



Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District

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SMPDD

Leslie Newcomb
Executive Director
9229 HWY 49
Gulfport, MS 39503
228-868-2311
les@smpdd.com

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funding Updates

SMPDD's Planning Department has been watching closely for funding and grant opportunities becoming available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (more commonly known as the Stimulus Package). A summary of available funding opportunities was compiled, sorted by announcement date, and posted on SMPDD's website. As new funding designations are found, they are added and updated weekly. Interested parties may access the information by going to www.smpdd.com and clicking on the link entitled "*Stimulus Funding at a Glance*" located at the bottom center of the home page. This report does not include state-specific projects unless they are targeted for Mississippi. For more detailed information, go to www.recovery.gov, go directly to the website of the funding agency, or contact SMPDD's Planning Department at 228-868-2311.



Project Helps Communities Reduce Flood Insurance Premiums

Through a contract with the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, planning staff have begun a project to enhance participation in the Community Rating System of the National Flood Insurance Program. The Community



Rating System (CRS) provides incentives to communities that exceed minimum standards for floodplain management. The incentives are passed

along to property owners through reduced flood insurance premiums. Insurance premium discounts range from 5% to 45%, depending upon the extent of flood protection activities within the community.

Cities and counties (Jackson, Harrison and Hancock) within MDMR's jurisdiction are targeted for assistance in applying for participation and for recommending activities that result in even higher discounts for citizens. Planning staff are working with existing groups and programs that promote smart floodplain management, and will assist communities in devising a CRS plan based on their individual needs.

A similar project will begin this summer in several upper tier counties (Pearl River, Stone and George) and cities through funding provided by the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium. The project focuses on enhancing storm resiliency through participation in the Community Rating System.

StormSmart Coasts

A new Web resource, www.stormsmartcoasts.org, is now available to help decision makers in coastal communities address the challenges of storms, flooding, sea-level rise, and climate change. The site features resources and tools that address community resiliency. Mississippi is one of two pilot states offering this re-

source. Other Gulf of Mexico states and New England states will be added to the StormSmart Coasts Network later this summer. Sponsor of the site is the Coastal Storms Program of the Gulf of Mexico Program. Funding is provided through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

GIS Team Presents

New online interactive mapping technology was the basis of the GIS Department's presentation at the Mississippi Association of Planning and Development Districts Annual Conference in May. The technology is a mashup (a web application that combines data or functionality from two or more sources into a single integrated application) between Google Street View (3D walk through of streets) and GIS Web Mapping. Paul Barnes and David Hansen presented the new technology, which was used in two SMPDD mapping projects, and discussed how this technology could be used in other applications. For more information on interactive mapping contact the SMPDD GIS Department at 228-868-2311.



The SMPDD GIS team also made a presentation at the National Association of Regional Councils Annual Conference in Denver in early June. Highlighting a trails inventory and mapping project currently underway in South Mississippi, Barnes and Hansen discussed the challenges and opportunities in the early stages of program development. They also gave a snapshot of the technology that will be used to promote trails and greenways on the Mississippi Coast.

Southeast Workforce and Economic Development Conference

The Southern Economic Development Council (SEDC), together with the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the Department of Labor (DOL), sponsored a two-day regional workshop in Atlanta to address today's top challenges in economic and workforce development. Nationally-recognized speakers presented topical economic development and workforce issues, including new trends toward lateral career moves, competitiveness in the global economy, economic development clusters, and entrepreneurship.

Future economic development efforts should utilize networked collaborations that address a common issue across traditional boundaries – city, county, area, state, and region – and in much broader terms. These new collaborations will focus on thinking and acting strategically in an interactive network facilitated by multiple leaders representing different organizations. The group should be comprised of people who are willing to work across organizational boundaries to accomplish a common goal. After a common issue and leadership for the collaboration have been identified, facilitators should ask the following questions:

- What are our assets? How can they be linked to create new opportunities?
- What are our priorities?
- From our list of priorities, what should we do?
- What will we do? (commitment)

Another collaboration issue addressed was how to encourage citizen participation in the discussions. The speaker suggested keeping in mind that people collaborate when it is to their advantage, so leaders were encouraged to focus on these key points:

- Arrange for meetings to be held in a comfortable setting.
- Frame the conversation around an idea that will encourage the desire to collaborate.
- Establish simple rules and demonstrate behavior that builds trust and mutual respect.
- Create a vision for the issue to be addressed and the desired outcome.
- Establish a set of goals to accomplish the vision.
- Ask the group, "what is our next step?"

Speakers encouraged collaborations among workforce and economic development professionals as a tool to develop talent, create jobs, and address competitiveness.

In Deepest Sympathy...

Mr. Avnel John "Jay" Cuevas, III passed away on Wednesday, May 13, 2009. Mr. Cuevas served as District 5 Supervisor for Hancock County for 10 years. SMPDD wishes to extend our deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

Building Resilient Economies

Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Time: 7:15 am—5:00 pm

Location: Hilton New Orleans Riverside,
New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 561-0500

Registration: www.iedconline.org

Cost: Free for attendees from Louisiana and Mississippi — \$50 for other interested parties

Building Resilient Economies is a free one-day workshop to be hosted by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), together with the Economic Development Administration (EDA), the Louisiana Department of Economic Development (LED), and the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA). This workshop is designed for public and private sector representatives in the economic development field to aid in accessing funding opportunities and resources for communities in Louisiana and Mississippi. It will aid planners and economic developers by identifying opportunities, reviewing guidelines and policies, discussing best practices, and much more. SMPDD staff will be attending.





**SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
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