



## Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District

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**SMPDD**

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### *EDA Awards*

#### *MGCCC Hospitality and Resort Management Center*

The U.S. Department of Commerce will invest more than \$2 million in a planned resort management and hospitality training center at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) Jefferson Davis Campus in Gulfport. The Economic Development Administration (EDA), an agency within the Commerce Department, awarded the competitive grant to help construct a state-of-the-art Hospitality and Resort Management Center. Construction of the 50,000-square-foot center is expected to cost \$9.98 million and create 636 jobs related to construction, support personnel and other positions related to the project. Development of the center, including equipping it, will cost almost \$14 million, according to the MGCCC.

MGCCC applied for the EDA grant as a disaster recovery project based on the job losses sustained following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in 2008. Once opened, the center is expected to offer programs in hospitality tourism management, business and marketing management technology, and culinary arts. Health and spa technologies are being considered as future programs. The hospitality sector is a growing industry in Mississippi and this training center will allow more Mississippians to become proficient in the skills needed to excel in this field. A February report issued by the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) Tourism Division determined there were 85,000 tourism-related jobs in Mississippi in 2008, with an annual payroll of \$1.74 billion. Overall, an estimated 20.2 million visitors traveled to Mississippi in 2008. The Coast hospitality sector is projected to see a 16 percent increase before 2014.

SMPDD aided MGCCC with writing and submitting the grant application and will handle administrative duties.

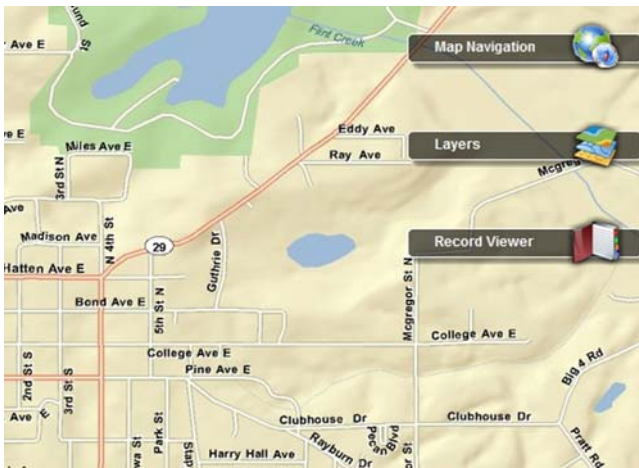
#### *Harrison & Stone Counties*

The Harrison County Development Commission and the Stone County Economic Development Partnership were recently awarded a joint grant award from the Economic Development Administration. Working together, the two counties will create a future development plan which will provide a roadmap for collaboration and provide the economic base for a broad range of development opportunities. Both counties provided matching funds as did Mississippi Power Company and Coast Electric Power Association. The counties have created an alliance representative of both to oversee the planning process. The newly formed alliance is spearheaded by Johnny Atherton, representing Harrison County, and Nell Murray, representing Stone County.

SMPDD is proud to be a part of this project, having prepared the grant application and playing an active role by helping to facilitate the project work. "This is what true regionalism is all about," said Les Newcomb, SMPDD executive director. "It is easy to talk the talk when it comes to collaboration, but Harrison County and Stone County have taken a giant leap forward and are walking the walk."

# GIS Online Mapping

**Online mapping available from the District!** SMPDD offers internet accessible map services to local governments for public viewing. The District maintains an extensive collection of local and regional geographic information that can be used to create interactive maps which are viewable using the internet. By working with county and city elected officials and employees, SMPDD can design publicly or internally accessible maps that help to streamline presentation of information such as jurisdictional boundaries, ownership boundaries, aerial photography, geology, hydrology, public facilities and much more. For more information please contact Paul Barnes, GIS Manager at 228-868-2311 or [pbarnes@smpdd.com](mailto:pbarnes@smpdd.com).



# Business Development

Let the District help you stimulate the small businesses in your area.

Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District has funding available for small businesses. These funds were established to help finance new and expanding businesses that otherwise would not be able to obtain conventional financing. SMPDD's niche is gap financing, which bridges the financial gap between what the bank is willing to loan and what the prospective business owner has to inject into their business.

SMPDD is funded by the Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration and the State of Mississippi, Mississippi Development Authority.

There are four loan programs available: 1) EDA Revolving Loan Fund, which will loan a third of the total project up to \$200,000; 2) Mississippi Small Business Assistance Loan Fund, which will loan fifty percent of the total project up to \$250,000; 3) Minority Business Enterprise Loan Fund, which will loan up to fifty percent of the total project with a maximum loan of \$250,000; and 4) Minority Business Enterprise Micro Loan, which will loan from \$2,000 to \$35,000. The fourth program is the only loan available that does not require a bank to participate. Both minority programs require that the owner be certified by the state as a woman or minority owned business with at least a 60% ownership.

To get started a person will need a written business plan that includes financials for a three year period, filed tax returns, statement of collateral and a use of funds statement.

The process is easy. The same information that you would submit to your bank is the same loan package that SMPDD will need in order to determine the viability of the business, the owner's experience, collateral, credit history, equity injection, and ability to pay back the loan through the business operation.

## A few statistics of the loan programs:

- Funded over 290 businesses for over \$22 million dollars.
- Banks or other funding sources have assisted in financing over \$56 million dollars.
- Over 3700 jobs created.
- Over 146 new business start ups, or 44% of all loans.
- Portfolio consists of 44% start up businesses, 21% minority businesses, and 29% women-owned businesses.

We have money available for most small business needs including franchises, working capital, inventory, equipment, land purchase, building construction or renovation.

For more information, you may contact Monica Walker or Elizabeth Ladner at 228-868-2311 or visit our website at [www.smpdd.com](http://www.smpdd.com).

# Census 2010 Information

## 2010 Census: It's In Our Hands

It's Census time again! By law, in March 2011, the U.S. Census Bureau will complete the delivery of redistricting data to states. These data are used to modify political boundaries and voting districts in order to redistribute population evenly throughout political jurisdictions. The U.S. Census Bureau is spearheading a nationwide campaign to promote community partnerships for educational outreach.

## The Census: A Snapshot

- The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years.
- The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States: in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. This includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, both citizens and non-citizens.
- The 2010 Census will create hundreds of thousands of temporary jobs across the nation.

## It's in Our Hands: Your Community's Participation in the Census Matters

- Every year, more than \$300 billion in federal funds is awarded to states and communities based on census data. That's more than \$3 trillion over a 10-year period.
- Census data guide planning for new hospitals, schools and other services.
- Census data is used to determine the most need for additional social services, including who receives community development block grants and other grant programs essential to many communities.

## Completing the 2010 Census Questionnaire: Simple and Safe

The 2010 Census questionnaire asks only a few simple questions of each person—name, relationship, gender, age and date of birth, race, and whether the respondent owns or rents his or her home. This simple, short questionnaire takes just a few minutes to complete and return by mail.

The Census Bureau does not release or share information that identifies individual respondents or their household for 72 years.



- **Fall 2009**—Recruitment begins for census takers needed for peak workload in 2010.
- **February to March 2010**—Census questionnaires are mailed or delivered to households.
- **April 1, 2010**—Census Day.
- **April to July 2010**—Census takers visit households that did not return a questionnaire by mail.
- **December 2010**— By law, Census Bureau delivers population counts to President for apportionment.
- **March 2011**—By law, Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states.

For more information go to <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/> or contact Paul Barnes, GIS Manager at [pbarnes@smpdd.com](mailto:pbarnes@smpdd.com) or 228-868-2311.



**SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI  
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