

APRIL 2022

# Central Update

A Quarterly Publication of  
Central Mississippi Planning &  
Development District



## CMPDD Announces Funding for 33 Metro-Area Transportation Projects

A total of \$25.4 million in grants has been awarded to 33 projects in the metro Jackson area by the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District (CMPDD) through its Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

The MPO grants support a wide variety of projects. Some expand capacity, such as the Yandell Road project, a road widening project in Madison County near Madison Crossing Elementary School. Others improve existing infrastructure, with roadway resurfacing projects along State Street in Jackson, Old Fannin Road in Rankin County, and East County Line Road. While others focus to improve traffic mobility and safety, such as the installation of two new traffic signals in the City of Madison along Highland Colony Parkway at Lake Castle Road and Madison Central Drive. Other safety projects provide for upgrades to existing span wire traffic signals to mast arm traffic signals such as in Pearl at U.S. 80 and Highways 49 and 468. Additionally, MPO grant funds were awarded for the repair of select bridge projects including the bridge replacement project on Gary Road in Byram and the Monument Street bridge in Jackson.

Through these projects, the MPO seeks to advance the region's transportation goals to manage the relationship of transportation, community, and environment; improving and expanding transportation choices; improving safety on the regional system; and providing a reliable regional transportation system.

Funding for these projects is available through the Surface Transportation Program, which is funded by the

U.S. Department of Transportation and administered by CMPDD through its MPO planning process.

Eligible jurisdictions in Hinds, Madison, and Rankin Counties submitted applications to CMPDD back in October 2021. The applications were then evaluated by CMPDD staff based on the proposed project type and assigned a project score. The projects with the highest scores were the basis for a recommendation to the MPO Policy Committee, which approved the funding for 33 projects on February 9th. Combined, cities and counties receiving the \$25.4 million in federal surface transportation grant funds have committed to provide over \$6.4 million in local matching funds.

One important thing to note is this process is one step further toward implementation of the long-range transportation plan adopted by the MPO in November 2020. Each project selected represents only a small piece of a much larger long-term transportation plan. The 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the Jackson Urbanized Area, which is the region's long-range transportation plan, outlines a comprehensive blueprint of the region's transportation system needs over the next 25-years. The plan analyzes existing infrastructure and seeks to forecast changes in the region to identify transportation improvements needed to keep people and goods moving. For more information regarding CMPDD's regional transportation planning process or for a map highlighting the projects selected for funding visit CMPDD's website at [www.cmpdd.org](http://www.cmpdd.org).

**See Page 2 for a list of projects.**

| Jurisdiction                   | Project Description  | MPO Grant Funds Awarded | Local Matching Funds |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Hinds County Projects</b>   |  |                         |                      |
| Byram                          | Gary Road Bridge Replacement   | \$265,000               | \$265,000            |
| Byram                          | Widening Siwell Road at Terry Road   | \$411,250               | \$176,250            |
| Jackson                        | Monument Street Bridge Replacement   | \$1,380,000             | \$345,000            |
| Jackson                        | Officer Thomas Catchings Drive Bridge Replacement  | \$1,380,000             | \$345,000            |
| Jackson                        | New traffic signal with geometric intersection improvements Beasley Road at Highland Drive             | \$736,000               | \$184,000            |
| Jackson                        | Traffic signal upgrade at Raymond Road and McDowell Road Ext.  | \$350,000               | \$0                  |
| Jackson                        | Traffic signal upgrade at Medgar Evers Blvd. and Northside Drive                                       | \$400,000               | \$0                  |
| Jackson                        | Traffic signal upgrade at U.S. 80 and Ellis Ave.   | \$350,000               | \$0                  |
| Jackson                        | Traffic signal upgrade at Ellis Ave. and Robinson Street   | \$350,000               | \$0                  |
| Jackson                        | Traffic signal upgrade at Ridgewood Road and Old Canton Road   | \$300,000               | \$0                  |
| Jackson                        | Traffic signal upgrade at Terry Road and McDowell Road   | \$350,000               | \$0                  |
| Jackson                        | Traffic signal upgrade at Ellis Ave. and Lynch Street  | \$350,000               | \$0                  |
| Jackson                        | Traffic signal upgrade at U.S. 80 at Westhaven   | \$350,000               | \$0                  |
| Jackson                        | Resurfacing State Street from Town Creek bridge to 625 ft. north of Rankin Street                      | \$1,182,529             | \$259,632            |
| Jackson                        | Resurfacing McDowell Road Ext. from Hwy 18 to Raymond Road   | \$2,327,415             | \$581,853            |
| <b>Madison County Projects</b> |  |                         |                      |
| Flora                          | Resurfacing Pocahontas Road from Hwy 22 to the town limits   | \$479,587               | \$119,897            |
| City of Madison                | New traffic signal with geometric intersection improvements Highland Colony Parkway and Lake Castle Rd | \$710,330               | \$0                  |
| City of Madison                | New traffic signal at Highland Colony Parkway and Madison Central Drive                                | \$352,000               | \$0                  |
| Ridgeland                      | Resurfacing East County Line Road from Wheatley Street to Old Canton Road                              | \$1,840,000             | \$460,000            |
| Ridgeland                      | Widening Lake Harbour Drive from Wolcott Circle to Hwy 51  | \$1,035,000             | \$345,000            |
| Madison County                 | Yandell Road Widening from Westfalen Drive to Madison Crossing Elementary School                       | \$2,432,333             | \$608,083            |
| <b>Rankin County Projects</b>  |  |                         |                      |
| Brandon                        | Traffic signal upgrades with geometric intersection improvements at U.S. 80 at Stonegate and Woodgate  | \$1,099,877             | \$274,969            |
| Florence                       | Resurfacing Eagle Post Road from Hwy 469 to Williams Road  | \$717,200               | \$179,300            |
| Pearl                          | Traffic signal upgrade at U.S. 80 and U.S. 49/468  | \$220,000               | \$55,000             |
| Pearl                          | Traffic signal upgrade at Pearson Road and Phillips Lane   | \$176,000               | \$44,000             |
| Pearl                          | Resurfacing Cross Park Drive from U.S. 80 to Old Brandon Road  | \$200,200               | \$85,800             |
| Pearl                          | Resurfacing Old Brandon Road from King Drive to west of Airport Road                                   | \$446,600               | \$191,400            |
| Pearl                          | Resurfacing Old Brandon Road from end of state maintenance at U.S. 80 to Bierdeman Road                | \$323,400               | \$138,600            |
| Pearl                          | Resurfacing Fox Hall Road from Old Brandon Road to the city limits                                     | \$223,300               | \$95,700             |
| Pearl                          | Resurfacing Weems Street from Ware Street to Childre Road  | \$100,100               | \$42,900             |
| Richland                       | Widening Old Hwy 49 at Carrier Boulevard   | \$2,694,983             | \$898,328            |
| Richland                       | New traffic signal Old Hwy 49 at Aerosmith Drive and Carrier Boulevard                                 | \$268,347               | \$0                  |
| Rankin County                  | Resurfacing Old Fannin Road from the entrance of Flowood Baptist Church to Spillway Road               | \$1,674,750             | \$717,750            |

# 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. 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 five-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 9, 2022, the MPO continued that support by voting to approve updated safety targets set by the state.

| 2018-2022 State of Mississippi Safety Targets           |        |
|---|--------|
| Measure   | Target |
| Number of Fatalities                                    | 723    |
| Rate of Fatalities per 100 million VMT                  | 1.810  |
| Number of Serious Injuries                              | 2,905  |
| Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 million VMT            | 7.300  |
| Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries | 349.6  |

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

## County and Municipal Redistricting

The Central Mississippi Planning and Development District (CMPDD) received the 2020 Census population data in September 2021 and began an analysis to determine which jurisdictions are in need of redistricting. This process involves utilizing the District’s GIS system to overlay current municipal ward lines and county supervisor and justice court districts over the new 2020 Census population data to determine where changes are needed.

The District has contracted with 20 jurisdictions to develop redistricting plans. These include six (6) counties, 13 municipalities and one (1) school district. To date, four (4) counties (Madison, Rankin, Simpson, and Warren) and one (1) municipality (Brandon) have adopted redistricting plans.

Following adoption of each redistricting plan, District planners will work with election officials to redraw voting precincts based on the changes to election districts.

## City Clerks Luncheon

The District hosted a luncheon for the City Clerks within the seven-county district. The Clerks shared best practices with each other and discussed issues that directly affect their jobs and municipalities. Invited guests from the Mississippi Development Authority spoke on the upcoming grant cycle and updates to the CDBG program.



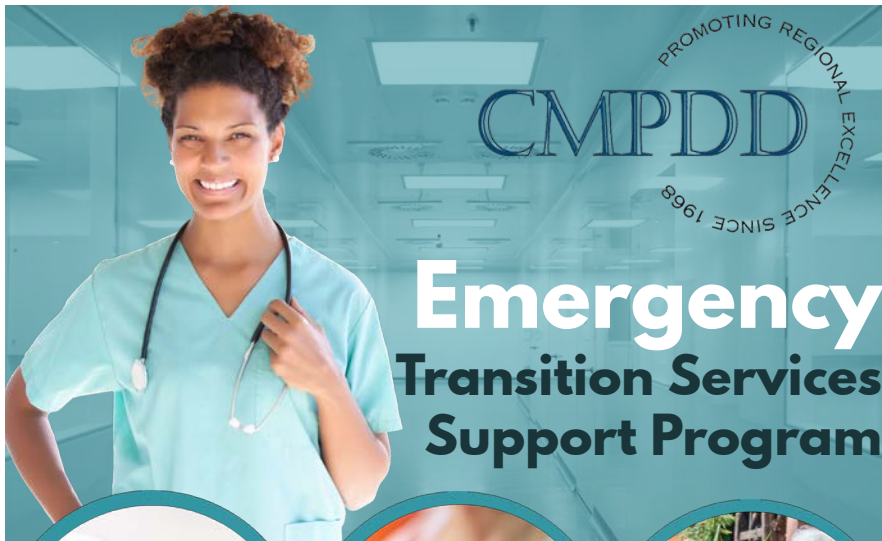
# CMPDD Received DRA Approval for 2021 SEDAP Applications

The Delta Regional Authority’s States’ Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP) provides direct investments into community-based and regional projects to support basic public infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, workforce development, and small business development with an emphasis on entrepreneurship. Eligible entities include non-profit organizations, public institutions of higher learning, local forms of government, tribal organizations, or other local/state entities which are eligible to receive federal funds.



DRA approved two (2) SEDAP projects in the CMPDD area. Listed below are the projects that were awarded funding.

| <u>Name</u>                   | <u>Project Description</u> | <u>DRA Funds</u> |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Warren County Port Commission | Site Improvements          | \$303,566        |
| Madison County EDA            | Road Improvements          | \$450,000        |



Central Mississippi Area Agency on Aging will support those seeking transition from hospital-to-home and nursing home-to-home by establishing an Emergency Transitions Support (ETS) Program to provide meals and homemaker services during the first 3 weeks following discharge.

The program will provide up to 21 home delivered meals and 12 hours of homemaker services to eligible individuals. The services will be provided by state contracted nutrition provider (TRIO) and Home Instead, CMPDD'S homemaker provider. Referrals will only be accepted by participating hospitals/nursing home facilities.

For more information, contact  
**Kenessa Reed**  
 Social Services Specialist  
 601-891-0593



1020 Centre Pointe Blvd.  
 Pearl, MS 39208

## Demographic Profiles

The District has updated the County Demographic Profiles with the 2020 Census data. The County Profiles can be found on the CMPDD website at <http://cmpdd.org/demographic-data-2/>. The City Demographic Profiles within our district are also being updated to reflect the 2020 census results and provide an excellent overview of population, race, household income, and age groups, for counties and cities in our district.

## Efile Cabinet

In March of 2022, the District migrated their paperless electronic filing system from Efile Cabinet to Rubex. Rubex is a cloud-based solution. The advantages to using the Rubex product are enhanced security, faster file searching, no more server maintenance or compatibility issues, and no more desktop installations. Rubex offers a way to protect important CMPDD documents in an organized and easy to use fashion. This product has a similar look and functional aspect to the previous system. This has made it easy for users to adapt.

## The Planning Corner Update

The District planners continue to work with the Cities of Brandon and Jackson on updates to their Comprehensive Plans. The District is also working with Rankin County on an update to their Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance. Pearl River Valley Water Supply District is working through The District planners to update their Master Plan which was last updated in 2013. In March, The District planners completed a Comprehensive plan and Zoning ordinance update for Tate County.

During this quarter, the Mississippi Medical Cannabis Act was passed by the Mississippi Legislature and became

effective following Governor Tate Reeve's signature. The District planners have studied the Act, participated in webinars sponsored by the Mississippi Chapter of the American Planning Association, and have educated themselves on the regulatory authority, including zoning, provided to local governments through the Act. The planners have worked with numerous member governments to answer questions related to zoning authority and draft potential zoning amendments. Our planners remain available to member governments as local decisions are considered.

## CMMA Meeting

The District hosted the Central Mississippi Mayors Association (CMMA) quarterly meeting. CMMA is made up of Mayors of the 35 cities, towns, and villages within the District. These meetings are held quarterly at the The District office for Mayors to discuss current issues facing the municipalities and exchange ideas of improving each area. Guest speakers from the Mississippi Development Authority spoke on the upcoming grant cycles and updates to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The Mayors also discussed current legislation and the CMMA Scholarship applications.



## Jackson MPO Approves Project Submittal Guidelines for Transportation Alternatives Funds, Issues Call for Projects

On February 9, 2022, the Metropolitan Planning Policy Committee (MPO) approved Project submittal guidelines for Transportation Alternatives (TA) funding. The adopted project submittal guidelines outline the process for applying for TA funding made available through the Jackson MPO. The project submittal guidelines include project evaluation criteria used to rank project applications, guidelines for eligibility, and general requirements for all project applications.

Following approval of the TA project submittal guidelines, the MPO committee issued a Call for Projects for \$1.7 million in TA program funds. The Call for Projects includes how to access the evaluation criteria and application for TA funds, and project submission instructions. The deadline to

submit project applications was March 31st. Once project applications are received MPO staff will review and grade each application based upon the TA project evaluation criteria. The MPO anticipates announcing funding awards at its regularly scheduled meeting in May.

Local jurisdictions with applications selected for funding can receive up to 80% in Federal TA funding for construction costs and are required to provide at a minimum 20% in local matching funds. The MPO's last call for TA applications took place in 2019 and resulted in five (5) projects in the metro area receiving \$1.9 million in TA funding.

For more information about the Jackson MPO please visit [www.cmpdd.org](http://www.cmpdd.org).

## Hazard Mitigation Planning Continues

CMPDD has a long history of assisting member governments, universities, and the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) District 5 Region with Hazard Mitigation planning and is currently assisting numerous governments with updates to their Hazard Mitigation Plans. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires local jurisdictions to maintain an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan to enable grant eligibility for certain pre- and post-disaster grant programs available through 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 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 difficult. Given the right conditions natural disasters, such as tornadoes and flash floods, can occur at any time and any place. Their human and financial consequences can be significant. Mitigation Planning is intended to assist communities in determining their risks and developing an action plan to address the known risks by lessening the impact of natural disasters.

The following jurisdictions have received final approval from MEMA and FEMA on their 2021-2026 Hazard Mitigation Plans:

- City of Brandon
- City of Clinton
- City of Flora
- City of Florence
- City of Richland
- City of Ridgeland
- City of Vicksburg
- Rankin County
- MEMA District 5 Region including 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 Town of Puckett.
- Copiah County Multi-Jurisdictional Plan including Copiah County, Georgetown, and Wesson.

The following jurisdictions have received FEMA approval for their 2021-2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan pending local adoption:

- City of Flowood
- Warren County
- Yazoo County Multi-Jurisdiction Plan

The following jurisdictions have submitted their 2021-2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan for FEMA for approval:

- City of Hazlehurst
- Town of Pelahatchie

The following jurisdictions are currently working with CMPDD to complete updates to the Hazard Mitigation Plans:

- City of Byram
- City of Jackson
- City of Pearl
- Madison County

## CMPDD Applies for CDBG Funds

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Facility Program provides grant funds to local entities of government for a variety of public improvement projects (e.g., water or sewer facilities, storm drainage, public buildings, street reconstruction, etc.) that benefit low- and moderate-income families and areas. Special priority is given to water and sanitary sewer projects that eliminate existing health and safety hazards. Planning staff is working with municipalities in Copiah, Hinds, Madison, Rankin, and Simpson counties to apply for funds for much needed improvements to water and sewer.

## MAPDD Census Training

In February, District staff participated in a Census Training workshop held at the University of Mississippi. It was hosted by the Center for Population Studies and State Data Center of Mississippi, as well as the Mississippi Association of Planning and Development Districts. Staff from the State Data Center and the US Census Bureau presented information on the 2020 Census, sources of economic and health related data, and how COVID-19 has affected areas of the Census.

## MS Home Corp GIS Support

Through our agreement with MS Home Corp. to provide hourly GIS support, the District's GIS department has been providing PDF maps for their Housing Tax Credit Program. These maps help developers understand if a property will qualify for a new or rehabilitation construction loan through the MS Home Corp. Tax Credit Program. The demand for maps and property qualification tends to be seasonal and coincides with qualification deadlines established by the MS Home Corp.

# CMDC BULLETIN

Representative De' Keither Stamps, President of the Central Mississippi Development Company, Inc. (CMDC), announced that no new loans were approved during the quarter.

Fondren Guitars' SBA 504 loan was approved in March of 2021. The renovation of the Jackson, MS retail business was completed last year. The business is performing well and is creating two (2) new jobs in the private sector.

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 of 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 were:

### SBA 504 Loan Program Interest Rates

| <u>TERM (YEARS)</u> | <u>INTEREST RATE</u> |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 10 (March 2022)     | 3.82%                |
| 20 (March 2022)     | 3.76%                |
| 25 (March 2022)     | 3.92%                |



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, etc.).

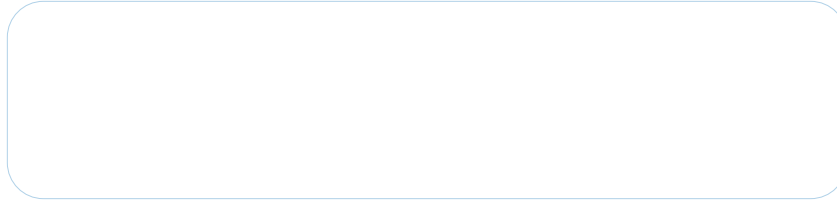
Representative De'Keither Stamps invites bankers, commercial loan officers, business owners, real estate developers, and general contractors, to contact Dwayne Perkins at 601-981-1625, or visit our website at [cmpdd.org](http://cmpdd.org). See the tab labeled "Small Business Loans."

## Getting Mississippians Back to Work

The Governor's Job Fair Network is a unique, proactive, employment assistance resource for the unemployed, employers, and communities of Mississippi. The Network schedules several events throughout the year in cities and towns statewide. The job fair creates an environment that facilitates the hiring process with the ultimate objective being job placement. The job fairs, coordinated by the Governor's Job Fair Network, are presented in conjunction with local community efforts to provide people looking for jobs the opportunity to apply with a number of different employers in a centralized, user-friendly setting. For business and industry, the job fairs provide their human resource representatives the opportunity to interview a variety of potential employees. Many job seekers receive job offers on the day of the job fair, while others are required to complete additional screening for current and future position vacancies. Job Fairs are a means to help meet the needs of employers, the unemployed, graduating university and community college students and returning military service members.



Each Job Fair is a one-day event and is completely free and open to anyone looking for employment. Employers who participate are those who offer real job opportunities. Individuals are encouraged to register prior to the event, to dress for interviews, and bring current resumes. CMPDD's Workforce Division staff has worked diligently with the Governor's Job Fair Network to plan the Central Mississippi Employment Expo, which was held April 13th at the Mississippi Trade Mart from 9:00 – 1:00. Individuals currently receiving Unemployment Insurance benefits are strongly encouraged to attend. For more information, go to [www.jobfairs.ms.gov](http://www.jobfairs.ms.gov).



**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 Elderly & Disabled Medicaid Waiver (E&D Waiver) is a statewide program designed to provide in-home assistance to qualified Medicaid beneficiaries. Beneficiaries must be 21 years of age or older. They must qualify by either SSI Medicaid or 300% of SSI Medicaid. They must require assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs) such as bathing, dressing, eating, ambulation and/or transferring; or instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs) such as laundry, light housekeeping, errands, and/or assistance on community outings. Registered Nurses (RN) and Licensed Social Workers (LSW) work together as a team to case manage Medicaid eligible beneficiaries.

Beginning February 2022, the Division of Medicaid authorized Case

Managers to utilize the “Revise” feature on Service and Supports Monitoring (SSM) notes in Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS). The SSM note is the monthly contact visit note. The Revise function, available in online mode only, provides the ability to copy the latest, previously submitted monthly or quarterly contact visit note. A revised SSM note will prepopulate much of the previous content (except Signature), allowing Case Managers to efficiently complete the SSM form without re-entering information that remained unchanged between visits.

The signature section is not prepopulated from the previous signatures. New signatures are required for each revised or newly created SSM contact note.

Effective 3/10/2022, the Division of Medicaid granted permission to Nurse Practitioners to certify nursing facility level of care for the Elderly and Disabled Waiver program recipients. Elderly or disabled persons applying or approved for the Waiver program are regularly evaluated and treated solely by Nurse Practitioners at local clinics, especially in rural areas. Prior to the new permission, the Nurse Practitioner must get the Physician that he or she practices under to sign the nursing facility level of care form. This

oftentimes caused delays, or prevention, in Waiver recipients being approved for the Waiver program and receiving needed in-home services to help delay or prevent institutionalization.

For more information on Elderly & Disabled Waiver services, please contact CMPDD's Mississippi Access to Care (MAC) Center at 1-844-822-4622. Or contact Teresa Burrell-Shoto, RN, Case Management Director at 601-855-5914 or [tburrell@cmpdd.org](mailto:tburrell@cmpdd.org).

\*Individuals who own an agency and are seeking to become a Medicaid Waiver service provider should contact the Division of Medicaid, Long-Term Care Bureau at 601-359-6141.

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