



Delta Regional Authority

A federal-state partnership providing a unified voice for the region

Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Justification 2010 Annual Report

ALABAMA • ARKANSAS • ILLINOIS • KENTUCKY • LOUISIANA • MISSISSIPPI • MISSOURI • TENNESSEE



DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

236 SHARKEY AVENUE / SUITE 400 / CLARKSDALE, MS 38614 / (662) 624-8600 / FAX: (662) 624-8537 / www.dra.gov

February 22, 2011

I am pleased to present the Delta Regional Authority's (DRA) detailed budget justification for fiscal year 2012. The Authority fully supports the President's recommendation of \$13 million.

Each year as we come together in the budget process, I always stress our position, and I repeat that position now: The Authority looks forward to working with the President and the Congress to improve our region's economy and the lives of the almost 9.5 million people who live here. We are here to serve our region.

We know, by any objective measure, the Authority has served and is serving well its 252 counties and parishes. Our metrics show that the Authority and its partners are effective in creating and retaining jobs, even in this difficult economic environment. We are able to do this because of our role as a regional planning entity and a coordinator of federal investments. Our collaborations with other agencies prove the Authority's programs do not duplicate, but rather complement, other federal programs in the region, and we know fragmentation is reduced.

DRA and our partners are effective as together we leverage funds, create climates of opportunity, and attract private-sector investment for sustained economic improvement. With a staff of just 18 people, the Authority has refined its highly successful grant program, and the Authority provides an effective, accountable mechanism for federal investment in the region.

This justification book presents in great detail DRA's financial position, project investments and contains financial reports, projected outcomes and a review of the Authority's activities. Please note the 2010 appropriation was \$13 million, and it allocated \$1.5 million to administrative expenses, with the balance of \$11.5 million going toward grants to states, technical assistance and other special initiatives. In nine grant cycles, the Authority created over 6000 jobs and retained nearly the same number of jobs. We leveraged \$1.4 billion in private investment with DRA projects and helped 17,000 families gain access to clean water and sewer service.

As the second Federal Co-Chairman of the Authority, I am pleased to build on our record of improving lives in the Delta region as I highlight our new priorities of economic development, regional impact, collaborative funding, and critical needs funding. A special policy initiative will be undertaken to support small business and entrepreneurship efforts in our eight state service area.

Again, as stated above, we fully support President Obama's fiscal year 2012 recommendation of \$13 million, and we expect to expend \$1.5 million on administration, with the balance of \$11.5 million being spent on grants to states, technical assistance and other special initiatives.

Thank you for your support of the important work we do. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Chris Masingill
Federal Co-Chairman

Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Submission and 2010 Annual Report

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DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Submission

Table 1 shows the federal share of the salaries, operating expenses, technical assistance, and economic assistance to the states for the Delta Regional Authority (the Authority). Additionally, it reflects the amount funding the Authority’s Local Development Districts Technical Assistance and the States’ Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP). As seen in Table 1, the salaries and expenses are only a small percentage of the Authority’s overall budget. Almost 87 percent of the Authority’s appropriation funds the Authority’s States’ Economic Development Assistance Program, formerly known as the Federal Grant Program.

Table 1: DRA Operations Expense

Numbers are in Thousands of Dollars	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 Budget	FY 2012 Request
Salaries and Operating Expenses			
Salaries and Contractual Services	\$850.7	\$960.9	\$1,065.2
Personnel Benefits	197.7	271.3	285.6
Travel	84.4	137.0	137.0
Office Expense	204.8	152.5	174.0
Supplies and Materials	1.0	2.0	2.0
Public Meetings and Outreach	4.1	21.4	25.8
Communications	13.6	20.6	20.6
Training/Seminars	2.0	5.7	5.7
Subtotal	\$1,358.3	\$1,571.4	\$1,715.9
LDD Technical Assistance and States’ Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP)			
LDD Technical Assistance	\$504.0	\$504.0	\$504.0
SEDAP Funding	10,996.0	10,924.6	10,780.1
Subtotal	\$11,500.0	\$11,428.6	\$11,284.1
Grand Total	\$12,858.3	\$13,000.0	\$13,000.0

Notes to Accompany Table

Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Submission Request

DRA requests an appropriation of \$13 million, the amount recommended by President Obama. Of this funding, \$1.715 million will be utilized for administrative expenses, while the bulk of the appropriation of \$11.284 million will fund the Authority’s States’ Economic Development

Assistance Program, local technical assistance, and special project funding with support from the region's local development districts.

Table 1 presents a slight increase in expenses above the fiscal year 2010 level for the fiscal year 2011 Budget and the fiscal year 2012 request. This small increase will allow Federal Co-Chairman Chris Masingill to support President Obama's initiatives in the region and provide the following necessary changes to further the Authority's mission and responsibilities. Additionally, noted below are numerous cost-savings measures that were implemented in fiscal year 2011.

- The Authority filled a number of key positions necessary for the growth of DRA. These positions are:
 - Director of Public Information and Communications,
 - Special Advisors (2) for Legislative and Governmental Affairs,
 - Deputy Advisor to the Federal Co-Chairman
 - Senior Administrative Project Assistant
 - Finance Administrator (will be filled during FY2011)
 - Project Developer (will be filled during FY2011)

These individuals will help DRA in becoming a more productive, branded federal agency known for its quick response and support to federal, state and local stakeholders in the 252 counties/parishes located in the DRA service area. Additionally, the Federal Co-Chairman will not fill the following positions:

- Chief Operating Officer
- Policy Research Analyst
- Chief Administrative Officer/General Counsel,

which reflects a cost savings of \$358,082 in salaries and benefits to DRA.

- Contractual expenses were reduced by \$114,000 by utilizing prior year savings to fund the following one-time expenses:
 - Creation of a fully automated, interactive online Project Development and Management Program, and
 - Re-design the current website to further promote DRA, its mission, and allow for full transparency to the Administration, members of Congress, and the DRA constituency.
- Additionally, DRA has been able to prepare all grant closing documents in-house, reducing the need for attorney services by \$15,500, and change the current payroll service provider and benefits for a savings of \$21,000.
- Travel will be increased to allow the Federal Co-Chairman and staff to play a more active role in the economic recovery of the region by visiting all 252 counties/parishes in the DRA region to assess their needs, assist with project development and provide accountability to stakeholders.

- Office Expenses were reduced by re-negotiating the current lease with the Clarksdale Office, resulting in a savings of \$26,446.
- Funding was increased for seminars and meetings, which will allow the Federal Co-Chairman to hold hearings, take testimony throughout the region, and hold meetings with key partners and stakeholders.
- DRA's presence in Washington, D.C. was increased by occupying a different location with increased staff and capabilities.

Additionally, the Table 1 shows the funding for the Local Development Districts technical assistance at \$2,000 per DRA County and the funding for the States' Economic Development Assistance Program.

DRA has worked hard in its first ten years to ensure all resources are used efficiently and effectively, benefiting the largest number of people in the eight state service area and maximizing project impacts for residents of the Delta region. All eight DRA partner states are facing restrictive fiscal measures brought about by the economic downturn and constrained revenues. DRA's prudent budgeting process has maintained a consistent assessment by leveraging an equal share of funding between the states and the federal government. The expenses and budgets listed above have been scrutinized by DRA staff members, and the Federal Co-Chairman.

Everyone associated with the Authority will continue to ensure that the taxpayers' money is invested wisely while looking for even better methods of managing the Authority than in the past.

Independent Accountants' Report on Financial Statements and Supplementary Information

Federal and State Co-chairs
and Members of the Board
Delta Regional Authority
Clarksdale, Mississippi

We have audited the accompanying basic financial statements of Delta Regional Authority as of and for the years ended September 30, 2010 and 2009, as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of Delta Regional Authority's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Bulletin No. 07-04, *Audit Requirements for Federal Financial Statements*. Those standards and OMB Bulletin No. 07-04 require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the basic financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Delta Regional Authority as of September 30, 2010 and 2009, and its net cost, changes in net position and resources (budgetary and non-budgetary) for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and OMB Bulletin No. 07-04, we have also issued our report dated November 15, 2010, on our consideration of Delta Regional Authority's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed

in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and OMB Bulletin No. 07-04 and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.

The accompanying management's discussion and analysis as listed in the table of contents is not a required part of the basic financial statements but is supplementary information required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

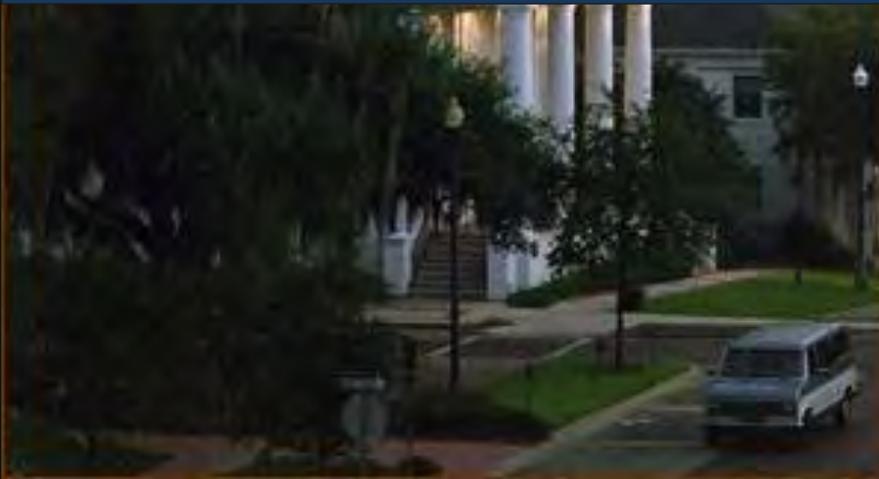
Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Delta Regional Authority's basic financial statements. The accompanying supplementary information as listed in the table of contents is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The information presented under Section 2, Performance Report has not been subjected to the procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements, and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

BKD, LLP

November 15, 2010



Delta Regional Authority



Headquarters and DC Office

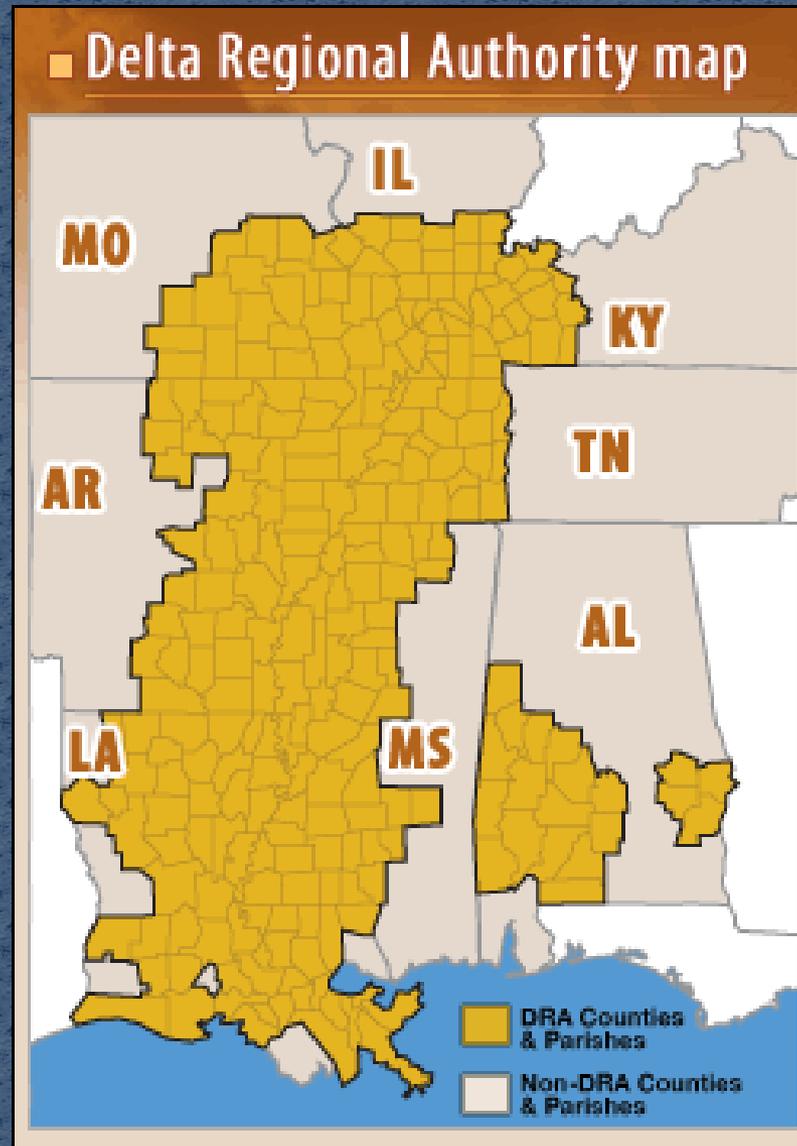
Headquarters:

Delta Regional Authority
236 Sharkey Avenue
Suite 400
Clarksdale, MS 38614
(P) 662.624.8600
(F) 662.624.8537

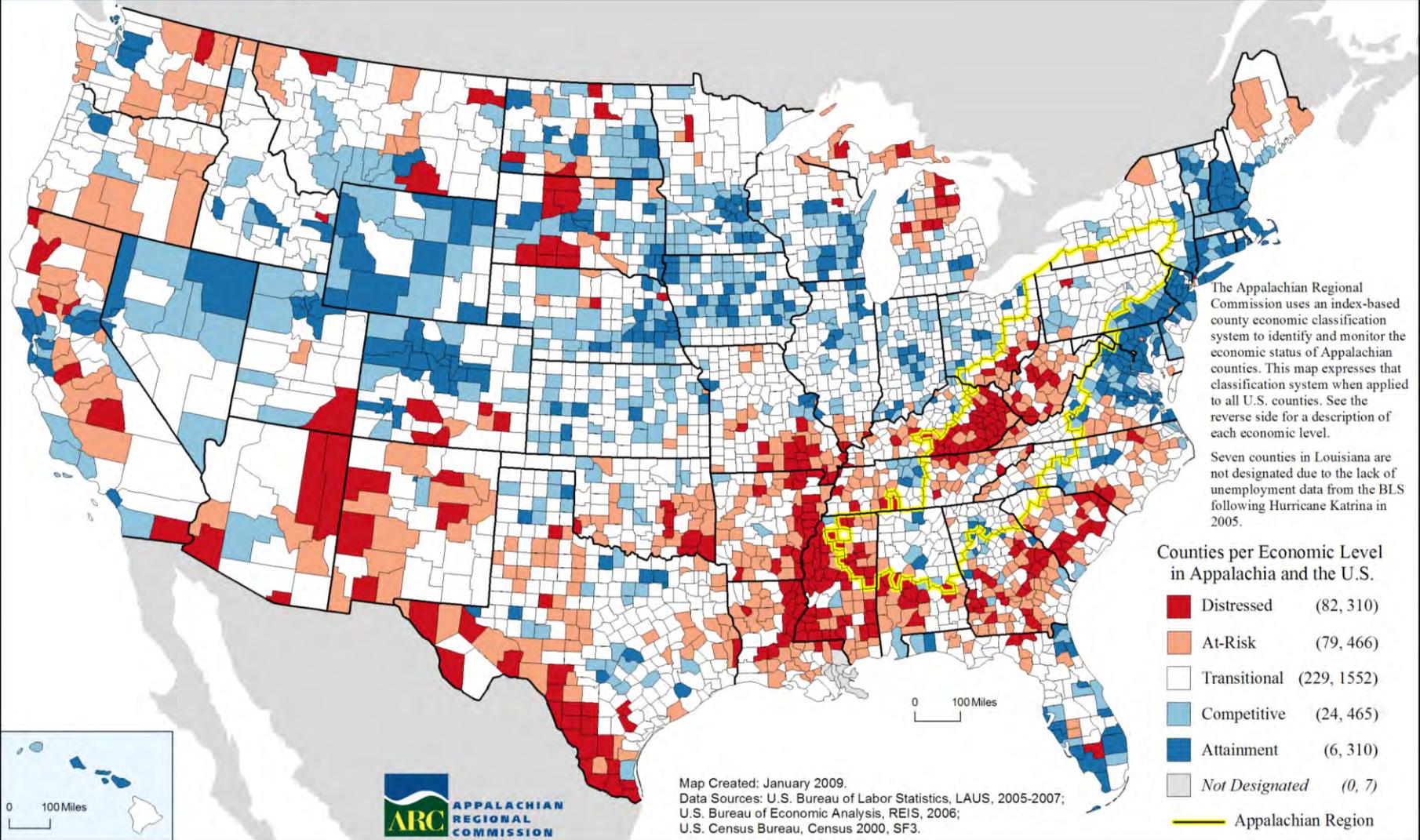
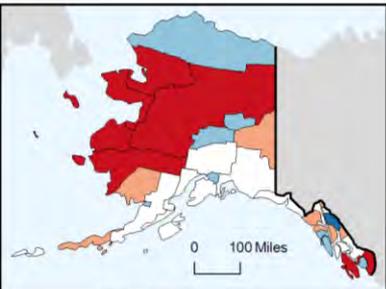
Washington, DC:

Delta Regional Authority
444 North Capitol St., NW
Suite 445-B
Washington, DC 20001
(P) 202.434.4872
(F) 202.434.4871

Map of Service Area



County Economic Status in the United States, Fiscal Year 2010



The Appalachian Regional Commission uses an index-based county economic classification system to identify and monitor the economic status of Appalachian counties. This map expresses that classification system when applied to all U.S. counties. See the reverse side for a description of each economic level.

Seven counties in Louisiana are not designated due to the lack of unemployment data from the BLS following Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Counties per Economic Level in Appalachia and the U.S.

	Distressed	(82, 310)
	At-Risk	(79, 466)
	Transitional	(229, 1552)
	Competitive	(24, 465)
	Attainment	(6, 310)
	Not Designated	(0, 7)
	Appalachian Region	

Map Created: January 2009.
 Data Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, LAUS, 2005-2007;
 U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, REIS, 2006;
 U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, SF3.



Economic Status & Health Status

- 55% of the DRA is in the highest poverty quintile
- 60% is in the highest disabilities quintile.
- 63% is in the lowest life expectancy quintile.
- 59% is in in the highest circulatory deaths quintile.
- 54% is in the highest neoplasm deaths quintile.
- 45% of the DRA has county-wide health-professional shortages compared to 27% of the Lower 48 States.

DRA Background and Founding

Modeled on the Appalachian Regional Commission – a highly successful multi-state economic development commission,

The Delta Regional Authority was created by Congress (“**DRA Act of 2000**”) as an **independent federal agency**.

To serve as a regional focal point to coordinate resources, planning and ideas.

With its federal grant program and parallel initiatives, the Authority will be a catalyst for progress in its region.

DRA Governance and Key Congressional Directives

Led by a Federal Co-Chairman, who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, plus, the Governors of AL, AR, IL, KY, LA, MO, MS and TN.

The Authority serves almost 10 million people in 252 counties and parishes – the vast majority are distressed.

With its federal grant program, the Authority must:

- Invest at least 75 percent of its funds into in Economically Distressed Counties and Parishes and
- Invest at least 50 percent of its funds into Transportation and Infrastructure projects.

KEY -- DRA's funds can be the state/local match.

MISSION

The Authority will create climates of opportunity to increase private-sector investment, employment and productivity.

By doing so, the Region becomes a greater magnet for capital, talent and innovation.

In its 9 grant cycles, DRA has invested
\$86.2 million into 610 projects.

Leveraged \$431.3 million in other public funds (5.0 to 1).

Attracted \$1.4 billion in private-sector funds (16.2 to 1).

Total investment leveraged -- \$1.9 billion (22.0 to 1).

Priorities of Investing

- **(A)** Basic public infrastructure in distressed counties and isolated areas of distress.
- **(B)** Transportation infrastructure for the purpose of facilitating economic development in the region.
- **(C)** Business development, with emphasis on entrepreneurship.
- **(D)** Job training or employment-related education, with emphasis on use of existing public educational institutions located in the region.

DRA Outcomes...

- To Date:
 - 6,531 jobs created and 6,043 jobs retained
 - 16,370 families received new water and/or sewer and
 - 4,421 individuals trained for jobs
- Projected:
 - 19,522 jobs will be created and 16,896 jobs will be retained
 - 57,823 families will have new water and/or sewer and
 - 6,548 individuals will be trained for jobs in their area

Funding Impacts – Per USDA March 2010 Study

“We (ERS-USDA) find that per capita income and transfer payments grew more rapidly in DRA counties than similar non-DRA counties.”

“And, these impacts are larger in counties where DRA spending was larger.”

“Each additional dollar of DRA spending per capita is associated with an increase of \$15 in personal income per capita between 2002 and 2007 – including an increase of \$8 in earnings and \$5 in transfer payments.”

Strategic Planning

- Advance the productivity and economic competitiveness of the Delta workforce – **“Health as an Economic Engine”**
 - ~ Improved health yields greatest employment gains – 1% to 4.6%
- **Strengthen the Delta’s physical and digital connections to the global economy**
 - ~ **“iDelta” – region’s information technology plan**
 - ~ **“Delta Development Highway System” plan**
 - ~ SAFETEA-LU Section 1923 report to Congress: **“Multimodal Assets, Needs, Recommendations”**
- Increase the number of sustainable, livable, affordable **communities” in the region, which are those with sufficient tax bases to provide requisite services.**

Coming Initiatives

Administration Initiatives:

- "Green/Alternative-Energy",
- "Regional centers/clusters of innovations",
- "Livable communities",

Chairman Masingill Initiatives:

- Small Business and Entrepreneurship,
- Local Leadership – Development & Network,
- Healthy communities

States' Economic Development Assistance Program

One of the most important aspects of the Delta Regional Authority, since its creation, has been its Federal Grant Program. It is an integral part of the Authority's ability to positively affect the lives of its constituency. Working with our member states and through the Local Development Districts, the Authority has accomplished more with less than most any other federal executive agency. In ten years, the Authority has leveraged other investments (public and private) in its projects at a ratio of 22:1, all the while, maintaining an excellent track record of eight unqualified full-scope financial statement audits.

With the appointment and confirmation of Chairman Masingill to the Authority in July 2010, a complete review of all programs and policies commenced. The Chairman's vision for the grant program entailed a policy shift in the way the grant department views its work. No longer would the emphasis be placed on grant administration, but instead on project development and management.

This shift, however subtle it may seem, more clearly defines the role of the grant department staff within this administration. Staff members now play a more active role in the project development phase, building those relationships, connecting applicants and project developers to other funding sources thereby helping to connect the dots.

The new approach is more holistic in nature and continues to include the grant program as a key component. As referenced elsewhere in this document, a couple of recent developments in West Tennessee have showcased our renewed focus. Both, the Electrolux and Pinnacle projects, demonstrated the Authority's responsiveness to fluid economic development opportunities within our region. Clearly, economic development has always been a part of the process for each of the grant applications that reach our office. Delta Regional Authority is now better positioned to fill its role as a project developer rather than just a funding source for economic and community development.

Chairman Masingill has not only retooled the Authority's approach to doing business, but he is also actively engaged in developing the necessary tools and resources to help get the job done. The, soon to be released, Project Development website will boast an automated grant application process, shortened timeline, and back-end management tools for project developers. By way of example, as an LDD you will be able to login with your credentials and see a quick list of all your past and present projects. Quickly, you will notice the status of the active projects, whether or not reports are due or when they were received, funding balances, project deliverables, etc. You will be able to update your own contact information and post project photos and updates. There will be a drill-down feature to pull out specific project details. Automatic email notifications will be delivered to all parties at critical steps in the application process. All together this will be a very powerful tool for project developers and one that DRA will continue to refine over time.

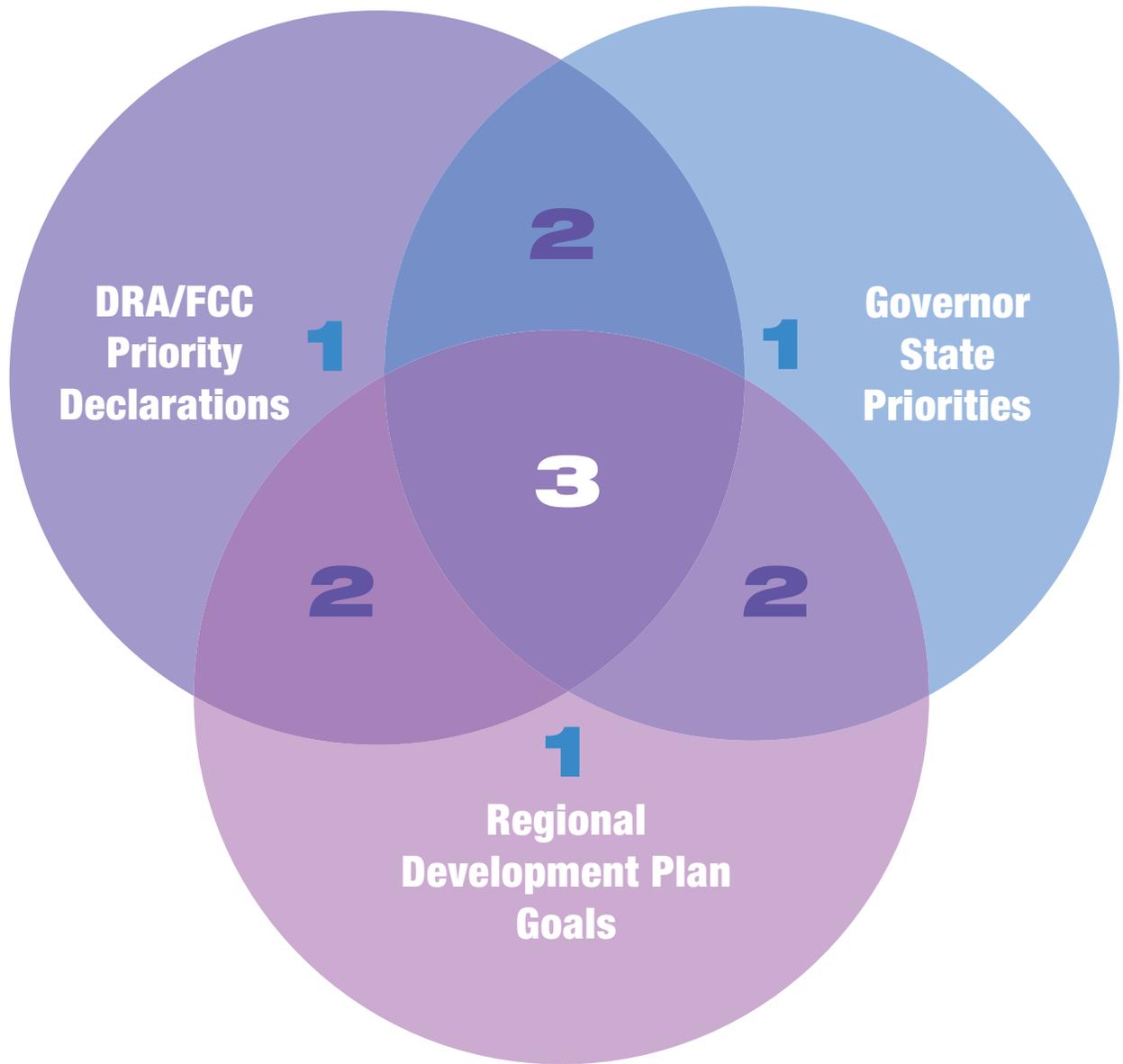
DRA Project Funding Priorities



DRA Project Funding Process

“Assuming your project meets at least one of DRA’s Four Funding Categories, these additional priority areas will help increase the project’s priority status.”

-- Chairman Masingill



FY2011 DRA Distressed Counties/Parishes

ALABAMA

Barbour
Bullock
Butler
Choctaw
Clarke
Conecuh
Dallas
Escambia
Greene
Hale
Lowndes
Macon
Marengo
Monroe
Perry
Pickens
Russell
Sumter
Washington
Wilcox

Jackson
Jefferson
Lawrence
Lee
Lincoln
Lonoke
Marion
Mississippi
Monroe
Ouachita
Phillips
Poinsett
Prairie
Randolph
St. Francis
Searcy
Sharp
Stone
Van Buren
White
Woodruff

ARKANSAS

Arkansas
Ashley
Baxter
Bradley
Calhoun
Chicot
Clay
Cleveland
Craighead
Crittenden
Cross
Dallas
Desha
Drew
Fulton
Grant
Greene
Independence
Izard

ILLINOIS

Alexander
Franklin
Gallatin
Hamilton
Hardin
Jackson
Johnson
Massac
Perry
Pope
Pulaski
Randolph
Saline
Union
Williamson

Kentucky

Caldwell
Calloway
Carlisle
Christian
Crittenden
Fulton
Graves
Henderson
Hopkins
Livingston
Lyon
McLean
Marshall
Muhlenberg
Todd
Trigg
Union
Webster

LOUISIANA

Acadia
Allen
Avoyelles
Beauregard
Bienville
Caldwell
Catahoula
Claiborne
Concordia
De Soto
East Carroll
East Feliciana
Evangeline
Franklin
Grant
Iberville
Jackson
Jefferson Davis
La Salle
Lincoln
Livingston
Madison
Morehouse

Natchitoches
Red River
Richland
St. Helena
St. James
St. Landry
St. Martin
Tangipahoa
Tensas
Union
Vermillion
Washington
Webster
West Carroll
West Feliciana
Winn

MISSISSIPPI

Adams
Amite
Attala
Benton
Bolivar
Carroll
Claiborne
Coahoma
Copiah
Covington
Franklin
Grenada
Holmes
Humphreys
Issaquena
Jasper
Jefferson
Jefferson Davis
Lafayette
Lawrence
Leflore
Lincoln
Marion
Marshall
Montgomery
Panola
Pike

Quitman
Sharkey
Simpson
Smith
Sunflower
Tallahatchie
Tate
Tippah
Tunica
Union
Walthall
Washington
Wilkinson
Yalobusha
Yazoo

MISSOURI

Bollinger
Carter
Crawford
Dent
Douglas
Dunklin
Howell
Iron
Madison
Mississippi
New Madrid
Oregon
Ozark
Pemiscot
Perry
Phelps
Reynolds
Ripley
Scott
Shannon
Ste. Genevieve
St. Francois
Stoddard
Texas
Washington
Wayne
Wright

TENNESSEE

Benton
Carroll
Chester
Crockett
Decatur
Dyer
Fayette
Gibson
Hardeman
Hardin
Haywood
Henderson
Henry
Lake
Lauderdale
Madison
McNairy
Obion
Tipton
Weakley

2011 DRA Non-Distressed Counties/Parishes

ARKANSAS

Pulaski
Union

ILLINOIS

White

Kentucky

Ballard
Hickman
McCracken

LOUISIANA

Ascension **NO**
Assumption
Cameron
East Baton Rouge
Iberia
Jefferson
Lafourche
Orleans
Ouachita
Plaquemines
Pointe Coupee
Rapides
St. Bernard
St. Charles
St. John the Baptist
St. Mary
West Baton Rouge

MISSISSIPPI

De Soto
Hinds
Madison
Rankin
Warren

MISSOURI

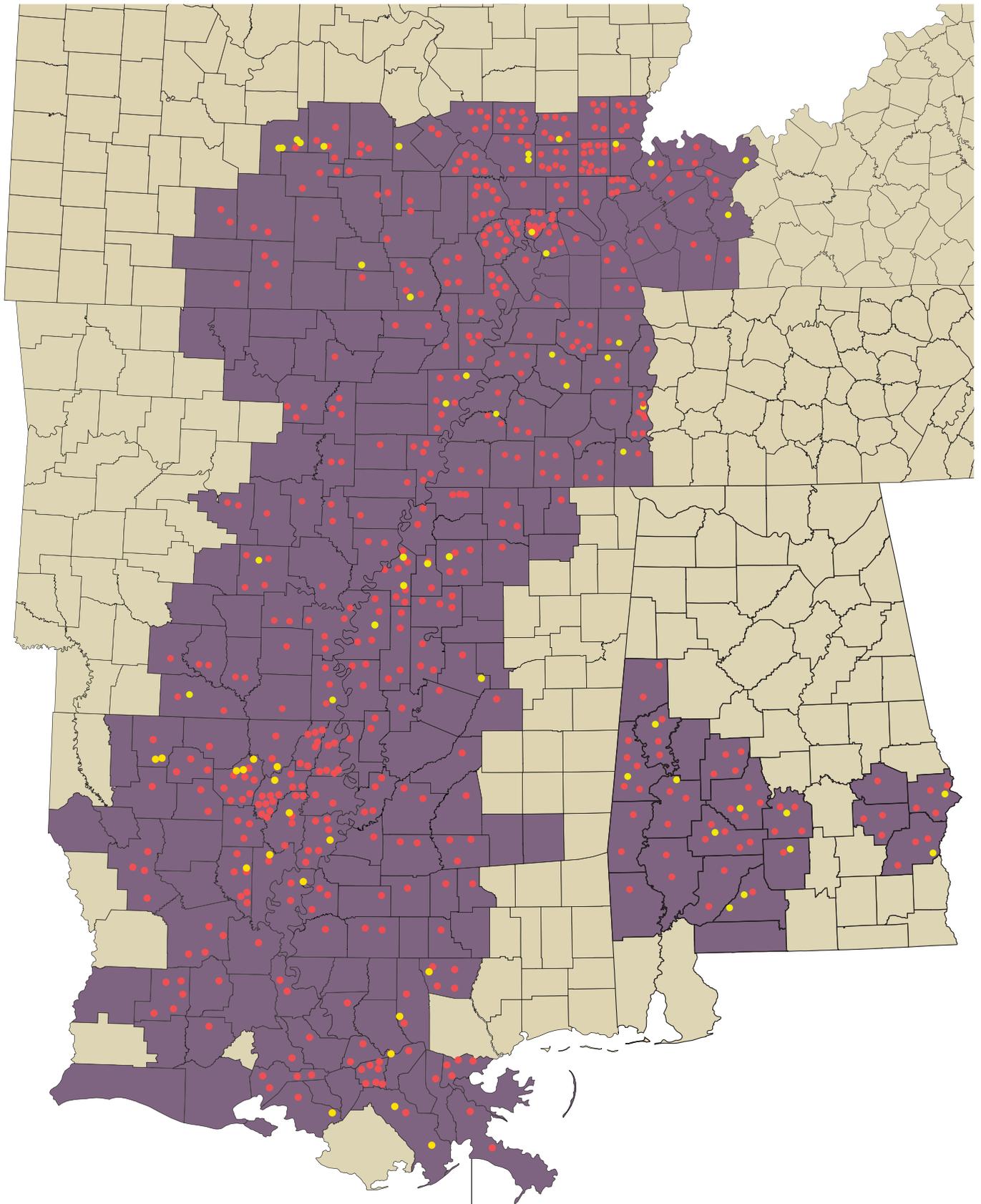
Butler
Cape Girardeau

TENNESSEE

Shelby



Delta Regional Authority Service Area



Delta Regional Authority – A federal-state partnership providing a unified voice for the region



Regional benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2002 through 2010.

Total DRA projects	610
DRA Investment	\$86,170,823
Other Public Investment	\$431,272,667
Other Private Investment	\$1,394,057,574
Total Investment	\$1,911,501,064
Leverage Ratio	19.825
Jobs Created	6,531
Jobs Retained	6,043
Individuals Trained for Jobs	3421
Families Affected	16,370
Projected Jobs Created	19,522
Projected Jobs Retained	16,896
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	6,548
Projected Families Affected	57,823

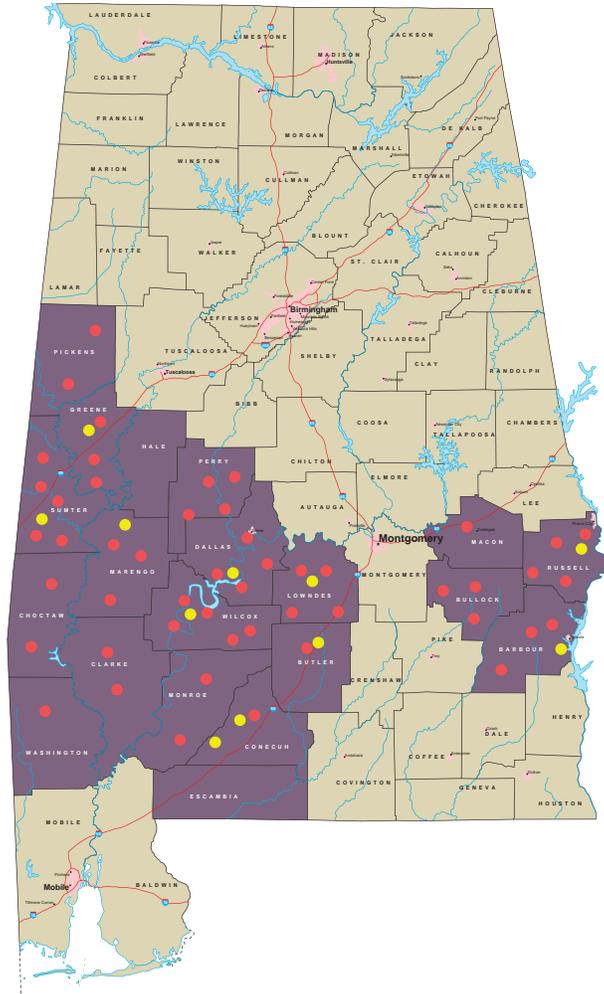
“The Delta Regional Authority has been a Godsend for the communities in Delta Council’s eighteen-county service area. The existence of these funds and the expertise of the DRA staff often combine to make the impossible possible. DRA really makes a difference for us”

— Tom Gresham, Chairman
Delta Council Development Department





FY 2010 DRA projects in Alabama:



- Symbols on the map indicate FY 2010 grants allocated to counties, communities or development districts.
- DRA projects funded prior to FY 2010.

Alabama Counties Served by DRA

Barbour	Choctaw	Dallas	Hale	Marengo	Pickens	Washington
Bullock	Clarke	Escambia	Lowndes	Monroe	Russell	Wilcox
Butler	Conecuh	Greene	Macon	Perry	Sumter	

Alabama benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2002 through 2010.

Total DRA projects	61
DRA Investment	\$8,982,262
Other Public Investment	\$15,108,394
Other Private Investment	\$0
Total Investment	\$24,090,656
Leverage Ratio	1.7 to 1
Jobs Created	953
Jobs Retained	1,671
Individuals Trained for Jobs	14
Families Affected	1,786
Projected Jobs Created	1,981
Projected Jobs Retained	1,655
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	14
Projected Families Affected	3,568

“The DRA funds provided the gap financing which made the total financing package come together. This allowed two Tier One, Hyundai suppliers, to build in Lowndes County, a Delta community located in the Black Belt region of Alabama. One of the poorest counties in the state. The facilities have provided much needed jobs in a high unemployment county.”

— Tyson Howard, Executive Director
South Central AL Development Commission

FY 2010 DRA projects in Alabama:

Russell County Commission \$59,755

Establish a GIS department within the Russell County Engineering Department by acquiring laptops, server, software, handheld receiver and consultation services for installation and staff training.

South Central Alabama Development Commission \$69,300

GIS water system mapping as part of a statewide initiative.

South Central Alabama Development Commission \$65,000

GIS mapping of four public water systems serving Butler County. The database will include mapping service areas, water lines down to 3", fire hydrants, inter-system connections, intakes, water tanks, pump stations, valves and other facilities.

City of Eufaula \$250,000

Cherry Street drainage project, to include removal of 1,750Lft of existing brick and terra cotta storm drainage and installation of 440Lft of 36" drain pipe, 725Lft of 48" drain pipe, 600Lft of 60" drain pipe and resurfacing of portions of Cherry Street.

West Alabama Regional Commission \$60,000

GIS water system mapping, to include meters, control valves, system valves, water mains, fire hydrants, pumping stations, tanks, wells, generators, treatment plants, springs and 3" lines and larger as part of a statewide initiative.

City of Livingston \$300,000

Replace the existing 6" water main beneath US Highway 11/State Road 7 with new 10" high density polyethylene and 8" water main on the adjacent DOT right-of-way.

Marengo County Commission \$123,700

Install 23,000Lft of 3" PVC pipe, and 400Lft of ¾" HDPE service pipe in order to remove nineteen residences from private water wells.



Town of Repton \$211,040

Water system improvements along County Highway 73, including installation of 13,500Lft of 6" PVC water main, 150Lft of 12" steel casing, 150Lft of directional boring and installation of 3 fire hydrants to remove 280 people from private wells.

Alabama-Tombigbee Regional

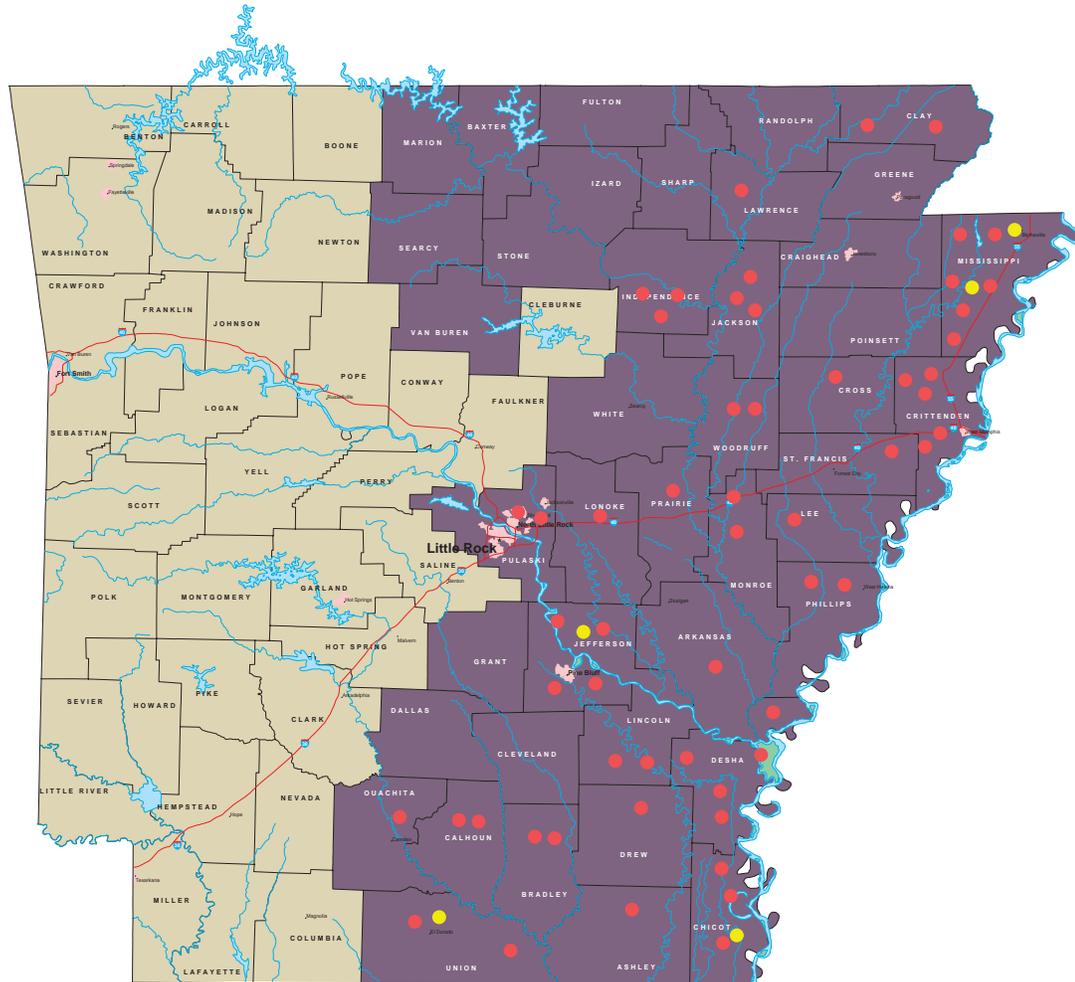
Commission \$180,000

GIS water system mapping within Conecuh, Dallas and Monroe counties that are 3" diameter or greater, to include pipelines, service area, water tanks, pump stations, fire hydrants and interconnectivity valves.





FY 2010 DRA projects in Arkansas:



- Symbols on the map indicate FY 2010 grants allocated to counties, communities or development districts.
- DRA projects funded prior to FY 2010.

Arkansas Counties Served by DRA

Arkansas	Clay	Desha	Izard	Lonoke	Poinsett	St. Francis
Ashley	Cleveland	Drew	Jackson	Marion	Prairie	Stone
Baxter	Craighead	Fulton	Jefferson	Mississippi	Pulaski	Union
Bradley	Crittenden	Grant	Lawrence	Monroe	Randolph	Van Buren
Calhoun	Cross	Greene	Lee	Ouachita	Searcy	White
Chicot	Dallas	Independence	Lincoln	Phillips	Sharp	Woodruff

Arkansas benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2002 through 2010.

Total DRA projects	67
DRA Investment	\$14,193,445
Other Public Investment	\$113,098,674
Other Private Investment	\$352,262,000
Total Investment	\$479,554,119
Leverage Ratio	32.8 to 1
Jobs Created	1,251
Jobs Retained	73
Individuals Trained for Jobs	1,827
Families Affected	4,264
Projected Jobs Created	2,548
Projected Jobs Retained	1,696
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	2,496
Projected Families Affected	6,246

“Without the grant from the DRA this project would not have been possible. The new water tank improved our ISO fire rating and compliance with state health department regulations.”

— Mayor James Morgan
White Hall, Arkansas

FY 2010 DRA projects in Arkansas:

El Dorado Rural Public Water Authority

\$3,878,105

Install and operate a wastewater collection system providing safe and sanitary sewer service to 400 residents.

Drainage District #17 \$500,000

Purchase and installation of three 400HP diesel engines to replace six existing engines which power three drainage pumps.

City of Eudora \$332,914

Improvement of an existing access road to Superior Uniform manufacturing plant in order to help retain 150 employees.

Mississippi County \$17,500,000

Acquisition and permanent installation of tools and equipment such as computer controlled & manual lathes and mills, a heat treating oven, a composite oven and an autoclave for use by Aviation Repair Technologies.

City of Altheimer \$2,914,500

Improvements to wells, water storage and treatment plant, distribution system and construction costs associated with engineering design, construction management, surveying, geotechnical, easement prep, etc. in order to restore a safe, reliable supply of potable water to the residents of the city.



Illinois benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2002 through 2010.

Total DRA projects	91
DRA Investment	\$6,732,830
Other Public Investment	\$46,036,323
Other Private Investment	\$13,880,752
Total Investment	\$66,649,905
Leverage Ratio	8.9 to 1
Jobs Created	507
Jobs Retained	955
Individuals Trained for Jobs	1,102
Families Affected	971
Projected Jobs Created	822
Projected Jobs Retained	2,844
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	3,574
Projected Families Affected	3,523

“The DRA provided critical funding that helped us reclaim old rail lines and update them for grain and fertilizer use. It transformed our county, created 70 jobs, and helped the area farmers get their product out and their fertilizer into the county.”

— Roger Schwartz
Soylutions, LLC, McLeansboro, IL

FY 2010 DRA projects in Illinois:

Village of Ridgway \$1,090,640

Replacement of water mains in several areas of the village and connect to a regional water source. Replace 29,520Lft of 4" and 6" PVC water mains, installation of 3,500Lft of 8" water main for connection to new source, providing safe sanitary water for 916 residents.

City of West Frankfort \$127,500

Overlay front and rear parking areas and upgrade storm sewer drainage, aiding in the growth of incubator tenants, creating six new positions as well as retaining 61 existing employees.

Southern Illinois University \$80,000

Conversion of existing industrial space to a wet laboratory for the SIUC Small Business Incubator.

Southern Illinois Airport Authority \$67,400

Extension of a nearby fiber optic cable to the airport campus and interconnect 27 buildings, benefiting more than 600 employees and students and help retain two businesses.

Southern Illinois Stimulus

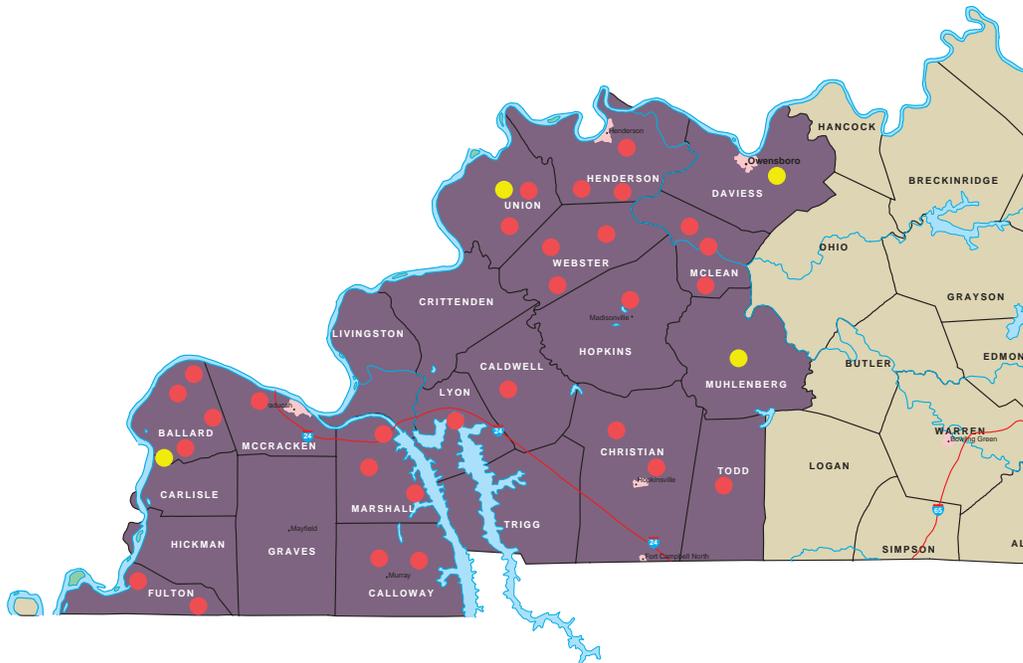
Corporation \$300,000

Building renovation for lease by Genesis Health Technologies, to include office space, conference room, call center area, and handicap accessible restrooms within the Port of Cairo building.





FY 2010 DRA projects in Kentucky:



- Symbols on the map indicate FY 2010 grants allocated to counties, communities or development districts.
- DRA projects funded prior to FY 2010.

Kentucky Counties Served by DRA

Ballard	Carlisle	Fulton	Hickman	Lyon	McLean	Trigg
Caldwell	Christian	Graves	Hopkins	Marshall	Muhlenberg	Union
Calloway	Crittenden	Henderson	Livingston	McCracken	Todd	Webster

Kentucky benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2002 through 2010.

Total DRA projects	32
DRA Investment	\$7,049,200
Other Public Investment	\$76,651,103
Other Private Investment	\$125,400,000
Total Investment	\$209,100,303
Leverage Ratio	28.7 to 1
Jobs Created	970
Jobs Retained	964
Individuals Trained for Jobs	0
Families Affected	26
Projected Jobs Created	1,426
Projected Jobs Retained	1,323
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	0
Projected Families Affected	22

“Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Secretary Bill Nighbert and I appreciate the efforts of DRA to focus on transportation. The DRA funding allows us to do things that we wouldn’t normally be able to do.”

— David Gallagher
Fulton County Fiscal Court, Kentucky

FY 2010 DRA projects in Kentucky:

Green River Area Development

District \$155,180

Installation of high frequency equipment operating on a 3650GHz frequency, which will increase broad-band coverage range from 3-4 miles to 7 miles.

Union County Fiscal Court \$79,424

McLean and Union counties oblique aerial imaging project, to include high-res geo-referenced oblique imagery for use by local governments (E-911, fire, EMS & police) to assess and analyze sites remotely to increase the efficiency of operations.

Muhlenberg Community Hospital \$14,280,800

Expansion of Muhlenberg Community Hospital to include site development and construction of a two-story addition, which will be used as a surgery/intensive care wing.

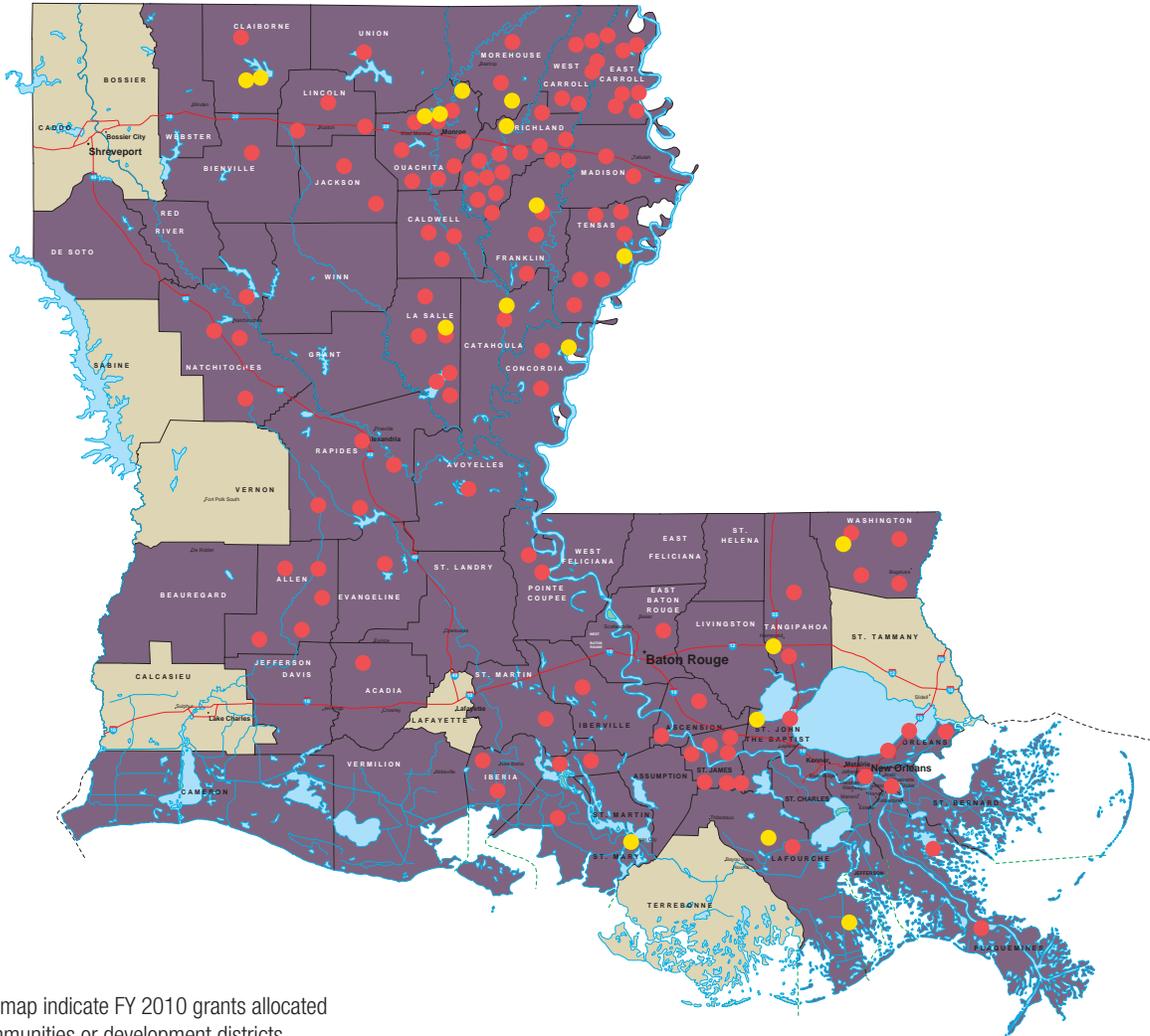
Ballard County Fiscal Court \$24,150

Purchase needed equipment for the Ballard County Medical Clinic to include baby/child scales, IV infusion pump and a Life Pak-defibrillator/monitor and construct a new handicap entrance.





FY 2010 DRA projects in Louisiana:



- Symbols on the map indicate FY 2010 grants allocated to counties, communities or development districts.
- DRA projects funded prior to FY 2010.

Louisiana Parishes Served by DRA

Acadia	Cameron	Evangeline	La Salle	Ouachita	St. Helena	Union
Allen	Catahoula	Franklin	Lafourche	Plaquemines	St. James	Vermillion
Ascension	Claiborne	Grant	Lincoln	Pointe Coupee	St. John the Baptist	Washington
Assumption	Concordia	Iberia	Livingston	Rapides	St. Landry	Webster
Avoyelles	DeSoto	Iberville	Madison	Red River	St. Martin	West Baton Rouge
Beauregard	East Baton Rouge	Jackson	Morehouse	Richland	St. Mary	West Carroll
Bienville	East Carroll	Jefferson	Natchitoches	St. Bernard	Tangipahoa	West Feliciana
Caldwell	East Feliciana	Jefferson Davis	Orleans	St. Charles	Tensas	Winn

Louisiana benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2002 through 2010.

Total DRA projects	138
DRA Investment	\$16,909,966
Other Public Investment	\$79,910,478
Other Private Investment	\$387,220,000
Total Investment	\$484,040,444
Leverage Ratio	27.6 to 1
Jobs Created	1,517
Jobs Retained	1,214
Individuals Trained for Jobs	0
Families Affected	3,327
Projected Jobs Created	6,467
Projected Jobs Retained	2,764
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	0
Projected Families Affected	22,383

“Thanks to DRA, the gas system is more reliable. We have added new customers. All Class Three areas have been upgraded. Even the state inspectors are thrilled we can change the existing pipe from 1960’s with Poly PE Pipe that is safer. It is mandatory and this grant made it happen.”

— John Rochester, Gas Supervisor
Washington Parish Gas Utility, Washington Parish, LA

FY 2010 DRA projects in Louisiana:

Morgan City Harbor & Terminal

District \$4,550,000

Construct a bulkhead and conduct waterfront development at the Terminal District, creating 50 new jobs and helping to retain 200 jobs.

City of Hammond \$200,000

Analyzing current GIS base maps for sections that need realignment, re-creation and data additions, thereby establishing a work plan for realigning and creating related layers of the base map.

Washington Parish Gas Utility

District #2 \$599,500

Extension and upgrade of gas distribution lines. Replace 3” main line coming off the suppliers meter station, which is located beneath the main parish road.

Town of Golden Meadow \$1,077,680

Installation of sewer collection lines and a new community package treatment plant to serve the northern section of town, covering 43 homes.

Town of Gramercy \$200,000

Construct a building to protect the electronic equipment used in chemical handling, upgrade chemical handling equipment, feed system, pumps, tanks, piping and back flow preventer. Tie into existing water main and relocate fencing, improving water quality for 3,460 residents.

Town of Lockport \$850,700

Construct a new sewer collection line on Comeaux Drive, upgrade lift station that will connect to the new line, thereby alleviating storm water infiltration, improving wastewater treatment for approximately 302 households.

LaSalle Parish Assessor \$102,500

Provide software, upgrades and consulting to provide training for the agency staff in advanced GIS procedures.

Catahoula Parish Assessment

District \$95,500

Purchase and installation of software and/or upgrades and consulting for on-the-job training of agency staff to create and convert layer data.



Town of Ferriday \$629,000

Purchase electrical, HVAC equipment and insulation to be used in the renovation of this town owned property, which will be rented by Country Boys, an entertainment venue.

Tensas Parish Assessor \$100,000

Align CAD base maps to GIS base maps and convert data into a file geo-database system. Add parcel ID numbers, conduct field measurements and collect GIS data.

Start Water System \$60,000

Install 7,000Lft of new 3" water main, two canal crossings, meters, valves, etc. to serve an additional six customers in the Lake Irwin area currently using shallow groundwater wells.

Franklin Parish Tax Assessor \$120,000

Purchase hardware and software and contact with a third party engineering firm, which will allow the parish to create a parcel layer map.

Archibald Water System, Inc. \$285,000

Water system rehabilitation by installing 4,500Lft of new 10" water main paralleling an existing 8" main.

Ouachita Parish Police Jury \$2,144,175

Construct 6,075Lft of 24" sewer trunk line, 17 manholes, new lift station on south side of New Natchitoches Road, 12,380Lft of 12" sewer force main and two road bores.

Town of Sterlington \$596,000

Purchase and install a belt filter press dewatering system and associated improvements to dewater sludge generated by the town's wastewater treatment process.

Greater Ouachita Port Commission \$215,135

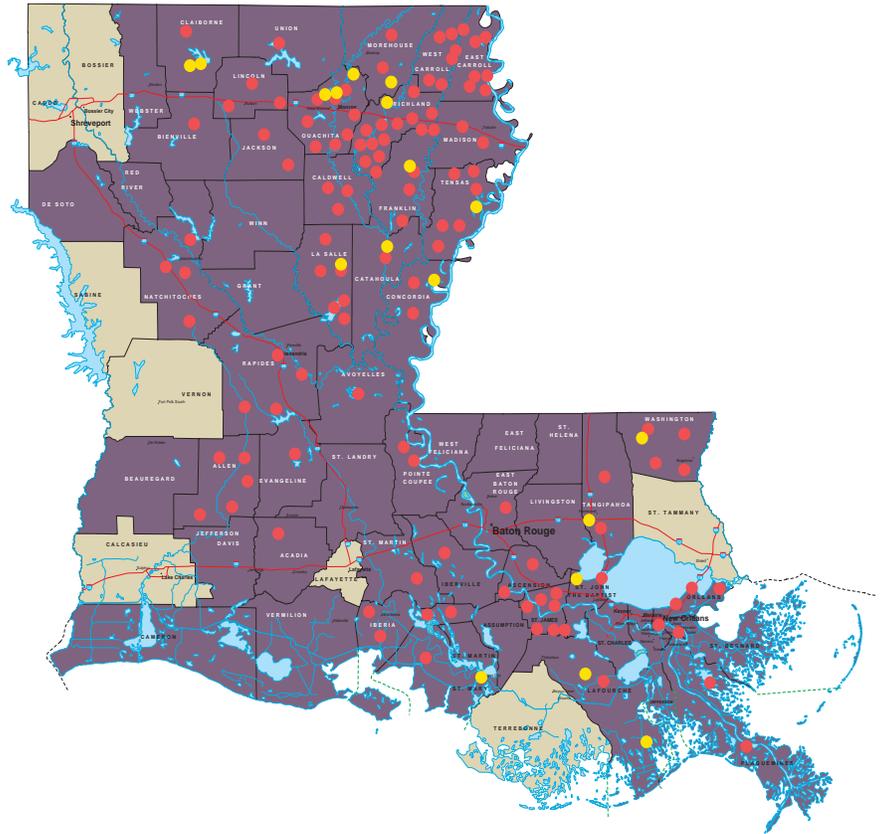
Security fence and entry control. Install 3,525Lft of 6' chain link fence, three swinging gates, three rolling gates, clearing and re-seeding for security purposes at the port.

Town of Homer \$489,500

Rehabilitation of the wastewater treatment facility will include replacement of deteriorated influent pumping equipment, existing bar screen, install new disinfection equipment, replace and/or rehabilitate two aeration blowers, rehabilitate waste sludge pumping equipment, install updated electrical controls and monitoring system.

Claiborne Parish Assessor \$65,000

GIS project to include the location and ownership of all lands in Claiborne Parish and map of all roads, utilities and water systems for emergency preparedness.



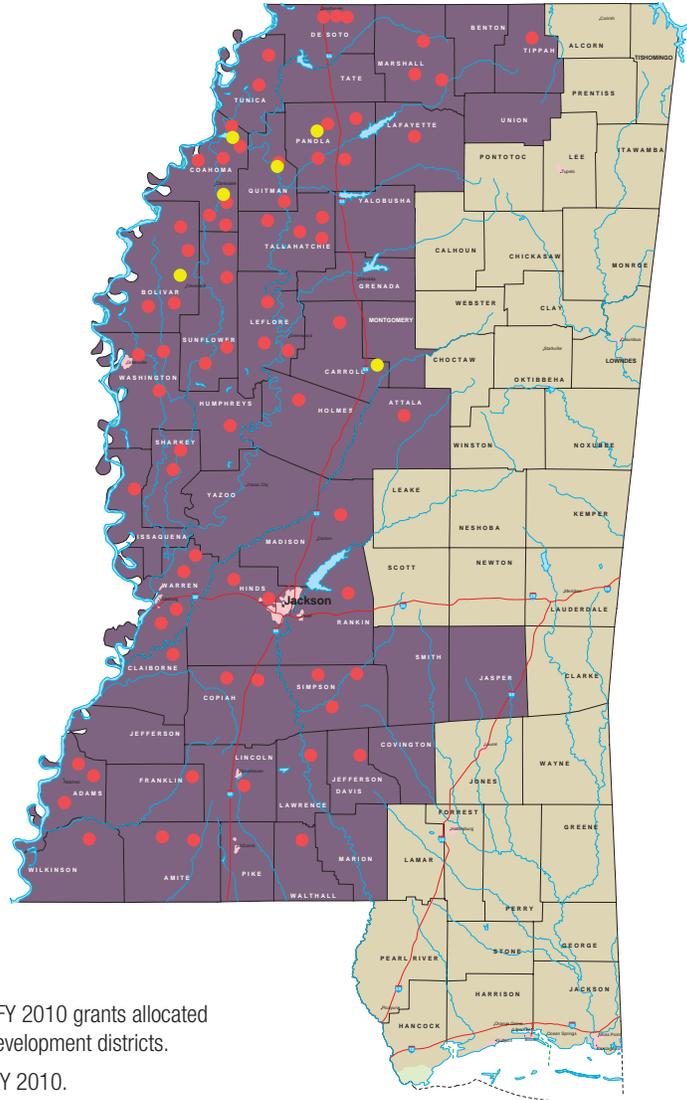
Louisiana Parishes Served by DRA

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Acadia | Allen | Ascension |
| Assumption | Avoyelles | Beauregard |
| Bienville | Caldwell | Cameron |
| Claiborne | Concordia | Catahoula |
| DeSoto | East Carroll | East Baton Rouge |
| Evangeline | Franklin | East Feliciana |
| Iberia | Iberville | Jackson |
| Grant | Lafourche | Jefferson |
| Jefferson Davis | Livingston | La Salle |
| Lincoln | Natchitoches | Madison |
| Morehouse | Plaquemines | Orleans |
| Ouachita | Richland | Pointe Coupee |
| Rapides | St. Helena | St. Bernard |
| Red River | St. Landry | St. James |
| St. Charles | St. Mary | St. Martin |
| St. John the Baptist | Tensas | Tangipahoa |
| Union | Vermillion | Washington |
| Webster | West Baton Rouge | West Carroll |
| West Feliciana | Winn | |





FY 2010 DRA projects in Mississippi:



- Symbols on the map indicate FY 2010 grants allocated to counties, communities or development districts.
- DRA projects funded prior to FY 2010.

Mississippi Counties Served by DRA

Adams	Coahoma	Holmes	Lawrence	Panola	Sunflower	Warren
Amite	Copiah	Humphreys	Leflore	Pike	Tallahatchie	Washington
Attala	Covington	Issaquena	Lincoln	Quitman	Tate	Wilkinson
Benton	Desoto	Jasper	Madison	Rankin	Tippah	Yalobusha
Bolivar	Franklin	Jefferson	Marion	Sharkey	Tunica	Yazoo
Carroll	Grenada	Jefferson Davis	Marshall	Simpson	Union	
Claiborne	Hinds	Lafayette	Montgomery	Smith	Walthall	

Mississippi benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2002 through 2010.

Total DRA projects	86
DRA Investment	\$12,271,725
Other Public Investment	\$43,166,390
Other Private Investment	\$102,060,822
Total Investment	\$157,498,937
Leverage Ratio	11.8 to 1
Jobs Created	466
Jobs Retained	255
Individuals Trained for Jobs	105
Families Affected	1,671
Projected Jobs Created	1,083
Projected Jobs Retained	1,068
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	215
Projected Families Affected	8,049

“DRA’s a godsend for areas in economic distress. Grants are worthless without the necessary local match. That’s where DRA can really make a difference. They have the ONLY federal grant program that can be used to match other federal grants. That’s a big deal.”

— Frank Howell
 Director of Delta Council’s
 Community Development Department

FY 2010 DRA projects in Mississippi:

Bolivar County \$735,252

Construct a STEP sewage system to serve Stanton subdivision. Install 1.5 miles of sewage force main to transport wastewater to the City of Cleveland for treatment and disposal. Install 1000 gallon septic tanks and effluent pumps at each residence.

Town of Vaiden \$100,000

Improve and overlay Court Street, McDougal Street and Thomas Street benefiting 80 households.

Panola County \$488,000

Improvements along Pocahontas Street, East Mill and West Mill Roads due to industrial traffic on residential roads.

Town of Coahoma \$461,650

Construct a 200GPM 8” well, 1,200’ deep, including a well house, chlorination system, 6’ chain link fence and 6’ chain link gate.

Town of Lyon \$83,500

Install culverts and inlets along a major drainage ditch located on Hopson Street. This project will provide safer traveling conditions for the entire town consisting of approximately 418 residents.

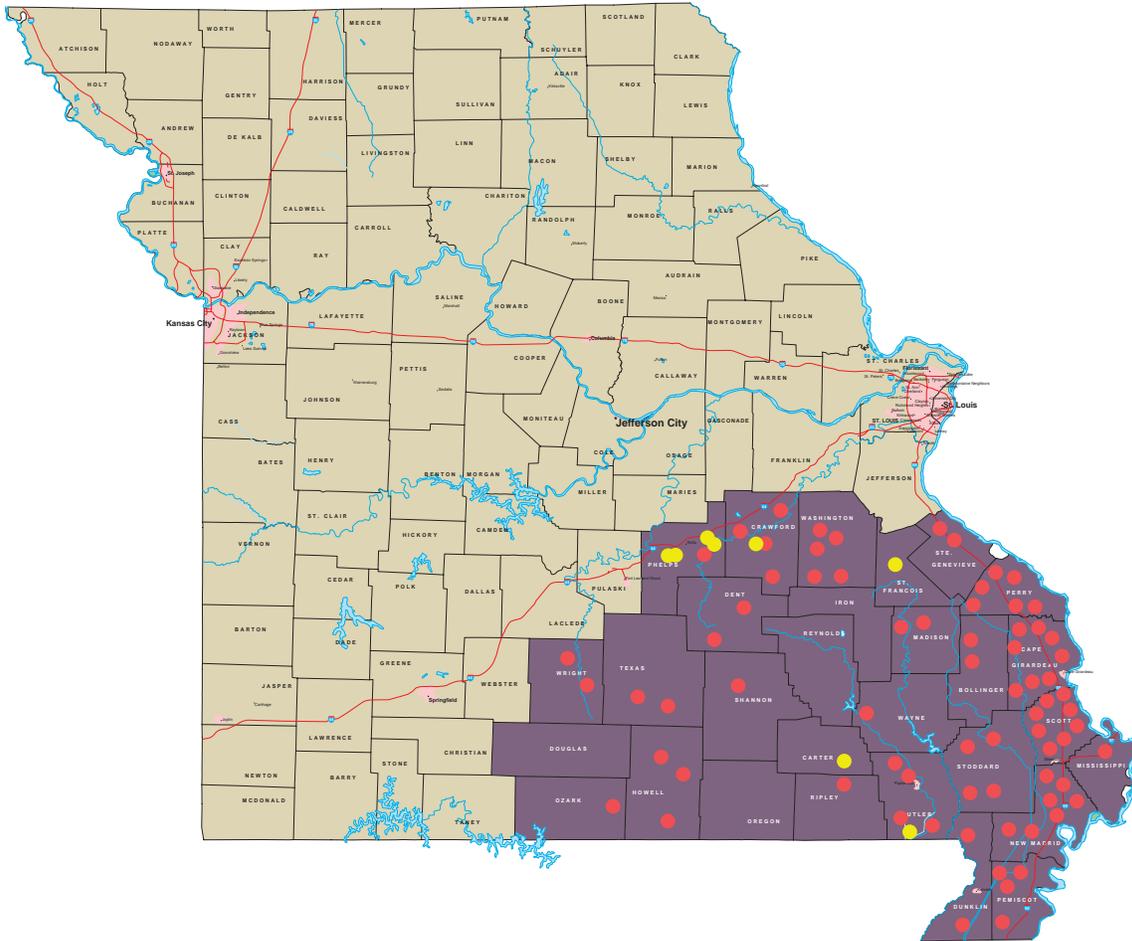
City of Lambert \$111,000

Replacement of one lift station and installing new pumps, motors and electrical controls on another lift station, improving the sanitary sewer system for approximately 300 residents.





FY 2010 DRA projects in Missouri:



- Symbols on the map indicate FY 2010 grants allocated to counties, communities or development districts.
- DRA projects funded prior to FY 2010.

Missouri Counties Served by DRA

Bollinger	Dent	Madison	Pemiscot	Scott	Texas
Butler	Douglas	Mississippi	Perry	Shannon	Washington
Cape Girardeau	Dunklin	New Madrid	Phelps	St. Francois	Wayne
Carter	Howell	Oregon	Reynolds	Ste. Genevieve	Wright
Crawford	Iron	Ozark	Ripley	Stoddard	

Missouri benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2002 through 2010.

Total DRA projects	81
DRA Investment	\$9,971,539
Other Public Investment	\$41,624,706
Other Private Investment	\$227,144,000
Total Investment	\$278,740,245
Leverage Ratio	27.0 to 1
Jobs Created	804
Jobs Retained	908
Individuals Trained for Jobs	320
Families Affected	178
Projected Jobs Created	1,367
Projected Jobs Retained	4,323
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	160
Projected Families Affected	1,800

“Thanks to the DRA, Orgill, Inc. has invested 20 million dollars and created 300 jobs in Siskeston. At New Madrid Port, two new companies moved in with 12 million dollars in investment and 28 new jobs have been created. Both companies are talking about expansion at New Madrid Port.”

— Connie Duke, Economic Development Director
Bootheel Regional Planning Commission

FY 2010 DRA projects in Missouri:

City of Steelville \$108,090

Replace an old galvanized 2" line with a 6" PVC line, install five gate valves and three fire hydrants. 1,500Lft will be replaced which will connect seven households to the new line.

City of Newburg \$247,871

Replace the current single span structure with a new reinforced box culvert with rails on Wolf Pride Drive.

City of Doolittle \$239,989

Install a parallel sewer main 8,400Lft of 4" sewer main to adequately carry the additional wastewater flow, which will serve to equalize the flow pressure between the two lines.

Phelps County \$112,632

Replace one-lane bridge which is the only access to Boys and Girls Town with a two-lane, 36' reinforced concrete slab bridge.

City of St. James \$637,930

Construct approximately 3,750' of new 34.5kV transmission line along the industrial park property line in order to increase the operating voltage for tenants of the park.

City of Farmington \$88,000

Bury fiber optic cable from AT&T's junction and extend into the industrial park. Two companies will then be connected to this fiber optic cable and create ten new jobs.

City of Grandin \$1,067,975

Construct a new 75,000 gallon water storage tank and a new water supply well. Both will be enclosed in a security fence on property owned by the city. Also included will be yard piping, electrical & controls, and approximately 4,000' of 6" piping to connect to existing system.

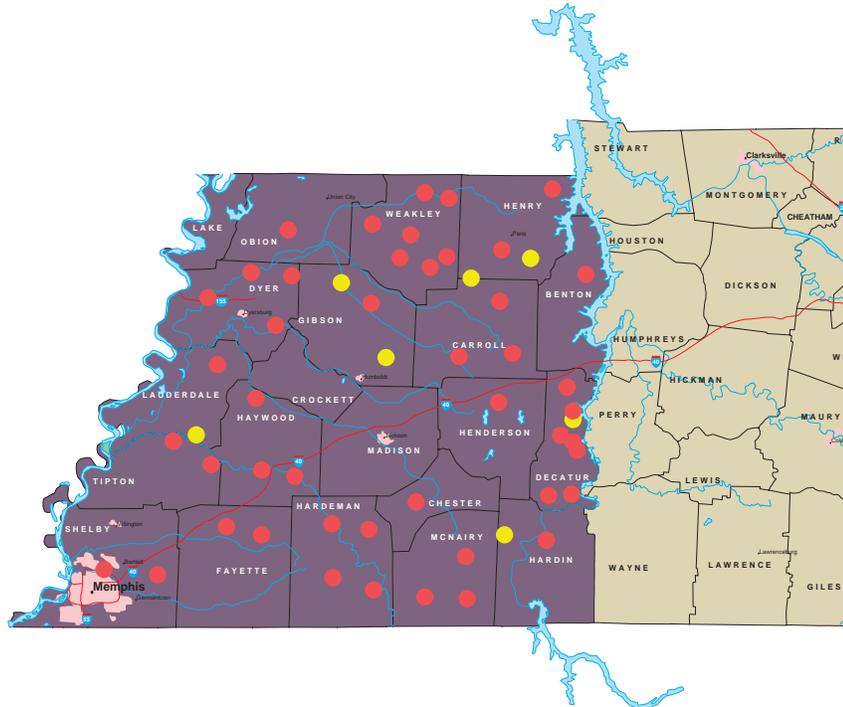
Butler County \$4,656,700

Construct two miles of two-lane road from the Poplar Bluff Industrial Park to Highway 67 at the Route M interchange.





FY 2010 DRA projects in Tennessee:



- Symbols on the map indicate FY 2010 grants allocated to counties, communities or development districts.
- DRA projects funded prior to FY 2010.

Tennessee Counties Served by DRA

Benton	Crockett	Fayette	Hardin	Henry	Madison	Shelby
Carroll	Decatur	Gibson	Haywood	Lake	McNairy	Tipton
Chester	Dyer	Hardeman	Henderson	Lauderdale	Obion	Weakley

Tennessee benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2002 through 2010.

Total DRA projects	54
DRA Investment	\$10,059,856
Other Public Investment	\$15,676,599
Other Private Investment	\$186,090,000
Total Investment	\$211,826,455
Leverage Ratio	20.1 to 1
Jobs Created	63
Jobs Retained	3
Individuals Trained for Jobs	53
Families Affected	4,147
Projected Jobs Created	3,828
Projected Jobs Retained	1,223
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	89
Projected Families Affected	12,232

“Rural communities such as ours are the backbone of this country. The funding we receive from DRA will help tremendously in easing the financial burden for residents of our small rural community.”

— Mayor Norma Smith
Bethel Springs, TN, McNairy County

FY 2010 DRA projects in Tennessee:

Henry County \$5,051,500

Springville area water system. Construct 65,000Lft of transmission main from the Paris Board of Public Utilities to supply water for the new system.

The distribution lines will provide water to about 1,300 homes and businesses.

City of Humboldt \$1,600,000

Procure materials for the construction of 2,730Lft of rail spur as it switches from the main line benefiting Bongard’s Creameries site and assist in creating 89 new jobs.

City of McKenzie \$200,000

Install 10,000Lft of 6” water line, twenty fire hydrants, 7-6” gate valves for 59 service connections along old McKenzie Road, including repairs to 300 square yards of pavement.

Town of Rutherford \$141,129

Sanitary sewer project. Procure materials and construct 1,510Lft of 8” gravity sewer along US Highway 45 road frontage, driveway repair, erosion control and project signage.

Decatur County \$210,500

Purchase the following software/equipment to be installed in the Decatur County Hospital: Med-Verify, electronic file management, PhysDoc, core measure application quality improvement application and materials management.

City of Adamsville \$312,000

Extension of public sewer lines to eighteen residential households currently served by individual septic tanks including the construction of approximately 3,300Lft of sewer line along Old Shiloh Road, Caney Road, and Overshot Road.

City of Covington \$97,472

Relocate several electrical transmission and distribution poles and related anchoring owned by Covington Electric System.



Delta Regional Authority Programs and Performance

DRA's Vision:

After decades of decline, the Mississippi River Delta Region will achieve a pattern of sustained growth. Increasing investment and productivity will establish the region as a magnet for talent and innovation, and will nurture a sense of place within each community.

DRA's Mission:

The DRA will serve as a regional focal point for resources, planning and ideas. The DRA will be a catalyst for investment in the communities and in the people of the Mississippi River Delta region.

DRA, created by Congress in 2000, is a federal-state partnership serving a 252-county/parish area in an eight-state service area. Led by two presidential appointees, Federal Co-Chairman (FCC) and Alternate Federal Co-Chairman (AFCC), along with a State Co-Chairman and the governor of each participating state, the Authority is designed to remedy severe and chronic economic distress by stimulating economic development and fostering partnerships that will have a positive impact on the Region's economy.

The Authority helps economically distressed communities to leverage other federal and state programs which Congress has mandated through the Delta Regional Authority Code and Enabling Legislation that the four priority funding categories for DRA are:

- *Basic public infrastructure* in distressed counties and isolated areas of distress;
- *Transportation infrastructure* for the purpose of facilitating economic development in the region;
- *Business development*, with emphasis on entrepreneurship; and
- *Workforce development* or employment-related education, with emphasis on use of existing public educational institutions located in the region.

Additional congressional stipulations include:

- The Authority will allocate at least 75 percent of Authority funds for use in distressed counties; and
- The Authority shall allocate at least 50 percent of any funds for transportation and basic public infrastructure projects.

The Governors' project recommendations demonstrate the Authority's continued emphasis of the four funding priority areas listed above such as basic public and transportation infrastructure. Project funding for these two categories totaled \$66,111,467 or 76.72 percent (well above the 50 percent required by statute).

DRA's Fiscal Year 2010 grant funds attracted \$60,296,302 in additional project funding, a ratio of 5.89 to 1, and \$31,165,000 in leveraged private investment, a ratio of 3.04 to 1.

Overall:

- DRA has contributed \$86,170,823 to 610 projects in its eight-state region for total project costs of \$517,443,490.
- DRA total project cost includes an additional leverage of \$431,272,667 in other federal, state and local funds, which is a ratio of 5.00 to 1.
- In addition, private funds invested in these projects total \$1,394,057,574, which is a ratio of 16.18 to 1, private dollars to DRA dollars.
- Total leveraged investment of \$1,911,501,064 including federal, state, local and private funds produced a ratio of 22.18 to 1.
- Since the inception of DRA Federal Funding Program, the following projected outcomes have been documented (Project outcomes calculated January 2011):
 - 18,146 jobs will be created;
 - 15,742 jobs will be retained;
 - 58,133 families will receive improved water and sewer; and
 - 6,702 individuals will be trained for jobs.

Furthermore, the Authority at the local level coordinates efforts with a combination of agencies. Assisting the Authority will be local development districts (“LDDs”), regional entities with a proven track record of helping municipalities, counties and parishes improve basic infrastructure and stimulate growth.

DRA partners with USDA's Rural Development Administration (“RDA”). Through their network of state and local offices, the RDA will assist the Authority with the Rural Community Advancement Program (RCAP) program and project administration. DRA also partnered with Economic Development Association (EDA) by conducting community evaluations related to this year’s gulf oil spill. Additionally, the Authority works with each member state’s Department of Economic Development, local development districts, Departments of Transportation, governor’s offices, Department of Health, Department of Defense, Department of Commerce, congressional offices and city and county government.

The economic challenges facing the Delta region are serious. Between 2000 and 2005, nominal per capita personal income (PCI), for the (then) 240 counties and parishes of the DRA region, grew at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 2.71 percent. In comparison, PCI for the eight DRA states and the U.S. grew at rates of 2.92 percent and 2.93 percent, respectively.

Moreover, projections of nominal per capita personal income growth based on the 2000-2005 averages show the income disparity between the region and the nation worsening (see figure below). By 2025, PCI for the U.S. is projected to reach \$61,367. For the DRA region, total per capita income is forecast to reach just \$44,224 over the same period. While PCI for the eight states would remain at 89 percent of the U.S. level in 2025, for the DRA region it would fall over the 20-year period from 75 percent to 72 percent. With shrinking opportunities to earn more money, Delta residents with marketable skills will likely migrate elsewhere in search of better paying jobs.

Healthy Delta Initiative

“Growing a Healthy Workforce in the Delta”

The Delta Regional Authority knows that there are very exciting health-related programs at work in the Delta region. The intent of the agency is not to replace or duplicate these programs in any way, but to support, facilitate, augment and coordinate efforts in meaningful ways to benefit our communities and economy by improving the health status of the workforce in the Delta region. Our commitment to support community health initiatives and make a positive impact on health outcomes in our region is described in our action plan for the “Growing a Healthy Workforce in the Delta” Initiative. A summary of the goals and objectives are listed below.

Organize Regional and Sub-Regional Workforce Task Coalitions

The goal of this project is to strengthen community organizations so that they can undertake specific health related projects to improve the health of their citizens.

Establish Technical Assistance Programs Through HRSA, USDA, CDC, etc.

Technical assistance with strategic planning, grant applications and project implementation is sorely needed in many Delta communities. DRA will organize and convene representatives from communities to introduce them to the resources available and provide assistance with the development and completion of the grant process.

Produce County Health Data on the DRA Website

DRA will address the need for better information and data in addressing the health and wellness of the Delta communities. Uniform, reliable, easy-to-use data available on the DRA website for local leaders to use in benchmarking and grant applications will increase the quality of applications and help ensure successful project outcomes.

Set up Tool Kit Information on the DRA Website

On the website, DRA will provide quicker access to knowledge and ideas about successful health intervention projects that have been successfully administered in the Delta or elsewhere in the country.

Establish a Wiki-Style Input Capability on the DRA Health Website

This will help enhance the health status of the region by identifying and sharing programs, resources and information. It is designed to allow community citizens to post valuable information to the DRA website so that it can be shared efficiently with others in the Delta region.

Convene and Coordinate Rural Health Organizations and Government Agency Initiative Efforts

DRA will convene meetings with government agencies, health advocacy and philanthropic organizations including, but not limited to, National Rural Health Association, the Rural Health Resource Center, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), United States Department of Agriculture’s Rural Development program, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). The meetings will help determine ways to become collaborative partners, leverage additional financial support for use in the Delta region and to provide a forum for regular communications to allow coordination of effort and provide for easier and coordinated dissemination of information about potential resources.

Delta Leadership Institute and the Health Advisory Committee

In an effort to empower local leaders, DRA will utilize these groups to help disseminate program information and health education materials in their communities.

Current Program Highlights

Diabetes Education and Management

Delta Regional Authority, with assistance from the USDA Rural Community Advancement Program Grant (RCAP), provides funding to create and support diabetes management clinics in Arkansas, Missouri and Tennessee. To date, more than 6500 patients have been served in the Delta AHEC Diabetes Clinic (Phillips County, AR) and programs in Tennessee and Missouri are preparing for the launch of the clinics.

Technical Assistance

DRA will update the existing website with tools such as PowerPoint presentations, sample grant budgets, tutorials, and grant availability updates. This component of the website will be updated regularly as additional materials are developed.

*i*Delta

Unprecedented levels of economic and productivity growth have occurred in communities, regions, and societies that have fully embraced IT and its numerous applications. To measure the presence and role of IT in the economic development of the Delta, the DRA commissioned a two-part plan from the Southern Growth Policies Board (SGPB). The first volume assesses the level of

IT utilization in the domains of education, healthcare, government, business, and personal and community engagement. The second volume offers recommendations for expanding its use in order to maximize the region's potential.

Findings from the *i*Delta report include:

- In DRA's rural counties, the number of counties and parishes lacking high-speed service is almost 18 percent.
- The percentage of DRA school districts with a website lags the U.S., 54 percent compared to 62 percent.
- Only 22 percent of counties and parishes offer online government services.
- Only 15 percent of DRA local governments have a website, compared to about 24 percent of the U.S.

Source: iDelta, Measuring Information Technology in the Delta, Southern Growth Policies Board

Coahoma County Wireless Broadband Pilot/Demonstration

DRA has contracted with the Mississippi Technology Alliance (MTA), for project management, to pilot/demonstrate wireless broadband in Coahoma County, Mississippi. This DRA *i*Delta initiative will expand broadband infrastructure, increase computer and Internet adoption, and ultimately increase the number of

companies, workers, and students using information technology in this rural county.

The Coahoma County wireless broadband pilot/demonstration project will first identify and map the gaps in broadband service. A pilot community technology assessment will be conducted to identify barriers to broadband adoption and provide market demand analysis for wireless broadband.

DRA asserts that economic development can be enhanced, exponentially, through the proper application of technology. In addition, broadband internet access enables enhanced education, healthcare delivery, government services, and public safety.

Connect Arkansas

Additionally, to advance the *i*Delta initiative, DRA partnered with Connect Arkansas to increase awareness, use and deployment of broadband resources in Desha, Phillips, and Arkansas Counties to lead to enhanced and more robust education, healthcare, business and economic development.

This DRA *i*Delta-Connect Arkansas initiative will expand broadband infrastructure, increase computer and internet adoption, and ultimately increase the number of companies, workers and students using information technology in these rural counties.

Transportation

Delta Development Highway System Plan

During a planning retreat in February 2005, the Delta Regional Authority board voted to make transportation one of the Authority's three major policy development areas along with health care and information technology. Shortly after that retreat, the Authority contracted with a consortium of firms to assist the DRA with transportation planning.

The Delta Development Highway System plan was developed following input from transportation executives and local organizations in the eight states covered by the DRA. Public meetings were held throughout the region in the fall of 2006.

The Delta Development Highway System consists of 3,843 miles of roads throughout the region. The estimated cost to complete the planned improvement projects for these roads is \$18.5 billion, while the projected annual benefits are \$3.5 billion. Of the roads in the plan, 27 percent provide four or more travel lanes already, while the remaining facilities are additional lanes for existing two-lane facilities.

DRA Multimodal Initiative

“Assets, Needs And Recommendations” Report To Congress And Secretary Of Transportation

The Delta Regional Authority released its multimodal transportation plan for the region in 2008. The Authority had been mandated by Congress to develop a comprehensive multimodal strategic plan. That mandate was included in the 2005 national highway act. During the fall of 2007, the DRA hosted a series of public meetings to gather information on multimodal transportation in the region.

The DRA's role as a planner, a coordinator of resources and an advocate for the Delta makes this a perfect fit. This report complements our Delta Development Highway System plan, which was released in 2007. When the DRA was created by Congress in 2000, one of the investment priorities outlined was the transportation infrastructure of the region.

Thousands of hours of work during a period of more than a year were devoted to compiling the multimodal transportation plan. Eighteen meetings were held across the region, and input was received from more than 500 key players. The assets and needs were identified for highways, bridges, intelligent transportation systems, freight rail, passenger rail, waterways, ports, locks and airports. Then, recommendations to improve the multimodal transportation system were made.

The report is a definitive because of an intense outreach effort, and worked closely with federal, state and local agencies to ensure that this plan dovetails into their efforts. We also received guidance from the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Committee's "Transportation for Tomorrow" report, which was released in December. This effort provided the guiding principles for our recommendations: safety, efficiency, congestion reduction, economic development, energy concerns and environmental concerns."

Bio-Economy

Worldwide investment in clean energy exceeded \$240 billion in 2010, with investments expected to grow significantly over the next 10 years. The Delta region has many opportunities to take advantage of this tremendous economic opportunity that will ultimately create new jobs and wealth in the region. As these opportunities are not bound by state borders, a regional approach is needed in order to fully engage the green economy. This approach provides for the sharing of ideas and best practices across state lines, discovers areas for collaboration, and leverages assets already in place.

In an effort to boost our region's capacity for accessing these investments, the Delta Regional Authority has recently begun implementation of its Delta Green Jobs Initiative. Through strategic partnerships with federal agencies, Southern Growth Policies Board, state-level expertise, and a regional leader in bioscience technologies and processing, DRA will develop a plan for the region to capitalize on the many opportunities within the areas of energy efficiency, alternative energy production, green building, and green component manufacturing. Each of these areas holds potential for significant job opportunities within the region.

Although it is a relatively new initiative, Delta Green Jobs has seen marked progress. In collaboration with Southern Growth Policies Board, DRA has produced a report that provides energy profiles, current clean economy statistics, existing infrastructure, and recommendations for the future for each state individually and the region as a whole. Additionally, DRA leadership and staff has participated in meetings with a leading research and development organization in an effort to best identify near-term opportunities where DRA involvement would be most beneficial for regional development. These discussions are ongoing and a project decision is forthcoming.

Homeownership and Affordable Capital

The Delta Regional Authority fosters partnerships throughout the region as it improves the Delta's communities by bettering the housing, health and workforce opportunities. With a particular emphasis on increasing "quality of place", the DRA will seek to better communities by linking qualified buyers with programs that make homeownership possible. Increased opportunities for homeownership strengthen communities, spur investment and personal savings, all of which contribute to more livable Delta communities and prevent out-migration.

The DRA can be used to leverage other federal and state programs; one such program that the DRA seeks to partner with is the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) system. More than 8,000 community banks across America are members of the Federal Home Loan Bank System. Each member relies on its Federal Home Loan Bank as a stable source of lower-cost financing through all economic cycles. Funds from Federal Home Loan Banks help finance homes, jobs, small businesses, local infrastructure and affordable housing.

Much like the DRA, the Federal Home Loan Banks were created by Congress and have since been the largest source of funding for community lending for eight decades. With such parallel missions, the DRA will seek to partner with our regional FHL Banks in Dallas, Atlanta, Des Moines and Chicago, to increase awareness and accessibility of their programs within the distressed communities of the Delta region.

FHLB Region Offices by State:

Atlanta: Alabama, Georgia

Des Moines: Missouri

Dallas: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi

Chicago: Illinois

FHLB First-time Homebuyer Programs

One program the DRA would like to highlight is the FHLB Atlanta First-time Homebuyer Program (FHP) for member financial institutions. FHP provides matching funds for the down payment and closing costs of eligible first-time homebuyers purchasing a home. Funds are disbursed on a first-come, first-served, homebuyer-by-homebuyer basis. The maximum FHP award per household is \$7,500.

Also, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas offers a similar program, the initial 2011 offering of its Homebuyer Equity Leverage Partnership (HELP) Program for member financial institutions. HELP provides grant funds for down payment and closing costs of eligible first-time homebuyers. The maximum HELP award per household is \$5,000, unless the member or another mortgage lender contributes at least \$350 toward financial or other concessions in connection with providing the mortgage financing to the homebuyer, in which case the maximum HELP award per household is \$7,000. The Bank has initially set aside \$750,000 of its annual Affordable Housing Program (AHP) funds for HELP.

Working with FHL Banks the DRA can use its unique understanding of local needs to increase community awareness and offer technical assistance, for such programs. The DRA can offer workshops and tutorials in communities across the region and partner with Local Development Districts, Federal and State agencies and community groups.

Delta Leadership Institute

DRA's Delta Leadership Institute (www.deltaleadership.org) is designed to create a corps of leaders with a regional and national perspective. The first class of the institute met in 2005. The program was operated by the DRA in cooperation with Delta State University at Cleveland, Miss. In April 2006, the DRA board chose the [University of Alabama](#) at Tuscaloosa to coordinate the Delta Leadership Institute. The University of Alabama is currently conducting the fifth class of DLI.

Many of the 252 counties and parishes that make up the Delta region are characterized by chronic poverty, high unemployment levels, low educational attainment, and a loss of skilled labor. With challenging development priorities, these counties and parishes have failed to keep up with counties and parishes in other areas of their states. Delta communities often lack the civic infrastructure, organizations and knowledge base necessary for sustained economic growth. Even those who are considered local leaders too often do not have a full understanding of how good governance, quality infrastructure, adequate schools and quality health care services can work together to sustain growth.

The counties of the Delta Regional Authority service area are often marked by a lack of investment in leadership development and strategic planning. This results in a leadership void and a lack of direction. Communities struggle to decide on their priorities. With no leadership, vision or plans for growth, these communities continue to struggle.

The Delta Leadership Institute is designed to improve the decisions made by leaders across the region. Each of the eight governors and the FCC nominate five people per year for the program, resulting in a class of 45 Delta leaders. Last year the Delta Leadership Network (DLN) alumni organization was formed through a committee of DLI alumni. They have begun plans to broaden the DLN in the years to come. These leaders stay connected after graduating and share best practices and solutions to common problems through the DRA Annual Conference.

It is expected that many of the graduates of the Delta Leadership Institute will go back to their communities and help direct local leadership programs, multiplying the number of people in the region who receive leadership training.

In April of 2011, DRA Board Members will be asked to begin their process of DLI selections for the 2011-2012 class. These selections will be due to DRA by June 3, 2011.

Innovative Readiness Training Program (IRT)

In July 2009, the Delta Regional Authority partnered with the Department of Defense for its Innovative Readiness Training program. The purpose of the IRT program is to improve military readiness while simultaneously providing quality services to communities throughout America. By utilizing their extensive resources, the military is able to meet some of the region's most urgent civil needs.

The communities of Clarksdale, Mississippi and Hayneville, Alabama were two projects selected by the Pentagon for the 2009 IRT program. For two weeks, Army Reserve units lived in these communities and provided free medical assistance to citizens who were in need. In Clarksdale, 792 patients were provided dental and vision exams, including the distribution of 152 pairs of eye glasses to children and adults. Veterinarian services treated over 450 dogs and cats from a local animal shelter. In Hayneville, 850 patients, including 90 children, were provided with primary care services, and over 400 prescriptions were written and filled.

Five communities in the DRA region were selected for the 2011 IRT program. The communities are: Helena, Wynne, Marianna, Eudora, and McGehee, Arkansas. From June 8th to June 19th, general medical, dentistry, vision, and veterinary services will be provided to any and all citizens who request them at these five sites. It is estimated that close to 5,000 patients will be helped during the 11 days.

DRA works closely with the communities and the Department of Defense to assist with the application process as well as planning and implementation. The Authority also serves on the advisory board for the IRT program, allowing for significant input into site selection and program development.

Delta Doctors

Physician shortage is one of the most pressing issues facing rural communities today. In many cases, the ability of rural healthcare facilities to remain open depends on having an adequate staff of physicians. Unfortunately, these communities often experience difficulties in the recruitment and retention of physicians, causing many to rely on the recruitment of foreign medical graduates to fill their physician vacancies.

In an effort to assist DRA communities deal with the shortage of physicians, DRA established the Delta Doctors J-1 Visa Waiver Program in 2002. Designated as an “Interested Government Agency” by the United States Department of State, DRA is eligible to sponsor foreign physicians for a J-1 visa waiver that allows them to forgo a “two-year home-country physical-presence” that is a requirement of other visa types. In exchange, a physician agrees to: practice within a medically underserved area of the Delta region for at least three years; work at least 40 hours per week; and work in a facility that accepts Medicare patients, Medicaid patients, and the medically indigent.

To date, approximately 140 physicians have been placed in health facilities by the Delta Doctors Program. They have treated countless thousands of patients and improved the quality of healthcare, and life, throughout the region.

Rural Community Advancement Program (RCAP)

Beginning in 2003, Congress designated a portion of USDA Rural Development - Rural Community Advancement Program (RCAP) funds for use by Delta Regional Authority (DRA) within the same program. There are numerous programs beneath the RCAP umbrella, all of which are eligible with our funding. However, to-date, DRA has only funded three types of RCAP projects:

1. Rural Business Opportunity Grants-RBOG
2. Rural Business Enterprise Grants-RBEG
3. Community Facility Grants

Over the last eight years, DRA has successfully applied for over \$17 million in RCAP funding, which supported 178 projects. Traditionally, each year DRA allocates a portion of the RCAP dollars to fund various programmatic as well as region-wide projects determined by the Federal Co-Chairman. Here are a few examples of projects funded through RCAP: Annual Conference, Local Development District training, iDelta, Delta Leadership Institute, Delta Development Highway System, among others.

The remaining portion of RCAP funding is used to fund projects submitted to DRA by each State Director of Rural Development. These projects are typically approved projects by Rural Development, but were left unfunded due to fiscal year budget constraints.

Consistent with the objective of ensuring that project funding managed by DRA reflects an appropriate use of resources, DRA seeks to achieve the following goals for the management of its RCAP funds.

The program will be used to fund projects which are consistent with:

1. The DRA Federal Co Chairman's perspectives,
2. The DRA Board's overall strategic directions,
3. Any appropriate federal directives/initiatives, plus
4. All of which must meet the statutory objectives and use restrictions of the USDA RCAP program, as set forth in enabling statutes and related regulations.

Delta Regional Authority Contact Information

236 Sharkey Avenue, Suite 400
Clarksdale, MS 38614
Phone: (662) 624-8600
Fax: (662) 624-8537

444 North Capitol, Suite 445B
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: (202) 434-4870
Fax: (202) 434-4871

Chris Masingill
Federal Co-Chairman
(662) 624-8600

Mike Marshall
Alternate Federal Co-Chairman
(662) 624-8600

Bill Triplett
Chief of Staff
(662) 624-8600

Anders Reynolds
Special Advisor for Legislative and Government Affairs
(202) 434-4870
areynolds@dra.gov

Carl Baloney
Special Advisor for Legislative and Government Affairs
(202) 434-4870
cbaloney@dra.gov

Nissa Hiatt
Special Advisor and Director of Communications
(202) 412-2483
nhiatt@dra.gov

Other DRA staff:
Phone: (662) 624-8600



Delta Regional Authority

A federal-state partnership providing a unified voice for the region

236 Sharkey Avenue, Suite 400 / Clarksdale, MS 38614 / Phone: (662) 624-8600

444 North Capitol, N.W., Suite 445B / Washington, D.C. 20001 / Phone: (202) 434-4870

Visit DRA online at www.dra.gov