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**Contact:** Shannon McMullan  
601-359-3227

## **Governor Musgrove Announces Grants to Local Communities**

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove said today that new grants to local communities 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 Town of Belmont, \$249,850 to upgrade the potable water service;
- For the Town of Louin, \$250,000 to renovate the new town hall;
- For Marion County, \$250,000 to make improvements to the emergency room at Marion General Hospital; and
- For the Town of State Line, \$50,000 to construct a more efficient storm drainage system in the downtown area.

“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.

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