Director Jim Byard, Jr.
Jim.Byard@adeca.alabama.gov

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs

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ADECA is part of Alabama’s economic-development engine

- About $630 million in active grants
- More than $200 million in new grants each year
- Many grant programs help cities and counties attract new jobs by improving infrastructure and training workers
- Other programs enhance the quality of life in Alabama communities — a major economic-development factor
History and Purpose

- ADECA is celebrating 30 years of building better Alabama communities in 2013

- Established as a department within the Governor’s Office in 1983

- Provides a single location to assist local governments and non-profits with community and economic development

- 96% of department’s budget is federally funded

- Most grants awarded on competitive criteria
A New ADECA Responsibility

- ADECA participates in the Alabama Economic Development Alliance

- Created by Governor Bentley in 2011 to bring together state agencies, public and private organizations and other groups involved in economic development

- Tasked with developing a plan to guide the state’s economic-development efforts
Alabama Economic Development Alliance

The alliance released the plan, titled *Accelerate Alabama*, in 2012.

- Focuses on three R’s
  - **Recruitment:** Attract new business and industry
  - **Retention:** Retain and expand existing business and industry
  - **Renewal:** Create jobs through innovation, entrepreneurship, research and development and commercialization
Alabama Economic Development Alliance

Targets 11 sectors:

- Aerospace
- Automotive
- Biosciences
- Chemical
- Corporate operations
- Distribution
- Enabling technology
- Food products
- Forest products
- Information technology
- Metal manufacturing
ADECA programs are administered through six divisions:

- Community and Economic Development
- Energy
- Workforce Development
- Surplus Property
- Office of Water Resources
- Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety

The Alabama Center for Commerce in Montgomery.
Community and Economic Development Division

- ADECA’s largest division
- Programs support vital local projects to attract new industry or improve health and welfare
- Reorganized in 2012 to bring similar grant programs under single umbrella

New water storage tank in Georgiana
Community Development Block Grants

- **Competitive** grants of up to $450,000 awarded annually
  - Water and sewer extensions, rehabilitation and street and drainage improvements

- **Community Enhancement** grants of up to $250,000 for projects to improve quality of life
  - Fire stations, senior and community centers and recreational facilities
Community Development Block Grants

- **Planning** grants of up to $40,000 help communities plan for growth

- **Disaster Relief** funds are awarded in response to natural disasters
  - $24.6 million awarded in 2012 to help communities and families recover from April 2011 tornadoes
  - Additional $49.1 million expected in 2013

- **Economic Development** grants typically $200,000 to $500,000 for infrastructure needed to expand industry
Recreation and Conservation

- **Recreation Trails Program** funds trail acquisition, development, renovation, tools and equipment, and trail safety/environmental education
  - Grants typically $10,000 - $100,000 with a 20% local match

- **The Land and Water Conservation Fund** helps local governments acquire and/or develop eligible outdoor recreational resources
  - Grants up to $50,000 with a 50% local match

26-mile mountain biking trail system at Oak Mountain State Park.
Appalachian Regional Commission

- Works to improve living standards and economic opportunities in 13 states
- Includes 37 Alabama counties
- Projects develop and improve Appalachia’s infrastructure to make the region more economically competitive

Applicants must be non-profit or public entities
Delta Regional Authority

- Addresses economic distress and improves quality of life in poorer regions of eight states

- Alabama counties served: Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Dallas, Escambia, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Monroe, Perry, Pickens, Russell, Sumter, Washington and Wilcox.

Governor Bentley signs the cast of a patient who received medical attention as part of Operation Black Belt.
Community Services Block Grants

- Funds allocated annually to 21 Community Action Agencies

- **Community and Food Nutrition Program** helps low-income families find access to nutritional foods

- **Money management programs** help families budget their incomes and **Emergency Funding programs** help meet immediate financial obligations

- **Skill readiness and counseling programs** help recipients qualify for jobs or advancement

- **Daycare and After-School programs** ensure greater classroom success
Other CED Programs

- **Minority Business Enterprise** offers certification to identify small, minority-owned businesses capable of providing goods or services to the government and private sector.

- **Alabama Enterprise Zone Act** provides tax incentives to businesses that locate or expand within Enterprise Zones designated in areas with depressed economies.

- **Emergency Shelter Grants** support emergency shelters for the homeless, domestic violence refuge centers and homeless prevention programs.
Energy Division

- Mission: to increase energy efficiency in homes, businesses, government facilities and transportation

- Three methods:
  - Reducing energy consumption
  - Promoting energy efficient products and technology
  - Encouraging development of renewable energy programs
Grant from the U.S. Department of Energy for energy programs in Alabama

Funds used for:
- Energy-efficient retrofits of K-12 schools and local government buildings
- Energy training and energy education programs
- ENERGY STAR program
- Carpooling programs
AlabamaSAVES Loan Program

- Provides 1-percent-interest rate loans for existing Alabama businesses

- Loans used to install renewable energy systems and implement energy efficiency improvements

Sample project: Sawmill energy-efficient lighting upgrade
Local Government Energy Loan Program

- Zero-percent-interest-rate loans of up to $350,000 for energy projects by local governments, public schools, colleges and universities

- Applications accepted continuously

- Uses: energy efficiency upgrades of buildings, water treatment plants, streetlights, park lights and traffic signals

Lighting upgrades at Johnson Park in Andalusia
Other Energy-Efficiency Programs

- **The Alabama Energy and Residential Codes Board** adopted mandatory residential and commercial energy codes for the state effective June 2012
  - 2009 International Energy Conservation Code for commercial buildings
  - 2009 International Residential Code for residential buildings
- **The State Buildings Program** promotes the use of energy saving methods and practices in buildings occupied by state agencies
Weatherization and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Programs

- Assists low-income families in lowering energy costs of their homes through weatherization projects and other energy efficient methods

- Helps low-income residents pay utility bills

- Main beneficiaries are the elderly, people with disabilities and families with children
Weatherization and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Programs

- 3,032 Alabama homes received weatherization assistance in 2012
- More than 91,000 low-income households received LIHEAP assistance in 2012
Weatherization and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Programs

- Alabama’s 2013 LIHEAP allocation is $44.4 million
- The president’s budget proposes a 15% reduction from national LIHEAP 2013 funding of $3.47 billion to $2.97 billion in 2014
- Currently $3.3 million available for Weatherization Program in Alabama
- Alabama will receive a 2013 Weatherization allocation pending approval of national Weatherization Program funding by Congressional committee
Weatherization and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Programs

A new type of weatherization program in southeast Alabama

- Partnership between the Wiregrass Electrical Cooperative and the Wiregrass Habitat for Humanity
- Began in 2010 with a zero-interest-rate loan program to help qualifying customers make repairs that reduce high energy bills
- ADECA awarded a $50,000 grant in 2012 to provide weatherization improvements to low-income customers who cannot afford to repay a loan
Workforce Development Division

- Helps Alabamians secure employment and develop job skills.
- Administers grant programs under the federal Workforce Investment Act.
- Most services are available through the **Alabama Career Center System**.
**Workforce Development Programs**

- **Incumbent Worker Training** helps workers acquire new skills in the latest technology and management techniques so employers can compete globally and avoid layoffs.

- **Rapid Response Team** provides on-site assistance to workers when substantial layoffs or plant closings are announced.

- **National Emergency Grants** funded temporary clean-up and recovery jobs for victims in communities affected by the April 2011 tornadoes.
Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division

- Administers funding to:
  - Make roads safer
  - Assist victims and bring criminals to justice
  - Combat crime and drugs

- Supports:
  - Drug task forces
  - Domestic violence units
  - Child advocacy centers
  - Traffic safety initiatives

Grants fund local participation in traffic safety initiatives
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants

- Primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions

- Funds support multi-jurisdictional drug and gang task forces, crime prevention programs and justice information sharing initiatives

- Helps smaller law enforcement agencies obtain needed equipment
Highway Safety Grants

- Funds traffic safety campaigns to reduce crashes, deaths and injuries on Alabama’s roads
  - Click It or Ticket
  - Grants awarded to the state’s nine community traffic safety offices
  - These offices work with local law enforcement agencies to increase enforcement of state’s traffic safety laws
Yellow Dot Program

- Helps save the lives of crash victims
- Yellow Dot decal alerts emergency personnel of critical medical information
- Information includes photo ID, emergency contacts, current medications and allergies
- To date, 48 Alabama counties participate in the program

Sheriff’s deputy places Yellow Dot folder in the glove box of a participant’s car.
Victims Assistance Programs

ADECA administers three programs:

- The Victims of Crime Act
- Family Violence Prevention and Services Act
- Violence Against Women Act

Primary Services include:

- Crisis intervention
- Emergency shelter
- Legal aid and court assistance
- Counseling
Surplus Property Division

- Helps state, municipal and county governments and nonprofit agencies obtain equipment at tremendous discounts

- Surplus equipment, furniture vehicles and other items received from state and federal sources

- Warehouses in Montgomery and Eva

ADECA has provided hundreds of surplus trailers to local agencies.
Office of Water Resources

- Plans, coordinates, develops and manages Alabama’s ground and surface water resources

Alabama River
Office of Water Resources

- **Alabama Water Use Reporting System** maintains water demand information for the state.

- **Drought Planning and Management** includes issuing drought declarations and publication and execution of the Alabama Drought Plan

- **Floodplain Management** implements the National Flood Insurance Program and the Flood Mapping Program

- **Interstate water issues** such as the water dispute between Alabama, Florida and Georgia, are matters which OWR provides technical support to the Governor and the Alabama legal team
Alabama Water Agencies Working Group

- Consists of OWR and four other state agencies with water resources responsibilities

- Tasked with developing an overview of water issues and activities in the state

- Prepared and submitted a report to Governor outlining 12 key water resource issues and policy options
  - viewable at: www.adeca.alabama.gov/AWAWG
Long-Term Community Recovery

- Working with FEMA, local officials and residents to develop and implement recovery plans following the April 2011 tornadoes

- Helping communities define clear objectives and sustain a long-term disaster recovery effort

- Maintaining close contact with other state agencies, local officials, Congressional offices, state legislative delegations and the Governor’s staff
E-mail: Jim.Byard@adeca.alabama.gov
Director’s Office: (334) 242-5100
Website: www.adeca.alabama.gov

Contact information for each division is in your “ADECA at a Glance” booklet