

For Immediate Release
September 25, 2003

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Governor Musgrove Awards \$500,000 Grant to Wayne County

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove has awarded Wayne County a \$148,805 grant through the Mississippi Rural Impact Fund Program on behalf of Wayne County Blueberry Distribution Center.

“The Mississippi Rural Impact Fund Program is only one way that we support our local communities with improvements and opportunities,” said Musgrove. “We are striving to provide each community with the tools they need to grow and prosper for all Mississippians.”

The funds are awarded by the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), which also approves grant recipients.

“We are pleased to assist local communities in maintaining a stable and growing business environment. The strength of our existing industries is fundamental to our efforts to create new jobs and opportunities for growth within our communities,” said Steve Hale, executive director of MDA.

The Mississippi Rural Impact Fund Program (RIF), administered by the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), is designed to assist and promote businesses and economic development in rural areas by providing grants and loans to rural communities and loan guarantees to rural businesses. Governor Musgrove proposed the program during his 2003 State of the State and the State Legislature enacted it during the 2003 regular session. Since the beginning of the program, 20 grants have been awarded totaling almost \$5 million.

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