

# MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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# FRIDAY FACTS

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## **TOWN OF PRENTISS AWARDED CDBG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN**

The Town of Prentiss was recently awarded an Economic Development Loan under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program in the amount of \$650,000. The original application was submitted on behalf of Partners in Progress, Inc.

Partners in Progress is expanding their existing manufacturing facility in Prentiss. With the loan, they will be able to add eight production lines and increase efficiency at the facility. Partners in Progress will invest \$200,000 in the project and the Town of Prentiss is investing \$40,129 toward the expansion effort.

The expanded facility will create 100 new jobs in the area. At least 51% of those jobs will be made available to low- and moderate-income persons.

"The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) is proud that our partnership at the local level encourages companies to invest in Mississippi," 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.

## **TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOPS IN MERIDIAN AND OXFORD**

Mississippi Technology Alliance will host two meetings next week to explore ways Mississippi communities can benefit from the advancement of technology. "Technology @ Home in Mississippi" is a

multi-part tour of the state; each region of the state will be visited throughout the summer, concluding the tour in September. The first of the sixteen scheduled sessions were held earlier in July on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and in Brookhaven and Hattiesburg.

On Monday, July 30, the tour will stop in Meridian, MS. The session is scheduled from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. on the second floor of the Union Station. Contact Wade Jones at 601-693-1306 for more information about this session.

Also scheduled from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., another session will be held in Oxford on July 31 at the Oxford Chamber of Commerce located at 299 Jackson Avenue West. Contact Max Hipp at 662-234-4651 for more information.

"Only through increased awareness and a broader knowledge base can Mississippi stay in tune with the ever-evolving world of technology. MDA partners with organizations, like the Mississippi Technology Alliance, to achieve that goal," commented Clay Lewis, Senior Technology Officer with the Mississippi Development Authority.

All meetings are free of charge. Individuals can register or get more information by calling 601-960-3610 or visiting [www.technologyalliance.ms](http://www.technologyalliance.ms).

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*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."*

*- Margaret Mead*

## MDA ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SMALL MUNICIPALITIES AND LIMITED POPULATION GRANT PROGRAM

Financial Services, a bureau of the Mississippi Development Authority is currently accepting grant applications from small municipalities and limited population counties or natural gas districts to finance projects promoting economic growth in Mississippi. The maximum grant amount, which may be awarded to any one local sponsor, will be \$250,000.

The amount of each grant awarded will be based on population, ability of the community to participate in the project, the economic impact the project will have on the community, and other criteria the Mississippi Development Authority develops. Each application is evaluated on it's own merit to meet the intent of the program.

A small municipality or a limited population county is defined as follows:

- **Small Municipality** – a municipality with a population of 10,000 or less, according to the most recent federal decennial census, at the time the application is submitted by the municipality.
- **Limited Population County** – a county with a population of 30,000 or less, according to the most recent federal decennial census, at the time the application is submitted by the county.
- **Natural Gas Districts** – districts created by law and meeting the same requirements as small municipalities.

The deadline to submit applications is 4:00 pm on September 4, 2001. Funding is derived from appropriations or funds otherwise made available by the State Legislature.

“We are pleased to have this opportunity to assist in the economic development of small municipalities and limited population counties,” said J.C. Burns, executive director, Mississippi Development Authority.

The grant application along with application requirements may be found by pointing your browser to our website, [www.mississippi.org](http://www.mississippi.org).

## SWEET POTATO GROWERS RECEIVE ENERGY GRANT FOR NEW EQUIPMENT

Sweet Potato Growers (SPG) Community Development Corporation in Shelby, Mississippi, recently purchased new state-of-the-art equipment made possible with a grant from the Energy Division, Mississippi Development Authority. The funds were also used to purchase storage room kits for curing potatoes and potato washing machinery.

At a cost of \$26,000 for a complete curing kit (which includes a cooling unit, circulation fans, levered venting windows, a heater and a humidifier), the Energy grant allowed SPG to purchase and install the equipment successfully.

Roger Morris of SPG stated during a recent site visit that before the addition of this equipment, individual growers suffered high percentages of crop spoilage due to inadequate curing and storage facilities. During 2000, SPG was able to bring growers together for the purpose of curing and storing the crop, which greatly saved their cooperative product, thus increasing profitability.

“MDA strives to empower communities on many levels, including agricultural development. We are delighted to be able to make such a tangible difference in the economy and livelihood of the citizens in Shelby,” said Kenneth Calvin, Director of the Energy Division, MDA.

As SPG and the entire industry flourishes, the Delta region will experience economic growth through the creation of new jobs. That economic growth will be strengthened by the use of energy efficient equipment purchased through this and other MDA grants.



## **TOURISM SUMMIT TO BE HOSTED ON JULY 31**

The Division of Tourism Development, Mississippi Development Authority will host the 2001 Tourism Summit on Tuesday, July 31, 2001 from 9:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Jackson Hilton Hotel on County Line Road.

All partners in the tourism industry statewide are invited for a Question-and-Answer session as well as program overviews from MDA representatives. There is a \$25 registration fee per person for this year's event.

For more information, contact Whitney Orr with the Division of Tourism Development at 601-359-3297.

## **TYLERTOWN AWARDED CAP LOAN FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS**

The town of Tylertown was recently awarded a Capital Improvements Revolving (CAP) Loan for \$150,000. The town will be utilizing the funds for building improvements on the Rutter Rex Manufacturing facility in the area.

"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.

The CAP Loan program is a part 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.

## **SALES BLITZ TO ATLANTA**

Returning from Atlanta, Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) staff report their recent visit to conduct sales calls to site location consultants and construction companies is producing positive results. The purpose of the sales calls was to visit with the decision makers and share with them the benefits of evaluating Mississippi as a potential site for future projects.

"Through a combination of meetings and sales presentations, we were afforded an excellent opportunity to explain the various advantages and incentives Mississippi offers," said Mickey Milligan, Bureau Manager, with MDA.

As a result of the sales mission, two projects have been assigned to MDA staff. Also, interest was expressed for the development of several additional projects.

Staff participating in the project included: Mickey Milligan, Jay McCarthy, Bill Adams, Pat Werne and Taurus Wright.