

**For Immediate Release**

October 17, 2003

**Contact:** Shannon McMullan

601-359-3227

## **Governor Musgrove Awards \$250,000 Grant to City of Hazlehurst**

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove has awarded a \$250,000 grant to the City of Hazlehurst through the Mississippi Rural Impact Fund Program for industrial park improvements.

“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 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.

###