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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM EXPENDITURES OUTLINED

JACKSON, Miss. –Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds for fiscal year 2003 (July 1, 2002-June 30, 2003) are being fully utilized, according to the Employment Training Division of the Mississippi Development Authority. The figures show that expenditures for support of the Workforce Investment Network are nearly double those from the previous year. To address the necessity for long-term commitments and to ensure a consistent system year-after-year, federal law requires that WIA funds sent to the states can be used over a three-year period in order to fund multi-year programs.

“It is imperative that we plan for the long term commitments we've made to our workers. To spend all the funds in one year, instead of planning for the long term, would be fiscally irresponsible,” said Steve Hale, executive director of the Mississippi Development Authority. “All federal dollars targeted toward workforce training are being used and all the funds available to us are committed to training and finding jobs for the people of Mississippi.”

No WIA funds administered by Mississippi Development Authority have been returned to the Department of Labor because of a failure to spend the funds within the three-year period and all the money has been committed for workforce training in Mississippi.

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