

JULY 2021

# Central Update

A Quarterly Publication of  
Central Mississippi Planning &  
Development District

## New WIN Job Center Opens in Rankin County

Job seekers and employers in Rankin and surrounding counties can now access a wide variety of workforce employment and training related services at the newly opened WIN Job Center located on the campus of Hinds Community College. The Center is located at 3805 Hwy. 80 E, Pearl, MS 39208. A Grand Opening event was held at the Center on April 7, 2021. The new location offers renovated office space, a computer lab, a resource center, and space for employers interviewing prospective employees.

Being located on the Hinds Community College campus affords the Center increased visibility. The Center is a partnership between the Southcentral Mississippi Works Workforce Development Area, the MS Department of Employment Security (MDES), and the College. Staff of MDES and Hinds Community College provide a variety of services to job seekers and employers. Utilizing federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding, individuals seeking skills advancement and training can apply for scholarship assistance to pay the cost of tuition, other fees, and expenses related to career tech training.



Employers can access funding to help offset the cost of hiring and training new employees. Both job seekers and employers can access the workforce area's internship program.

Individuals visiting the WIN Job Center who may need training can enroll on-site and attend classes. This provides a true one-stop atmosphere for those looking for training and work.

CMPDD serves as the administrative entity for the 17-county Southcentral MS Works Workforce Development Area and is proud to work with other

workforce partner agencies and organizations in the area to provide needed services and resources to the area's citizens. The mission of the workforce area is putting people to work. Other WIN Job Centers in the workforce area are located in Jackson, Vicksburg, Canton, Brookhaven, McComb, and Natchez. If you need or know of someone who needs workforce-related assistance, please contact one of the workforce area's WIN Job Centers or the CMPDD office.

## Jackson MPO Receives COVID Supplemental Grant Funds

The Coronavirus Supplemental Appropriations Act allocated funding to address the virus impacts related to the Highway Infrastructure Programs. Funds from this Act were provided to the State with a portion of the funds suballocated to urbanized areas with a population over 200,000. The Jackson Metropolitan Planning Organization

(MPO) received an allocation of \$3,538,655. During the MPO's May meeting the Metropolitan Planning Policy Committee appointed a subcommittee to review and make recommendations for necessary revisions to the Jackson MPO's guidelines in anticipation of the MPO issuing a Call for Projects in August.

## MDOT Issues a Call for Projects

The MS Department of Transportation (MDOT) is now accepting applications for the Emergency Road and Bridge Repair (ERBR) Program. Mississippi was apportioned \$119 million through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act in December 2020 with \$6,934,144 suballocated to the urbanized areas with a population over 200,000. During the 2021 Legislative Session, the Mississippi Legislature designated \$89 million set aside for the ERBR Fund. MDOT began accepting application for the ERBR Program July 1st and will continue accepting application through 5 p.m. on August 6, 2021. MDOT anticipates applications being approved for funding by the MS Transportation Commission in October. For more information on the ERBR application process visit, [www.mdot.ms.gov/portal/erbrf\\_2021](http://www.mdot.ms.gov/portal/erbrf_2021). Applications must be submitted using MDOT's online application form.

All emergency projects will be considered during the application evaluation, but the focus of the 2021 ERBR Program remains improving bridge conditions. ERBR Selection Criteria:

- Safety
- Emergency Vehicle Access
- Condition of Bridges
- Detour Length
- Economic Impacts
- Project Readiness
- Traffic Volume
- Truck Volume
- Facility Type
- Regional Significance
- Innovative Financing or Design
- Access to Schools

## 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 (ADL's) such as bathing, dressing, eating, ambulation and/or transferring; or instrumental activities of daily living (IADL'S) such as laundry, light housekeeping, errands, and/or assistance on community outings. Registered Nurses and Licensed Social Workers work together as a team to case manage Medicaid eligible beneficiaries.

- Beginning April 5, 2021, Medicaid Waiver Case Managers returned to monthly face-to-face home visits for all waiver clients.
- The Division of Medicaid has allowed the continuance of some COVID-19 flexibilities until March 31, 2022. Those flexibilities include:
  1. Continue to allow the increase from five (5), to ten (10) home delivered meals per week for beneficiaries who demonstrate the need for the additional meals
  2. Continue to allow 90 days per fiscal year of Institutional Respite services for those who demonstrate the need for the increase from 60 days to 90 days
  3. Continue to allow live-in family members to be the paid provider if there are no other available providers

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 seeking to become a Medicaid Waiver service provider should contact the Division of Medicaid, Long-Term Care Bureau at 601-359-6141.

## Master Plan Update for the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District



CMPDD recently contracted with the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District (PRVWSD) to update their Master Plan. CMPDD developed the current Master Plan in 2013 which received a 2014 Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) as well as the Best Project Award from the Mississippi Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA-MS). The current Plan has served as a policy guide for the physical and economic development of properties in the PRVWSD. The Plan includes a Land Use Plan, Transportation Plan, Public Facilities Plan, Capital Improvements Program, and an analysis of the Regional Economic Impact of PRVWSD.

The Master Plan update will include additional public outreach, an inventory of existing land use, and an update of the Land Use and Transportation plans. CMPDD will also develop a financial analysis of expected revenues and expenditures based on various build out scenarios for PRVWSD properties.



## CONNECTJXN

### ConnectJXN Continues to Develop

The development of ConnectJXN, which will be the City of Jackson’s next Comprehensive Plan, continues to move forward. A Town Hall Meeting was held in late June at New Horizon Church to present a draft Commitment Statement, Vision, and Framework to the public. Citizens were given an opportunity to engage during small group discussions on these newly released elements during the meeting. CMPDD planners along with the City of Jackson’s Planning Department will use the public input to help shape the drafting of Policy and Projects for each Framework,

which will include a Land Use Plan, Transportation Plan, and various other elements.

The public will continue to be engaged and is encouraged to continue to participate in the development of the new Comprehensive Plan. A Video from the Town Hall Meeting, results of previous engagement activity, and drafts of the plan will be published on [connectjxn.com](http://connectjxn.com). Comments and concerns may also be submitted through the ConnectJXN website.

## DRA Administration

In 2019, the Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) applied for DRA funding to construct an access road on 326 acres known as the “mega-site”. The purpose of the access road is to allow for potential prospects to easily access the area and reduce construction time required for other projects as well. Over the last year and a half, MCEDA utilized a total of \$372,207 in DRA funds to


construct an access road on the mega-site. With the newly constructed access road, MCEDA can now market the site for advanced manufacturing prospects to locate in the DRA territory. MCEDA has chosen the advanced manufacturing sector, which attracts skilled, high-paying, and in-demand technology and production jobs, suitable to the DRA territory.

## CMPDD Submits CDBG Public Facilities Applications For 2021

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Facility Program provides grant funds to local units 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 to moderate income families and areas. Special priority is given to water and sanitary sewer projects that eliminate existing health and safety hazards.


Over the past several months the District has been assisting local governments with the preparation of CDBG Public Facility Applications. The District submitted three (3) applications to the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) for review. Listed below are the applications that were submitted:

<u>Community Name</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>CDBG Funds</u>	<u>Matching Funds</u>
City of Byram	Flood and Drainage Improvements	\$600,000	\$468,575
City of Magee	Wastewater Improvements	\$510,263	\$300,000
Town of Utica	Wastewater Improvements	\$356,329	N/A



# COVID-19 Vaccination Program

**Must be homebound, 60 years & older /or disabled.**



**In-home Vaccination**

In home vaccinations will be provided by Nurse Practitioners (NPs), Registered Nurses (RNs), and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs).



**Transportation**

Transportation will be provided to COVID-19 Vaccination appointments.

**For more information, contact the MAC Center at 844.822.4622**



This project was supported by a grant from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Human Services.

## CDBG Administration

The Town of D’Lo is nearing completion on their CDBG project to improve the Town’s sewer system. In 2019, the Town received a CDBG grant in the amount of \$449,233 to make necessary repairs their sanitary sewer system. Completing these much needed improvements will help the Town provide residents with a more dependable sewer system and eliminate periodic backups.

CMPDD is also providing CDBG administration services to the Cities of Pearl and Hazlehurst. Administrative services include professional services procurement, environmental clearance, compliance with all HUD and MDA regulations, financial management and oversight including submission of requests for cash, reporting compliance, and closeout assistance.

## Economic Developers Roundtable

On June 17th, CMPDD hosted the District’s economic developers for a roundtable with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development (RDA), and the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA). Nicole Barnes, Program Director of Community Programs, and Gary Jones, Program Director of Rural Business and Cooperative Services, provided an in-depth presentation on the grants and loans available to cities, counties, and businesses through RDA. The presentation was broadcast via Zoom to the economic developers unable to be there in person. Sara Watson, Director of Financial Resources, concluded the presentation with an update of several of MDA’s programs of interest to the economic developers, including the Site Development Grant.

This was the first in a continuing series of presentations to

assist economic developers and CMPDD staff by informing them of potential funding sources, the rules and regulations regarding these sources, and any amendments or changes that have occurred in these funding sources.



# CMD C BULLETIN

Representative De'Keither Stamps, President of the Central Mississippi Development Company, Inc. (CMD C), announced the approval of one (1) new loan.

The approval was for G & S Storage, LLC, a self-storage facility business. The loan was for \$292,720 of a \$731,800 project under the United States Small Business Administration's 504 Loan Program. The proceeds of this loan will finance the purchase of existing storage facilities in Liberty and Gloster, MS. The proceeds will also finance the expansion of the Liberty, MS location by 35 units. This will create one (1) new job in the private sector.

CMD C 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. CMD C 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 were:

## SBA 504 Loan Program Interest Rates

<u>TERM (YEARS)</u>	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>
10 (June 2021)	2.62%
20 (June 2021)	2.77%
25 (June 2021)	2.88%

Also, CMD C 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".

## CMPDD Submits Delta Regional Authority (DRA) SEDAP Applications

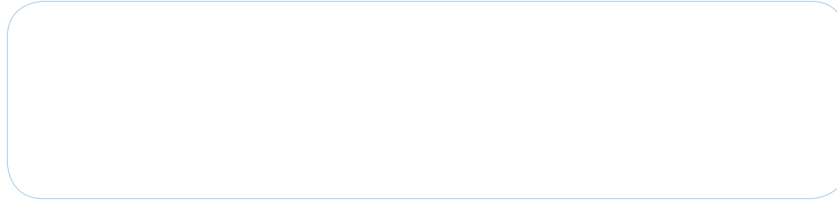
DRA is a federal-state partnership created by Congress, which serves a 252 county/parish area in an eight-state region. In Mississippi, 45 counties (including all seven (7) CMPDD counties) are eligible for funding under DRA. The purpose of DRA is to remedy severe and chronic economic distress by stimulating economic development partnerships that will have a positive impact on the region's economy. This year approximately \$2,290,216.42 will be available for the State of Mississippi.

In central Mississippi, the DRA State's Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP) 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).

Listed below are the applications that were submitted:

<u>Community Name</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>DRA Funds</u>	<u>Matching Funds</u>
The Bean Path	Renovation and improvements to an existing building to be used as a Makerspace Experience Center	\$1,039,994	- 0 -
Madison Economic Development Authority	Access Road Extensions	\$450,000	\$308,500
Warren County, MS	Levee Repair/Falco Chemical	\$303,566	\$32,956

For additional information, please contact Mitzi Stubbs at 601.981.1511.



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

---

---

## The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program or (SFMNP) is a cooperative effort between the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce and the Central Mississippi Area Agency on Aging. The program is designed to improve the health of seniors by providing access to fresh fruits and vegetables. It is also designed to increase domestic consumption of agricultural commodities and the awareness of local farmers' markets.



Seniors (60 years of age or older) with specific income qualifications were eligible to receive a one-time benefit of \$30.00 (six-\$5.00 vouchers) to shop for fruits and vegetables at

an authorized local farmer's market. Program participants are able to redeem the vouchers through October 2021. For more information on the Senior

Nutrition Program, contact the Area Agency on Aging at 601-981-1516.

## Delta Broadband Mapping Project

The Delta Region, especially rural areas, has been shown to lack adequate digital infrastructure to support access to critical services such as healthcare, distance learning, and remote work. In response to these challenges, the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) announced the Delta Broadband Mapping Project.

Through an innovative crowd-sourcing platform, DRA is undertaking a regional internet speed testing initiative to support data-driven policy and decision making. The goal of this project is to create a regional map of internet availability and speeds.

Take the Delta Speed Test! It takes less than 60 seconds and can be completed from any device that has an internet or cellular connection to your home Wi-Fi signal.

[DRA.GOV/SPEEDTEST](http://DRA.GOV/SPEEDTEST)

Thank you for helping DRA expand broadband access throughout the Delta!

### CMPDD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Isla Tullos,  
President

William Banks,  
Vice-President

Sally Garland,  
Secretary-Treasurer

Les Childress,  
Immediate Past President

Michael Monk,  
Chief Executive Officer

Volume 36

Number 3