

Enterprise Corporation of the Delta  
Rural Health Care Loan Fund  
Press Conference  
Wednesday, April 11, 2001  
11:30 a.m.  
Crowne Plaza

- We have talked many times about putting Mississippi in competitive positioning in economic development, which creates better opportunities for people across our state.
- But are we competitive in Mississippi when it comes to providing health care options and access to healthcare?
- Mississippi is leading the nation in some aspects of healthcare, but we are facing one health care crisis that is plaguing our state.
- Primary care providers are becoming more and more scarce, particularly in some rural areas of Mississippi.
- People in every county – in every area - of our state deserve to have access to life-saving, life-enhancing services.

- We have made progress in bringing better health care access opportunities to people in all areas of our state.
- We have enacted a medical scholarship program that helps us attract physicians to our state's areas of critical needs.
- We have enrolled more of our children in the Children's Health Insurance Program.
- And we now have licensed Physicians Assistants, whose presence in our state offers increased access to medical care.
- I can promise you that Mississippians have our commitment to find even more solutions that work to enhance their lives.
- That is why today's announcement is so important and exciting.
- The Enterprise Corporation of the Delta and Mississippi Access for Rural Care are making great strides to solutions that meet our people's health care needs.

- With the establishment of the Rural Health Care Loan Fund, community health centers, rural clinics, hospitals, physicians, pharmacists and dentists in medically underserved areas of Mississippi can get financing to enhance and increase their practices to better serve the people in the rural areas of our state.
- That means more Mississippians with better access to good health care options.
- That means more Mississippians getting the medical attention they need.
- And that means healthier Mississippians with better qualities of life.
- I would like to thank Bill Bynum for his efforts and congratulate the Enterprise Corporation of the Delta on receipt of this grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
- I would also like to extend my thanks to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for your support of these efforts and for making a positive difference in the lives of many, many Mississippians.

- Thanks to AmSouth, BankPlus and Trustmark who are partnering with the Enterprise Corporation of the Delta in this effort.
- Your participation in this program and others with ECD are vital to our efforts to meet the needs of the people in the rural areas of our state.
- Sound, solid healthcare is vital to a good quality of life for the people of Mississippi.
- This program is helping us develop stronger and better Mississippians, which creates a stronger and better Mississippi.