

Mississippi Development Authority
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MDA HOSTS COMMUNITY SELF PROGRAM IN CHARLESTON

CHARLESTON, Miss., - Officials with the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) will host a Community Self-Help program, Thursday, August 9, 2001 at the Charleston Courthouse, located on the square at 6:00 p.m.

Community Self-Help is a resource for small communities to meet local needs with less financial resources. The program is funded with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to residents that are at least 51% low- and moderate income. Labor is provided by the communities.

“The Community Self-Help program is designed to assist those communities that cannot afford matching requirements of traditional grant programs,” said Henry Cote’, associate manager senior, Finance, with the Development Assistance Bureau of the Community Services Division of MDA.

Self-Help approaches all resources including grants and loans, from a different direction, and actually increases the reach of those scarce dollars by reducing the amount necessary to bring improvements to small communities and towns.

Cote’ program presenter, will meet with community residents and provide advice and guidance on a wide range of concerns and project cost reducing techniques, including project planning and development, financial analysis, engineering, community mobilization, volunteerism, goal setting, liability insurance and project certification. Cote’ will also assist Charleston identify additional state, local, and national resources available to Self-Help projects.

“MDA is looking for communities that demonstrate capacity and readiness to take on a project that will better the lives of all its citizens, whether that is fire protection or a gazebo on the town square,” added Cote’.

The program is free and open to the public. For additional information, please contact:
Community Self-Help Coordinator
Mississippi Development Authority Community - Telephone (601) 359-3179

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