

DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY (DRA)

The Delta Regional Authority is a federal-state partnership serving a 240 county/parish area in an eight-state region. Mississippi Development Authority's (MDA) Office of Strategic Initiatives coordinates Mississippi activities and grants in Mississippi's 45 DRA counties.

MDA works collaboratively with local planning and development districts (PDDs), economic development organizations, local communities, and other state agencies in the development of eligible projects to address the needs in the 45 Mississippi DRA counties. The PDD's play an active and essential part by preparing applications that are consistent with the DRA Code, guidelines, and plans.

Mississippi Delta Region Development Plan

1. Increase private sector and high wage jobs across the Mississippi DRA Region.
2. Develop sustainable communities with high quality of life throughout the Mississippi Delta Region.

Under federal law, at least 75 percent of the funds must be invested in distressed counties and parishes and pockets of poverty, with 50 percent of the funds earmarked for transportation and basic infrastructure improvements. Participating DRA States are Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee.

MDA ensures that these federal funds are used to economic and community development on the following activities:

- 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.
- Job Training or employment related education, with emphasis on use of existing public educational institutions located in the region.

Mississippi Counties served by DRA are Adams, Amite, Attala, Benton, Bolivar, Carroll, Claiborne, Coahoma, Copiah, Covington, DeSoto, Franklin, Grenada, Hinds, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Lawrence, Leflore, Lincoln, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Montgomery, Panola, Pike, Quitman, Rankin, Sharkey, Simpson, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tippah, Tunica, Union, Walthall, Warren, Washington, Wilkinson, Yalobusha, and Yazoo.

For further information on the Mississippi Delta Regional Plan go to <http://www.mississippi.org/content.aspx?url=/page/DRA&>