

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Jennifer Spann, 601.359.6680  
Date: February 12, 2001

**CITY OF BATESVILLE AWARDED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT**

JACKSON, Miss. – The city of Batesville was recently awarded a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$645,500 for Economic Development Public Improvements. The original application was submitted on behalf of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

The funds will be utilized to make improvements to the future site of a new Wal-Mart Supercenter. They include a traffic signal and intersection as well as improved access to the facility. Wal-Mart is investing \$6.9 million for land, building and equipment. The City of Batesville is contributing \$130,000 for the project.

A Wal-Mart store is currently located in Batesville employing 130 citizens. The Supercenter will create 150 additional jobs. At least 51% of those new jobs will be made available to low- to moderate-income persons.

“The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) is proud that our partnership at the local level creates a foundation for economic growth,” commented J.C. Burns, Executive Director of MDA.

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.

###