

## Community Development Block Grant – Economic Development Program

The federally funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program provides funding to communities to help them ensure basic community services, environmental quality and economic opportunities for their residents. Projects must meet at least one of the following national objectives to be considered for CDBG assistance:

- Benefit persons of low- and moderate income
- Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight
- Meet urgent needs because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community and other financial resources are not available to meet such needs

Mississippi's CDBG Economic Development program provides funding for eligible public infrastructure improvements and publicly owned building improvements to support businesses launching, locating or expanding in the state. Job creation is critical to CDBG-assisted economic development projects, and a company benefiting from CDBG Economic Development assistance provided to a municipality or county on its behalf must commit to make a certain capital investment and create a certain number of jobs.

In addition, the CDBG program requires that at least 51 percent of the jobs created must be made available to persons of low and moderate income as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Industries that are typically eligible for assistance through this program include manufacturers, warehouses and distribution centers, research and development facilities, telecommunications and data processing enterprises and national or regional headquarters.

Eligible projects include:

- Drainage systems
- Water and sewer systems
- Roads, bridges and rail spurs
- Public building rehabilitation or expansion projects

For a project to be eligible for CDBG Economic Development assistance, no activity can occur on the site until all necessary federal regulatory and environmental approvals are obtained.

Municipalities and counties interested in applying for CDBG Economic Development funding for new or expanded industry projects should contact MDA's Community Services Division at 601.359.3552. To learn more about CDBG grants and the program's requirements, [click here](#).