

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 Kemper County, the City of Newton and the Town of Union 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 Kemper County, \$135,000 to purchase equipment and lease to a pharmaceutical packaging company;
- For the City of Newton, \$250,000 to construct a water storage tank in the industrial park;

Musgrove also awarded a \$104,104 Emergency Public Facilities Grant through the Community Development Block Grant program to the Town of Union. The funds will be used for street improvements.

“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

(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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