

Improving Health Care In Mississippi

Industries looking to relocate or expand their business in Mississippi want an environment that provides healthy, educated employees, as well as a good quality of life for them. I have said that education and economic development go hand in hand, but having healthy, happy people is essential for expanding economic development and teaching our children.

Education, economic development, health care and public safety are our priorities. When Mississippi has established these key foundations for our state, all other elements will fall into place. A sound, solid health care system is a vital component to our state's success. We cannot ignore the health of our people.

Mississippi is looking for ways to strengthen and improve access to health care across our state. We are providing more opportunities in the health care system for our state's underserved and rural communities. These advancements are helping improve the quality of life for more Mississippians.

We have improved opportunities in all areas across the state. Mississippi has enacted a medical scholarship program as an incentive to attract physicians to our state's areas of critical need. We have enrolled more of our children in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). We now have licensed Nurse Practitioners and Physicians Assistants whose presence in our state offers increased access to medical care.

The Mississippi Rural Health Care Fund will make great strides in helping to find solutions that meet our people's health care needs. Mississippi has a need for improved health care options and this program helps to address those needs. People in every county, in every area of our state deserve to have access to life-saving, life-enhancing services.

The Enterprise Corporation of the Delta (ECD) is one of the nation's leading community development financial institutions. The mission of the ECD is to improve the quality of life for residents in rural areas of Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. The ECD provides these low and moderate-income residents with assistance by promoting and developing the region's human and economic assets.

The ECD will administer the Rural Health Care Loan Fund, which provides assistance to community health centers, rural clinics, hospitals, physicians, pharmacists and dentists in medically underserved areas of Mississippi. These facilities will have access to financing that will enhance and increase their practices to better serve the people in the rural areas of our state.

The Rural Health Care Loan Fund will provide more Mississippians better access to a variety of health care options. That means more Mississippians will be getting the

medical attention they need. Better health care services for our people will lead to better economic opportunities for these communities.

The Rural Health Care Loan Fund is helping us develop stronger and better Mississippians, which creates a stronger and better Mississippi. This is another opportunity to improve the quality of life of our citizens. Mississippi is moving ahead of the nation, improving our people's lives and making Mississippi even more attractive to industries and individuals.