

**MDA E-News October 26, 2009**

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**MDA Awards Nearly \$12.5 Million for 31 Improvement Projects throughout Mississippi**

MDA's Community Services Division recently awarded **Capital Improvements Revolving Loan Program (CAP)**, **CDBG Economic Development (CDBG ED)** and **CDBG Public Facilities** funding for 31 projects in Mississippi. The **CAP** Loan Program provides 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, and the **CDBG Public Facilities** program is available to fund publicly-owned infrastructure for community-based projects. The awards, which total approximately \$12,500,000, include:

- **CAP Loan**
  - Jasper County (Hol-Mac Corp.) - \$600,000 to purchase a new building
- **CDBG ED**
  - Chickasaw County (Chickasaw County Detention Center) - \$750,000 for infrastructure improvements

- **CDBG Public Facilities**

- Montgomery County - \$35,000 for infrastructure improvements
- City of Houston - \$100,000 for infrastructure improvements
- City of Holly Springs - \$600,000 for infrastructure improvements
- Jones County - \$600,000 for facility improvements
- Hancock County - \$600,000 for infrastructure improvements
- City of McComb - \$300,000 for infrastructure improvements
- City of Louisville - \$600,000 for infrastructure improvements
- Rankin County - \$496,979 for facility improvements
- Town of Ashland - \$600,000 for infrastructure improvements
- Tishomingo County - \$198,493 for infrastructure improvements
- Neshoba County - \$600,000 for facility improvements
- Town of Soso - \$600,000 for infrastructure improvements
- Jasper County - \$155,000 for facility improvements
- Carroll County - \$387,000 for infrastructure improvements
- City of Brandon - \$397,821 for infrastructure improvements
- City of Macon - \$600,000 for infrastructure improvements
- Town of Centerville - \$400,000 for infrastructure improvements
- Newton County - \$165,658 for facility improvements
- Kemper County - \$490,000 for infrastructure improvements
- City of Drew - \$450,000 for infrastructure improvements
- Town of Sunflower - \$269,715 for infrastructure improvements
- Town of Silver Creek - \$278,443 for infrastructure improvements
- City of Magnolia - \$295,963 for infrastructure improvements
- City of Lucedale - \$298,125 for infrastructure improvements
- Town of Inverness - \$239,645 for infrastructure improvements
- City of Bay Springs - \$243,900 for infrastructure improvements
- Town of Osyka - \$296,697 for infrastructure improvements
- Town of Rienzi - \$436,700 for infrastructure improvements
- Town of Louin - \$351,000 for infrastructure 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 click on the Community and Asset Development link located near the top of the page.

### **MDA's Swoope and Hughes Speak at 33rd Annual SEUS-Japan Joint Meeting**

MDA Executive Director Gray Swoope and Deputy Director Whit Hughes addressed participants of the 33rd Annual Southeast U.S.-Japan (SEUS-Japan) Joint Meeting last week in Tokyo. As head of the Mississippi delegation, Swoope spoke to attendees during Monday's opening ceremony, and Hughes served on a panel discussion entitled, "Current Investment Opportunities in the Southeast U.S."

In 2007, Mississippi became a member of the SEUS-Japan Association, joining Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. The annual meetings, which alternate between the U.S. and Japan, attract more than 500 participants from the Southeast U.S. and Japan, including representatives from both the private and public sectors and governors of the member states. The association was formed in 1975 to promote trade, investment, understanding and friendship between Japan and the member states. For more information about this year's meeting or the association, please visit [www.seus-japan.org](http://www.seus-japan.org).

### **MDA Tourism Division's Sandy Bynum Joins U.S. Travel Association's Communications Committee**

Sandy Bynum, Manager of Advertising and Communications for MDA's Tourism Division, was recently invited to join the U.S. Travel Association's Communications Committee. Based in Washington, D.C., the U.S. Travel Association is a non-profit trade organization that represents the common interests of the \$740 billion U.S. travel industry by serving as a public voice and political liaison for the entire industry, promoting increased travel to and within the U.S. through marketing initiatives and serving as an advocate for the U.S. government to ease travel procedures. The organization's communications committee addresses ways to support the tourism industry's advocacy efforts in Washington, as well as promoting the importance of travel to the American economy, businesses and individuals.

MDA Tourism Director Craig D. Ray commended Sandy, stating that she joins an elite group of colleagues from various segments of the travel community to help advance communications efforts. For more information about the U.S. Travel Association, please visit [www.ustravel.org](http://www.ustravel.org) or e-mail [sbynum@mississippi.org](mailto:sbynum@mississippi.org).

### **Reminder: MDA Energy Division to Host "Utilizing Renewable Energy in Mississippi" Workshop Wednesday in Vicksburg**

On Wednesday, October 28, at the Vicksburg Convention Center, MDA's Energy Division will be hosting "Utilizing Renewable Energy in Mississippi," a workshop designed to provide valuable information regarding the ways buildings and facilities can save energy and money by using renewable energy sources. The workshop will feature guest speakers covering a variety of topics, including geothermal applications, funding and installations for geothermal, solar energy and alternative fuels for vehicles. It will also address cost-saving issues and ways to reduce energy costs through the use and implementation of these applications.

The workshop will benefit schools, colleges and universities, energy and facility managers, fleet managers, commercial and industrial business owners and local citizens interested in learning more about renewable energy. The cost to attend is \$40 per person. Registration will begin at 8 a.m., and the workshop will adjourn at 3 p.m. The registration fee includes lunch and snacks.

To view a brochure of the event, or to print the registration form, please [click here](#).

### **MDA Energy Grant Workshops Kick Off This Thursday in Greenwood**

This Thursday, October 29, MDA will kick off a series of statewide grant workshops in Greenwood at the Leflore County Civic Center. The workshops are designed to educate city and county officials and community and business leaders about the funding opportunities available through the State Energy Program (SEP) and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG), both of which are provided for through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). During the workshops, attendees will learn about the technical assistance available through the programs, the disbursement of funds, eligible activities, proposal criteria and the programs' application processes. Each workshop will begin at 8:00 a.m. and conclude at 12:00 p.m. MDA invites you to share the following dates and locations with colleagues and peers in your community:

- October 29 - Greenwood, Leflore County Civic Center, 200 Highway 7
- November 3 - Hattiesburg, Lake Terrace Convention Center, I-59 and Highway 49
- November 5 - Jackson, Jackson Convention Complex, 105 E. Pascagoula St.
- November 12 - Tupelo, Hilton Garden Inn Conference Center, 363 E. Main St.

For more information regarding the workshops or any other energy-related programs, please visit [stimulus.mississippi.org](http://stimulus.mississippi.org). To register for the workshops, please e-mail [stimulusworkshops@mississippi.org](mailto:stimulusworkshops@mississippi.org).

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