

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Governor Musgrove Announces Grants to Local Communities**

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove said today that new grants to local communities will play key roles in growing rural areas of Mississippi.

“We understand that successful communities are at the very heart of job creation,” Musgrove said. “By investing in local communities, we are continuing to focus on building good schools, good jobs and good communities.”

Musgrove announced the following Small Municipalities and Limited Population Counties Grants:

- For the Town of Abbeville, \$250,000 to construct a 100,000 gallon elevated water tank;
- For the Town of Artesia, \$250,000 to make improvements to the water, sewer and gas systems;
- For the Town of Burnsville, \$249,960 to replace a 30-year old asbestos water line;
- For the City of Calhoun City, \$231,477 to construct a new access road;
- For Chickasaw County, \$250,000 to renovate and repair a school into a community and technology center;
- For the Town of French Camp, \$232,021 to replace sewage lift station with above ground pumps;
- For the Town of Hickory Flat, \$250,000 to purchase land and construct a building for a municipal fire station;
- For the City of Louisville, \$250,000 to upgrade the water treatment facility;
- For the Town of Marietta, \$249,826 to purchase and prepare fifty-six areas of land for use as an industrial park;
- For the City of Nettleton, \$250,000 to construct a facility to serve as the City Hall, police department, municipal court and the mayor’s office;

(More)

- For the City of New Albany, \$250,000 to improve roadbed and construct an access road;
- For the City of Pontotoc, \$250,000 to purchase a building to consolidate municipal utility and material departments;
- For Pontotoc County, \$250,000 to renovate and reconstruct a building on the square;
- For the Town of Shuqualak, \$155,000 to clean, sandblast and repair an elevated water storage tank; and
- For the Village of Walthall, \$250,000 to replace sand in the sewer filter and install chlorination and dechlorination facilities at the present sewage lagoon.

Musgrove also announced the following Community Development Block Grants:

- For Alcorn County, \$650,000 for public facilities improvements on behalf of Quebecor World;
- For the Town of Big Creek, \$144,824 to be used for street improvements;
- For the Town of French Camp, \$75,000 to be used for public facilities improvements;
- For the Town of Noxapater, \$450,000 to be used for sewer improvements;
- For the Village of Walthall, \$240,000 to be used for sewer improvements; and
- For Webster County, \$200,000 to be used for water improvements.

“Working with local officials allows the state to maximize job creation opportunities for all Mississippians, regardless of where they live in Mississippi,” said Steve Hale, executive director of the Mississippi Development Authority.

The Small Municipalities and Limited Population Counties Grant program provides grants to small municipalities (population of 10,000 or less) and limited population counties (population of 30,000 or less) to finance projects to promote economic growth. Since the program’s inception in 2001, 140 grants have been awarded for a total of more than \$29 million. This program is a part of the Advantage Mississippi Initiative, which was proposed by Musgrove in 2000 and passed in a special session of the Legislature. Advantage Mississippi includes not only new business incentives, but also comprehensive changes designed to enhance Mississippi’s competitive position in the nation and the world.

CDBG is a program of the Community Services Division of the Mississippi Development Authority. Among the division’s goals are assisting communities in analyzing their strengths and weaknesses, involving their leadership in economic development, planning development strategies, strengthening development organizations, and implementing and financing community projects. The Community Services Division also administers other Economic Development grant and loan programs.

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