ADECA

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs

2001-2002

Annual Report

ADECA

Alabama Department of Economic & Community Affairs

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Legislative Oversight Commission
2001-2002

Senate

Senator
Bobby Denton

Senator
Hank Sanders

Senator
Gerald Dial

Senator
Roger Bedford, Jr.

Senator
Bill Armistead

House

Chairperson
Representative
Neal Morrison

Representative
John Knight

Representative
Perry Hooper

Representative
Thad McClammy

Representative
Tommy Carter

The Legislative Oversight Commission was a part of the 1983 Act which created the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs—Act 83-194. The commission is composed of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance and Taxation, three members of the Senate appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House.

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs

History of ADECA

In order to consolidate a range of economic planning and federal grant programs under one agency, the Legislature created the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs in February 1983. ADECA was established as a department "within the Office of the Governor and directly under his supervision and control." Under the provisions of the Legislative Act, the Office of State Planning and Federal Programs, State Manpower Planning Council (CETA), the Office of Employment and Training, the Alabama Department of Energy, the Alabama Law Enforcement Planning Agency, and the Office of Highway and Traffic Safety were brought under unified management.

The Legislature indicated that a primary purpose of this consolidation was to "encourage comprehensive and coordinated planning and programming of economic and community affairs." Over the years, the wide range of ADECA programs has been administered with this directive in mind. The department provides a single location where local governments and non-profit agencies can come for assistance with community and economic development issues. By working together as a team, the divisions and programs of ADECA can focus resources more effectively to address the many challenges that confront Alabama communities.

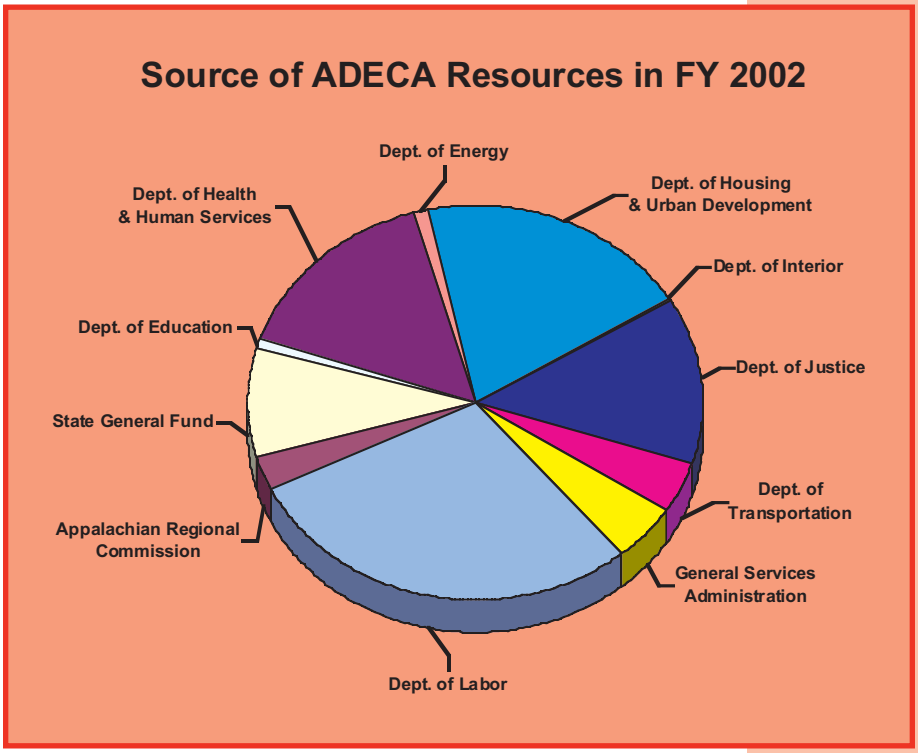
To manage ADECA, the Legislature provided for a Director who serves at the pleasure of the Governor. The department is divided into divisions, and originally they were supervised by division chiefs appointed by the Director. Management of the divisions is now the responsibility of division directors hired under the state merit system.

Through the years, ADECA has been assigned additional responsibilities including the establishment of a Surplus Property Division in 1984, and the creation of the Office of Water Resources in 1991. More recently, responsibility for administering the Renewal Communities program and Delta Regional Authority grants were added to the duties of the department. The common purpose of all these programs is to support and strengthen the capacity of communities to develop economically and to improve the quality of life of Alabama citizens.

Overview of ADECA Programs

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs administers dozens of programs that serve all Alabamians by providing resources to meet important economic and community development needs. ADECA's programs and projects touch every section of the state assisting children and the elderly as well as the poor, the disadvantaged and persons with disabilities. The department also assists small businesses, high-tech industry, schools, colleges, non-profit agencies and state and local governments to cultivate programs that train, educate and employ Alabamians.

ADECA's dedicated professional staff joins hands with elected officials, private companies, non-profit organizations and community representatives to strengthen our state and improve the lives of all Alabamians through teamwork. An arm of the Governor's Office, ADECA administers federal funding programs that help communities, governments, institutions and citizens to initiate or continue hundreds of worthwhile projects.



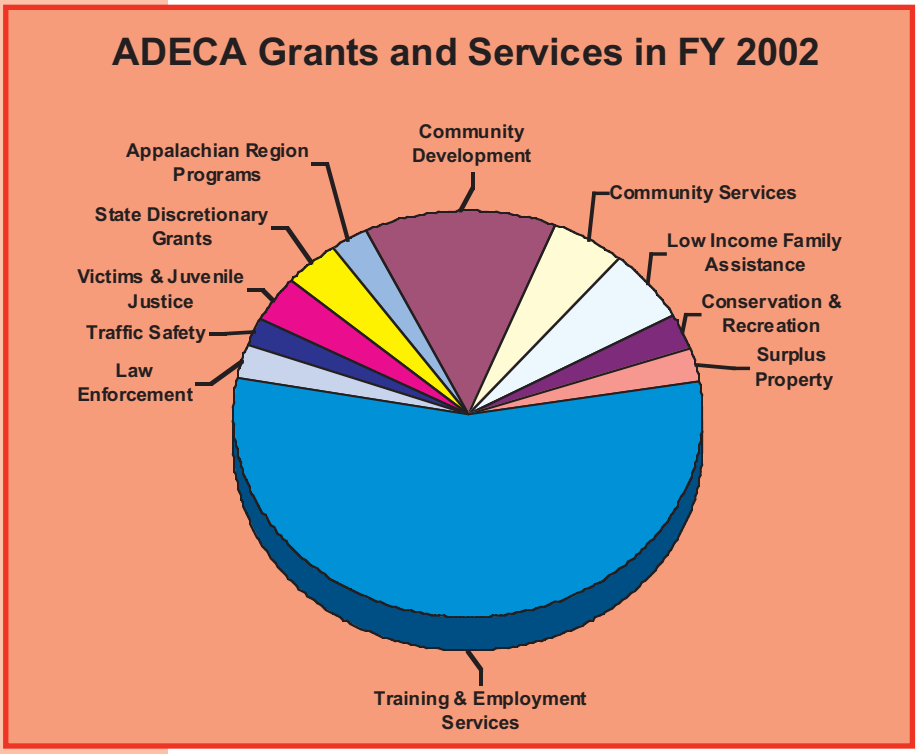
ADECA enhances the quality of life for Alabama citizens through programs that upgrade roads, water systems and sewer systems. The department strives to make homes, schools and streets safer through grants that assist law enforcement agencies, support victims of crime, promote safety and help juveniles avoid a life of crime. The department is part of a team effort, working with partners statewide to improve education, provide job-training and assist business and industry to be more competitive, more profitable and more valuable as a source of better jobs for Alabama families.

ADECA promotes and supports services that protect the environment through recycling, energy conservation and waste minimization. The department works to preserve the beauty of our state, develop its recreational, wildlife and scenic areas and ensure that water and other natural resources will be available to future generations.

Four federal agencies supply the bulk of the grant funds administered by ADECA. The U.S. Department of Labor is the largest single source of revenue and the resources it provides are managed by our Workforce Development Division. The next largest source is the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development from which funding for

Community Development Block Grants is received. ADECA's Community Services Division administers programs funded by block grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Our Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division manages numerous programs funded through the U. S. Department of Justice. Additional resources are provided to ADECA by the U.S. Departments of Transportation, Energy, Education, Interior, the Appalachian Regional Commission and the General Services Administration.

In the 2002 fiscal year, ADECA disbursed more than $170 million in programs and services to improve education, make homes, schools and streets safer, improve services for the poor and elderly, promote economic development, enhance recreational opportunities and improve the quality of life in many Alabama communities. These funds also supported job training and employment services, community development, assistance to low-income families and assistance to crime victims, juvenile justice and other law enforcement programs.



Millions of grant dollars are administered by ADECA to promote economic development projects ranging from programs to help small, unincorporated communities to projects in large cities and counties that take years to complete. Community Development Block Grants are frequently used for these economic development projects and are often provided to give communities assistance with infrastructure improvements necessary to support new and expanding industry.

ADECA administers a number of programs that help people find work, improve their job status or increase their wages. As part of the federal Workforce Investment Act, ADECA works with various state and local organizations to provide services for job seekers, dislocated workers, veterans and new entrants to the workforce. A number of ADECA programs fund education and job training activities to help individuals improve their earning potential. Our School-to-Career partnership system provides opportunities for youth in Alabama to transition smoothly from secondary and post-secondary education into long-term careers. ADECA works in conjunction with the Alabama Industrial Development Training Institute to enhance the skills of the state's workforce through the Alabama Works program, which provides training in manufacturing and information technology and machinist training. The department also works closely with the Alabama Career Center system comprised of 30 One-Stop centers with 31 satellite

One-Stops that offer individuals and employers services in their local area that include job information, unemployment compensation and vocational training.

Funding administered by ADECA strengthens educational programs for pre-school children through senior citizens in areas as diverse as recycling, adult literacy, job training and anti-drug campaigns.Grants totaling more than $1.3 million were awarded through the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Program in the 2002 fiscal year to educate youth on the dangers of alcohol and drugs. Environmental education programs were supported with 82 public schools receiving funds to educate Alabamians on the benefits of recycling and its impact on our environment.

ADECA helped to make schools, communities and streets safer for Alabamians in 2001-2002 with more than $20 million in grants to improve public safety, strengthen law enforcement efforts and help victims of crime. A statewide safety belt campaign funded by ADECA increased safety belt usage in Alabama to an all-time high of 79%, four percent above the national average. ADECA officials also worked in partnership with city and county governments, local law enforcement units and non-profit victims service agencies to assist victims with court proceedings and other stages of the judicial process. Juvenile Justice Challenge Grants provided funding for various after-school programs across the state that focus on recreational and academic activities that are designed to enhance children's educational development, build self-esteem and encourage them to stay in school.

Support for our senior citizens is a vital component of what ADECA does to enhance the quality of life for Alabamians. Our energy conservation programs fund improvements to senior centers including the installation of energy-efficient lighting fixtures, double-pane windows, weather stripping and insulation that help the centers save on energy bills. The savings can then be spent on other worthwhile projects for the elderly. LIHEAP, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, provides the elderly and other low-income households with assistance on their energy bills in time of extreme hot or cold weather conditions. More than $14 million in LIHEAP grants were administered by ADECA in the 2002 fiscal year.

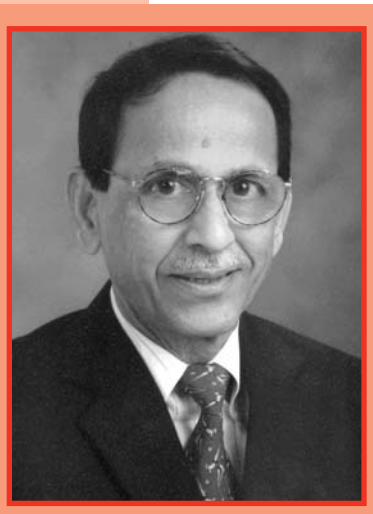
The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs is headed by a Director and Assistant Director appointed by the Governor. The department is organized into eight divisions, each headed by a division director. The program managers for the Appalachian Regional Commission, Delta Regional Authority, Renewal Communities, and Recreation Programs along with section heads for legal, fiscal services and information services, all report to the ADECA Director. The organizational chart (pages 20-21) details the program units that fall within each division or section.

ADECA's 220 employees work daily with other state agencies, the Governor's office, the state legislature, private businesses, educational institutions and non-profit organizations to make Alabama an even greater place to work and live. Millions of dollars are entrusted to ADECA by taxpayers each year, and the department works to ensure that Alabamians get their money's worth. ADECA strives to work together as a team and with other state organizations to deliver programs, services and grants that improve Alabama and have long term benefits for our citizens.

Community Development Block Grants

Whether it is to provide safe drinking water, prevent flooding or encourage new jobs, Community Development Block Grants assist towns, cities and counties in improving Alabama. The grants cover a wide range of projects to promote economic development and enhance community life.

The CDBG program is designed to assist low and moderate-income families by helping local governments tackle their most serious challenges. CDBG projects help to create jobs, expand business opportunities, eliminate health and safety hazards and provide for future growth. Community Development Block Grants and other ADECA grants or loan programs often work together to make larger projects a reality.



Shabbir Olia
Community Development Block Grants Manager

In the 2002 fiscal year, the governor awarded more than $31.6 million in CDBG funds to cities and counties throughout Alabama.

Economic Development

CDBG grants have proven to be a valuable tool for helping attract jobs to Alabama. Six Community Development Block Grants worth more than $6 million were awarded during the 2002 fiscal year to cities or counties to assist new or expanding businesses.

A $1 million grant to Lincoln for a 500,000-gallon water tank will permit the nearby Honda automobile manufacturing plant to expand and create at least 85 new, high-paying jobs. Similarly, a $300,000 grant to the Colbert County Commission for a sewer line extension at Barton Riverfront Industrial Park helped attract a tissue plant that will employ up to 400 people. A $224,800 CDBG grant helped Pro Foods International of Albertville expand, creating 200 new jobs at the poultry plant.

Maureen Neighbors
(CDBG)

"I love that the work we do benefits the poor people of our state," said Maureen, who is a planning and economic development specialist in CDBG. She came to ADECA after working as a grant consultant. Maureen provides technical assistance to communities, monitors their progress on projects and checks to make sure that grantees are properly using grant funds.

Competitive Grants

Nearly $17 million – more than half of the available CDBG funds – were awarded through a competitive process. To achieve greater fairness, applicants were divided into three groups: large cities, small cities and counties. Each application received a score based on factors such as the project's impact on health and safety, the number of low and moderate-income families that would benefit, the cost-benefit ratio and the amount of local matching funds pledged. Proposed projects were

ranked within each group and those with the highest scores were awarded grants. CDBG competitive grants helped provide water, sewer services, drainage corrections and other improvements to 26 cities and 10 counties during 2002. Baldwin County was awarded $500,000 to provide safe water to residents in the Perdido community. A 1965 train derailment caused the chemical, benzene, to leak and threaten private wells in the community. The grant was used to connect those residents to Perdido Water Authority which obtains its water from safe sources. CDBG funds also helped repair a 50-year-old, faulty sewage line that caused raw sewage to back up in yards and homes in Lineville. Neighborhood revitalization programs were initiated in Greenville and Luverne, which received $500,000 each, and $500,000 was also awarded to DeKalb County to repair treacherous mountain roads that are used by school busses.

Special Projects

Community Development Block Grants also fund critical projects that address urgent needs where local resources are not available. More than $3.5 million in grants were issued to 14 cities and counties in the 2002 fiscal year to address such emergencies.

An ADECA grant will make homes like this a reality in Calhoun County

ADECA Grant Helps Habitat Build Homes

In June 2003 nearly 3,000 people from around the world will converge on an 80-acre site in Anniston. Most will be strangers. Many won't speak the same language. All will have the same goal.

Their purpose is to build 35 single-family houses in six days. It's part of a larger pledge by Habitat for Humanity International to construct more than 100 houses for low-income persons around the nation and the partial fulfillment of a promise by Anniston residents.

"Anniston is the first community in the entire world to accept the challenge by Habitat for Humanity to eliminate substandard housing by the year 2020," says Nan Williams, development director for Habitat for Humanity of Calhoun County, a chapter of the international organization, which was founded by an Alabamian.

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs will be part of the $5.5 million project. ADECA awarded the Calhoun County Commission a $350,000 Community Development Block Grant in September 2002. Funds are being used to build two streets for the project and extend water services to the new houses. Both projects will be completed before construction starts in the northwest Anniston subdivision that will be Wellborn Heights.

The Anniston project is expected to draw people from all walks of life, including former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalyn. The campaign is being called the Jimmy Carter Work Project after Carter who has spent years involved in the Habitat program. Joining Carter will be Habitat founder Millard Fuller, a Chambers County native and former Montgomery attorney.

"The logistics of this are just mindboggling," Williams said. "Not only are we building 35 houses in less than a week with volunteers, including many people that might not even know which end of the hammer to hold, but we are having to make sure all the materials and tools are at the right place at the right time. We've also got to feed 3,000 people three meals a day without a kitchen."

Williams said the project goes beyond providing affordable and decent housing.

"We will be showing Anniston to the world in a positive light," she said. "We will be showing how Habitat is pulling a lot of diverse people together to accomplish something important."

The Science, Technology and Energy division of ADECA is also helping another Habitat project. The Montgomery Habitat for Humanity chapter was given a $20,000 grant to install energy saving geothermal systems in 10 houses.

Because of continued leaks with its wastewater treatment system, the town of Akron faced possible state and federal sanctions, but lacked the revenue to make the necessary repairs. A $247,877 CDBG grant, along with an additional $164,790 from the Appalachian Regional Commission, allowed the town to not only repair the system but also to increase its capacity to serve additional businesses and residents.

A $338,125 special fund grant to Walker County helped provide residents in the Bethel and Fairview communities with safe, dependable drinking water after nearly all the wells in those two areas were found to have been contaminated, including some which contained E-coli bacteria.

Community Enhancement

Community Development Block Grants also help communities enhance the quality of life in a manner that goes beyond the basic needs addressed by special projects and competitive grants. In 2002, ADECA distributed $4 million in Community Enhancement grants to 70 cities and counties to improve fire and medical services, renovate public buildings and repair or extend infrastructures.

In Dale County a $200,000 grant to the town of Ariton was used to convert a former National Guard armory into a multi-use building. The building will serve as a fire station, a senior citizen activities building and a civic center. A $250,000 grant to Clayton is helping that city to revitalize a portion of its downtown, including adding landscaping and lighting. A new fire station in Fort Deposit, funded through a $250,000 grant, not only improved fire protection, but helps the community's efforts to attract suppliers to the new Hyundai automobile assembly plant under construction in nearby Montgomery County. Community Enhancement grants also helped several Alabama cities in 2002 to upgrade or construct new buildings to provide senior citizens with healthy meals and recreation programs.

Planning Grants

Planning grants help communities prepare for the future, plan for growth, and become proactive instead of reactive on many issues facing municipalities and counties.

Eligible for funding are comprehensive plans, some regional studies and other strategies and studies important to sound and effective community growth and development. Comprehensive plans examine and prioritize all the needs of a community including land use, subdivision regulations and zoning, housing and population, water, sewage, streets and drainage.

Grants are usually limited to no more than $50,000 and most communities are required to have at least a 20 percent match. During fiscal year 2002, five planning grants totaling $150,000 were issued. A $40,000 planning grant for Haleyville helped the town respond when much of the business district was damaged by a tornado. The resulting plan was not only a tool for rebuilding, but also to plan for future development.

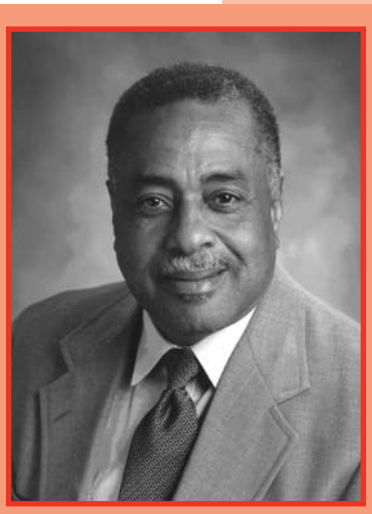
Brantley officials, while pleased by the prospects of business growth resulting from the widening of U.S. Highway 331, were concerned about the impact on their community. The town was awarded a $40,000 grant to help ensure orderly development.

Community Services Programs

ADECA has formed partnerships with non-profit organizations to better serve Alabama citizens who are most in need of assistance with various elements of everyday life. Services in the areas of emergency shelter, food and nutrition, home energy – to name just a few – are provided by a diverse collection of programs, services and grants administered by ADECA.

Community Service Block Grants

Community Service Block Grants, created by Congress in 1981, provide numerous services that assist low-income people in attaining the skills, knowledge and motivation necessary to become self-sufficient. The program also gives low-income families immediate assistance with daily necessities including food, shelter and medicine. ADECA administers the CSBG program in accordance with federal guidelines.



Jim Littleton, Division Director

Community Action Agencies

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs works closely with and relies on the state's 23 Community Action Agencies to successfully implement many of its community service programs. Through ADECA, the Community Action Agencies together received more than $11 million in fiscal year 2002.

The non-profit organizations cover all 67 counties and serve the primary purpose of providing essential anti-poverty programs and advocating for the needs of the poor in their communities. The agencies provide services such as food and nutrition programs, literacy and adult basic education, energy assistance, youth mentoring and counseling.

Emergency Shelter Grants

Funds from the Emergency Shelter Grant program are used in upgrading and operating homeless shelters and domestic-abuse refuges throughout the state. Program funds are also used to provide essential services for the poor and homeless prevention services. Among the services are: renovating buildings for shelters; assisting persons in immediate risk of losing their housing due to eviction, foreclosure or utility problems; providing the homeless with drug abuse counseling and prevention, child care, education, transportation; and helping low-income individuals with job training and aid in acquiring other federal, state and local assistance. In the 2002 fiscal year, more than $1.49 million in emergency shelter funds were awarded by the governor to assist Alabama's low-income residents.

Community Food and Nutrition

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs has entered partnerships with several agencies to ensure that needy Alabamians not only receive adequate nutrition, but they learn how to eat healthy.

The goal of the Community Foods and Nutrition program is to ensure that low-income

families and persons, particularly children and the elderly, receive adequate nutritional care.

Under the Community Foods and Nutrition program, local private and public agencies have been contracted to help low-income families obtain proper nutrition. Those agencies are also charged with the responsibility of promoting awareness of the programs. Recipients in the program are taught healthy eating habits and, in some instances, low-income residents who own or have access to property are instructed how to grow and store their own food.

ADECA employees and contracted agencies are continually seeking new and better approaches to meet nutritional needs of the people they serve.

Weather Protection Programs

It has been said that everyone talks about the weather, but no one does anything about it. That is not exactly true. ADECA through several of its federally funded programs has for years been helping many Alabamians stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

The *Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program* assists the state's low-income residents by helping them with utility bills. During the fiscal year 2002, the program spent $14.2 million in funds supplied by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources to assist 90,532 Alabama households. Emergency appropriations are often made during times of extreme weather conditions.

The *Weatherization Assistance Program* assists low-income residents in protecting their homes against the elements in order to reduce energy bills. Projects include installing insulation, repairing or replacing windows, sealing air leaks and patching roofs. Priority for weatherization projects is given to residences where there are children or where the head of the household is disabled or elderly. In 2002, $2.43 million was awarded to aid 812 households. Of those funds, the U.S. Department of Energy provided $1.6 million and the remaining $884,119 was supplied through the LIHEAP program.

The *Residential Energy Assistance Challenge Option Program* is a three-year supplemental program to the weatherization program and is designed to lower the cost of monthly utility bills. The R.E.A.C.H. Program helps low-income families purchase major appliances with high energy-efficient ratings. ADECA will receive $1 million during the three-year program. The University of Alabama in Huntsville will measure the success of this effort and present its findings prior to the completion of the program. Services related to the three weather protection programs are delivered to 67 Alabama counties through local community action agencies.

Joe McNees
(CS)

Joe has been with ADECA since it was formed in 1983, working in fiscal compliance for community service programs. He reviews financial documents and program documents for compliance. He resolves compliance issues. Joe talks with community service providers and grant applicants on a daily basis. He works with them to answer their questions, explain programs they may qualify for, and helps them to better serve the people of Alabama. He also works with federal grantors to ensure compliance of all program funding.

Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety

Keeping Alabama homes, schools, communities and highways safe is the primary objective of the Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division. LETS administers millions of dollars to fund numerous programs in law enforcement, corrections, juvenile justice, highway traffic safety and victims' services. The staff manages and monitors grants to state and local governments and eligible non-profit organizations to ensure compliance with state and federal requirements.

Highway Traffic Safety

Tremendous strides have been made to increase the safety of children and adults through child passenger safety, seat belt and other highway safety programs and increased enforcement efforts.

James A. Quinn
Acting Division Director

The "Click It or Ticket" seat belt safety campaign increased Alabama's seat belt usage rate to an all-time high of 79 percent in 2002, exceeding the national average of 75 percent. This represents a dramatic improvement over the 58 percent seat belt usage rate recorded in 1999. Increasing the usage rate saves lives, reduces the severity of traffic injuries and allows Alabama to qualify for more federal funds to help with law enforcement equipment purchases and overtime compensation.

The highly visible campaign involves state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies working together to enforce Alabama's safety belt laws. State troopers, deputies and police officers use line patrols, where officers guard designated stretches of highway, as well as saturation patrols and checkpoints to enforce seat belt and child restraint usage.

The *Occupant Protection Incentive Grants* (Section 405) provided $343,053 to implement child seat clinics and child seat installation certification training to increase child safety restraint usage.

The Governor awarded more than $3.6 million in 33 grants in FY 2002 through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's *State and Community Highway Safety Grant* program (Section 402). The funds went to state agencies, local governments, law enforcement agencies and private, non-profit organizations to train law enforcement officers and to provide technical assistance with the detection and arrest of individuals driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Section 402 funds were used to reduce crashes, injuries and fatalities and increase the awareness of traffic safety laws. Funds were awarded for student education, police officer training, emergency medical technician training, EMS data collection, the testing and upgrade of alcohol breath-testing equipment, child seat belt usage education and enforcement, school bus safety and public service announcements.

Another NHTSA program administered by LETS is the *Child Passenger Protection Education Grant*. The program aims to prevent deaths and injuries to children by educating the public about the proper installation of child restraints and training child passenger safety technicians at safety clinics and car seat checkpoints. During 2002, 32 child passenger safety clinics and classes were held.

Child Restraints Save Lives

ADECA funds programs statewide to prevent deaths and injuries to children by educating the public about the proper use and installation of child restraint seats. Programs also funded through the Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division help local officials set up child passenger safety clinics and provide training and certification on child restraints.

LETS also administers the *Highway Safety Data Improvement Incentive Grant* (Section 411). This program improves the state's collection of traffic citation, crash, injury and fatality, driver history, emergency medical services and criminal history data.

A $193,440 award went to the Administrative Office of Courts to support the development of a computerized system that will integrate and display electronic citation and crash records from the state's safety management information system. Once the system is developed, safety officials will be able to analyze traffic accidents and citation data in an accurate, efficient and timely manner. The ability to access individual citation and crash records electronically and provide information on driving patterns that result in crashes will help improve highway safety.

Law Enforcement Programs

The *Edward Byrne Memorial Grant* program is designed to assist state and local governments with programs that directly impact unlawful drug trafficking and drug-related violence that pose serious threats to the health and safety of our communities.

The program funds multi-unit drug task forces that reduce illegal drug activity and violent crime, apprehend manufacturers and distributors of illegal substances and seize property, weapons and vehicles of persons involved with unlawful drug activity. LETS administered 34 grants, totaling $6.4 million, in FY 2002 through the program.

Another program that helps to make our streets, schools and homes safer is the *Local Law Enforcement Block Grant*. These funds are awarded to state agencies, county and city governments to train or employ additional law enforcement officers, buy equipment, enhance security at schools and establish crime prevention programs. In FY 2002, more than 14 grants, totaling $306,395 were awarded.

Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities

Ensuring that children have a safe environment in which to learn, develop and become productive citizens is a top priority for the Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division. In keeping with this commitment, LETS administered $1.3 million through the *Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities* program. During FY 2002, 114 grants were awarded to school systems, local governments and non-profit organizations to reduce substance

abuse, prevent violence and protect Alabama's most precious resource: our children.

Family Violence Programs

Domestic violence is a serious crime that plagues too many in our country. It is a problem that affects not only the victim, but the entire family. Those affected by domestic violence deserve compassion and need professional assistance to cope with the trauma of abuse.

Providing victims with emergency shelter often means the difference between living with domestic violence and escaping from it. Without counseling, medical attention and aid in navigating the court system, many continue to suffer from domestic violence.

During FY 2002, LETS administered grants exceeding $9 million to assist victims through three federal programs.

Family Violence Prevention and Services

The primary objectives of the *Family Violence Prevention and Services Act* are to assist states in their efforts to prevent family violence and to provide immediate shelter and assistance for victims and their children. During FY 2002, eight grants, totaling $1.4 million, were awarded to public and non-profit agencies, charitable organizations and voluntary associations dedicated to family violence prevention.

Faye McClain
(LETS)

Faye has been at ADECA since 1983 and works as a receptionist in LETS. She enters data into a grant management system, makes certain grants are processed in a timely manner and helps with the division's day-to-day operation. "We have such a committed staff. I enjoy working with our employees and helping individuals who work to prevent domestic violence, improve juvenile justice and enhance traffic safety. Our work is important. When we help educate troubled teens and teach young people that there are consequences to poor behavior, we not only change lives, but we make our schools and streets safer."

Victims of Crime

The *Victims of Crime Act of 1984* established a fund to help states provide "direct assistance" to crime victims. Approximately $6 million in 60 grants were awarded to non-profit organizations to file temporary restraining orders for victims, explain court procedures, accompany victims to court and provide child care, transportation, counseling and shelter. Most of the 2002 grants went to children's advocacy centers, domestic violence shelters and rape crisis facilities.

Violence Against Women

LETS administered 22 grants in FY 2002 under the *Violence Against Women Act of 1994* to help combat violent crime. More than $1.8 million was awarded to state agencies, non-profit victim services organizations, city and county governments, local law enforcement units and district attorney offices to help develop and strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies.

Funds were used to train law enforcement officers and prosecutors to identify and respond to violent crimes against women, implement effective police and prosecution policies and develop and support victim services programs. Money went to develop data collection and communication systems that link police, prosecutors and courts

and to track arrests, protection orders and convictions of violent crimes against women.

Juvenile Justice

LETS worked with police officers, sheriffs, district attorneys, probation officers and counselors to give juveniles the assistance they need to turn their lives around. In fiscal year 2002, the Governor awarded 22 grants, totaling more than $3.2 million, from the *Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant* program to state and local governments for programs that hold juveniles responsible for their actions.

The division also administered *Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Formula* and *Challenge Grants*. In FY 2002, 12 grants, totaling $581,005, were awarded to cities, counties and non-profit agencies to prevent and reduce juvenile delinquency and to provide community-based alternative treatments for juveniles. The focus of these grants is to maintain and strengthen families and to provide an alternative to locking away juvenile offenders with incarcerated adults. Secure community-based detention homes were among the prevention-oriented programs funded.

The Autauga County Commission received a $29,251 grant in 2002 to continue the county's Teen Court program, which helps prevent juvenile delinquents from becoming adult offenders. With a significant increase in the number of young offenders, the court system was challenged to develop an innovative approach for less serious offenders. The Teen Court handles first-time, non-violent offenders and holds them accountable for their actions, providing swift and certain punishment when a young person is first convicted of a crime. Penalties include graduated sanctions and become progressively tougher if offenses continue. The more than 180 student volunteers who judge their peers receive intense training and must pass the "Teen Court Bar Exam" before hearing cases referred through the juvenile probation office.

Protecting Alabama's children, improving their lives and saving taxpayers money are benefits of the *Juvenile Justice Title V Grant* program, also administered by LETS. This program is based upon the premise that it is more cost-effective to prevent juvenile delinquency than it is to rehabilitate offenders. Under the *Title V* program, community coalitions form to identify delinquency risk factors and then develop and implement local strategies and services to steer at-risk children and their families away from activities that lead to juvenile crime.

Rachel Sims
(LETS)

Rachel is the program manager for Victims of Crime Act and the Family Violence Prevention Services Act. She reviews grant applications, monitors funding and provides technical assistance to non-profit victims' groups and other recipients of program funds. "It's a wonderful job. I have the conviction that the programs we work with are providing meaningful and vital services to victims of crime." Rachel has been with ADECA for five years. She is a licensed social worker and works closely with Alabama's 24 child advocacy centers, 18 domestic violence shelters and six rape crisis centers.

Corrections

The *Violent Offender Incarceration and Truth-in-Sentencing Incentive Grants* help cities, counties and

the Alabama Department of Corrections place violent offenders behind bars and make our communities safer. The program funds the construction of new jails and prisons and the expansion of existing correctional facilities to increase bed space for persons convicted of violent crimes.

The Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division's *Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners* program works with state and local governments for the effective long-term treatment and rehabilitation of inmates. Under this program, funds are used to implement residential substance abuse programs that provide individual and group treatment for offenders in state and local correctional facilities. In the 2002 fiscal year, LETS provided more than $1 million to the Alabama Department of Corrections for treatment programs that operate in nine Alabama correctional facilities. The RSAT program helps inmates overcome their addictions and puts them on the road to recovery. Substance abuse treatment is essential for the rehabilitation of inmates who battle alcohol or drug addiction. It is an important first step in helping inmates choose a life free of addiction and crime.

ADECA Helps Drug Task Force Safely Destroy Meth Labs

Drug task force member, Isaac Cosby of the Covington County Sheriff's Department, suits up to battle meth labs.

When the Covington County Drug Task Force began battling methamphetamine operations three years ago, task force commander Mike Bowlan was one of the few officers in south Alabama familiar with the dangerous manufacture of the illegal drug.

Methamphetamine remains the drug unit's biggest problem and ADECA funding has enabled the unit to find and safey destroy the secret labs. Funding has made it possible "to put five agents on the street rather than two," Bowlan said.

According to Bowlan, drug dealers are targeting rural counties like Covington and setting up portable laboratories where the odors associated with the manufacture of the drug go unnoticed. Since June 2001, the task force has averaged seven meth lab investigations and 22 arrests a month. The task force has also had the largest seizure of methamphetamine (102 pounds) in the state.

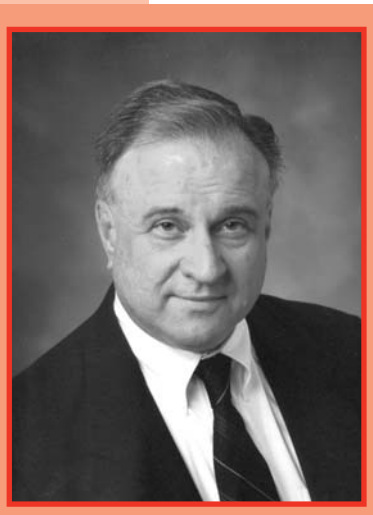
Before ADECA funded the first statewide meth safety training course at the Law Enforcement Academy in Tuscaloosa, officers had to go to Quantico, Va., for drug enforcement training. Bowlan said Andalusia police officer and task force member Paul Dean was "scared to death" when he returned from Quantico. "He told us about the dangers of methamphetamine and the equipment and training we needed. I had been working drugs for eight years and realized we all had to learn about meth. When Tom Goree (with ADECA's Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division) told me about the school, it was a relief. Two of our task force members were certified at the Tuscaloosa training. It made us aware of the dangers we were stumbling into." At the Tuscaloosa academy, officers were taught about meth lab operations and learned how to use protective clothing and how to respond and properly assess hazardous drug operations.

The task force is a joint operation of the Covington County Sheriff's Department, the District Attorney's Office and the police departments in Andalusia and Opp. Before it was formed, agents from different law enforcement agencies did not work together. "The task force has united us. The whole community came together as one," Bowlan said.

Workforce Development

Improving employment opportunities for Alabamians is the mission of the Workforce Development Division. WDD focuses on jobs, education, career development and job-training programs as it works to encourage economic development, increase employment, and prepare workers for stable and high-paying jobs.

WDD programs help the unemployed and welfare recipients to find work, assist students to prepare for future careers, serve persons with disabilities and aid workers when plants close. WDD coordinates federal job-training programs that give citizens the tools they need to manage their careers and help companies identify skilled workers. Through partnerships with companies, educational institutions and non-profit organizations, Workforce Development offers Alabamians a brighter future.



Steve Walkley, Division Director

Workforce Investment Act

The U.S. Congress passed the Workforce Investment Act in 1998 to create a customer-focused approach to investing in workforce activities. Under WIA, the Workforce Development Division works with the Alabama Workforce Investment Board and Local Workforce Investment Boards to integrate employment, training and career development programs. The Governor appoints the state board members to help oversee the statewide workforce investment system, including Alabama's One-Stop Career Centers, which provide employment assistance, adult education and job training, and services for youth and dislocated workers.

The state and local boards develop and administer workforce activities in local workforce investment areas. Working together, board members promote workforce development partnerships with local governments, schools, community colleges, businesses, local chambers of commerce, family service centers and non-profit organizations.

Alabama's Career Center System

Alabama's 30 One-Stop Centers and 31 satellite centers are strategically located throughout the state. Job development, occupational and educational training, vocational rehabilitation, veterans' services and unemployment insurance information are offered. Local centers work with employers to locate job applicants with the specific skills they need. Many centers are electronically linked with partner agencies, such as the Alabama Departments of Industrial Relations, Human Resources, Rehabilitation Services and Education, two-year colleges and others. The goal of the One-Stop system is to consolidate the delivery of workforce services at a single location.

WDD sponsors a Career Development Facilitator Seminar for One-Stop Career Center staff. In the past three years, 119 staff members completed the training and learned to understand and use labor and market information, to work with diverse populations, to prepare training materials and to use effective job search and placement strategies to help customers.

Alabama Works

WDD funds also support Alabama Works, a skills-specific training program of Alabama

Industrial Development Training, a division of the Alabama Department of Post-Secondary Education. Alabama Works helps Alabamians with limited education and work experience gain high-skill employment in a short time. It begins with a 10-week "Fast Track" course covering basic education, computer, workforce behavior, manufacturing, problem-solving and job acquisition skills. After graduating, participants may enter the job market or enroll at Alabama Works' Manufacturing Technology Institute (MTI) or the Information Technology Institute (ITI). MTI and ITI graduates are qualified to enter the workforce or to pursue a college degree.

In fiscal year 2002, a $361,131 award to Alabama Works prepared unskilled and unemployed Greene County residents for high-paying automotive and manufacturing jobs.

Incumbent Worker Program

In a constantly changing marketplace that requires new technology and demands new skills, the Incumbent Worker Program helps workers upgrade and acquire new skills so that employers can meet foreign competition, avoid layoffs and remain open for business.

Recently, Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. in Decatur received an award to train 260 employees to operate new state-of-the-art equipment over the next two years. By upgrading equipment and employee skills, the company can respond more effectively to global competition, avert potential layoffs and ensure economic stability for Goodyear employees and the community.

Ovetta Moscatiello
(WDD)

Ovetta has worked at ADECA since it began in 1983, first as a records specialist checking eligibility for those seeking assistance and presently as a contracting specialist. As a contracting specialist, she is responsible for reviewing contracts, budgets and financial forms, and she communicates with contractors on a daily basis to answer questions and explain procedures. Ovetta says she is pleased to work with programs that have a real impact on people's lives. "I am proud to work in a division that helps so many Alabamians. These programs really help people and are very important to those who are less fortunate."

To avoid layoffs and allow workers to acquire skills needed in Boeing's ground-based missile defense program, Boeing Co. in Huntsville retrained 80 electrical, mechanical or test engineers as system engineers with the help of an ADECA grant.

GE Appliances in Decatur also used incumbent worker funds to upgrade the skills of 39 employees. This allowed the company to increase production and efficiency, remain competitive and avoid plant closure.

Rapid Response Team

The Workforce Development Division provides on-site assistance to workers when plants announce layoffs. Once ADECA receives notice of plant closings or substantial layoffs, the Rapid Response Team swiftly reacts and meets on-site with employers and employees affected by job loss. At the employee group meetings, workers receive information about unemployment compensation, pension benefits, job training, employment services, health insurance, credit counseling, and many other services. (See related article, page 17)

Youth Leadership Forum

WIA funds also provide youth services, including programs for out-of-school youth who lack basic skills and are unemployed or underemployed, and assistance

Human Resources Manager Wendy Grill knows the benefits of Rapid Response

Rapid Response Team Makes a Difference

When textile imports caused International Childrenswear to close its facilities in Alabama four years ago, more than 300 employees were laid off. The company's human resources manager, Wendy Grill, notified ADECA and Workforce Development's Rapid Response team sprang into action. The program is designed to provide on-site advice and assistance to employees who suddenly find themselves out of work due to downsizing or plant closings.

Grill worked with Rapid Response staff to set up meetings with employees. She witnessed first-hand how the services provided at that time helped shocked and confused workers find new opportunities. "I know for a fact that one of the employees took advantage of training, returned to school and made the dean's list. Before that, she was computer illiterate, scared of computers. She is now doing computerized billing in a physicians office. She would never have overcome her fear of computers without this opportunity. A lot of individuals are able to better themselves because of Rapid Response."

Grill now works with Bake-Line Group in Birmingham. As a human resources manager, she knows closings, cutbacks and layoffs are a fact of life. However, it gives her some comfort to know that Rapid Response is just a phone call away.

for those with disabilities. In FY 2002, 18 high school students with disabilities participated in a five-day career leadership-training program at Troy State University. Many former participants of the program are now enrolled in college.

Welfare-to-Work

Alabama's Welfare-to-Work employment and training program provides employment assistance to hard-to-employ welfare recipients and works to move recipients with significant employment barriers into jobs, offering recipients a brighter future. The One-Stop Career Centers seek to equip long-term recipients – generally those with poor education, few skills and little work experience – with the resources and support they need to find and keep jobs. The underlying philosophy of the program is that "the best welfare is a job." That is why the goal of the Welfare-to-Work program is long-term employment.

School-to-Career Partnership System

ADECA's School-to-Career Partnership System strives to prepare *all* Alabama students for success. The School-to-Career learning approach works with teachers, businesses and community organizations to make certain that classroom curriculum is relevant in today's workplace. By identifying student interests and aptitudes, STC helps students explore career options and prepares them for college and high-wage first jobs. Students learn first-hand about various careers through apprenticeships, job shadowing, internships, and co-op education. In 2002, WDD provided more than $5.2 million through 29 School-to-Career partnerships statewide.

Alabama Career Information Network

The Alabama Career Information Network system helps young people with career decisions. ACIN received more than $144,000 in 2002 to maintain a web site and other programs that give students information about career opportunities and choices. In addition, special career education videos were supplied to elementary schools.

Toll-Free Jobs Help Line 1-877-US2-JOBS

In 2002, more than 1,550 Alabamians called our toll-free help line that helps job seekers, students and workforce professionals make informed career decisions. Callers requested information on career, educational and training options, financial assistance, apprenticeships, employment in the airport security and healthcare fields, unemployment insurance and state labor market data.

Appalachian Regional Commission

From Tuskegee to Tuscumbia to Tuscaloosa. From downtown renovations to down-home cooking, the Appalachian Regional Commission has helped improve the lives of Alabamians in 37 counties for more than three decades, enhancing communities and upgrading services.

Created by the U.S. Congress in 1965, ARC is a unique partnership of federal, state and local governments working together to promote economic growth and improve the quality of life for Appalachian residents. Its mission is to bring 13 designated Appalachian states into the mainstream of the American economy by providing residents with the skills and knowledge necessary to compete in today's world. The region spans more than 200,000 square miles and impacts the lives of more than 23 million people, many of them in rural communities.

Bonnie Durham, Program Manager

Alabama counties benefiting from the program are: Bibb, Blount, Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee, Chilton, Clay, Cleburne, Colbert, Coosa, Cullman, DeKalb, Elmore, Etowah, Fayette, Franklin, Hale, Jackson, Jefferson, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Macon, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Morgan, Pickens, Randolph, St. Clair, Shelby, Talladega, Tallapoosa, Tuscaloosa, Walker and Winston.

ARC programs benefit communities in numerous ways. They help provide the physical infrastructure necessary for self-sustaining economic development and improved quality of life. The programs also assist and encourage people and organizations of Appalachia to work together for sustained progress and improvement of their communities with a vision for the future. ARC works to provide Appalachian residents with the financial and technical resources to help build dynamic economies and give all citizens access to affordable, quality healthcare.

Upon the governor's recommendation, the Appalachian Regional Commission awarded 34 grants totaling more than $4.6 million in the 2002 fiscal year. Most of the grants went to local governments, non-profit organizations, school boards and community colleges, all with the goal of improving communities and the quality of life for residents.

ARC grants are used to create or retain jobs in Alabama. A $200,000 grant to the town of Steele in St. Clair County resulted in water and sewer services necessary to lure two industries to the area creating 192 jobs. A $60,000 grant in DeKalb County aided in the training of textile workers in high technology equipment necessary to produce products more efficiently and economically. ARC grants also resulted in several job training programs and helped advance ideas that led not only to new jobs, but new industries. The Shoals Culinary Kitchen (See: related article, page 19), which has been aided by ARC grants, has proven to be a winning formula for turning little known family recipes into huge successes.

ARC grants help prepare students for the future. A $1 million grant in fiscal year 2002 helped start 13 pre-kindergarten programs throughout the Alabama ARC region. A $240,000 grant allowed students at Franklin County schools to take classes via computer from Northwest-Shoals Community College in Phil Campbell. The project, aided by ADECA's Science, Technology and Energy Division, is part of an effort to make long-distance classrooms a reality and improve education in Alabama.

Shoals Kitchen Helps Entrepreneurs Cook

Amy Thrasher knew when she tasted a salsa made by her friend Kathy Graham that it was too good not to share, but getting it out was another matter.

"Everybody loved it. People would beg her for it, but we didn't have a kitchen large enough to make it and we didn't know how to market it," said Thrasher.

That's when she learned about the Shoals Commercial Culinary Center, a Florence incubator for would-be food businesses.

These days Two Mama's Salsa is sold in seven states and there are negotiations to expand that market.

"When we started we didn't know about health department regulations or getting a product analyzed for its nutritional value. We would not have been able to get it to market without their help, said Thrasher, who lives about an hour away in Moulton. "We feel very fortunate to be close to one of the few kitchen incubators in the United States."

Two Mama's Salsa has plenty of company. The kitchen, which is part of the Shoals Entrepreneurial Center, has more than 20 clients sharing the former school cafeteria. Clients, including some from as far away as Tuscaloosa and Birmingham, produce everything from candy apples to gumbo, said center Director Sherry Campbell.

Melanie Winsett and Christy Freeman, of Gourmet Caramel Apples, in action at the Shoals Kitchen

"We've had a lot of success stories come out of here," Campbell said of the products, which are marketed in 14 states and as far away as Switzerland. "This is the only culinary center in Alabama and only one of 15 in the United States."

Part of that success can be attributed to the Alabama Department of Economic Community Affairs, which administered grants through the Appalachian Regional Commission for the kitchen and the entrepreneurial center.

"We have a real close relationship with ADECA and ARC. Funds from them and the Tennessee Valley Authority have allowed us to build our entrepreneurial community," said Campbell.

Clients at the center are taught how to mass manufacture and market their products in addition to learning some basics in business. The benefits go beyond encouraging people to be entrepreneurs.

"A huge part of the idea is if you grow your own local businesses they will stay in the community and they will employ local people," Campbell said. "You've got the added benefit that they will buy locally what they need to make their products. It's been wonderful."

Thrasher said the center recently aided her and Graham in obtaining a UPC symbol that will allow their product to be sold in larger grocer chains.

"We're not up there with the rest of them yet, but we hope to be before long," she said.

ARC funds helped Alabama communities cope with emergencies. Gordo and South Vinemont each received ARC grants to install sewer lines when inadequate or non-existent sewer services created health hazards for their citizens. Neither town had the necessary funds to correct the problems. Another critical situation was addressed by a $150,299 grant issued to the Alabama Sheriff's Youth Ranches that help improve the lives of youths who had been abandoned or abused. ARC has responded to the rural health crisis by working in partnership with other agencies to fund health clinics and attract doctors to sparsely populated areas.

ARC works with the Governor and ADECA director to help advance state goals to improve education and health and promote economic development. Local Development Districts are an active and essential partner with the Appalachian Regional Commission. There are eight LDDs in Alabama, and each operates under a board of directors comprised of elected representatives from local governments. An annual ARC workshop is held each August to provide information and assistance to governments, schools, and non-profit organizations on the application process for applying for grants through the commission.

ADECA

Director

Assistant Director

Recreation Programs
- -Land & Water Conservation Fund
- -Recreational Trails Program

Financial Services
- -Audit Section
- -Fiscal Section
- -General Services

Renewal Communities/ Office of Minority Business Enterprises

Community Development Block Grants
- -Economic Development
- -Competitive Grants
- -Special Projects
- -Community Enhancement
- -Planning Grants

Workforce Development
- -Workforce Investment Act
- -Alabama's Career Center System
- -Alabama Works
- -Incumbent Worker Program
- -Rapid Response
- -Youth Leadership Forum
- -Welfare-to-Work
- -School-to-Career
- -Alabama Career Information Network
- -Toll-Free Jobs Help Line

Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety
- -Highway Traffic Safety
- -Law Enforcement Programs
- -Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities
- -Family Violence and Victims' Programs
- -Juvenile Justice
- -Corrections

Office of Water Resources
- -Drought Management Plan
- -Education and Outreach
- -ACT and ACF Compacts
- -Alabama Water Resources Commission
- -National Flood Insurance Program

Appalachian Regional Commission

Information Services

Legal
-Human Resources

Delta Regional Authority

Community Services
- -Community Service Block Grants
- -Community Action Agencies
- -Emergency Shelter Grants
- -Community Food and Nutrition
- -Weather Protection Programs

Science, Technology and Energy
- -Aerospace Science and Industry
- -Alabama Research Alliance
- -Alabama Rural Water Program
- -Advanced Telecommunications Services
- -Alternative Fuel Vehicles Program
- -Energy Conservation Program for Seniors
- -Energy Efficiency and Savings
- -Local Government Energy Loan Program
- -Renewable Fuels Development
- -Residential Energy Code Program
- -Small Business Programs
- -State Recycling Program
- -Technology Education Program

Communications and Information
- -Public Information
- -Graphic Arts
- -Census Bureau Liaison
- -Legislation
- -Charitable Campaigns

Surplus Property
- -State and Federal Property Collection
- -Transfers to Governments, Non-profits
- -Public Auctions

Organizational Chart as of September 30, 2002

Science, Technology and Energy

The Science, Technology and Energy Division administers a variety of service programs that assist schools, businesses, non-profit organizations and communities across the state. The division works to safeguard our environment by educating the public and providing leadership and assistance to cities, counties and individuals. Through the promotion of recycling and energy conservation, STE strives to increase environmental awareness and protect our natural resources. The division also coordinates energy-conservation projects for the elderly, science education programs for children, technology workshops for businesses and recycling programs for schools, cities and counties to help protect the environment and improve the quality of life for present and future generations of Alabamians. STE also works to encourage and promote high-tech research and industry in Alabama.

Terri Adams, Division Director

Alabama Commission on Aerospace Science and Industry

The Alabama Commission on Aerospace Science and Industry studies issues important to the advancement of aerospace and works to attract high-wage aerospace jobs. STE supports the Commission's mission to expand the aerospace industry in the state and to continue to achieve international recognition for Alabama as a leader in aerospace science and industry. The Commission's web site www.aerospace.state.al.us/acasi features prominent news about the state's aerospace and aviation industry. Created for workers seeking high-tech employment and for companies seeking to relocate or expand in Alabama, the web site has a database of Alabama's 300-plus aerospace-related businesses and a listing of available jobs.

Alabama Research Alliance

The Alabama Research Alliance fosters economic development through its support of research at Alabama universities. ARA currently funds science projects at four-year state research universities and in FY 2002 awarded $1.1 million in research grants. The University of Alabama in Huntsville received a grant to identify regional clusters of innovation within Alabama. Regional economic development strategies are increasingly being based on business clusters, such as automotive and aerospace, and this project will help the state to define the high-tech clusters that show economic promise.

Alabama Rural Water Program

Technology can not only improve lives, it can also save money. In FY 2002, a $25,000 grant helped rural water systems save $543,153. STE worked with the Alabama Rural Water Association to prevent water loss, conserve water and reduce costs. ARWA conducted 34 leak detection surveys in rural water systems and more than 80 water system operators were trained in leak-detection techniques needed to maintain their own systems.

Advanced Telecommunications Services

STE's Telecommunications Planning Program works with communities to provide strategic planning and technical assistance to advance the development of interactive distance learning at schools and telemedicine at hospitals. STE pioneered an innovative, interactive distance learning network in Elmore County that links high school classrooms. The network allows students from each school to take advanced courses that only one of

the schools may offer. Through distance learning, a teacher at Wetumpka High School teaches German to all five Elmore County high schools. Similar distance learning networks have been established in Fayette, Franklin, Lamar, Marion, Montgomery and Pickens counties.

Alternative Fuel Vehicles Program

STE's Alternative Fuel Vehicles program encourages cities, counties and businesses to drive vehicles powered by fuels other than gasoline. The program is designed to increase the overall efficiency of the state's transportation system, improve air quality, promote energy independence and reduce the need for foreign oil. STE provides technical assistance to government and business fleet managers and assists state agencies to meet federal requirements for the procurement of alternative fuel vehicles.

A $19,027 ADECA grant helped the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission host the U.S. Department of Energy's Joint Regional Clean Cities Conference in Mobile. Participants from 12 states attended the 2002 conference that served as a DOE regional meeting and promoted the use of vehicles powered by electricity, natural gas, ethanol and propane. The conference helped city coordinators build strong coalitions to promote alternative fuels in their communities.

Energy Conservation Program for Senior Centers

Alabama's senior citizens deserve first-rate facilities that help them remain healthy and involved in their communities. Senior centers serve this important role and enhance the quality of life for thousands of Alabamians. A $300,000 grant to the Alabama Department of Senior Services in 2002 provided 55 senior centers with funding to repair and renovate their facilities. (See: related article, page 24.) Center improvements included structural repairs and the installation of double pane windows, glass and energy-saving doors, central heating and air-conditioning units, ceiling fans, energy-efficient lighting fixtures, attic-insulation, caulking and weather-stripping.

Energy Efficiency and Savings

The Industrial Energy Advisory Service, operated by the University of Alabama in Huntsville, received $90,000 from STE in FY 2002 to assist Alabama industries and small businesses to reduce energy costs and improve efficiency. IDEA$ performed 12 energy audits to identify opportunities for energy savings and the installation of energy-efficient equipment.

Local Government Energy Loan Program

Rural local governments, schools and Alabama taxpayers benefit from the Local Government Energy Loan program. Loans to rural communities and schools for energy-efficient improvements are paid back from savings created by lower energy bills. In the last two years, STE has provided $785,712 to help public facilities operate at greater energy savings by

Ned Butler
(STE)

Ned has been at ADECA since its inception in 1983. He is the state's radio plans director. "I work with the distance learning programs for schools and telemedicine for hospitals. I help to secure federal funds for these programs." Ned helped to set up the first interactive distance learning classroom in Elmore County eight years ago. The program has since spread to 15 schools. The program makes it possible for teachers to conduct simultaneous classes using computers, fiber optics, wireless microphones and video conferencing equipment.

replacing outdated lighting with energy-efficient fixtures, installing geothermal heat pumps, and similar projects that conserve energy. To qualify for the program, government agencies and school systems must be in cities with a population of less than 20,000 or a county with less than 50,000 residents.

Renewable Fuels Development

STE's Biomass Energy Conservation Program promotes the use of wood and wood waste for energy production in commercial, industrial and institutional facilities. This subsidy program was developed to provide incentive for producers and potential users of large amounts of biomass (primarily waste wood), to invest in combustion equipment. The maximum amount of loan subsidy per project is $75,000. The program offers businesses a profitable alternative for the on-site consumption of waste, saves companies millions in energy costs, reduces disposal costs and removes recyclables from the waste stream, increasing the life of landfills. The program also helps to create jobs in the forest products industry.

Although initially focused on wood waste, STE's renewable fuels program also includes municipal solid waste and switchgrass, an early warm-season grass popular for livestock forage, erosion prevention and now alternative fuel. Southern Research Institute, Auburn University and Southern Company have studied the feasibility of burning switchgrass with coal to produce electricity. This project could establish a new crop for farmers and economic spin-off benefits for processing, transportation and manufacturing.

Adequate lighting enables seniors to enjoy quilting

Senior Citizens Benefit from STE Program

"First and foremost, the renovations have meant a decrease in the electricity bill," says Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments representative Jeff Thompson about the energy conservation grant that allowed the Hodges Community Center in Franklin County to lower its ceiling and install new energy-efficient lighting.

Hodges Community Center is one of 55 senior centers to undergo renovation in the 2002 fiscal year as a result of a $300,000 grant to the Alabama Department of Senior Services. The community center received a $4,400 award. The grant funded energy-saving measures that helped the center reduce its electric bills, improve lighting and make the center more comfortable and enjoyable for seniors.

Ceilings were lowered, insulation added, and new lighting was installed. "The new lighting has brightened the center. It is now more conducive for recreational activities, such as card games, dominoes and quilting," Thompson says. "The new ceiling and insulation have resulted in a decrease in the center's electricity bill. Every dollar saved on electricity is a dollar that can be spent on other activities that seniors enjoy."

Biomass Exchange Directory

STE sponsors the "Biomass Exchange Directory," a Web-based tool designed to link producers and consumers of wood waste. Consumers may search the directory for a product needed while wood waste producers are able to search the exchange for consumers who need the type of wood product they have available. Consumers and producers may select the type and size of wood waste needed, specify the moisture content, and even search the directory by geographical area or zip code. To search the directory, visit www.biomass.state.al.us.

Residential Energy Code Program

STE is the administrator of the Residential Energy Code of Alabama board, which is

responsible for energy standards for residential construction. The program promotes energy conservation while educating builders and consumers. RECA allows builders, architects, home designers and code inspectors to make simple calculations to determine how much insulation to put into attics, walls, floors, windows and doors. The code recommends minimum energy efficiency rating of heating, cooling and water-heating equipment. Homebuilders, realtors, code officials, mortgage companies and consumers participate in STE-hosted workshops to learn the benefits of building and financing energy-efficient homes. A copy of the Residential Energy Code and the Alabama Building Energy Conservation Code can be found at www.adeca.alabama.gov.

Small Business Programs

STE, in partnership with BizTech, Huntsville's technology incubator, works to increase the number and size of Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) awards won by Alabama small businesses. With 10 federal agency participants, SBIR is the largest source of seed funding for technology-based small businesses. The program stimulates technological innovation and provides early-stage funding for cutting-edge research that is too new to secure capital or bank loans for business ventures.

STE and BizTech have designed an Internet training and mentoring program to increase the competitiveness of Alabama SBIR and STTR applicants and guide them successfully through the proposal process. Alabama companies have won an average of $20 million in SBIR awards and $2 million in STTR awards each year for the past five years. Alabama ranks in the top 15 states for SBIR funds awarded and among the top 10 states for STTR funds. Since 1997, Alabama small businesses have won more than $110 million of these funds.

State Recycling Program

Recycling has many benefits. It saves energy, turns valuable resources into materials that Alabama factories can use to manufacture new products, creates new jobs and reduces the amount of waste sent to overflowing landfills. Recycling teaches us to be good stewards of our environment and preserves our natural resources for future generations.

STE works with cities, counties, schools, universities and non-profit organizations to promote recycling. More than $210,000 in 15 grants went to cities, counties and non-profit organizations to assist in recycling efforts and to encourage Alabamians to recycle. Project ROSE (Recycled Oil Saves Energy), Alabama's used motor oil recycling program, reported that more than 7.5 million gallons of used motor oil was recycled last year.

Technology Education Program

The STE Division administered $343,681 in grants to help provide a technologically rich education for Alabamians and prepare our citizens for the future.

Computers and printers were purchased for the Camden Youth Development Center to give students access to computers and the Internet after school. A grant to the Tallapoosa County Commission helped to establish a computer and technology center for the Northside community of Alexander City. Funds helped the Birmingham Museum of Art offer its "Start with Art" program online, giving Alabama teachers who are not art educators the opportunity to teach art in their classrooms. STE-administered funds helped the State Department of Education establish a primary interactive network site for students and teachers to enhance teaching and learning in science, technology, math, geography and other disciplines. An award to the Alabama Humanities Foundation helped fund the first online encyclopedia about the history and culture of Alabama.

STE and OWR Work Together to Produce Award Winning Brochure

The Science, Technology and Energy Division and the Office of Water Resources combined resources in 2002 to produce "Drops and Watts," a 12-page, practical guide for conserving water and energy. The brochure contains more than 50 tips on water and energy conservation to educate Alabamians on how to better protect the environment and lower household utility bills.

In August 2002, "Drops and Watts" earned ADECA an award at a U.S. Department of Energy national conference. The brochure was published and distributed by Legacy, Partners in Environmental Education, thanks to a $2,400 ADECA grant in June 2002. The Alabama Rural Electric Association of Cooperatives also sponsored and helped distribute the brochure.

Office of Water Resources

The Office of Water Resources was created in 1991 to ensure that the state's water supply remains safe and plentiful for present and future generations of Alabamians. OWR works with federal, local and other state agencies to plan, coordinate, develop and manage the state's water resources, which includes both surface and groundwater supplies. This work includes recommending policies and legislation, conducting technical studies, educating the public on conservation and other water-related issues and providing technical and advisory support in Alabama's ongoing negotiations with other states involving sharing water.

Trey Glenn, Division Director

While Alabama has an abundance of lakes, rivers and streams that currently provide safe and sufficient drinking water, ample energy production, deep-water transportation routes and bountiful recreational opportunities, our water sources are not limitless. Demands continue to grow with expanding industries, municipal expansions and needs of bordering states. Therefore the protection of these resources is of critical importance to the health and safety of Alabama citizens.

In 2002, OWR sought to prepare for and diminish the impact of drought, encouraged water conservation and recommended policies and legislation involving water issues. The office also aided communities with water problems and supplied technical and logistical data and information supporting Alabama in its on-going talks with Georgia and Florida over water issues involving river systems which flow through all three states.

Drought Management Plan

While drought can't be prevented, there are steps that can minimize the effects. An OWR committee developed a drought-management plan following a series of meetings and forums across the state. Formation of the plan stemmed from an executive order issued May 20, 2002 by the governor setting up the Alabama Drought Assessment and Planning Team. The ADAPT plan focuses on regional drought problems and solutions as well as addressing short and long-range issues involved with water shortages.

Education and Outreach

OWR also initiated an education and outreach campaign designed to inform Alabama citizens about water resource issues and to promote voluntary conservation. OWR designed, printed and distributed pamphlets and produced public service announcements to increase public awareness and education regarding the state's valuable water resources.

Officials from the Office of Water Resources travel the state to conduct technical workshops with local water boards and authorities. The meetings are designed to provide education and outreach about water policy issues and to focus on the benefits of water conservation. They also allow an open dialogue with an exchange of ideas to help OWR better understand and meet the needs of Alabama citizens.

ACT and ACF Compacts

The Office of Water Resources serves as the state's liaison with federal agencies concerning major water-related projects. OWR acts on behalf of the state in ongoing

negotiations with Georgia and Florida to ensure that Alabama's interests are protected today and for future generations. Staff representatives support attempts to forge a compact with the two neighboring states involving water rights of the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa and the Alabama-Chattahoochee-Flint river systems. Research gathered by OWR is helping to make certain that a fair and equitable solution is reached in the sharing of water produced along the river networks running through the three states.

Alabama Water Resources Commission

A 19-member Water Resources Commission, created by legislative act in 1993, advises OWR on issues of rules and state regulations. The commission is made up of members representing each congressional district and each major water surface region as well as a cross-section of water user groups in the state. Members are appointed by the governor, lieutenant governor and speaker of the House.

The commission, which meets twice a year, provides guidance for the governor, the legislature and OWR on major water issues and potential or existing policies, regulations and plans. The Commission also handles appeals on any OWR-issued administration actions, citations or orders.

Diana McLemore
(OWR)

Diana has been with ADECA for just one year, but has already made an impact. She works primarily with the Alabama Flood Map Modernization Program providing technical support and performing and analyzing hydrologic computer models. "It is exciting to work in an office that truly understands the importance of water planning and that offers the State of Alabama its best chance at wise stewardship of one of the most valuable resources this state has to offer."

National Flood Insurance Program

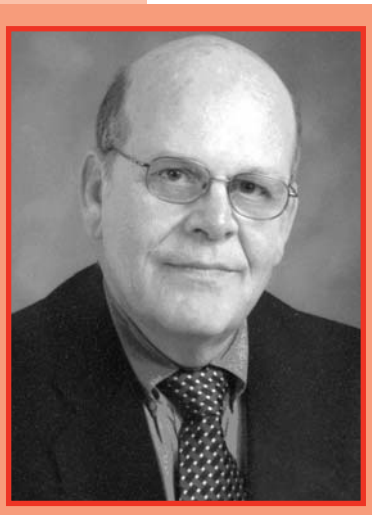
The Office of Water Resources undertook additional duties in June 2002 when it assumed responsibility for the National Flood Insurance Program. The Alabama Emergency Management Agency previously handled the program. The program involves updating flood data maps to determine flood zones in Alabama. Flood-zone determination has an impact on flood insurance premiums through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. It also aids in future development in water system areas.

Alabama has more than 77,000 miles of rivers and streams, 563,000 acres of public lakes, reservoirs and ponds, 3.6 million acres of freshwater wetlands, 27,600 acres of coastal wetlands, 390,400 acres of estuaries and 50 miles of beaches along the Gulf Coast. The Office of Water Resources manages the planning, conservation and coordination of all of these valuable, beautiful and important natural resources for the state of Alabama.

Recreational Programs

Outdoor recreation attractions not only promote healthy living, they also protect the environment, preserve natural beauty, attract tourists and improve the overall quality of life in communities. ADECA has helped communities throughout the state increase recreation opportunities through two federally-funded programs: the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Recreational Trails Program.

The **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** program, established in 1964, provides matching funds to Alabama cities and counties for the development or establishment of outdoor recreational areas. Projects include parks, playgrounds, forests and wildlife refuges, lakes and ponds for recreational activities, outdoor playing fields and picnic and camping areas. LWCF funds are provided to the state by the U.S. Department of Interior. Counties and cities that apply for LWCF grants must supply matching funds that are equal to or greater than the requested amount.



Jon Strickland
Recreational Programs Manager

ADECA staff consider a number of factors when evaluating grant requests. The best proposals are submitted to the governor who makes recommendations to the National Park Service for final approval. In fiscal year 2002, $2.5 million in grants were issued for 35 projects in Alabama. Including matching funds, the projects represented more than a $5 million investment in recreation in the state.

A $100,000 grant to the city of Mobile is helping convert a former housing area, prone to flooding, into a 24-acre, inner-city park. Another $100,000 grant is helping to clean up the polluted Five Mile Creek in and around Birmingham and convert it into a 23-mile greenway in a partnership of ADECA, environmental groups and several Jefferson County governments and their citizens. An LWCF grant also helped renovate a Bridgeport park to include one of the state's few skateboard areas. Another grant helped Coffee Springs in Geneva County renovate a swimming pool fed by its namesake stream.

Created by Congress in 1998 and funded through the U.S. Department of Transportation, the **Recreational Trails Program** assists federal agencies, state and local governments in acquiring, developing or improving areas for recreational purposes.

In fiscal year 2002, $960,000 was awarded in Alabama toward the development or expansion of 16 trails. The trails encourage a wide range of activities, including walking and jogging, hiking, cycling, roller skating and skate boarding, backpacking, horse riding and aquatic activities.

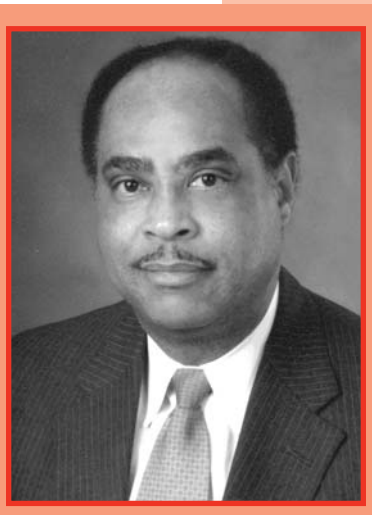
Aided by a $300,000 Recreational Trails grant, a 160-acre off-road motor park is being constructed near Jemison in Chilton County. Other recreational activities will be incorporated into the park, which is expected to attract visitors from throughout Alabama and surrounding states. A trail grant to Spanish Fort will allow walking, hiking and horsebacking in the Historic Blakeley State Park while a grant to Northport is helping that Tuscaloosa County town develop a river walk.

Trail grants are awarded on a competitive basis with the Alabama Trails Advisory Committee, a 12-member board, reviewing applications.

Renewal Communities/Office of Minority Business Enterprises

The Renewal Communities/Office of Minority Business Enterprises is involved in several programs to spur economic development and create jobs in economically distressed areas of Alabama. The section administers programs that provide tax incentives for businesses to build or re-locate in high-unemployment areas. The section's staff also directs companies seeking services for minority-owned businesses.

The Renewal Community Program, which was created by the Community Renewal Tax Relief Act of 2000, provides tax incentives for businesses and industries to locate in targeted, poverty-stricken areas designated as renewal communities. Businesses that locate or expand in a renewal community are eligible to receive accelerated tax deductions and other tax incentives.



David Barley
Renewal Communities Manager

There are 40 areas, including three in Alabama, designated as renewal communities by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Renewal communities are a designated group of contiguous census tracts that include areas of poverty, high unemployment and substandard housing. A renewal community may include all or only a portion of a county.

In Alabama there is the Mobile-Prichard Renewal Community, which includes portions of those two cities; the Greene-Sumter Renewal Community, which includes all of those two counties; and the Blackbelt Renewal Community, which is composed of Wilcox County and parts of Butler, Conecuh, Dallas, Lowndes, Marengo, Monroe, Hale and Perry counties.

Businesses that relocate or expand in a renewal community are eligible to receive an accelerated tax depreciation of up to 50 percent (or up to $10 million) of the cost of a capital improvements project during the first year a project has been completed. Another option allows all of the construction or revitalization expenditures to be fully depreciated over a 10-year period rather than the customary 39 years. Additional tax deductions and credits are offered to businesses, located in a renewal community, that hire low-income people living in those communities.

Projects are reviewed and approved by a five-member committee which includes representatives from each of the three renewal districts, the governor's office, the Alabama Development Office and ADECA.

ADECA works to help businesses owned by minorities and women succeed. The ADECA office offers training and technical assistance to the businesses in addition to helping the businesses obtain clients and contracts.

Increasing the number and successes of minority-owned businesses will also result in increased employment opportunities, including those living in counties with high unemployment rates.

In the fiscal year 2002 approximately 105 Alabama businesses were certified as being owned by minorities.

Delta Regional Authority

The Delta Regional Authority is a federal-state partnership established to provide remedies for severe and chronic economic distress by stimulating development and encouraging partnerships among governments, businesses and residents.

The authority, created in December 2000, encourages the development of new jobs and basic improvements to enhance quality of life. The DRA's formula for strengthening economies is to improve education, infrastructure, transportation and businesses with an emphasis on private enterprise. The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs oversees the program in Alabama and works with local, state and regional agencies to implement program goals.

Bea Forniss
Delta Regional Authority Manager

The DRA serves 240 counties and parishes in eight states, including 20 counties in Alabama. Alabama counties included in the DRA are Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Dallas, Escambia, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Monroe, Perry, Pickens, Russell, Sumter, Washington and Wilcox.

Each of the member counties in Alabama has been defined as a "distressed county." A distressed county is a county where the unemployment rate is greater than the national average, a substantial loss in population has occurred, a major industry or business has closed, or a major disaster or emergency has been experienced. At least 75 percent of the total funds allocated to the authority are invested in distressed counties and half of those funds must be earmarked for transportation and infrastructure improvements. Projects that have a regional impact receive special priority.

In addition to the overall focus of the Delta Regional Authority, short, middle and long-term goals have been developed for the Alabama counties with an emphasis being placed on creating jobs and eliminating poverty. Secondary goals have also been established for each Local Development District. These Local Development Districts serve as committees that represent local governments. The 20 Alabama counties that are part of the DRA are served by six LDDs. An LDD may be comprised of one or more counties.

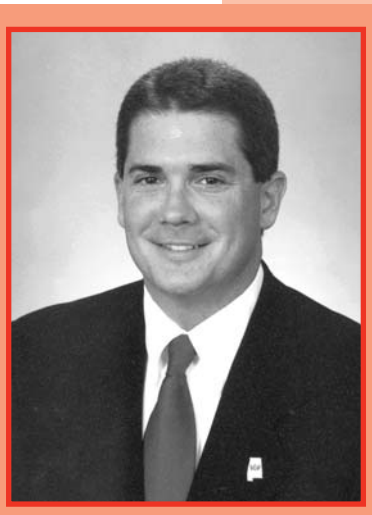
The secondary goals are aimed at solving problems unique to a county or a range of counties. For instance, in the Region 2 Local Development District, Greene, Hale and Pickens counties all consider adequate daycare an important need while Lowndes County, which is in a separate development district, lists its priorities as improving water and sewer services and developing an industrial park. Several counties lying along either the Alabama or Tombigbee rivers list the need to incorporate those water systems in their improvement plans.

Surplus Property

The Surplus Property Division saves taxpayers money through the management of federal and state inventory and the sale of more than $1.6 million in surplus property at its warehouses each year.

The division also is an important resource for numerous non-profit organizations. Every day 20 to 30 non-profit groups make vital purchases that allow them to assist the elderly, feed the homeless and offer a hand to the poor.

In fiscal year 2002, SPD sold hundreds of items no longer needed by state agencies to city and county governments, volunteer fire departments and non-profit organizations at a fraction of the cost these groups would have paid had they purchased the property new.



Shane Bailey, Division Director

Alabama law requires most state agencies to turn in surplus property to the Surplus Property Division. SPD also distributes federal property obtained through the Federal Surplus Property and the General Services Administration's Vehicle Sales Programs.

Most federal surplus property is acquired from eight southeastern states with SPD trucks picking up property at various military bases and federal agencies. The property is moved to either the 125,000 square-foot facility in Montgomery or the 25,000 square-foot warehouse in Eva in Morgan County.

SPD occasionally finds surplus property overseas. Searching the Web, SPD locates equipment at U.S. military bases and contacts the base depot by e-mail to arrange delivery. It is done electronically from photos of the requested items, including logistics and shipping costs. In 2002, SPD obtained four generators from Germany.

SPD holds property for at least 60 days to allow eligible organizations to obtain it before it is sold at public auctions. Computers, copiers, office equipment, cars, trucks and other vehicles were among the many items sold in 2002 with more than 1,500 registered buyers participating in three auctions that grossed $739,635.

Government agencies and non-profit organizations make crucial purchases at SPD warehouses daily. Schools buy office equipment, computers, school supplies, desks and automobiles for driver education classes. In FY 2002, local governments, volunteer fire departments and non-profit organizations purchased 168 GSA vehicles acquired by SPD.

County commissions acquire heavy equipment, road-maintenance vehicles and engine components from SPD. Homeless shelters typically buy beds, chairs, refrigerators and trucks to transport food.

For information about public auctions, visit the ADECA web site at www.adeca.alabama.gov/ and follow the link to "Surplus Property" and click "Public Sales." The web site provides a complete list of items to be auctioned and a map to the warehouse.

A grand piano obtained through SPD has played a key role for the Benjamin Russell High School choir

Students Get High Quality Musical Instruments from Surplus

The Benjamin Russell High School Band is making beautiful music in Alexander City with the help of ADECA's Surplus Property Division. For each of the past five years, band director Dale Bloodworth has relied upon SPD to provide his band with quality, name-brand equipment.

According to Bloodworth, the families of many of his students are unable to afford high quality instruments, but SPD is making the instruments available at a fraction of what they would cost elsewhere. "Each year we have gotten some well-cared for equipment, and I see the value of it every day," Bloodworth says. He says that the high quality musical instruments help his students achieve and perform at a higher level.

The bulk of the equipment obtained by SPD comes from military bands. The instruments are acquired as various military bases in the southeast remove the equipment from their inventory.

Purchasing instruments that need repair can also be a bargain for school systems. In 2001, the Alexander City Board of Education purchased a damaged grand piano through SPD for less than $1,000. They paid $4,500 to have the piano renovated and now the high school choir has an instrument that would have cost at least $10,000 if purchased at retail. Bloodworth says that SPD has enabled his school "to meet serious needs for the band" and they will continue to purchase musical instruments from SPD in the future.

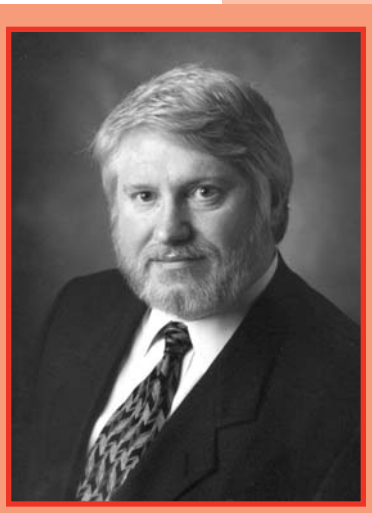
Surplus Property Eva Warehouse staff: (L-R) Sheryl Childers, Johnny Persall, Sam Cleghorn, Mike Benson and Gary Brooks (not pictured)

Freddie Fox
(SPD)

WillieFreddie is the administrative chief of the Surplus Property Division. He has been with ADECA for 17 years and with SPD since 1996. He supervises the administrative staff and monitors the compliance and eligibility of local governments and non-profit agencies that do business with SPD. "I review all applications to make sure agencies are eligible for our programs and I enter and update information into our database," Freddie says. "I interact with various organizations and assist them in what they are doing to further their goals of serving the people of Alabama."

Communications and Information

The Communications and Information Division of ADECA coordinates a wide range of internal and external services for the department. The activities of the division are conducted by three sections: public information, graphic arts and administrative. CID responds to inquiries from the public and news media representatives and announces grants awarded throughout the year. The division coordinates the design and printing of numerous publications, monitors legislation, provides liaison to the Census Bureau, coordinates various charitable activities, and provides other services to the department. CID also works closely with ADECA's other divisions and sections to promote programs, projects and services and to make information and records available to the legislature, other state agencies, news media and the general public upon request.



Larry Childers, Division Director

Public Information

The public information section prepares and distributes hundreds of news releases each year announcing grants awarded by the Governor. The most recent news releases are available on the ADECA Web site at www.adeca.alabama.gov by following the links to the Communications and Information Division. CID also informs the public about ADECA-sponsored workshops, conferences and Surplus Property public auctions. The division serves as the single point of contact for news media inquiries and researches and responds to their requests for information about ADECA grants and other programs. The public information staff also receives information requests from citizens and provides access to public documents for both news reporters and citizens. An increasing number of e-mail questions and comments are received from the ADECA Web site, and CID responds or forwards the messages to the appropriate divisions or sections to help provide prompt answers or instructions. The CID staff is responsible for preparing the Annual Report and newsletters, and helps develop various public service announcements and content for ADECA's Web site. In 2002, the division launched *@ADECA*, an online newsletter for employees that features departmental news, staff accomplishments and awards, activities in the Alabama Center for Commerce, state employee news and links to useful Internet sites.

Graphic Arts

The graphic arts section works with every ADECA division and program to design, create and print manuals, handbooks, pamphlets, charts, maps, reports, forms, business cards, ID cards and other documents. Another frequently requested service is the preparation of signs and posters and other large graphic items used for promoting events. Numerous specialty items are also designed and ordered for use in public education campaigns to promote such things as seat belts, child safety seats, recycling and energy conservation. The graphic arts section assists with the publication of legal notices when required to administer ADECA programs. The section also provides black and white reproduction services using a high-speed digital copier producing tens of thousands of copies for the department each month. CID serves as printing coordinator for ADECA and works with State Printing and

Publications or outside vendors as required.

Administrative

The administrative section coordinates the fiscal, personnel and other office responsibilities of the division. Other duties carried out by the section include serving as the records retention coordinator and liaison to the Department of Archives and History and preparing and distributing the safety plan for the Alabama Center for Commerce building that houses ADECA.

Legislation

The administrative section reviews the bills introduced into the Alabama Legislature in an effort to identify those measures that might have an impact on programs administered by ADECA. Legislation that is significant to the department is brought to the attention of appropriate division directors and program managers and the measure is tracked as it progresses through the legislative process. Upon the request of the ADECA Director, the division communicates the department's position on legislative issues to the Governor's staff, members of the legislature or the U.S. Congress as appropriate.

Census Bureau Liaison

The Director of the Communications and Information Division serves as the Governor's Liaison to the U.S. Bureau of the Census. During 2000, CID was heavily involved in efforts to encourage all persons living in Alabama to participate in the decennial Census. A full and complete count of persons living within the state's borders is vital not only for public and private-sector planning purposes, but also to ensure Alabama receives its fair share of the federal dollars that are distributed based upon population formulas. CID advises the Governor's office on Census matters and assists other state agencies and citizens to access Census data. The CID director serves as the state's certifying official for reporting municipal incorporations, boundary changes and annexations to the Census Bureau. The CID staff corresponds with city and county governments across the state to collect data to make any necessary changes to Census Bureau records.

Charitable Campaigns

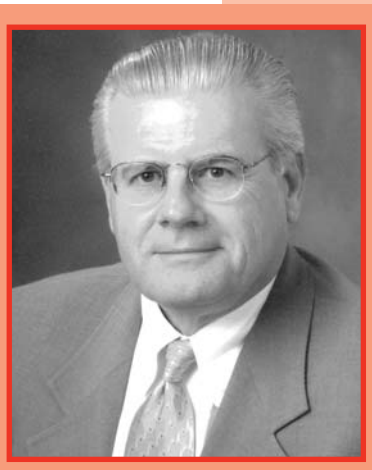
Each year ADECA participates in several drives to raise funds or support for a variety of charitable and community organizations, and CID coordinates these efforts. One of the largest efforts is focused on the annual State of Alabama Combined Campaign that raises money for more than 800 United Way charities. Drives for blood donation to the American Red Cross are promoted and coordinated by CID as well as efforts to encourage participation in U.S. Savings Bonds campaigns.

Tommy Price
(CID)

Tommy has been with ADECA since it began in 1983. He handles a wide variety of tasks and works with all the department's divisions. Tommy does computer graphics, brochure and publication layouts, printing jobs and signs for ADECA. He also does the layout for this Annual Report, coordinating cover designs, graphics and photographs. "I enjoy the creative aspects of my job," he says. "Someone is always coming in with something big that is challenging. I like working with the different divisions and learning what they do. I also get to know all the people at ADECA and get to work on something new all the time."

Legal Services

The Legal Section provides representation and legal advice and assistance for the operating divisions and support staff at ADECA. The section reviews and approves grant agreements and assists with department contracts. The section works with the Director's office and the various division directors on internal and external legal issues. The office is also charged with the responsibility of keeping up to date on new laws and regulations affecting the department and ensuring division supervisors are informed of legal issues that relate to them. The section maintains and updates the Polices and Procedures Manual for the department and provides legal research and assistance for the divisions. The section also coordinates contracts with the Legislature's Contract Review Committee and handles legal questions involving personnel matters.



Eddie Davis
ADECA Legal Counsel

Claudia Smith
(Legal)

Claudia is ADECA's Assistant General Counsel and is an Assistant Attorney General. She has been practicing law with the state for almost 9 years and with ADECA for the past 17 months. Claudia focuses on keeping the agency and its employees in compliance with State and Federal laws as well as all relevant policies and procedures. She defends the department in litigation and administrative proceedings. Claudia is also the acting personnel manager. "It's great to work here. I always like something different, and this job is always changing and challenging. I deal with different scenarios all the time."

Human Resources

Under the direction of the Legal Section, the Human Resources section supports the Director's office and all the division directors and other supervisors to ensure that all federal and state personnel laws and regulations are followed. The Human Resources section provides advice and guidance regarding personnel interviewing, hiring, probationary reports, performance appraisals and employee training. The section assists divisions with salary adjustments, personal leave and benefits issues, along with disciplinary actions.

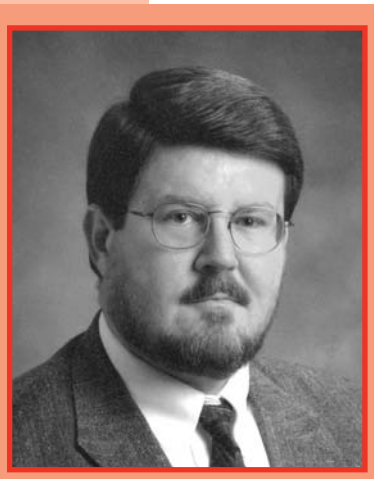
The Human Resource staff interprets personnel-related laws, rules and agency policies, makes recommendations on departmental procedures, policies, plans and forums. The section recommends changes to employee classifications and reviews manpower issues. The personnel manager attends training and receives updates on relevant issues and reviews documents to remain up to date on employment law trends. The Human Resources section also assists employees with opportunities for counseling and information concerning raises and promotions.

Information Services

The Information Services Section provides the technology backbone that links and supports the many programs and elements of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs. The section handles the telecommunications and information technology needed by ADECA employees to perform their jobs expediently and effectively.

Harvey Holt
(IS)
Harvey is a PC Support Specialist. He sets up and configures computers for ADECA employees and works with the Information Services Section to solve problems with computers, telecommunications and network issues. "I enjoy this job because of the chance I have to work with all the people at ADECA. They are a fantastic bunch to work with and each day seems to bring something new."

The ISS staff provides ADECA employees with multiple services designed to make them more efficient in obtaining and processing the information necessary to do their jobs, and more accessible to the public they serve. The section conducts in-house training on new and existing computer hardware and software programs and telecommunications equipment in an effort to keep employees up-to-date with technology. The office also coordinates outside training for employees when services are not available in-house.



Scott Randolph
Information Section Manager

Information Services is responsible for the day-to-day development and maintenance of ADECA's computer network, equipment and programs. The section assists with the purchase and installation of commercial computer software required by different offices to perform varied functions. Information Services also aids ADECA divisions to develop and use programing unique to their duties. ISS developed and maintains a direct link between ADECA and 39 One-Stop Career Center locations throughout the state, a program of the Workforce Development Division to help displaced workers obtain employment or proper training.

ISS is also responsible for developing and monitoring security systems designed to maintain the integrity of the department's computer data. An upgrade of the ADECA network begun in 2002 is expected to result in a dramatic improvement in network performance and reliability.

Finanacial Services

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs administers dozens of programs and more than $170 million in grants each year. ADECA's Audit Section and Fiscal Section monitor the agency's programs to ensure compliance with federal, state and local laws. Staff members from both sections work with each division to provide assistance and technical support to advance ADECA's mission of improving the quality of life for all Alabamians.

Audit Section

Tammy Rolling
Fiscal and Audit Section Manager

Major responsibilities of the Audit Section include the development and operation of the agency's financial monitoring, special audits, technical assistance to grant recipients and audit management system. The section monitors federal grant recipients and reviews audit reports and special audits to ensure that recipients are fiscally responsible with the money they receive. Financial monitors also make on-site visits and audit major programs. In fiscal year 2002, approximately 165 subgrantee audit reports were reviewed.

The section also offers recipients guidance about CPA audits, reviews reports prepared by the State Examiners of Public Accounts and provides technical assistance to grant recipients. Help typically consists of telephone conversations, written correspondence and workshops. In 2002, audit staff members worked with various ADECA divisions to provide technical assistance to grant recipients at six workshops.

Fiscal Section

The Fiscal Section deals with the day-to-day, behind-the-scenes work that is vital to the effective and efficient operation of ADECA. Accounting, budget preparation, payroll and purchasing are functions of the section. The section monitors cash management, division budgets, operations plans and the financial records of business transactions. It maintains the computerized accounting and payroll system for all ADECA employees. Staff members post leave, enter payroll deductions into the state's computer system and verify timesheets. The audit staff coordinates agency purchases of equipment and supplies. The fiscal staff reviews payments and processes vouchers, which go to the state Comptroller for approval and payment. The section manages requests for employee training and purchases, ensuring that competitive price quotes are obtained on items and services that ADECA purchases. The fiscal section also handles property management for ADECA and keeps track of subgrantee property with a value of $5,000 or more.

ADECA Awards and Recognition

Adams Receives Award

(L-R) STE director Terri Adams receives the Distinguished Service Medal from ADECA Director Anne Payne for her assistance in helping set up the state's Office of Homeland Security. The award recognized Terri for her "excellent meritorious and distinguished military and civilian service."

WDD Service Provider Receives Award

(L-R) Consuello Harper, with WDD's Steve Walkley, accepts the Exemplary Public Interest Contribution Award from Labor Deputy Assistant Secretary Charles James Jr. The award was one of only 11 presented by the U.S. Department of Labor. Harper is the founder, president and CEO of the Central Alabama Opportunities Industrialization Center, which is a WDD service provider for six Alabama counties. The Central Alabama OIC provides job training and affordable housing to low-income families.

ADECA Workers Honored for Charity Assistance

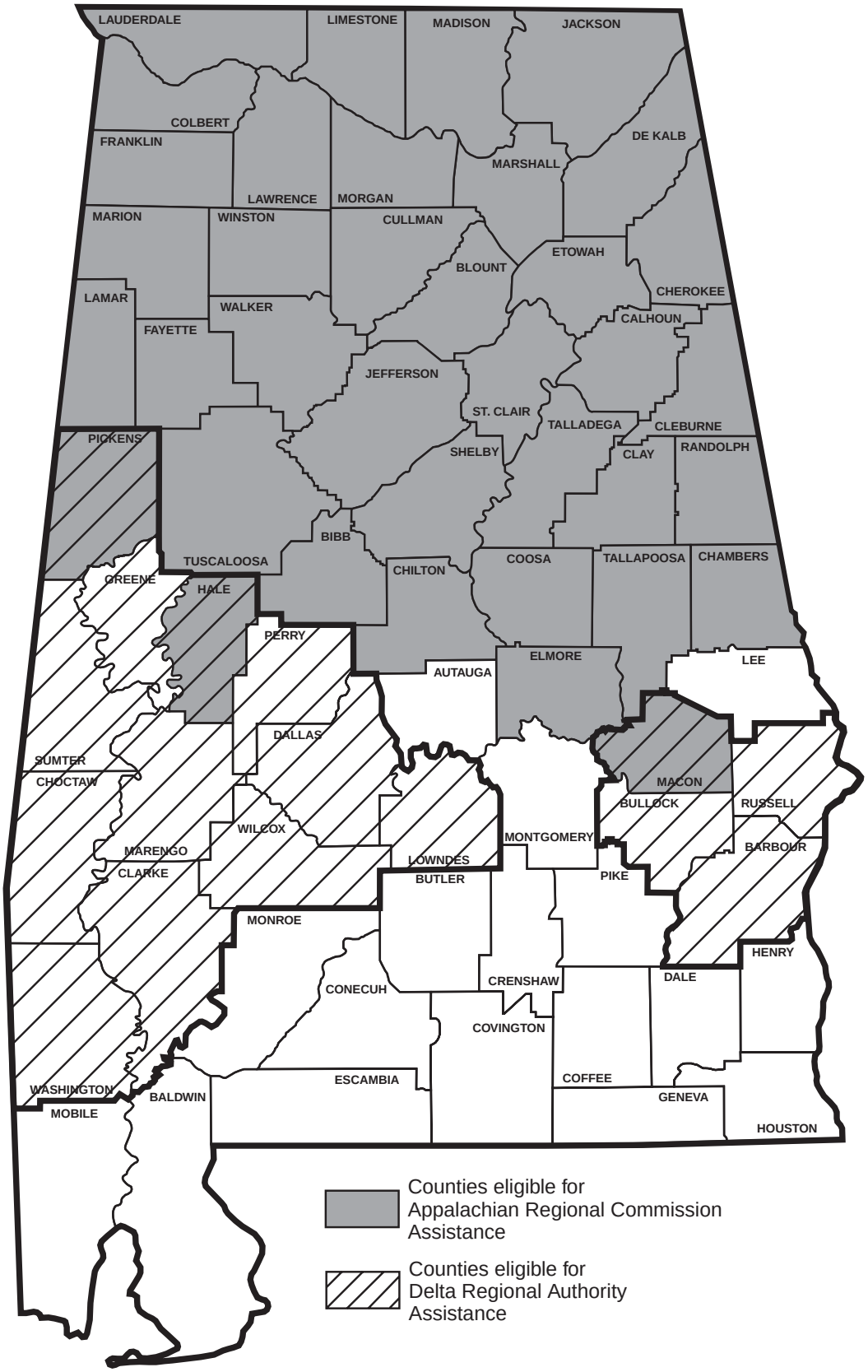
(L-R) Dollie Burkhalter (CID) and Nancy Lawrence (OWR) received awards for their help with the State Combined Campaign to raise money for United Way charities. Dollie and Nancy each worked as division coordinators and were recognized for getting 100% participation from their co-workers in the 2002 campaign. Dollie also received an award as ADECA's campaign coordinator and was honored for her work with the Local Agency Review Committee, a group that reviews charities for consideration in the campaign.

ADECA
2001-2002 Federal Receipts and Disbursements

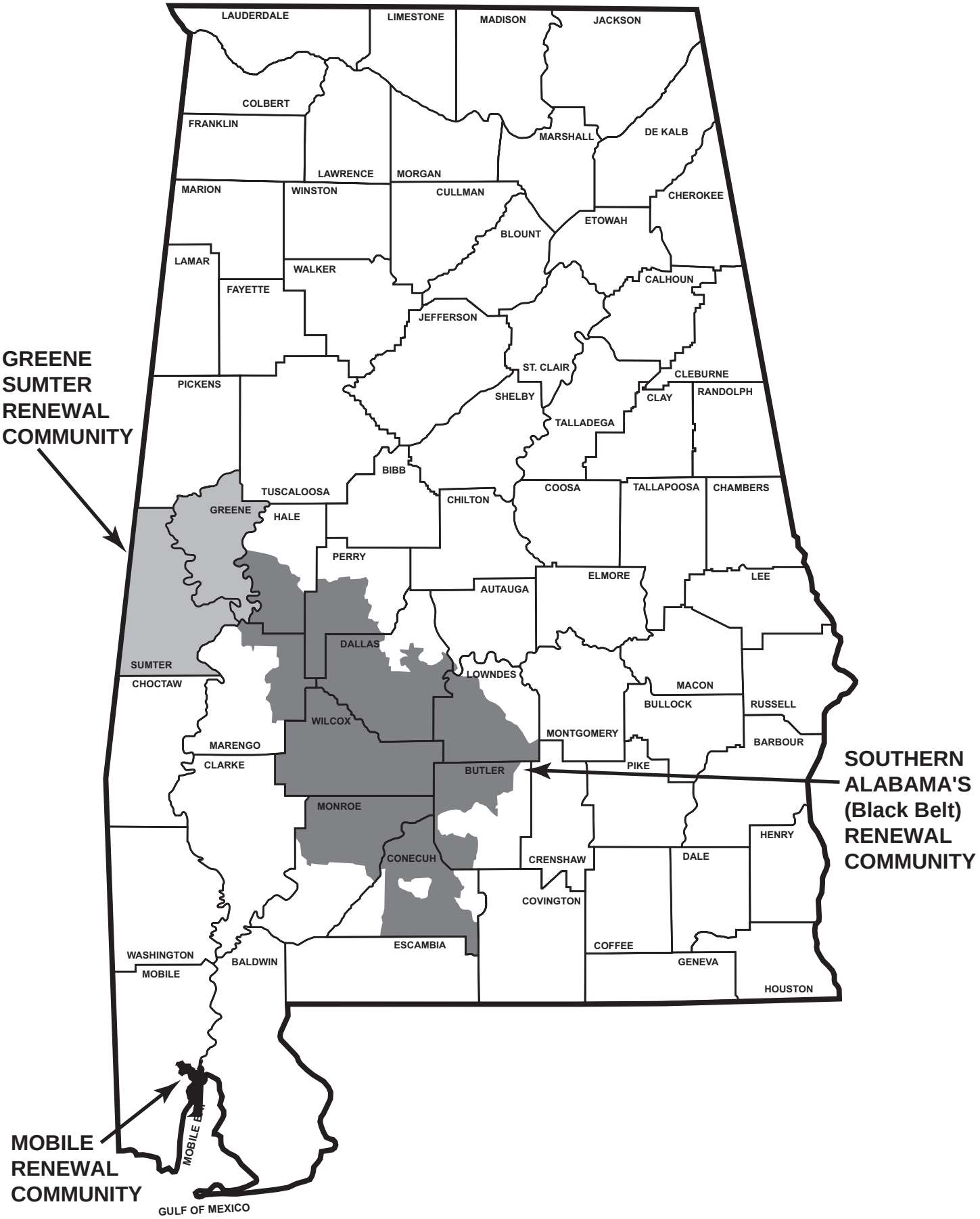
Federal Grantor / Program Title	Receipts	Disbursement
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE		
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration		
Coastal Zone Management Administration Awards	(380.80)	(380.80)
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT		
Community Planning and Development		
Community Development Block Grants/State's Program	35,765,742.21	33,956,228.78
Emergency Shelter Grants Program	1,659,204.91	1,655,095.66
Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS	814,395.43	835,032.82
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR		
National Park Service		
Outdoor Recreation - Acquisition, Development and Planning	25,500.00	25,500.00
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE		
Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants	3,741,140.66	4,481,383.06
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention - Allocation to States	940,054.16	892,012.88
Title V - Delinquency Prevention Program	557,556.55	536,708.90
Part E - State Challenge Activities	125,652.22	125,652.22
Crime Victim Assistance	8,760,436.31	8,515,484.13
Byrne Formula Grant Program	7,019,064.62	6,933,258.21
Violent Offender Incarceration and Truth in Sentencing Incentive Grants	1,464,711.68	1,913,689.40
Violence Against Women Formula Grants	1,945,945.51	2,010,423.23
Local Law Enforcement Block Grants Program	597,063.00	771,837.84
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment or State Prisoners	1,204,096.27	1,198,743.24
Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program	295,205.64	277,036.19
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR		
Employment and Training Administration		
Employment Service	3,697,287.91	3,744,470.52
Employment and Training Assistance - Dislocated Workers	677,063.79	676,379.21
Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers	533,438.58	533,438.58
Employment Services and Job Training Pilots: Demonstrations and Research	7,366,221.82	7,406,912.98
Job Training Partnership Act	1,836,222.25	1,836,222.25
Welfare to Work Grants to States and Localities	4,418,603.85	4,435,290.19
Workforce Investment Act	12,142,076.82	12,145,479.47
WIA Adult Program	9,485,538.74	9,389,265.42
WIA Youth Activities	8,035,974.61	8,217,167.10
WIA Dislocated Workers	8,545,039.02	8,470,910.00
Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers	151,558.44	156,742.37
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION		
Federal Highway Administration		
Recreational Trails Program	519,911.86	568,802.38
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration		

Federal Grantor / Program Title	Receipts	Disbursement
State and Community Highway Safety	2,524,863.53	2,849,441.04
Alcohol Traffic Safety and Drunk Driving Prevention Incentive Grants	805,024.93	585,317.18
Occupant Protection	190,706.40	75,469.33
Federal Highway Safety Data Improvements Incentive Grants	78,949.96	56,786.57
Safety Incentive Grants for Use of Seatbelts	1,315,563.76	1,557,483.05
Transportation Demo Grant and Section 2003B Safety Belts	2,688,416.58	2,751,304.29
APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION		
Appalachian Area Development	(49,817.00)	(49,817.00)
Appalachian State Research, Technical Assistance and Demonstration Projects	77,985.27	146,094.27
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION		
Donation of Federal Surplus Personal Property	9,556,148.00	6,321,596.00
SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION		
Small Business Administration (New Program)	3,551.33	73,336.22
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY		
Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy		
State Energy Program	678,895.91	691,374.14
Weatherization Assistance for Low-Income Persons	1,463,382.35	1,483,684.15
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Information Dissemination, Outreach, Training and Technical Analysis/Assistance	18,978.15	18,978.15
State Energy Program Special Projects	222,445.90	157,033.72
Other Federal Assistance		
Exxon	220,845.81	62,241.67
Strip Oil	36,749.96	804,104.63
Texaco	54,259.23	39,134.04
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY		
Community Assistance Program - State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE)	3,597.85	3,597.85
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION		
Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities	1,569,437.67	1,510,509.77
Career Resource Network State Grant	122,237.70	125,487.47
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES		
Administration for Children and Families		
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance	15,738,726.83	15,467,607.65
Community Services Block Grant	12,009,536.03	12,011,522.02
Community Services Block Grant- Discretionary Awards	22,605.92	23,185.13
Community Services Block Grant Discretionary Awards - Community Food and Nutrition	81,261.41	81,261.41
Emergency Community Services for the Homeless		(884.00)
Social Services in Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities	838,820.65	840,740.43
Family Violence Prevention and Services/Grants for Battered Women's Shelters:Grants to States and Indian Tribes	1,207,038.70	1,189,379.83
TOTAL FEDERAL ASSISTANCE	173,804,538.89	170,584,755.24

ARC and DRA Counties



Alabama's Renewal Communities



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