

Mississippi Development Authority
P. O. Box 849
Jackson, MS 39205

Contact: Sherry Vance
601.359.3449
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLARKE COUNTY RECEIVES GRANT

JACKSON, Miss. – Governor Ronnie Musgrove recently announced a grant awarded to the Clarke County Board of Supervisors from the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) in the amount of \$100,000. The grant funds will be used to develop a strategic long-range plan to overcome the impact of recent plant closings in the Clarke County area.

“The state of Mississippi cares about the people of Clarke County,” said Governor Musgrove. “In today’s economy, we must do everything we can to prevent plant closures and job losses. We need to help these Mississippians get back to work.”

The grant, part of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program administered by MDA’s Employment Training Division, will provide county leaders with funds to implement a plan to study recent plant closures in the area, and to develop strategies for averting potential plant closings. The Clarke County Board of Supervisors and the Clarke County Chamber of Commerce, along with MDA’s Rapid Response team, have joined together in developing this plan. The Montgomery Institute has been chosen as a consultant to assist with the plan.

“The Mississippi Development Authority’s Employee Training Division is aware of the high number of dislocations in Clarke County and the surrounding area,” said Jim Lott, director of MDA’s Employment Training Division. “A strategic plan to determine ways to avoid future dislocations benefits displaced workers and the entire community.”

MDA has responded to the employment needs in Clarke County, which has seen several plant closures. A Job Expo was held in April, and the Twin Districts Workforce Area will soon open the WIN Transition Center in Quitman to provide employment and training assistance to laid-off workers.

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