

**For Immediate Release**

August 18, 2003

**Contact:** John Sewell

601-359-2916

## **Governor Musgrove Awards Grant to Jonestown**

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove has awarded \$240,000 in Small Municipalities and Limited Population County Program funds to the Town of Jonestown. The funds will be used to renovate Jonestown School for use as a municipal building.

“The success of Mississippi’s communities is a vital component in our success as a state, and we are committed to keeping our communities strong,” said Musgrove. “By investing at the local level, we are continuing to focus on building good schools, good jobs and good communities.”

The funds are administered by the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA).

“We work closely with local and municipal officials to make the most of their communities, and this program is an excellent vehicle for accomplishing that goal,” said Steve Hale, executive director of the MDA. “The support we are able to offer to communities is extremely valuable in our overall economic development mission.”

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. This program is a part of the Advantage Mississippi Initiative. 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.

Since the program’s inception in 2001, 140 grants have been awarded for a total of more than \$29 million. For more information about this and other grants available through the Advantage Mississippi Initiative, contact MDA’s Financial Resources Division at 601.359.3552.

###