brownfields sites and EPA's Brownfields Program.

Space is limited to 125 participants, so interested parties are encouraged to register soon. To register, please visit www.trainex.org/BF-GWT-Webinar. A call-in number and access code will be e-mailed to registrants prior to the Webinar. For questions, please call Mike Norman at (404) 562-8792, or e-mail norman.michael@epa.gov, or call Margaret Olson at

(404) 562-8601, or e-mail olson.margaret@epa.gov . To learn more about Brownfields, please visit www.epa.gov/brownfields.

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