

For Immediate Release

October 17, 2003

Contact: Shannon McMullan

601-359-3227

Governor Musgrove Awards Grants to Hazlehurst and Copiah County

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove has awarded grants to Hazlehurst and Copiah County through the Mississippi Rural Impact Fund Program.

“Good, quality jobs are an integral part of communities and we are committed to keeping those jobs so communities can continue to grow and prosper,” said Musgrove. “The Mississippi Rural Impact Fund Program is one way that we are supporting our communities across Mississippi.”

The City of Hazlehurst was awarded a \$250,000 grant for industrial park improvements. Copiah County was also awarded a \$147,518 grant on behalf of Stringer Family Funeral Services.

The funds are awarded by the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), which also approves grant recipients.

“MDA is pleased to assist local officials and business owners in maintaining a stable and flourishing job market,” said Steve Hale, Executive Director of MDA. “The strength of our existing businesses is key to our efforts to create jobs and growth within our communities.”

The Mississippi Rural Impact Fund Program (RIF), administered by the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), is designed to assist and promote businesses and economic development in rural areas by providing grants and loans to rural communities and loan guarantees to rural businesses. Governor Musgrove proposed the program during his 2003 State of the State and the State Legislature enacted it during the 2003 regular session.

###

