

For Immediate Release

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Governor Musgrove Announces Grants to Local Communities

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove said today that new grants to local communities that will play key roles in growing rural areas of Mississippi.

“We understand that successful communities are at the very heart of job creation,” Musgrove said. “By investing in local communities, we are continuing to focus on building good schools, good jobs and good communities.”

Musgrove announced the following Small Municipalities and Limited Population Counties Grants:

- For the City of Belzoni, \$248,000 to rehabilitate two existing water tanks;
- For the Town of Boyle, \$246,452 to build a new town hall;
- For Carroll County, \$68,826 to install a new sewage treatment plant approved by the Department of Environmental Quality;
- For the City of Charleston, \$135,533 to remove and replace a sidewalk and upgrade a drainage ditch;
- For the Town of Cruger, \$250,000 to construct a new town hall and community center;
- For the Town of Jonestown, \$240,000 to renovate Jonestown School for use as a municipal building;
- For the City of Moorhead, \$249,999 to renovate the sewer system in the northeast area of the city; and
- For the City of Shelby, \$250,000 to renovate a vacant hospital for use as a hospice facility.

Musgrove also awarded a \$650,000 Economic Development Grant through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to the City of Cleveland. The

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funds will be used for public facilities improvements on behalf of Baxter Healthcare Corporation.

“Working with local officials allows the state to maximize job creation opportunities for all Mississippians, regardless of where they live in Mississippi,” said Steve Hale, executive director of the Mississippi Development Authority.

The Small Municipalities and Limited Population Counties Grant program provides grants to small municipalities (population of 10,000 or less) and limited population counties (population of 30,000 or less) to finance projects to promote economic growth. Since the program’s inception in 2001, 140 grants have been awarded for a total of more than \$29 million. This program is a part of the Advantage Mississippi Initiative, which was proposed by Musgrove in 2000 and passed in a special session of the Legislature. Advantage Mississippi includes not only new business incentives, but also comprehensive changes designed to enhance Mississippi’s competitive position in the nation and the world.

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.

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