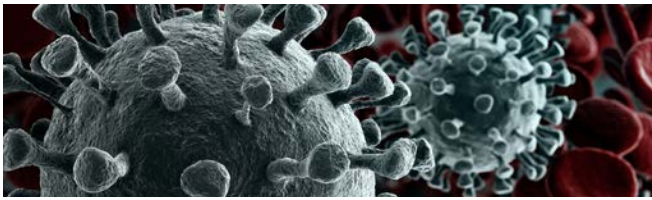


APRIL 2020

# Central Update

A Quarterly Publication of  
Central Mississippi Planning &  
Development District

## COVID19 Challenges for Southcentral MS Works Workforce Development Area



COVID-19 has presented many problems and challenges for area employers and businesses, and certainly for our citizens. Food service businesses have laid off workers and are only able to provide take-out service. Many other businesses have closed or drastically curtailed what they are able to do, not only to help their employees, but in terms of serving individuals in our communities who are suffering as well. Thousands of workers have lost their jobs and the number of individuals filing for unemployment benefits has skyrocketed. Mississippi is no different from other states in that we are not prepared for the magnitude of the pandemic.

The Central Mississippi Planning & Development District (CMPDD) serves as the administrative entity for the Southcentral MS Works (SMW) Workforce Development Area. The workforce area, one of four in the state, utilizes federal workforce funds to provide employment and training assistance to individuals and to employers. In an effort to help

unemployed or laid off workers as well as area employers, SMW is providing assistance in the form of internship opportunities for workers to assist employers with humanitarian efforts, such as providing meals and other necessities during this time of crisis. The program allows workers to work up to 280 hours each, and wages will be paid at the rate of \$12.00 per hour by a third party temporary staffing agency under contract with SMW. The workers will be covered by Workers' Compensation during the internship period.

In addition, the State of Mississippi has applied for a U.S. Department of Labor National Emergency Grant. If approved, this grant will bring a large sum of workforce dollars into the workforce area to be used to help get individuals back to work and/or assist them with the cost of skills training. As the extent of the economic and job market implications of the COVID-19 pandemic emerge, it will be more important than ever for CMPDD and the workforce area to be equipped to respond to the needs of workers and employers. As workforce area innovators and administrators, CMPDD's Workforce Division will adapt as necessary to meet the needs of our ever-changing workforce and whatever the new "normal" looks like.

If you need workforce assistance or have questions, please contact Mary Powers at [mpowers@cmpdd.org](mailto:mpowers@cmpdd.org) or Jimmy Giles at [jgiles@cmpdd.org](mailto:jgiles@cmpdd.org).

## Serving our Seniors during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Due to state mandates and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District's Area Agency on Aging had to figure out how to transition services normally provided in congregate meal sites to the senior's homes. Decisions had to be made on how to transport clients to the grocery stores and medical appointments while adhering to the social distancing mandate. These changes presented a host of challenges from the lack of personnel to logistical concerns. The Area Agency on Aging staff along with the local service providers were able to come together to address transportation and delivery of meals typically served at the congregate meal sites. Several meal providers offered the Grab and Go option. Seniors were added to the Home Delivered Meals Program or local service providers delivered meals door to door. A special thanks to our dedicated staff and local service providers, together we adapted, identified solutions, and continued to serve our most vulnerable population. For more information on Aging Programs, contact our office at 601-981-1516.



# Central Mississippi Planning and Development District Area Agency on Aging Participates in the Mississippi Coronavirus Tele-Town Hall Meeting

Aging Program Director, Dr. Chelsea B. Crittle, served on an expert panel in the AARP Mississippi Coronavirus Tele-Town Hall meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 2020. In the face of the global Coronavirus pandemic, AARP has been providing information and resources to help older people and caregivers protect themselves from the virus and prevent its spread to others. Leading experts addressed questions before an audience of approximately 600 in a live Q&A event. Governor Tate Reeves opened the meeting by giving a brief statewide update and urged everyone to follow the health and medical advice given by State Health Officer, Dr. Thomas Dobbs and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. AARP State Director, Ms. Kimberly Campbell, served as the moderator for the panel which also included



Dr. Carlos Latorre, Mississippi Division of Medicaid and Mr. Seth Boffeli, Fraud Prevention Specialist. Listeners received information on addressing health impacts related to Coronavirus, family caregiving needs, and what seniors can do to stay safe from scams and fraud.

## DRA Announces 2020 Application Cycle

Delta Regional Authority (DRA) has announced the 2020 round of State's Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP) investments. SEDAP investments may be used to fund projects for basic public infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, business development (with focus on entrepreneurship), and workforce development. In Central Mississippi, the SEDAP program is only open to public and non-profit entities in the DRA-designated counties. To find out if your project is located within the DRA designated area or for more information about DRA, please visit their website [www.dra.gov](http://www.dra.gov). This year approximately \$1,930,011.64 will be available for the State of Mississippi.

Project applications may be completed online at [www.dra.gov](http://www.dra.gov) and submitted to CMPDD beginning March 2nd through May 31st. Local governments, public bodies, and non-profit entities in the Central MS Planning and Development District (CMPDD) that are interested in participating in the 2020 DRA Federal Grant Program should contact Mitzi Stubbs at 601.981.1511 to begin the application process.

DRA is a federal-state partnership created by Congress, which serves a 252 county/parish area in an eight-state region. In Mississippi, 47 counties (including all seven (7) CMPDD counties) are eligible for funding under DRA. The purpose of DRA is to remedy severe and chronic economic distress by stimulating economic development partnerships that will have a positive impact on the region's economy.

## Census Workshop

On February 25, 2020, CMPDD hosted a regional Census Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) workshop to educate BAS participants on the program, tools, and timeline for making boundary changes to cities and towns. The workshop was well attended with people representing local governments around Mississippi, as well as one attendee from Louisiana. There were three people from the Census Bureau which were led by Sara Cassidy who provided expert detailed instructions on various methods of response. Census staff demonstrated how to use the tools provided by the Census Bureau



to complete the required boundary updates. We look forward to working with Census Bureau on future programs

aimed at to supporting the needs of our local governments.

# Work Continues on the Development of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

By 2045, the region's population is estimated to grow by 23%. How will our transportation infrastructure be able to serve this growth when funding continues to be limited and competitive? The 2045 Jackson Urbanized Area Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is a long range plan that outlines goals and strategies to help meet the future needs of the regional transportation system for the urbanized areas in Hinds, Madison, and Rankin Counties. The MTP outlines a multi-modal approach to transportation investments with a goal to improve safety and mobility for motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users and freight providers. CMPDD began working on the 2045 MTP in late 2018 and anticipates the plan will be complete by late 2020. Over the last few months, CMPDD's transportation planners have focused on developing a scorecard for the region to determine whether or not the region is meeting federal performance measure standards related to safety, bridge and pavement conditions, travel time reliability, and transit performance. In addition, MPO staff have finalized the Travel Demand Model that will be used to forecast future transportation demand for roadways and have developed a revised methodology for the congestion management process. As work on the 2045 MTP continues, stay engaged in the planning process by following CMPDD's Facebook page or visiting <http://mstransportationplan2045.com/>.

## What is the role of the Jackson Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)?

To guide development of the transportation system through a regional planning body that facilitates the allocation of transportation funds to local projects.

## Who governs the Jackson MPO?

The Metropolitan Planning Policy Committee that is comprised of 29 voting members which includes Mayors and County Officials from the MPO's designated planning area as well as MDOT and JATRAN.

## What is the role of CMPDD's MPO staff?

CMPDD's transportation planners provide information to the MPO's committee members; prepare documents; foster regional coordination; facilitate input and feedback from the public; and recommend documents/processes to the MPO committee members for approval.

## How is a project eligible to receive grant funding through the Jackson MPO?

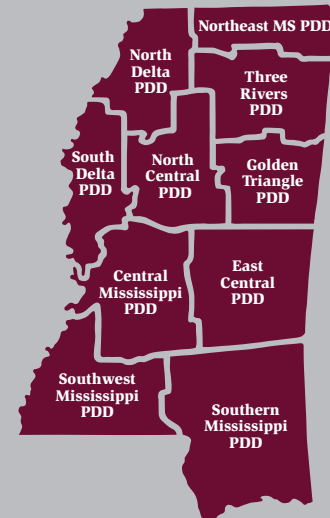
In order for MPO staff to evaluate a grant application for MPO funding, the proposed project must be located on a street functionally classified as a collector or above in the MPO planning area and the project must be identified as a need in the latest version of the MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

## 2020 MAPDD Conference Canceled

Given the increased concerns and the evolving changes surrounding the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the MS Association of Planning and Development Districts (MAPDD) believes it is in the best interest of everyone at this time to cancel the 2020 MAPDD Annual Conference by complying with Center for Disease Control and the MS Department of Health's recommendations to avoid large gatherings in the coming weeks. Refunds for sponsors and conference attendees will be processed in the

coming weeks. This process could take up to six weeks, but may take longer. If you have made Hotel reservations please be sure to cancel your individual reservations directly with the Hotel as soon as possible to avoid cancellation penalty fees. Beau Rivage Hotel reservations can be canceled by contacting 888-567-6667.

The MS Association of Planning and Development Districts regrets the necessity to cancel this year's event, but we must keep the health and safety of our attendees as a priority.



# City of Pearl Adopts Comprehensive Plan

At their January 7th meeting, the Pearl Board of Aldermen adopted a new Comprehensive Plan developed by the District. The updated Plan includes not only all elements and tasks as required by state code, but also an Economic Development chapter and a web-based interactive GIS map viewer with

the capability of viewing various data layers. The new Comprehensive Plan is published both in printed form as well as an online Story Map format is available to the public through the City's website.

## Jackson MPO Adopts Updated Safety Targets

Federal legislation requires all Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) to implement a performance-based transportation planning and programming approach. Performance-based planning allows MPOs and State DOTs to examine data, past and present, and evaluate the performance of their transportation investments against a number of federally required measures in order to track progress toward the achievement of national goals.

Working collectively, MPOs and State DOTs are required to establish performance targets for each applicable measure established by federal legislation. A measure is a statement of what is being assessed, and a target is a quantifiable level of performance or what you hope to achieve within an identified time period. The Jackson MPO is required to set performance targets for multiple performance areas such as safety, pavement conditions, bridge conditions, travel time reliability, freight reliability, and transit assets.

State DOTs and MPOs are required to establish and reassess safety targets annually. Safety targets are established for five safety performance measures based on a 5-year rolling average of analyzed data. An MPO has the option to set its own safety targets or support targets set by its respective state DOT. The Jackson MPO first approved safety performance targets in February 2018, by electing to support the state's established targets. On February 12th, 2020, the MPO continued that support by voting to approve updated safety targets set by the state.

For more information about safety targets or the implementation of performance measures visit the MPO's website, [cmpdd.org/transportation/performance-management/](http://cmpdd.org/transportation/performance-management/)

2016-2020 MISSISSIPPI SAFETY TARGETS	
Measure	Target
Number of Fatalities	682.0
Rate of Fatalities per 100 million VMT	1.690
Number of Serious Injuries	661.0
Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 million VMT	1.570
Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Non-Motorized Serious Injuries	145.5

Fatalities						
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	5-year Avg.
Mississippi	607	677	687	690	664	664
Jackson MPO	55	71	76	72	64	67.6

Fatality Rate per 100 million VMT						
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	5-year Avg.
Mississippi	1.540	1.700	1.700	1.687	1.630	1.651
Jackson MPO	0.994	1.188	1.278	1.339	1.196	1.199

Serious Injuries						
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	5-year Avg.
Mississippi	506	506	627	540	546	545
Jackson MPO	60	77	93	69	90	77.8

Serious Injury Rate per 100 million VMT						
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	5-year Avg.
Mississippi	1.281	1.269	1.543	1.321	1.340	1.351
Jackson MPO	1.085	1.289	1.564	1.284	1.681	1.381

Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries						
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	5-year Avg.
Mississippi	107	110	124	138	143	124.4
Jackson MPO	21	20	20	17	30	21.6

## City Clerks Meeting

CMPDD recently hosted a luncheon/meeting for the City Clerks in the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District. The Clerks shared best practices with each other and discussed issues that directly affect their jobs. We are very happy to facilitate meetings such as this because increased efficiency greatly benefits our participating governments and those they represent.



## CMPDD to Develop Comprehensive Plan for the City of Jackson

At their March 3rd meeting the Jackson City Council approved a proposal for the CMPDD to develop a new Comprehensive Plan for the City of Jackson. During 2019, CMPDD utilized Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping capabilities and mobile GIS team to ride every roadway in the City and conducted an inventory of all existing land uses by standard land use classification. The existing land use survey will be utilized in the development of the new Comprehensive Plan.

Public engagement will be a vital element of the City's Comprehensive Plan; therefore, CMPDD will partner with One Voice to gather the public's input in the development of this Plan. The approach to accomplishing this task will be

grounded in One Voice's community engagement model and scientifically grounded in the Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) model. One Voice is based locally and has an in-house team of experienced community development specialists, data specialists and researchers.

As part of this project, CMPDD will develop a web-based version of the Plan in Story Map format using CMPDD's virtual server technology and ESRI ArcGIS Server Enterprise software. This internet based component will also utilize the City's existing GIS Map Viewer and enable accessibility to interactive land management maps and data layers including such elements as the Land Use Plan, zoning, flood zones and Transportation Plan.

## CMPDD Updating District 5 Hazard Mitigation Plan

CMPDD is actively working to update MEMA District 5's Hazard Mitigation Plan, which includes Claiborne County and Port Gibson; Hinds County, Bolton, Edwards, Raymond, and Utica; Issaquena County and Mayersville; Sharkey County, Anguilla, Cary, and Rolling Fork; Simpson County, Braxton, D'Lo, Magee, and Mendenhall; and the Cities of Canton, Crystal Springs, Madison, and Puckett. The 2020 – 2025 update will include recent disaster and/or hazard events, critical facilities, and mitigation actions. CMPDD planners have met with local Mitigation Council members to review critical facilities and mitigation actions, and are completing a risk assessment for each

participating jurisdiction.

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires local jurisdictions to maintain an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan in order to maintain grant eligibility for certain pre- and post-disaster grant programs available through the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In addition, Plans are required to be reviewed and updated every five (5) years to account for any changes that might have occurred that could increase or decrease a community's risk to a particular hazard. Predicting where the next disaster will occur, and how severe its impact will be on a community

is a difficult challenging task. Given the right conditions, natural disasters, such as tornadoes and flash floods, can occur at anytime and anyplace. Their human and financial consequences of such unforeseen catastrophes can be significant. Mitigation planning is intended to assist communities in determining their risks to natural disasters and provide a framework for developing an action plan to address the known risks by lessening the impact of natural disasters when they do take place.

In the coming months, CMPDD will be reaching out to member governments whose Plans expire in 2021 to initiate the update process.

# Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Update

The Town of Edwards used Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to make improvements to their sewer system. In 2017, the Town received \$450,000 in CDBG funds to undertake the project. There were several residents in the Town's service area that were unserved and had failing septic tanks with raw sewage that posed a serious health risk to the community. Individual septic tanks were not properly maintained which was also causing unwanted environmental issues. Additional sewer lines and grinder pump stations were installed to connect the residents to the Town's wastewater system. Thankfully, the citizens in the Town of Edwards now have a cleaner and safer living

environment due to the improvements.

CMPDD has also provided CDBG administration services to the Towns of Benton and Wesson. Administrative services include professional services procurement, environmental clearance, insuring compliance with all HUD and MDA regulations, financial management and oversight including submission of requests for cash, reporting compliance, and closeout assistance. Although the construction phase has not yet begun, we continue to provide administration services in order to move forward with each project in a timely manner.

## Tougaloo College Master Plan Award

Chuck Carr, Gray Ouzts and David Wade presented Tougaloo College's Board of Trustees with a 2019 Impact Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation for the Tougaloo College Master Plan. The presentation took place at the 32nd Annual Tougaloo College Business Luncheon held on February 14th. The purpose of the Master Plan was to develop a viable long term plan for the properties owned by Tougaloo College that are adjacent to the campus. Tougaloo College owns approximately 375 acres that is located in both Hinds and Madison County as well as the Cities of Jackson and Ridgeland. District planners worked with planners from each jurisdiction to create opportunities for quality development that will complement the campus as well as the surrounding area. The plan includes reserving land



for campus expansion as well as a site specific land use plan for various types of development along with recommended zoning designations. The District utilized its drone

capabilities as well as 3-D modeling to develop conceptual layout of the proposed developments.

## Town of Puckett Adopts Comprehensive Plan

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Puckett adopted the 2020 Comprehensive Plan in March 2020, which was developed by CMPDD Planners. The updated Plan which is available through the Town's website, has also been released in Story Map, which is a web-based format that appears as a website with interactive graphics and maps. Web-based plans provide greater access to the documents

for current and prospective property owners and investors. The Plan update includes revisions to all four (4) elements including the Goals and Objectives, Land Use Plan, Transportation Plan, and Community Facilities Plan. The Comprehensive Plan update sets the foundation and vision for updates to the Town's Zoning Ordinance and Map.



# CMD C BULLETIN

CMDC is a commercial lender certified by the U. S. Small Business Administration and works with local banks and other financial institutions in providing debt capital for small businesses. CMDC provides fixed rate low interest long term financing for small businesses and saves thousands of dollars in debt service on fixed assets. This type financing removes the problem of variable rate financing on long term assets. Many economic forecasters are certain that interest rates will rise. These predictable interest rate increases will not negatively impact the cash flow of those small businesses that have fixed rate low interest loans through the U. S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) 504 Loan Program. The most recent fixed interest rates under this loan program are:

### SBA 504 Loan Program Interest Rates

<u>TERM (YEARS)</u>	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>
10 (December 2019)	2.84%
20 (December 2019)	2.80%
25 (December 2019)	2.88%

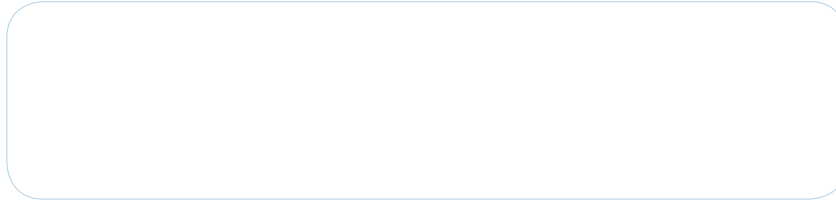
Also, CMDC serves as the Loan Review Board for the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District's (CMPDD's) Minority Business Enterprise Loan Program (MBELP). The MBELP receives its funding from the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA). The interest rate on loans made through this program to a minority owned business is currently 2.25% per annum. The term of a loan can be up to 15 years depending on the use of the loan proceeds (commercial buildings, equipment, inventory, working capital, and etc).

Mr. De'Keither Stamps invites bankers, commercial loan officers, business owners, real estate developers, and general contractors, to contact Dwayne Perkins at 981-1625, or visit our website at [cmpdd.org](http://cmpdd.org). See the tab labeled "Small Business Assistance."

## Coronavirus Relief Options

<https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options>

The screenshot shows the SBA website's 'Coronavirus Relief Options' page. At the top left is the SBA logo. To the right are navigation links: 'Business Guide', 'Funding Programs', 'Federal Contracting', 'Learning Center', 'Local Assistance', and 'About SBA'. The main visual is a photograph of a man in a blue denim shirt working in a workshop. Overlaid on the left side of the image is a white box with the text: 'Coronavirus Relief Options. We're here to help you overcome the challenges created by this health crisis. We offer multiple funding options for those seeking relief. Read more below.'



**If the name and address of the recipient needs to be updated, please contact our office at 601-981-1511.**

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## CMPDD's Medicaid Waiver Program Update

The CMPDD Medicaid Waiver team has been working diligently on the Elderly and Disabled (E & D) Waiver Program. The E & D Waiver is a statewide program designed to offer assistance to qualified Medicaid beneficiaries who are 21 years of age or older. They must meet income qualifications by either having SSI Medicaid, or having a monthly income that is no more than 300% of the SSI Medicaid income limits. Applicants must be screened and assessed by a Case Management team, and approved by the Division of Medicaid. They must require assistance with activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, eating, ambulation and/or transferring. For all clients that are approved for the Elderly and Disabled waiver program, the Case Management teams work to assure that all needs for services are addressed, regardless of payor source.

CMPDD has 23 full Case Management (CM) teams. Beginning February 3, 2020, we added the new project of an admissions/float team. The admissions team will conduct initial assessments and manage the clients up until approval by the Division of Medicaid (DOM). Once approved by the DOM, the client will be assigned to a permanent CM team.

During the months of January, February, and March 2020, CMPDD



served an average of 2,250 Active clients per month. We served an average of 65 clients per month pending approval at DOM and an average of 35 clients per month pending physician signature.

CMPDD's Elderly and Disabled (E&D) Home and Community Based Medicaid Waiver program provides Case Management (CM) and Home Delivered Meal (HDM) services to Medicaid eligible elderly and/or disabled recipients who desire to remain in their home setting. The Registered Nurse and Licensed Social Worker work together as a team to coordinate all approved Waiver services and conduct monthly home visits to assure the approved services are meeting the clients' needs.

For more information on Elderly & Disabled Waiver services, please contact Teresa Burrell-Shoto, RN, Case

Management Director, at 601-855-5914 or [tburrell@cmpdd.org](mailto:tburrell@cmpdd.org). Contact the Division of Medicaid for information on how to become a Waiver provider.

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