Delta Regional
Authority

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Justification and 2014 Annual Report

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

DRA FY 2016 Budget Justification and 2014 Annual Review

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DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL CO-CHAIRMAN

February 13, 2015

On behalf of the Delta Regional Authority (DRA), I herein offer its FY 2016 budget request, which totals $14,936,000, an increase of $2,936,000 over its FY 2015 appropriation of $12,000,000. During FY 2016 the DRA shall invest in – and leverage additional federal funding toward – proven economic development solutions to assist the Delta region. Specifically, the agency's programs will help promote the growth of a skilled workforce, bolster job creation, enhance access to affordable capital for small businesses and entrepreneurs, and increase community bank and lending institution activity, while increasing export activity by regional businesses. These investments will also help support and improve the outcomes of the Administration's place-based initiatives and "Ladders of Opportunity" agenda.

The DRA will dedicate $2,000,000 of its $2,936,000 increase to a specific set of programs, collectively called the "DRA Regional and Federal Partnerships Initiative." The remaining $936,000 of the increased FY 2016 funding will be devoted to the DRA's States' Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP) investment program, all without increasing the administrative costs associated with those additional investments.

In looking toward the coming year, the DRA will continue its successful practices of strong accountability and transparency. The DRA recognizes its institutional focus to be fiscally responsible, while it works to help create jobs, build communities, and improve lives. For example, in FY 2014, the DRA earned its 12th unmodified audit (out of 12 audits) from its independent financial auditors. Furthermore, in the DRA's FY 2014 Performance and Accountability Report, there were no reportable deficiencies nor weaknesses, and in the past three audit years the DRA's compliance systems have been tested 741 times with zero exceptions.

Throughout its 13 years of service to the Delta region, the DRA has invested more than $128 million into 871 projects, leveraging more than $702 million in other public funds and more than $2 billion in private-sector investment – for a total of $2.87 billion in leveraged funds, a leverage ratio of 21.26 to 1.

As a result of these 13 investment cycles, the DRA's SEDAP is producing some remarkable outcomes:

- Helping to create and retain 41,673 jobs,
- Helping to afford 82,486 families access to clean and safe water and/or sewer services, and
- Helping to train 12,724 people for jobs in their area.

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In FY 2014 alone, the DRA invested more than $9.6 million into 72 projects, leveraging more than $21.6 million in other public funds and more than $13 million in private-sector investment – for a total of $34.7 million in leveraged funds, a leverage ratio of 3.62 to 1.

As a result of its FY 2014 investment, the DRA's SEDAP is:

- Helping to create and retain 2,182 jobs,
- Helping to afford 29,889 families access to clean and safe water and/or sewer services, and
- Helping to train 439 individuals for jobs in their area.

It is important to note that when the DRA makes investments into projects that will help create or retain jobs, the DRA requires the grantee to execute a "participation agreement" which helps protect taxpayer money should outcomes not meet the levels executed in the grant agreement. In such cases, the DRA shall recover the prorated share of the deficiency, helping to ensure optimal outcomes and effective use of federal investment.

During FY 2015, the DRA continues to work closely with federal partners on joint initiatives that will provide additional opportunities to grow and sustain the region. One of our proud partnerships is the Innovative Readiness Training program with the U.S. Department of Defense, which has brought free medical services to more than 50,000 Delta residents during a six-year span. Each of these health missions bring military medical reservists to some of our most underserved communities to provide preventative care services, including: dental exams and tooth extractions, physical exams, nutritional education, mental health consultation, and optical exams and glasses for those in need. The DRA is looking forward to continuing this partnership in FY 2016 in Delta communities in the Missouri bootheel and the Alabama Black Belt region.

These new and continued joint investments with federal partners will help leverage better outcomes for families and individuals in the region, empowering Delta communities to secure more resources for infrastructure development, to gain access to affordable capital for small businesses and entrepreneurs, and to ensure better job training and more skilled workforces. The DRA is a partner in the following joint programs, and will continue its involvement with these and other collaborative federal initiatives:

- The Made In Rural America (MIRA) Export and Investment Initiative led by the White House Rural Council (WHRC), (DRA served as a convener in the region, holding the largest of the five national forum events);
- The Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) with the White House National Economic Council, the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, and partners across the federal government;
- The Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Military Medical Program with the US Department of Defense;

- The Healthy Workforce Challenge with the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources Services Administration;
- The Delta Health Care Services (DHCS) Grant Program with the US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development;
- The Local Foods, Local Places (LFLP) Program with the US Environmental Protection Agency, the US Department of Agriculture, the US Department of Labor, The Centers for Disease Control, and the Appalachian Regional Commission;
- The Promise Zones initiative with the US Department of Agriculture and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development;
- The Delta Community Capital Initiative with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, The US Department of the Treasury, Community Development Financial Institution, and the US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development;
- The Rural Jobs Accelerator Challenge with the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Agency and the US Department of Agriculture;
- The Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant Program (TAACCCT) with the US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration;
- Community-based partnerships with the White House Council on Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2).

With all these accomplishments in the DRA's past and present, I look forward to continuing our efforts in the coming year and building upon our record of helping to create jobs, build communities, and improve the lives of all people in the Delta region.

Thank you for your support of the important work that we do. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at cmasingill@dra.gov or my Chief of Staff, Bill Triplett, at btriplett@dra.gov.

Sincerely,

Christopher A. Masingill

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Federal Co-Chairman's Annual Review

FY 2014 proved to be an exciting and productive year for the Delta Regional Authority (DRA), as it expanded already existing partnerships and programs and took great strides in creating new opportunities, resources and services for Delta communities. Collaborating with an array of agency partners at the federal, state and local levels, the DRA enhanced existing programs and embarked upon new policy initiatives that addressed important priorities like workforce development, entrepreneurship, and access to affordable capital. Under the leadership of Federal Co-Chairman Chris Masingill and State Co-Chairman Governor Phil Bryant, the DRA continues to expand its efforts in support of communities, businesses, and people in the Delta region, by making targeted investments supporting the development of a skilled, productive workforce, successful small businesses and entrepreneurs, and strong public and transportation infrastructure. Below are some highlights of the past year's accomplishments discussed in further detail throughout this publication.

February 2014

Each year, the Delta Regional Authority holds its Annual Governors Quorum Meeting during the National Governors Association (NGA) conference. At that time, the region's eight governors join DRA leadership and staff to discuss the past year, plan for the coming year, and make decisions on how to move the agency forward. The meeting provided the Federal Co-Chairman and DRA staff the opportunity to update the Board of Governors on DRA's programs, investments, and policy initiatives. With the support of its Board of Governors, DRA approved the coming year's state allocations for the States' Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP)—DRA's flagship federal investment program—and determined distressed and non-distressed county and parish designations. Additionally, Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant assumed the role of State Co-Chairman for the coming year, as Missouri Governor Jay Nixon completed his two-year term in the state chair position.

February ended with the launch of DRA's 2014 Innovative Readiness Training season with the Cajun Care medical mission in Abbeville, Louisiana. This is the first time in six years that DRA and the military reserves have held an IRT medical mission outside the summer months. During ten days of service, Navy Reserve and Air National Guard troops provided free medical, dental, optical, mental, and health education services to more than 3,100 southern Louisiana residents. These services were valued at more than $1 million in community impact for Abbeville and the surrounding region.

March 2014

The Delta Regional Authority works closely with regional and national organizations that directly support or advocate for economic development in the Delta region and DRA leadership work closely with these organizations and their members to boost economic opportunities for Delta communities. In late March, Chairman Masingill engaged with members and leadership of both the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) and National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) on a panel to discuss the strategic investments federal agencies are making in rural areas such as the Delta region. DRA leadership is actively involved

in both IEDC and NADO's annual policy conferences to educate members on the role of DRA in its communities as well as gain insight into models for economic development that are seeing success across the country.

DRA joined the mayors of the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative in Washington to advocate for policies that support the economic growth of communities along the Mississippi River and the economic viability of the River itself. DRA staff and leadership participated in meetings and events with the mayors as they worked with federal leadership to bring container-on-barge shipping back to the Mississippi River and encouraged the US Army Corps of Engineers and congressional leadership to support increased investment into the infrastructure of small public ports along the River.

April 2014

In order to be successful in its mission to help create jobs, build communities, and improve life for the nearly 10 million people of the Delta region, the Delta Regional Authority relies on strong partnerships and relationships with its fellow federal agencies. As part of the White House Rural Council, the DRA has built programs with fellow agencies and participated in other agencies' funding programs to leverage increased federal investments in the Delta region. In April, Chairman Masingill, Memphis Mayor A.C. Wharton, and Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell welcomed US Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx, US Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy, and US Department of Housing and Urban Development Region 4 Administrator Ed Jennings as part of a tour to highlight federal investments made through the Partnerships for Sustainable Communities (PSC) and in partnership with DRA investments. At the end of the tour, the DRA hosted a community roundtable that allowed local leadership to showcase successful projects as well as voice challenges and needs that PSC can help to address in the future through potential implementation funding.

May 2014

As some of its most important partners in driving economic development in the Delta, the Local Development Districts that cover the DRA's footprint serve as front-line project developers and managers for the DRA. To support their abilities to provide quality technical assistance in this area, the DRA held its second Local Development District (LDD) Academy in Memphis, providing professional development for leadership and staff of the 44 local development districts in the region. The Academy trained participants in the programs, policies, and operations of the DRA as well as in best practices for project application and management. Graduates of the LDD Academy earned certification as DRA Strategic Partners—which is a requirement of LDD partners to work with DRA projects and receive administrative funding for front-line project management and development.

The DRA also joined its federal partners from the White House Rural Council to announce the twelve regions designated as Manufacturing Communities as part of the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP), which is designed to accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing in communities by support the development of long-term economic development strategies that help communities attract and expand private investment in and increase international

trade and exports. One of the twelve regions – the Southwest Alabama "Partners for Growth" Consortium – covers counties in the DRA's footprint. DRA currently serves as the federal liaison working with the Southwest Alabama community to access federal funding to support its efforts. As part of IMCP, the DRA has inserted preference language into its SEDAP guidelines that prioritize projects that support designated communities' efforts in boosting its manufacturing sector.

June 2014

Chairman Masingill joined Mississippi Governor and DRA State Co-Chairman Phil Bryant to announce a $1.7 million investment into enhancing the region's workforce development systems through its Reimagining the Delta Workforce initiative. The initiative would encompass eight state-specific summits to convene state leadership to identify challenges and opportunities for system transformation as well as a competitive investment program that empowers communities to train local leadership and develop plans to strengthen their regional workforce training systems.

July 2014

DRA joined the U.S. Department of Defense Civil-Military Programs for a sixth year of partnership in 2014 for Innovative Readiness Training (IRT), a program bringing military medical personnel to a community to provide free medical care to residents of the specified or surrounding communities. This summer, the partnership expanded its outreach in the region to organize four medical missions in 11 communities across six states - Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee – serving more than 13,000 patients. The DRA continued its outreach and education efforts in partnership with the Health Resources and Services Administration to inform patients on their opportunities to enroll in the health insurance marketplace. Dr. Mary Wakefield, HRSA administrator, toured several clinics in Arkansas and visited with both the troops and the patients receiving services to experience the positive outreach taking place at the IRT medical missions.

In mid June, Department of Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker joined DRA to host one of five Made in Rural America regional forums in Memphis, Tennessee. The forums brought together business owners, exporters, and support organizations to network with federal, state, and local leadership, learn more about the potential for growth available with exporting, and connect with the resources available to support their efforts. The DRA-DOC regional forum was the largest of the five, bringing more than 250 people together for this exciting event. Panels featured businesses exporting their products, shippers, export support organizations, and local and regional officials. At the end of the forum, prospective exporters were able to meet one on one with financial lending institutions and export assistance experts to discuss opportunities to begin exporting their product.

August 2014

DRA held its first three workforce summits, which convened business and industry, educators, government leaders, and economic and community developers to identify the challenges of and work towards solutions for reforming the Delta's workforce development system into a pipeline of skilled workers equipped for the needs of 21st Century jobs. These summits in Arkansas, Missouri, and Tennessee connected more than 250 regional leaders with a network that can

collaborate to achieve positive change for the Delta region's workforce development systems. The region's ability to achieve and sustain economic growth relies on its ability to provide employers with the human resources required to necessary to deliver their products and services. Armed with the research and recommendations provided by the Southern Growth Policy Board's report, Re-imagining the Delta Workforce, DRA toured the eight states in its footprint engaging leaders in the discussion and search for solutions in their state.

September 2014

In September, the National Geographic Society's Geotourism Division and the Big River Strategic Initiative (BSRI) partnered to promote the region as an official Geotourism destination. BRSI is leading the partnership effort to join the Mississippi River Corridor with a growing number of destinations nationally that participate in the global tourism program sponsored by the National Geographic's Center for Sustainable Destinations. Geotourism, defined as tourism that sustains or enhances the geographic character of a place, incorporates the concepts of sustainable tourism by preserving the unspoiled nature of its featured destinations and ecotourism. The Delta Regional Authority provided the funding necessary to launch the partnership, which will begin organizing regional meetings to recruit additional partners and businesses to participate in the geotourism project in 2015.

Also in September, the Delta Leadership Institute honored its most recent graduating class of Executive Academy fellows at the Arkansas State Capitol in September. In recognition and support of the fact that strong leadership is essential to the success of rural America, DRA sponsors an elite group of leaders from its eight states in the region every year for a series of sessions outlining the Delta's problems, solutions, and the resources necessary to achieve those solutions. During the six sessions taking place in five cities around the region and in Washington, DC, participants discuss challenges in access to affordable health care education, recruitment of business investment, retention of human capital, maintenance of necessary public infrastructure, and cultivation of entrepreneurial ecosystems. Most importantly, though, these sessions provide participants with the opportunity to collaborate on crafting solutions for the Delta region. This was the tenth graduating class from the Institute, and its members join more than 300 alumni of the program who live and work in the region.

October 2014

One of the greatest barriers to entry for starting or growing a small business in the Delta region is the availability and accessibility of affordable capital. In rural Delta communities, there is often a lack of access to banking services, borrowing opportunities, and the capital needed to achieve business success. In October, the Delta Regional Authority launched a series of workshops—"Meet the Lenders"—to help Delta businesses connect to and access funding for their businesses. DRA worked with the US Small Business Administration, the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI), and regional community lenders to host targeted networking sessions for small business owners and conversations with stakeholders to identify opportunities to increase lending in Delta counties and parishes.

November 2014

DRA awarded more than $9.6 million in investments in 72 projects across the eight-state region through the 13th cycle of the States' Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP). SEDAP is the DRA's primary investment tool which makes significant impact in creating jobs, building communities, and improving lives in the Delta. The projects focus on the DRA's four investment priorities of Basic Public Infrastructure, Transportation Infrastructure, Workforce Development and Education, and Business Development. These DRA investments are leveraging an additional $34.7 million in other public and private investment that contributes to job creation and retention, infrastructure development, workforce training, and business attraction.

December 2014

In continuation of its Reimagining the Delta Workforce summits, the DRA announced more than $1.5 million in investments into 12 communities across the region. These investments are directed at communities to train and connect their leadership in positive workforce development strategies and to begin planning and implementing regional workforce development systems. The investments come as a part of the Reimagining the Delta Workforce initiative, which is working through summits, investments, and stakeholder engagement to transform the level of skilled workers in Delta communities to attract and retain business investment and success in the region.

January 2015

As part of its Small Business and Entrepreneurship Initiative and in partnership with The Idea Village in New Orleans, the DRA launched the Delta Entrepreneurship Network (DEN) to identify, connect, nurture, and grow entrepreneurs across the Delta region by addressing regional deficiencies in capital, training, and best practices through a connected infrastructure of support organizations, investors, and educators. The Delta Entrepreneurship Network will identify 16 entrepreneurs and 16 entrepreneurship support organizations as Network fellows who will receive access to emerging entrepreneurs, gain technical knowledge and training, expand their entrepreneurship support network, and learn additional entrepreneurial ecosystem development strategies. The fellows will be selected in March 2015 through a series of pitch competitions known as the Delta Challenge and will then participate in a "pitch boot camp" before going on to pitch and network in a special segment of the 2015 New Orleans Entrepreneur Week.

The DRA has launched a new website which provides residents, entrepreneurs, and economic developers across the region with new tools and information to identify and secure investments and resources to support local and regional economic development. The new website enhances its website's services and makes more effective and efficient a visitor's experience with DRA.gov. The new website will soon launch a new funding portal for SEDAP's 2015 cycle, leadership portal for DLI, and a jobs board for the Delta Doctors program.

White House Rural Council and Delta Regional Authority Partnership Updates

To address challenges in rural America, the President signed an Executive Order establishing the White House Rural Council (WHRC). The White House Rural Council coordinates the Administration's efforts in rural America by performing three core functions: streamlining and improving the effectiveness of federal programs serving rural America; engaging stakeholders, including farmers, ranchers, and local citizens, on issues and solutions in rural communities; and promoting and coordinating private-sector partnerships.

The White House Rural Council focuses on job creation and economic development by targeting four key areas:

- Opportunity: Increasing the flow of capital to rural areas, job creation, and workforce development
- Innovation: Including the expansion of telecommunications, renewable energy, and new markets for rural communities
- Quality of Life: Including increased access to quality healthcare, education, and housing, and particularly in persistent poverty counties and tribal areas
- Conservation: Including expansion of outdoor opportunities and economic growth

The DRA is a member of the White House Rural Council and actively participates with all aspects of the Council. In FY 2014 the DRA worked with its WHRC partners to support, promote, and implement the Made In Rural America Export and Investment Initiative as well as the Local Foods, Local Places Partnership. In FY 2015, the DRA continues to work with the White House Rural Council on these and other partnerships, including one item currently in development – the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Policy Conference.

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development Policy Conference

In December 2014, the White House Rural Council (WHRC) announced that the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Rural Development Policy Conference: "National Prosperity through Modern Rural Policy" will be held in Memphis, Tennessee, May 19-21, 2015. The conference will mark the 10th meeting of the world's leading policy officials, international experts and representatives from the private sector for discussing best practices for rural areas, and will take stock of the evolution and progress made in rural development since the first conference of its kind held in 2002. It will be hosted by the White House Rural Council with the support of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and Mexico's Secretariat for Agrarian, Territorial and Urban Development. The OECD is an international economic organization of 34 countries founded in 1961 to stimulate economic progress and world trade.

At the time of the upcoming conference's announcement, the Delta Regional Authority was asked by its White House Rural Council and US Department of Agriculture (USDA) partners to participate with, and logistically support, the conference and related events in the Delta region.

The DRA is working closely with USDA, OECD, and numerous other partners to plan event logistics for the conference, which will be held May 19-21,2015 in Memphis, Tennessee. DRA has helped to arrange for the hotel, meeting venues, convention center and visitors' bureau and other spaces that will be utilized by the attendees of this invite-only conference. DRA has also agreed to assume responsibility for the planning of tours for international participants only, beginning on May 21 and ending on May 23, in surrounding areas and other parts of the Delta region. There will be four tours for the conference's international travelers to choose from, and the tours will include regional highlights including Discovery Park of America, the US Space and Rocket Center, the Clinton Presidential Library, the BB King Museum, and other cultural and historic attractions in the region. The DRA will also host a reception for conference attendees on the first night of the conference.

The OECD "National Prosperity through Modern Rural Policy" conference will include panels and plenary sessions featuring Secretaries and Ministers from countries all over the world. Workshops will cover topics such as: natural resources and rural development; food security and the role for modern policy; housing and land use in rural areas; creating jobs and economic opportunities; linking rural and urban places; and building resilience in rural areas. These are just some of the many important topics that will be addressed, as the OECD and its partners work to measure progress that has been made over the past decade, and to set policy goals and recommendations for the future.

Made in Rural America Export and Investment Initiative

The Made in Rural America Export and Investment Initiative was first announced on February 7, 2014, when the President directed his administration, working through the White House Rural Council, to develop a new initiative focused on rural exporting. The main aim of the initiative is to bring together federal resources to help rural businesses and leaders take advantage of new investment opportunities and access new customers and markets abroad. The initiative includes many federal partners, including but not limited to: the Delta Regional Authority, the US Department of Agriculture, the US Department of Commerce, the US Small Business Administration, the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

In FY 2014, in partnership with the White House Rural Council, the Delta Regional Authority hosted the largest of five major summits held across the country. The summits were born out of the Made in Rural America initiative and brought together businesses and experts to share best practices for exporting goods and services from rural areas. Secretary Penny Pritzker of the US Department of Commerce and Delta Regional Authority Federal Co-Chairman Chris Masingill were the keynote speakers at the Memphis forum. The event connected attendees to technical assistance as well as state and federal resources and provided an opportunity for business owners and exporters to network with local, state, and national leaders around the shared interest in building the pipeline for exports from the Delta region. The summit was held in north Memphis on Thursday, July 17th at Southwest Tennessee Community College. More than 250 participants attended the forum representing communities from all eight Delta states and across the country. The forum featured many different speakers who relayed their best practices and recommendations for aspiring and new rural exporters. The extensive lineup of speakers during

the event included: Karen Nippert, Southwest Tennessee Community College Vice President of Institutional Advancement; Phil Trenary, Greater Memphis Chamber President and CEO; Doug McKalip, White House Domestic Policy Council Senior Policy Advisor for Rural Affairs; David Spann, Memphis US Export Assistance Center Director for US Commercial Service; Don Lake, Vice President of Global Operations for Dunavant Logistics Group; Craig Simonton, Sales and Marketing Manager for Hydratek; Reid Dulberger, President and CEO for Memphis and Shelby County Economic Growth Engine (EDGE,) Mayors AC Wharton and Mark Luttrell, and many others.

In FY 2015, the White House Rural Council has again directed the DRA, along with other federal partners, to continue to develop the MIRA initiative. The DRA has agreed to host capacity building workshops in the Delta region with support from the US Department of Commerce and other agencies to continue the important work of training business leaders to become successful exporters and to prepare them for, and support them in attending, international trade missions.

Local Foods, Local Places

First announced on June 9, 2014 during a White House Rural Council (WHRC) meeting in Washington DC, which was livestreamed to other locations across the country, the Local Foods, Local Places (LFLP) program aims to boost economic opportunities for local farmers and businesses, to improve access to healthy foods, to revitalize downtowns and traditional neighborhoods by supporting farmers' markets, food hubs, community gardens, and community kitchens, and to improve accessibility of these amenities. The announcement was made during the WHRC meeting jointly by US Department of Agriculture Secretary Vilsack, US Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx, Environmental Protection Agency Deputy Administrator Bob Perciasepe, Delta Regional Authority Federal-Co Chairman Chris Masingill, and Appalachian Regional Commission Federal Co-Chairman Earl Gohl. The LFLP partnership exemplifies the White House Rural Council's commitment to leveraging community solutions to solve economic challenges in rural America. The program focuses on developing local food systems as a means of revitalizing traditional downtowns and promoting economic diversification. The program helps the winning communities improve their livability by promoting economic development, preserving rural lands, and increasing access to locally grown food. In addition to the White House Rural Council and the five partners listed above, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also joined the partnership, for a total of six federal partners supporting and funding the initiative.

On December 3, 2014 the federal partners announced 26 communities selected to participate in the LFLP program nationwide with seven of those awardees located in the Delta. The DRA held a Delta region-wide press call led by Chairman Masingill with Doug McKalip, White House Domestic Policy Council Senior Policy Advisor for Rural Affairs and other federal representatives announcing the seven communities in four DRA states. The call was attended by all seven awardees as well as local and federal representatives and members of the press. In FY 2015, the DRA continues to work closely with the federal partners and regional awardees to support the successful completion of their projects.

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Summary

The Delta Regional Authority (DRA's) FY 2016 budget request is $14,936,000, a $2,936,000 increase from DRA's fiscal year 2015 appropriation of $12,000,000.

Sources and Uses

The budget table below shows the uses of DRA's appropriation as follows:

- FY 2014 Actual Federal Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2014
- FY 2015 Budgeted Federal Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2015
- FY 2016 Requested Federal Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2016

As seen in the table below, DRA's appropriation increases by $2,936,000 in FY 2016.

Sources & Uses of FY Federal Appropriations

Sources:	**FY 2014 Actual**	**FY 2015 Budgeted**	**FY 2016 Requested**
	$ 12,000,000	$ 12,000,000	$ 14,936,000
Uses:	**FY 2014 Actual**	**FY 2015 Budgeted**	**FY 2016 Requested**
Administration	$ 1,597,480.00	$ 1,546,241.00	$ 1,546,241.00
LDD Technical Asst.	453,902.00	453,902.00	453,902.00
SEDAP	9,448,618.00	9,499,857.00	10,435,857.00
E/C	500,000.00	500,000.00	500,000.00
DRA Regional and Federal Partnerships Initiative	-	-	2,000,000.00
Total	**$ 12,000,000**	**$ 12,000,000**	**$ 14,936,000**

Through its $12,936,000 in base funding, DRA will continue to make investments directed toward DRA's four priority funding categories: small business and entrepreneurship; workforce development and training; basic public infrastructure and transportation infrastructure. Additionally, DRA will hold its administrative expenses constant with its FY 2015 level of $1,546,241 while increasing its investments by $936,000. The amount of $936,000 will be devoted to DRA's States' Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP) investment account and other DRA investment programs—without increasing administrative costs associated with administering those additional investments.

The $2,000,000 in additional funding will be directed toward a new funding category for FY 2016: a set of programs collectively called the "DRA Regional and Federal Partnerships Initiative." The amount of $2,000,000 will go directly to the DRA Regional and Federal Partnerships Initiative and shall invest in—as well as leverage additional federal funding toward—proven economic development solutions. The initiative will promote the growth of a skilled workforce, bolster job creation, enhance access to affordable capital for small businesses and entrepreneurs, increase community bank and lending institution activity, and increase export activity by regional businesses. These investments will also help to support and improve the outcomes of the current

Administration's place-based initiatives and "Ladders of Opportunity" agenda, as further described below in the "DRA Regional and Federal Partnerships Initiative" section.

DRA Regional and Federal Partnerships Initiative

The $2,000,000 in additional funding allocated for the DRA Regional and Federal Partnerships Initiative will align directly with the President's "Ladders of Opportunity" agenda and with the driving philosophy behind the Administration's place-based investment efforts. DRA will use this additional funding to implement new and existing programs. In doing so, DRA will use its regional expertise to ensure that resources are put to use in ways that are relevant to the communities they aim to improve—drawing upon local assets as comparative advantages to enhance the effectiveness of federal assistance.

DRA's Regional and Federal Partnerships Initiative will be targeted to produce and leverage measurable outcomes, such as:

- Supporting and growing a more highly skilled workforce;
- Creating and supporting new and indigenous businesses and new jobs;
- Increasing funding and activity for community banks, CDFIs, and other lending institutions;
- Enhancing access to affordable capital for small businesses and entrepreneurs (which are the backbone of the Delta economy);
- Increasing export activity by regional businesses, particularly targeted at minority businesses which have shown to hold particular willingness in exporting products; and
- Increasing volume and effectiveness of federal investments into Delta communities.

In order to produce the outcomes described above, the DRA will direct the additional funding to support the following efforts:

- "Phase-one" (awareness-raising) and "phase-two" (technical skill-building) workshops, to train and educate local leaders, economic developers, and community stakeholders to access new resources and implement sound economic development strategies and programs in their communities; *(eg. partnership events like the Made in Rural America regional export forums and DRA-SBA "Meet the Lenders" Access to Affordable Capital workshops)* -- **Requested funding of $200,000.**

- An investment fund to finance "phase-one" challenge grant and competitive investment programming that leverage other public and private funds into the region--targeted at programs that increase job creation, exports from Delta businesses, and creation of local businesses *(eg. partnership in programs like the Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge, Make it in America Challenge, and Delta Health Care Services Grant Program);* as well as "phase-two" implementation resources—as follow-up support upon

completion of planning phase—for existing federal planning grants to ensure measurable outcomes for a project *(eg. partnership in programs like HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants and Local Foods, Local Places)* -- **Requested funding of $1,000,000;**

- Hiring four regional project developers, who will provide on-the-ground support throughout the region to communities and local leadership as well as feedback to DRA and federal partners to better align and utilize existing resources, infrastructure, and organizations available from federal agencies and philanthropic partners *(eg. a regional innovation on the White House Council for Strong Cities, Strong Communities focused on rural-urban connections)*; -- **Requested funding of $400,000;**

- Building a regional data platform that will aggregate publicly available information in an easy-to-use resource bank that local leadership can use for grant-writing, economic development, and planning--and the resources to train local leadership in its use *(an extrapolation of East Arkansas Planning and Development District's forthcoming regional data platform—initially funded by a HUD regional planning grant)* -- **Requested funding of $400,000;** and

Budget

DRA Regional and Federal Partnerships Initiative Funding Request	**Investment**
Phase-one and phase-two outreach and education workshops for local leadership and stakeholders	$200,000
Investment fund for phase-one challenge grants, new or leveraged competitive investment programs, and phase-two implementation of federal planning grants	$1,000,000
Four regional project developers providing on-the-ground support for communities in resource alignment and project development	$400,000
Regional Data Platform for grant writing, economic development, and planning	$400,000
Total:	**$2,000,000**

Delta Regional Authority Budget Presentation: Sources & Uses of Federal Appropriations

Sources	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Bugeted	FY 2016 Requested
Federal Appropriations	$ 12,000,000	$ 12,000,000	$ 14,936,000
Uses			
Administration	$ 1,597,480	$ 1,546,241	$ 1,546,241
LDD Technical Asst.	$ 453,902	$ 453,902	$ 453,902
SEDAP	$ 9,448,618	$ 9,499,857	$ 10,435,857
E/C	$ 500,000	$ 500,000	$ 500,000
DRA Regional and Federal Partnerships Initiative	$ -	$ -	$ 2,000,000

Administration

Uses	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Bugeted	FY 2016 Requested
FED -- Salaries	$ 498,789	$ 464,777	$ 315,777
FED - Benefits	147,718	137,109	93,154
DRA -- Salaries	201,740	222,257	301,757
DRA -- Benefits	59,581	65,566	89,018
Unfilled Positions	-	30,000	30,000
Contracted Staff Positions	77,623	77,623	148,623
FED -- Travel	100,000	60,565	60,598
DRA -- Travel	32,000	57,000	57,000
Meetings &Conferences	56,000	56,000	56,000
Contracted Services & Supplies	82,800	82,800	82,800
Insurance: Non-Health	13,200	13,200	13,200
Professional Services	193,844	157,844	157,844
Communications & Outreach	39,385	26,700	26,700
Professional Development	11,000	11,000	11,000
Printing & Publications	32,252	32,252	32,252
Supplies & Materials	40,048	40,048	40,048
Equipment	11,500	11,500	11,500
	-	-	18,969
Total Administrative Expenses	**$ 1,597,480**	**$ 1,546,241**	**$ 1,546,241**

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December 11, 2014

Mr. Christopher A. Masingill
Federal Co-Chairman
Delta Regional Authority
236 Sharkey Avenue, Suite 400
Clarksdale, MS 38614-4405

Dear Chairman Masingill:

I wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate you and your staff on a successful audit. Delta Regional Authority (DRA) received an unmodifed or "clean" opinion on their financial statements, which is the highest level of opinion we can issue. Furthermore, the auditor's report on internal control over financial reporting and compliance for audits under *Government Auditing Standards* reported no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control. DRA continued to have a strong performance in compliance with policy and grant controls. This was evident in our compliance testing where our sample of 18 grant files were tested for a total of 224 attributes with no exceptions identified.

The results of the audit are commendable, and I appreciate your and Chief of Staff Bill Triplett's commitment to achieving such financial and compliance results. Under your leadership, DRA has continued to seek ways to enhance and improve internal accounting and compliance controls. BKD stands ready to assist in any way we can.

We appreciate our long standing relationship with DRA and look forward to future years.

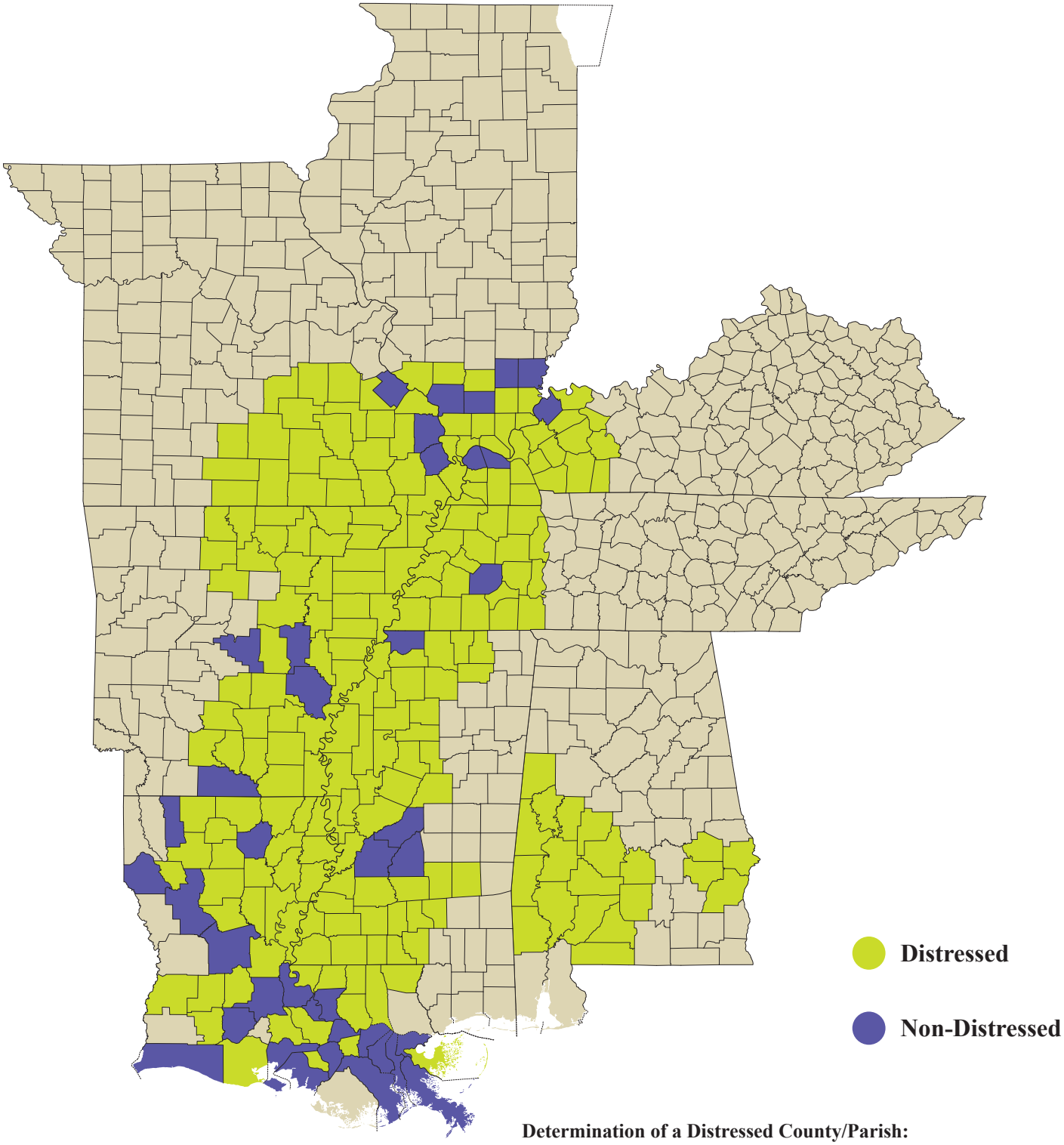
Sincerely,

Timothy T. Burns, CPA

TTB:jsh

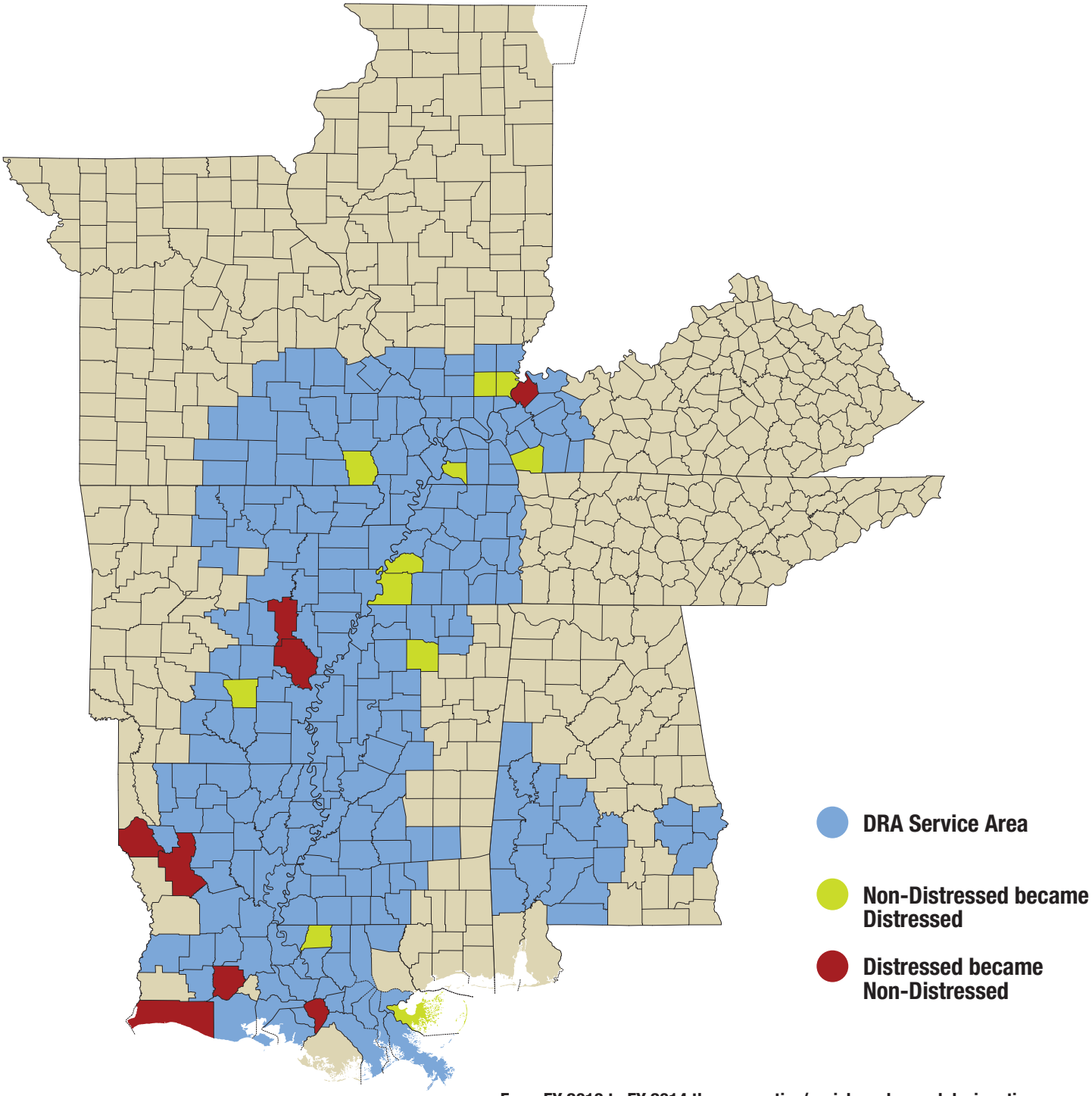
Praxity MEMBER
GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF INDEPENDENT FIRMS

FY 2014 DRA Distressed/Non-Distressed Counties and Parishes



Determination of a Distressed County/Parish:
Unemployment rate of one percent higher (9.0 percent) than the national average (8.0 percent) for the most recent 24-month period; or have a per capita income of 80 percent or less of the national per capita income.

Distressed/Non-Distressed Counties and Parishes Designation Change from FY 2013 to FY 2014



From FY 2013 to FY 2014 these counties/parishes changed designation according to the formula below:
Unemployment rate of one percent higher (9.8 percent) than the national average (8.8 percent) for the most recent 24-month period; or have a per capita income of 80 percent or less of the national per capita income.

FY 2014 DRA Counties and Parishes

In FY 2013, the DRA Service Area encompassed a total of 210 distressed counties and parishes of 252 total counties and parishes. For FY 2014, 212 counties unfortunately met the distressed threshold. To be deemed distressed, counties and parishes must meet one of the following criteria:

1. An unemployment rate of one percent higher (9.8 percent) than the national average (8.8 percent) for the most recent 24-month period; or
2. Have a per capita income of 80 percent or less of national per capita income.

To determine pockets of distress in non-distressed counties, 2010 Census Tract information was reviewed to determine which tracts meet the distressed criteria; the 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates for unemployment and Per Capita Income were used.

FY 2014 Newly Distressed Counties and Parishes

Alabama	Arkansas	Illinois	Kentucky
(None)	Cleveland	Gallatin	Hickman
		Saline	Trigg
Louisiana	**Mississippi**	**Missouri**	**Tennessee**
East Feliciana	Lafayette	Butler	Shelby
St. Bernard			Tipton

FY 2014 Newly Non-Distressed Counties and Parishes

Alabama	Arkansas	Illinois	Kentucky	Louisiana
(None)	Arkansas	Hamilton	Union	Acadia
	Prairie			Assumption
Mississippi	**Missouri**	**Tennessee**		Cameron
(None)	(None)	(None)		De Soto
				Natchitoches

The above table illustrates counties and parishes whose status changed for FY 2014. Counties/ parishes that no longer meet either of the aforementioned criteria are reassigned as non-distressed counties. Counties/parishes that may have been

categorized as distressed in FY 2013 and now meet one or both of the formula criteria are reassigned, per guidelines, to reflect status as non-distressed counties.

FY 2014 DRA Distressed Counties and Parishes

Alabama

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

Arkansas

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

Illinois

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

Kentucky

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

Louisiana

Allen	East Feliciana	Livingston	Tangipahoa
Avoyelles	Evangeline	Madison	Tensas
Beauregard	Franklin	Morehouse	Union
Bienville	Grant	Red River	Vermillion
Caldwell	Iberville	Richland	Washington
Catahoula	Jackson	St. Bernard	West Carroll
Claiborne	Jefferson Davis	St. Helena	West Feliciana
Concordia	La Salle	St. James	Winn
East Carroll	Lincoln	St. Martin	

Mississippi

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

Mississippi (cont.)

Wilkinson

Yalobusha

Yazoo

Missouri

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

Tennessee

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

FY 2014 DRA Non-Distressed Counties and Parishes

Alabama

All counties designated as "distressed."

Arkansas

Arkansas	Prairie	Pulaski	Union

Illinois

Hamilton	Jackson	White	Williamson

Kentucky

Ballard	McCracken	Union

Louisiana

Acadia	Iberia	Plaquemines	St. Mary
Ascension	Jefferson	Pointe Coupee	Webster
Assumption	Lafourche	Rapides	West Baton Rouge
Cameron	Natchitoches	St. Charles	
De Soto	Orleans	St. John the Baptist	
East Baton Rouge	Ouachita	St. Landry	

Mississippi

DeSoto	Hinds	Madison	Rankin

Missouri

Cape Girardeau	Scott	Ste. Genevieve

Tennessee

Madison

States' Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP)

FY 2014 States' Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP)

The DRA's flagship federal investment program – the States' Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP) – emphasizes active project development and management with the 44 local development districts serving as front-line managers of DRA investments. DRA program staff play an active role in developing the funded projects, building on-ground relationships, and connecting applicants and project developers to other funding sources to leverage DRA investments into increased public and private investment for projects. SEDAP is structured to complement the existing economic development strategies and activities taking place in the region.

The program has numerous avenues for funding economic and community development projects:

Administrative Notice – A document and method used by DRA to make and track policy and procedural changes. Annually, DRA reviews its procedures and programs for necessary revisions. These updates are encapsulated and officially announced through an Administrative Notice.

Automated Application Website – A web-based portal, found at funding.dra.gov, allows applicants to fill out and submit applications for DRA investment programs. After release of the awards the site provides back-office support and tools for the management of constituent portfolios. Each of the DRA partner groups (DRA staff, DRA board, LDDs, and applicants/awardees) will have a customized web presence to assist in monitoring application and project activity. Transparency and accountability are enhanced through the utilization of this technology.

Critical Development Projects – These projects include investment(s) of $300 million or more from public and/or private sources and - other than for technology-related projects - for which 350 or more jobs created and/or retained. Some developers refer to these projects as "super projects" because of the significant economic impact they bring to an area.

Emergency/Contingency (E/C) Account – Funds set aside for projects defined separately as emergencies related to natural disasters, fire, or unforeseen/unexpected developments that present a health and/or safety risk to communities; or contingency projects that fall outside the normal scope and/or timeline of the annual investment program. This funding program allows the DRA the flexibility to act quickly to assist with needed investments in order to help restore a community or secure an economic development project.

Expedited Process – One of several funding pathways, the "Expedited Process" will be initiated by the state when an immediate need exists for an economic development prospect project. A "prospect" would be a company committed to creating and/or retaining jobs in a community. Upon the request of the state, DRA will act quickly to complete the necessary review, eligibility determination, and award documentation delivery so as to meet the unique circumstances of the project.

Federal Priority Eligibility Criteria -- Investment priorities established by the DRA, which are included to match the Administration's priorities: **1)** Innovation and Small Business, to focus on job creation and/or retention, **2)** Regional Approach, **3)** Multiple Funding Partners, **4)** Emergency Funding Need, **5)** Funding Partner Initiatives: as DRA establishes federal and regional partnerships, through program initiatives designed to provide supplemental funding support, DRA will give additional consideration to applicants such as communities receiving an "Investing in Manufacturers Community Partnership" (IMCP) designation, a Promise Zones designation, or other awards and program designations as identified by the Federal Co-Chairman, and **6)** Small Business and Entrepreneurship Policy Framework: clear demonstration of project alignment with policies set forth in *Strengthening Our Local Economies,* the DRA Small Business and Entrepreneurship Policy Framework.

Every funded project should meet at least one of the six federal funding criteria.

Priority Status Designation – An eligible project that meets at least one goal or priority from each of the three additional areas of investment focus: 1) Federal Priorities (in line with an Administration priority or program), 2) Regional Development Plan goals, and 3) DRA State Plan goals and/or priorities. Projects meeting these requirements are given first consideration during the project selection process and have the best chance of receiving a SEDAP award.

The governors' project recommendations, in line with Chairman Masingill's and the President's priorities, demonstrate the DRA's continued emphasis of the four funding priority areas:

- Basic Public Infrastructure
- Transportation Infrastructure
- Business Development - emphasis on entrepreneurship
- Workforce Development

As seen in figures 3 and 4, basic public and transportation infrastructure project investments totaled $5,019,571 (52.3 percent of SEDAP investments) and funding for distressed counties and parishes was $7,320,873 (76.2 percent of SEDAP investments) for Fiscal Year 2014. The total project funding investment is $9,606,768. These DRA investments leveraged $21,689,084 in additional project funding, a ratio of 2.26 to 1, and $13,054,437 in private investment, a ratio of 1.4 to 1.

Figure 3. Share of SEDAP funding by federal priority

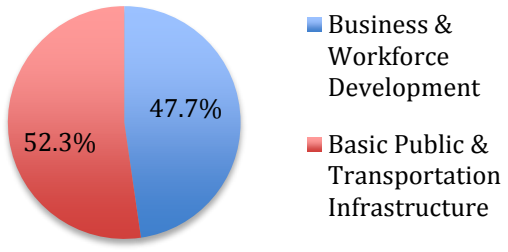
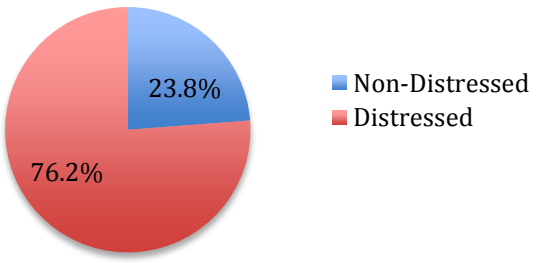


Figure 4. Share of SEDAP funding by distress status



In FY 2014 alone, the DRA invested more than $9.6 million into 72 projects, leveraging more than $21.6 million in other public funds and more than $13 million in private-sector investment – for a total of $34.7 million in leveraged funds, a leverage ratio of 3.62 to 1.

In FY 2014 is it projected that the SEDAP funding cycle is:

- Helping to create and retain 2,182 jobs;
- Helping to afford 29,889 families access to clean and safe water and/or sewer; and
- Training 439 individuals for jobs in their area.

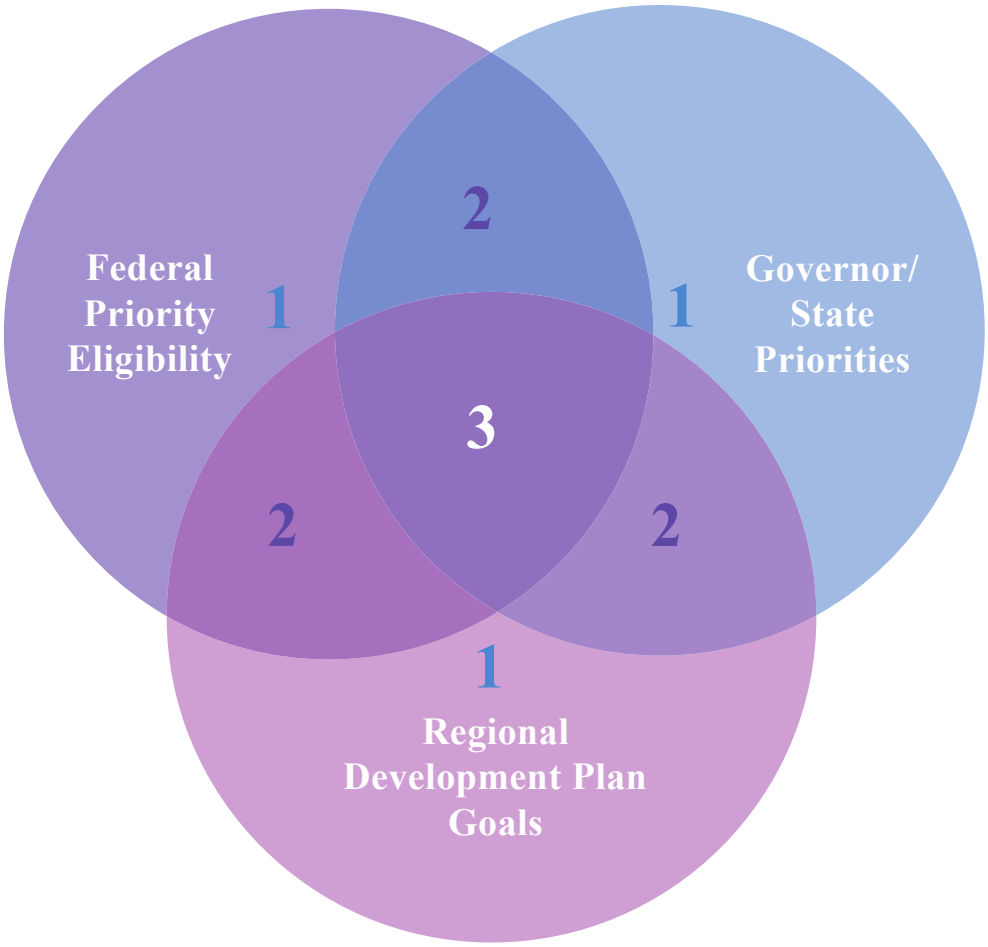
Throughout its 13 years of service to the Delta region, the DRA's SEDAP has invested more than $128 million into 871 projects, leveraging more than $702 million in other public funds and more than $2 billion in private sector investment – for a total of $.287 billion in leveraged funds, a leverage ratio of 21.26 to 1.

As a result of these 13 investment cycles, the DRA's SEDAP is producing some remarkable outcomes:

- Helping to create and retain 41,673 jobs;
- Helping to afford 82,486 families access to clean water and/or sewer; and
- Helping to train 12,724 individuals for jobs in their area.

The job creation and retention numbers above are guaranteed, to a large extent, through the execution of the DRA Private Entity Participation Agreement. The Participation Agreement was developed to demonstrate the private entity's commitment to creating and/or retaining jobs and injecting capital investment into a funded project. Congress intends for DRA to track certain metrics such as jobs created, jobs retained, families affected, and people trained. DRA also tracks private leveraged investment in addition to the other public investment (other project funds).

When the DRA reports to Congress the results of the prior fiscal years, there is an increased level of confidence in the metrics being reported due to this agreement. In the case of a project that benefits a private entity by allowing the entity to expand or locate a facility, the DRA asks the private partner to show its commitment by agreeing to this legal document. In the event the private partner withdraws or does not meet its commitment, it is required to refund a percentage of the project investment to the DRA as a "claw-back."



The above Venn Diagram depicts three additional areas of investment focus for projects determined to be eligible for funding: federal priorities, DRA Regional Development Plan goals, and goals from individual state strategic plans. Project applications should demonstrate how the proposed activities meet at least some of the priorities and goals from each of the three areas. In this way, a project becomes more competitive and rises in priority ranking.

The diagram provides a visual representation of how a project achieves the highest priority ranking. The area where all three circles overlap includes projects meeting some priority criteria in each area. Projects meeting criteria in two of the three areas have a lesser priority ranking and can be considered for funding after top priority projects have been funded.

The diagram lists the individual funding categories and priority criteria for each component. A project must first meet the eligibility criteria found in the outer layer before passing through to the inner layers of additional investment focus. All eligible projects will be arranged from highest to lowest priority and project selections will be made from this list. Projects not meeting eligibility criteria in the outer layer are not reviewed further to determine priority ranking and will not be considered for funding.

FY 2014 Schedule of Project Funds

Table One - Schedule of FY 2014 Awards:

Priority Area:	DRA Obligated:
Basic Public Infrastructure	$ 3,288,337
Transportation Infrastructure	1,731,234
Business Development	3,165,864
Workforce Development	686,227
Total	**$ 8,871,662**
State Allocations:	DRA Obligated:
Alabama	$ 1,007,128.19
Arkansas	1,409,639.32
Illinois	744,740.07
Kentucky	867,005.19
Louisiana	1,596,438.50
Mississippi	1,386,206.75
Missouri	1,088,953.22
Tennessee	1,348,506.76
Total	**$ 9,448,618.00**

Summary of Schedule of Funds

The first section of Table One demonstrates the division of project development funds based upon federal priority levels. The table reflects the total amount of funds that the DRA has obligated to projects in each of the four funding categories for a total of $8,871,662.

The second part of Table One illustrates the amounts allocated and obligated to each of the eight states using the predetermined allocation formula and criteria. Several factors are used in the Allocation Methodology and carry specific weight including the following:

Equity Factor:	50%
Population Factor:	10%
Distressed Population:	20%
Distressed County Area:	20%
Total	**100%**

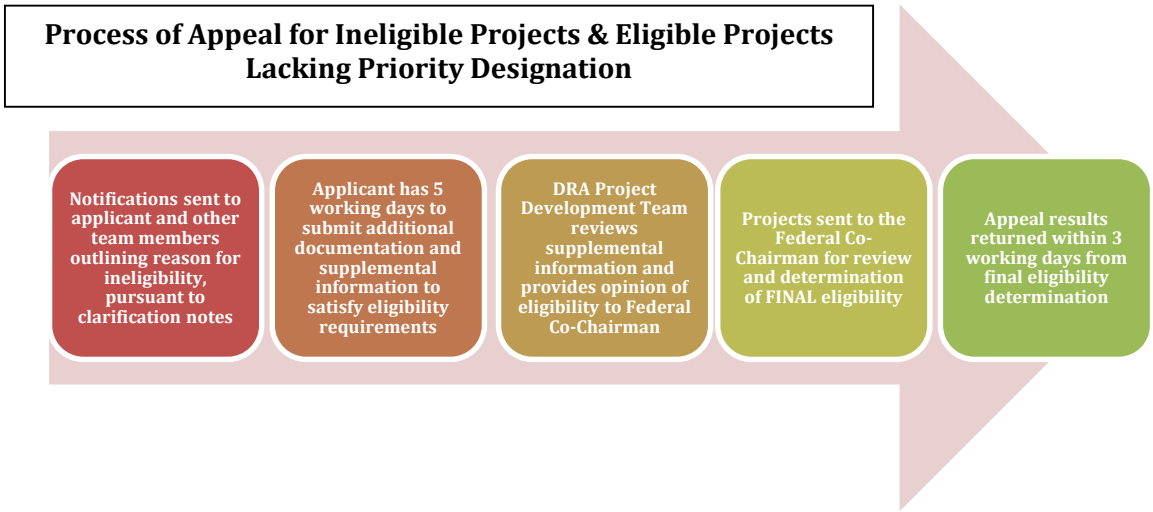
Additionally, FY 2014's allocation was as follows:

Table Two - FY 2014 States' Allocations

State	Percent of Total Allocation	Total Allocation
Alabama	10.66%	$1,007,128.19
Arkansas	14.92%	1,409,639.32
Illinois	7.88%	744,740.07
Kentucky	9.18%	867,005.19
Louisiana	16.90%	1,596,438.50
Mississippi	14.67%	1,386,206.75
Missouri	11.53%	1,088,953.22
Tennessee	14.27%	1,348,506.76
Total	**100%**	**$9,448,618.00**

Appeals Process

During determination of initial eligibility, there may be projects submitted that are deemed ineligible for funding. All applicants whose applications are deemed ineligible have the option to appeal. The DRA maintains appeals processes on the following conditions: 1) appeals may be submitted for ineligible projects; and 2) appeals may be submitted for projects determined eligible, but lack a priority designation, as listed in the SEDAP Manual, to address: Basic Public Infrastructure (BPI), Transportation Infrastructure (TI), Business Development (BD), or Workforce Development (WD).



Appeals Process

1. Notifications sent to applicant.

2. Applicant has five (5) days to submit more documentation.

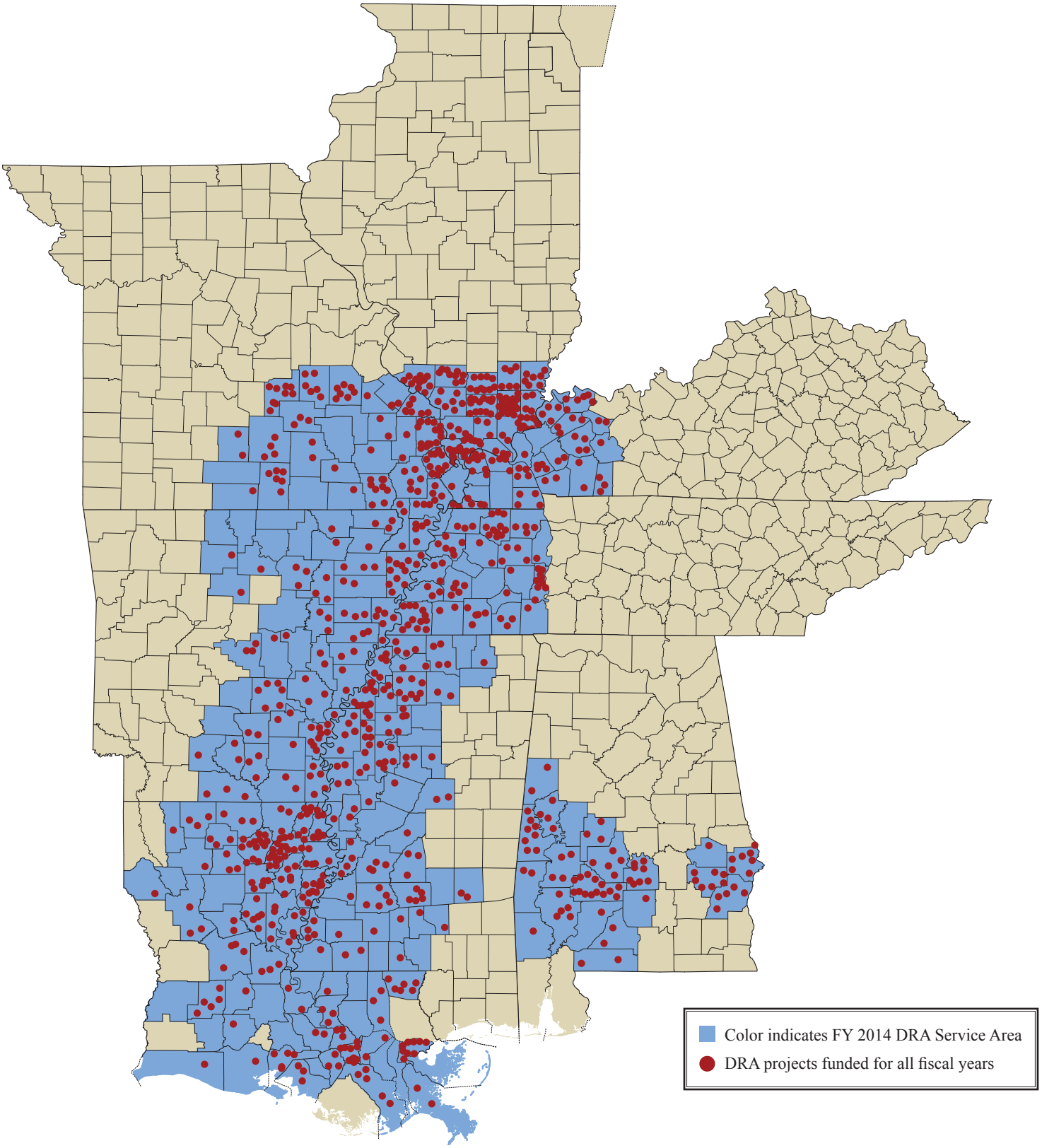
3. Review of appeal by Project Development and Management team.

4. Project sent to Federal Co-Chairman.

5. Appeal results returned to applicant within three (3) working days.

Every effort is made to assist projects deemed ineligible or eligible and lacking priority status to meet the necessary criteria for funding. Of 85 applications deemed ineligible for FY 2014 SEDAP funding: 22 were appealed resulting in 12 reversals. To determine eligibility, DRA reviews all priority areas for applicability, which can help increase a project's priority status. For complete state-by-state application details, see 2014 SEDAP Application Summary Table.

Delta Regional Authority Service Area



Cumulative Regional Benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2002 through FY 2014.

Total DRA projects	871
DRA Investment	$ 128,794,774
Other Public Investment	$ 702,734,341
Other Private Investment	$ 2,035,870,788
Overall Total Investment	$ 2,867,399,903
Total Investment Leverage Ratio	21.26
Jobs Created	9,720
Jobs Retained	8,588
Individuals Trained for Jobs	5,529
Families Affected	28,047
Projected Jobs Created	13,534
Projected Jobs Retained	9,831
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	7,195
Projected Families Affected	54,439

Source: Delta Regional Authority; January 20, 2015.

DRA LEVERAGE RATIO

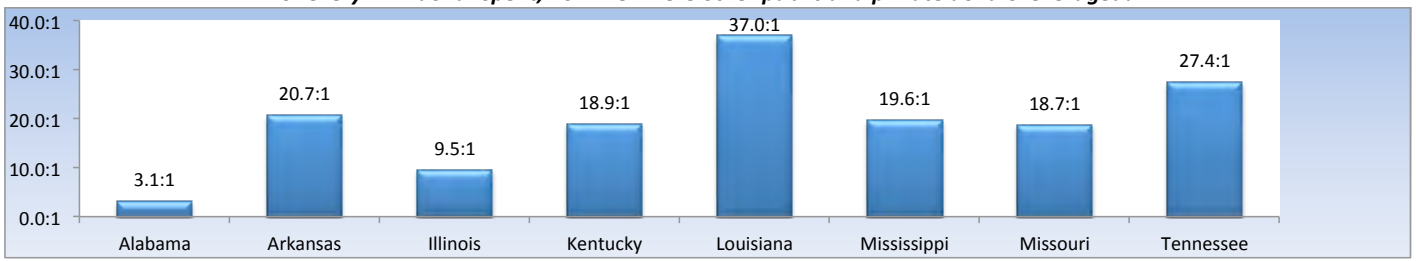
FISCAL YEARS 2002 THROUGH 2014

	DRA	% of total	Public	% of total	Private	% of total	Total	Ratio
Alabama	$ 13,108,917	24.20%	$ 27,365,614	50.51%	$ 13,700,000	25.29%	$ 54,174,531	3.1:1
Arkansas	$ 20,776,487	4.61%	$ 116,011,119	25.76%	$ 313,589,500	69.63%	$ 450,377,106	20.7:1
Illinois	$ 10,628,582	9.48%	$ 66,834,675	59.61%	$ 34,658,746	30.91%	$ 112,122,003	9.5:1
Kentucky	$ 11,361,895	5.01%	$ 88,109,760	38.87%	$ 127,195,000	56.12%	$ 226,666,655	18.9:1
Louisiana	$ 23,282,915	2.63%	$ 95,960,857	10.85%	$ 765,450,000	86.52%	$ 884,693,772	37.0:1
Mississippi	$ 18,042,075	4.86%	$ 86,469,659	23.29%	$ 266,796,694	71.85%	$ 371,308,428	19.6:1
Missouri	$ 14,951,065	5.07%	$ 61,630,664	20.89%	$ 218,468,030	74.04%	$ 295,049,759	18.7:1
Tennessee	$ 16,642,838	3.52%	$ 160,351,993	33.90%	$ 296,012,818	62.58%	$ 473,007,649	27.4:1

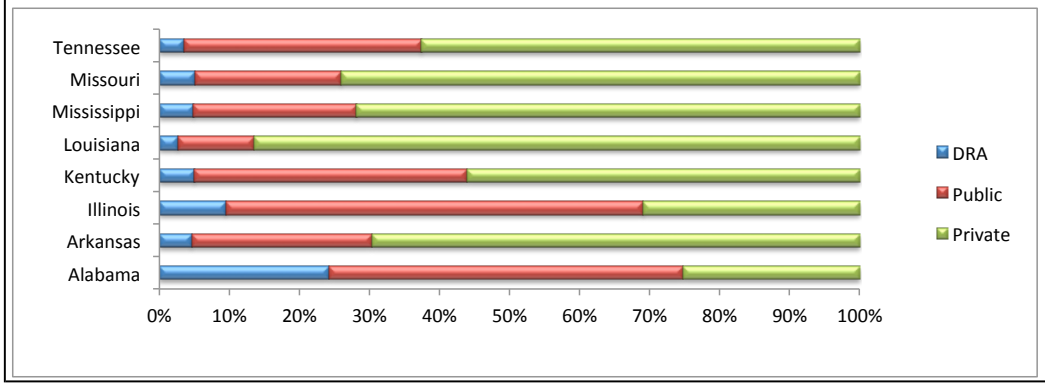
Cumulative Totals: FY02-FY14

DRA	**$**	**128,794,774**
Public	**$**	**702,734,341**
Private	**$**	**2,035,870,788**
Total	**$**	**2,867,399,903**
Total Projects		**871**

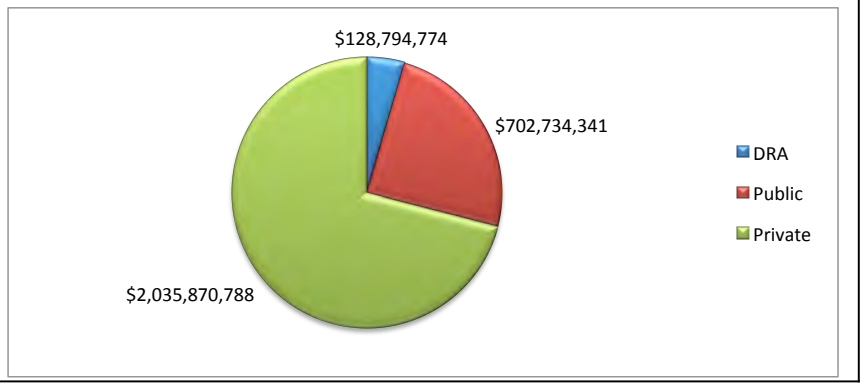
For every DRA dollar spent, how well were other public and private dollars leveraged?



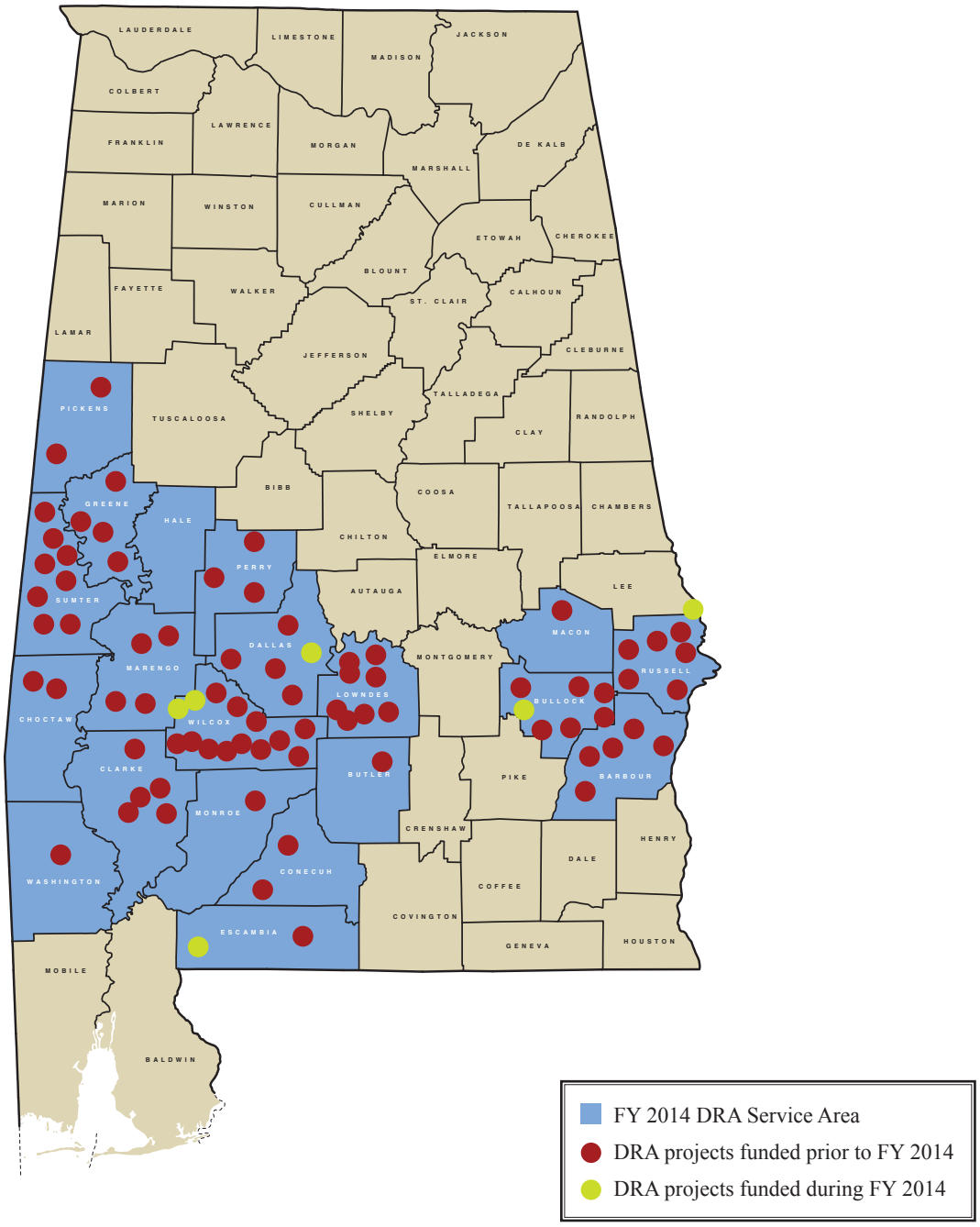
Leverage Comparison



Regional Investment Comparison



DRA Projects in Alabama



Alabama Counties Served by DRA

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

Cumulative Alabama Benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2002 through FY 2014.

Total DRA projects	82
DRA Investment	$ 13,108,917
Other Public Investment	$ 27,365,614
Other Private Investment	$ 13,700,000
Overall Total Investment	$ 54,174,531
Total Investment Leverage Ratio	3.13
Jobs Created	953
Jobs Retained	1,671
Individuals Trained for Jobs	14
Families Affected	3,435
Projected Jobs Created	1,275
Projected Jobs Retained	44
Projected Families Affected	5,186

Source: Delta Regional Authority; January 20, 2015.

"The Delta Regional Authority has been a proven ally in our efforts to improve Alabama communities and provide job opportunities, particularly in Alabama's Black Belt region. I cherish our relations with the Delta Regional Authority and the positive impacts of their programs in our state."

- Governor Robert Bentley

Alabama Benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2014.

Total DRA projects	6
DRA Investment	$ 1,113,675
Other Public Investment	$ 2,471,500
Overall Total Investment	$ 3,585,175
Total Investment Leverage Ratio	2.22
Projected Jobs Created	62
Projected Jobs Retained	60
Projected Families Affected	4,973

Source: Delta Regional Authority; January 20, 2015.

"The DRA has offered exceptional resources and tools to enhance rural Alabama through SEDAP investments, convening necessary economic development partners like the Alabama workforce summit, and informational resources. I believe that continued improvement through these DRA resources will help build more vibrant communities in the Alabama Black Belt.

- Austin Monk, *Executive Director of Washington County Economic Development Initiative*

STATES' RETURN ON DRA INVESTMENTS - Alabama

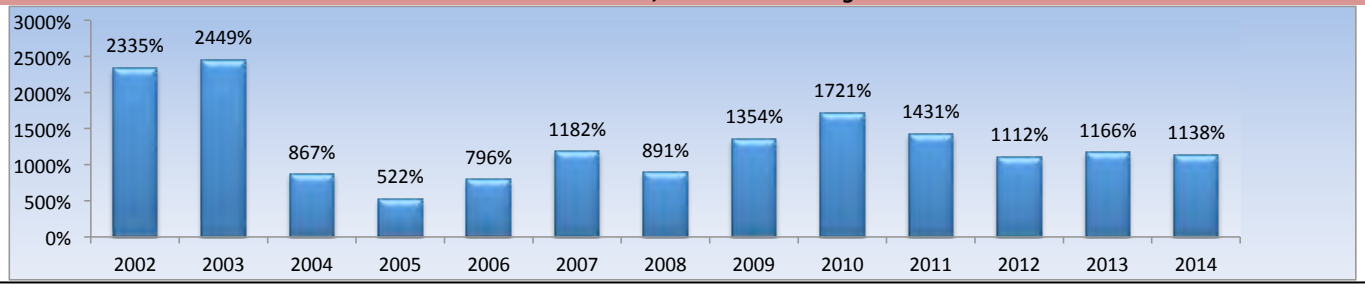
FISCAL YEARS 2002 THROUGH 2014

Alabama	DRA	% of total	Public	Private	Total	Ratio	Assessment	ROI
2002	$ 1,385,000		$ 2,003,013	$ -	$ 3,388,013	1.4:1	$ 56,885	2335%
2003	$ 1,679,715		$ 6,546,782	$ -	$ 8,226,497	3.9:1	$ 65,906	2449%
2004	$ 510,000		$ 2,769,920	$ -	$ 3,279,920	5.4:1	$ 52,747	867%
2005	$ 457,311		$ 1,124,259	$ -	$ 1,581,570	2.5:1	$ 73,544	522%
2006	$ 720,472		$ 700,418	$ -	$ 1,420,890	1.0:1	$ 80,422	796%
2007	$ 836,808		$ 1,633,794	$ -	$ 2,470,602	2.0:1	$ 65,288	1182%
2008	$ 712,423		$ 151,000	$ -	$ 863,423	0.2:1	$ 71,916	891%
2009	$ 1,081,946		$ 116,763	$ -	$ 1,198,709	0.1:1	$ 74,437	1354%
2010	$ 1,421,481		$ 60,492	$ -	$ 1,481,973	0.0:1	$ 78,043	1721%
2011	$ 1,197,283		$ 397,673	$ 12,000,000	$ 13,594,956	10.4:1	$ 78,187	1431%
2012	$ 1,013,555		$ -	$ -	$ 1,013,555	0.0:1	$ 83,636	1112%
2013	$ 979,248		$ 9,390,000	$ 1,700,000	$ 12,069,248	11.3:1	$ 77,339	1166%
2014	$ 1,113,675		$ 2,471,500	$ -	$ 3,585,175	2.2:1	$ 89,926	1138%

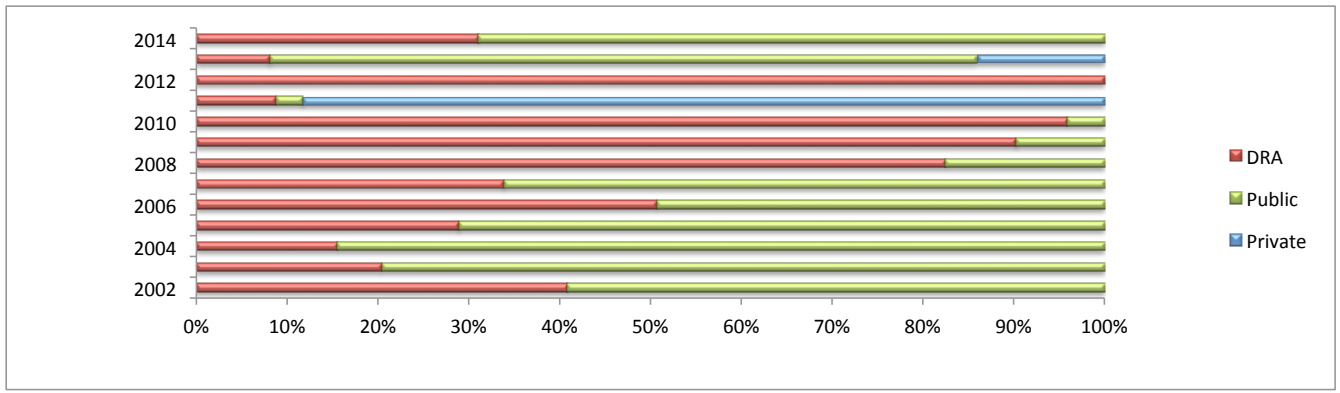
Cumulative Totals: FY02-FY14

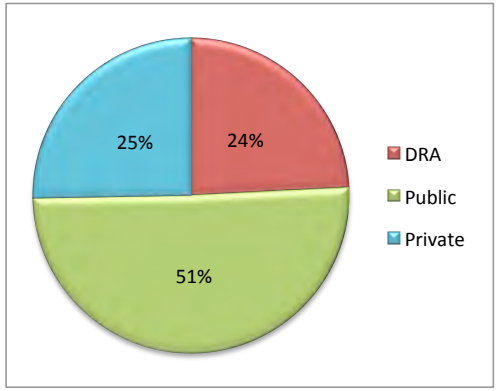
DRA	$	13,108,917
Public	$	27,365,614
Private	$	13,700,000
Total	$	54,174,531
Total Projects		82

Small state assessments, translate into large returns!!



Leverage Comparisons





Alabama: City of Brewton Gas Line Relocation

Awardee: City of Brewton **Federal ID#:** 63-6001208

Awardee Contact: Yank Lovelace **Phone:** 251-867-8081

County: Escambia **Congressional District:** 1

Funding:

DRA	$206,000	18.05%
Applicant	$935,000	81.95%
Total	$1,141,000	100.00%

Description: With funding from the Delta Regional Authority, the city of Brewton will, for safety reasons, relocate a gas pipeline first installed in 1955.

Benefits: The benefits to the residents of Brewton will be a safer community, as the current gas line poses an imminent safety risk to the citizens.

Alabama: Ace Tech

Awardee: Bullock County Development Authority **Federal ID#:** 63-0817007

Awardee Contact: Ashton Estes **Phone:** 334-244-6903

County: Bullock **Congressional District:** 2

Funding:

DRA	$180,000	100.00%
Total	$180,000	100.00%

Description: DRA funding shall be used to replace the roof of a facility owned by Bullock County Development Authority, which is home to Ace Tech, an automotive supplier.

Benefits: The proposed activities will have a significant impact on the ability of the company to grow and expand. Without the proposed repairs, Ace Tech would have no other option than to relocate. The economic impact of such a loss would be detrimental to Bullock County and the city of Union Springs.

Alabama: City of Camden Sewer

Awardee: City of Camden **Federal ID#:** 63-6001215

Awardee Contact: Max Baggett **Phone:** 334-682-4603

County: Wilcox **Congressional District:** 7

Funding:

DRA	$246,147	100.00%
Total	$246,147	100.00%

Description: DRA emergency funds were used for wastewater repairs to stop raw sewage from entering the environment.

Benefits: The health hazards associated with the raw sewage being released into the open will be alleviated. The residents of Camden will no longer be exposed to the health risks posed by this situation.

Alabama: City of Selma Interpretive Center

Awardee: City of Selma **Federal ID#:** 63-6001362

Awardee Contact: George Evans **Phone:** 334-874-2111

County: Dallas **Congressional District:** 7

Funding:

DRA	$150,000	9.09%
Applicant	$300,000	18.18%
FHWA	$1,200,000	72.73%
Total	$1,650,000	100.00%

Description: The currently unoccupied second and third floors of the Selma Interpretive Center have had minimal structural repairs, but not full rehabilitation. Proposed construction activities will install an elevator for accessibility and other improvements to allow expansion of the Center to these floors.

Benefits: The city of Selma will benefit from the Center's expansion due to an expected increase in the number of visitors. The increase in visitors will lead to more tax dollars coming to the community.

Alabama: Phenix City Wastewater Plant Improvements

Awardee: City of Phenix **Federal ID#:** 63-6001343

Awardee Contact: Eddie Lowe **Phone:** 334-448-2727

County: Russell **Congressional District:** 3

Funding:

DRA	$143,480	79.72%
Applicant	$36,500	20.28%
Total	$179,980	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used by the City of Phenix to install a new gas scrubbing system. The system is one part of a consent order with 21 different items listed.

Benefits: Ammonia and nitrogen levels in discharged water will decrease to permitted levels, protecting the health of the citizens of Phenix City and the Chattahoochee River system. Additionally, it will ensure that 951 existing manufacturing jobs will remain in Phenix City.

Alabama: Wilcox IDA GD Copper USA Phase 3

Awardee: Wilcox County Industrial Development Board **Federal ID#:** 61-1216796

Awardee Contact: Floyd Harris **Phone:** 334-412-9643

County: Wilcox **Congressional District:** 7

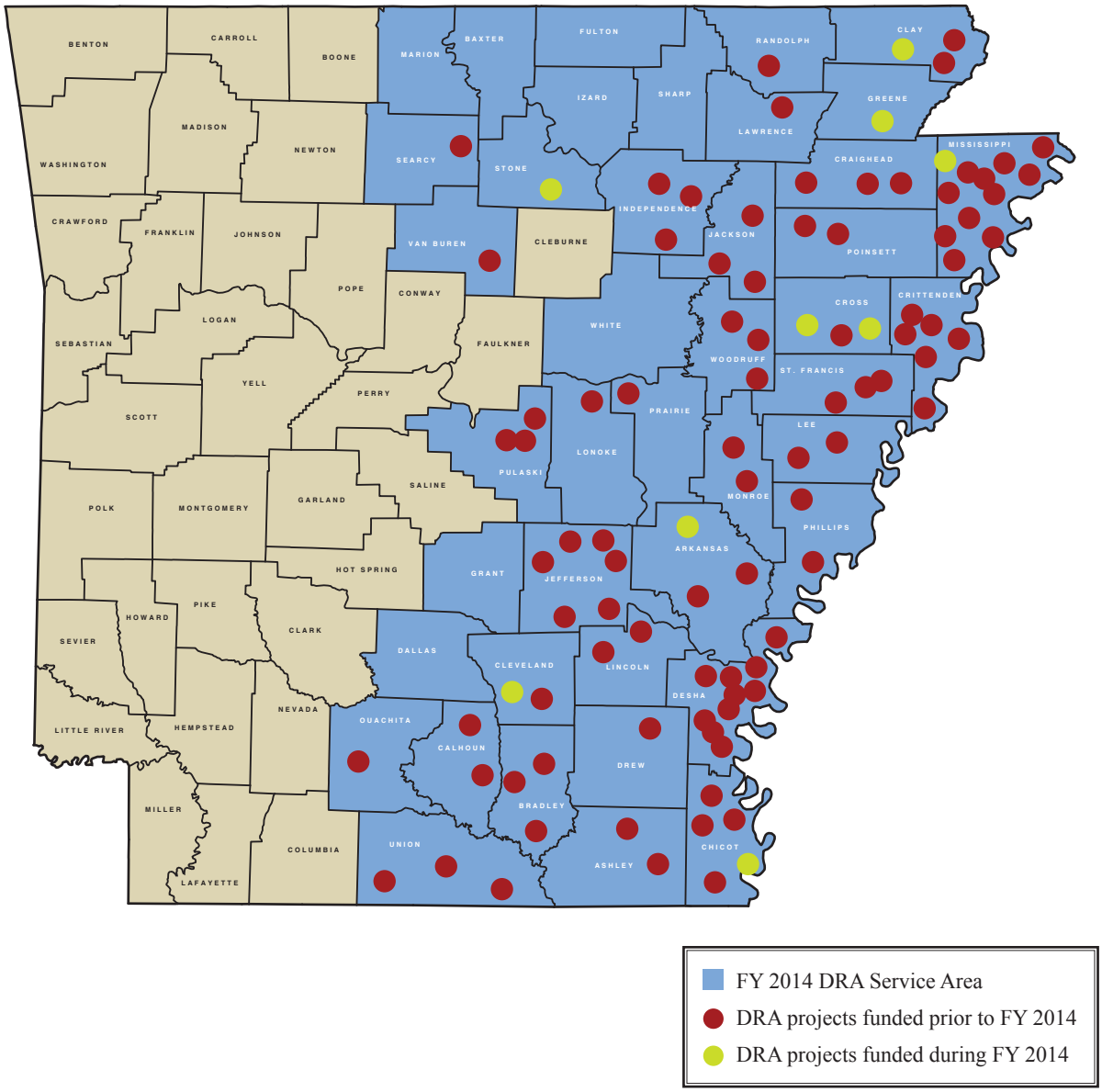
Funding:

DRA	$188,048	100.00%
Total	$188,048	100.00%

Description: The Wilcox County Industrial Development Authority has arranged interim financing to exercise their purchase option. DRA funding will be the final part of an overall three-year $800,000 project investment for land purchase.

Benefits: The DRA investment helped to secure GD Copper USA's capital investment of $100 million for the facility and an annual payroll estimated at $10 million. There are 1,000 construction jobs expected during the 15-month construction period and 300 new full-time jobs to be created.

DRA Projects in Arkansas



Arkansas Counties Served by DRA

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

Cumulative Arkansas Benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2002 through FY 2014.

Total DRA projects	104
DRA Investment	$ 20,776,487
Other Public Investment	$ 116,011,119
Other Private Investment	$ 313,589,500
Overall Total Investment	$ 450,377,106
Total Investment Leverage Ratio	20.68
Jobs Created	1,459
Jobs Retained	456
Individuals Trained for Jobs	2,490
Families Affected	4,264
Projected Jobs Created	1,949
Projected Jobs Retained	1,043
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	181
Projected Families Affected	3,366

Source: Delta Regional Authority; January 20, 2015.

"We need the infrastructure, tools and equipment necessary to provide a foundation for future progress, development and job creation. This [SEDAP program] is a great investment in our state that will help empower rural Arkansas communities and businesses."

– U.S. Senator John Boozman

Arkansas Benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2014.

Total DRA projects	9
DRA Investment	$ 1,436,247
Other Public Investment	$ 5,045,826
Other Private Investment	$ 150,000
Overall Total Investment	$ 6,632,073
Total Investment Leverage Ratio	3.62
Projected Jobs Created	679
Projected Jobs Retained	443
Projected Families Affected	1,384

Source: Delta Regional Authority; January 20, 2015.

"The DRA's ability to provide gap resources for project viability, leverage relationships with other federal agencies, build local leadership capacity, and support economic development efforts that are unique to our communities is invaluable to EAPDD's efforts to sustain the economic vitality of our region. The role played by DRA in our region is truly the difference between viable economic health and economic decline."

- Melissa Rivers, *Executive Director, East Arkansas Planning and Development District*

STATES' RETURN ON DRA INVESTMENTS - Arkansas

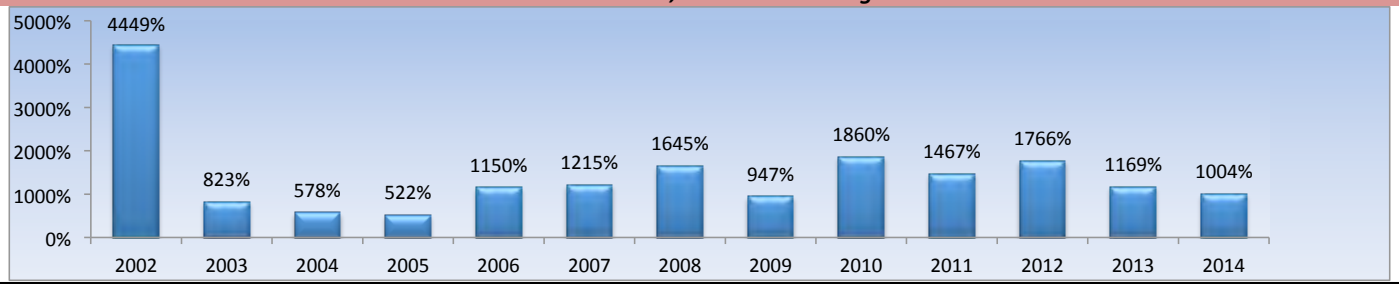
FISCAL YEARS 2002 THROUGH 2014

Arkansas	DRA	% of total	Public	Private	Total	Ratio	Assessment	ROI
2002	$ 4,088,425		$ 15,747,897	$ -	$ 19,836,322	3.9:1	$ 89,879	4449%
2003	$ 961,630		$ 1,183,734	$ -	$ 2,145,364	1.2:1	$ 104,132	823%
2004	$ 565,071		$ 4,207,920	$ -	$ 4,772,991	7.4:1	$ 83,340	578%
2005	$ 650,857		$ 7,501,346	$ -	$ 8,152,203	11.5:1	$ 104,670	522%
2006	$ 1,431,220		$ 9,795,700	$ 36,900,000	$ 48,126,920	32.6:1	$ 114,459	1150%
2007	$ 1,205,168		$ 16,945,502	$ -	$ 18,150,670	14.1:1	$ 91,621	1215%
2008	$ 1,761,090		$ 9,862,924	$ 111,362,000	$ 122,986,014	68.8:1	$ 100,922	1645%
2009	$ 1,106,999		$ 6,628,004	$ 125,000,000	$ 132,735,003	118.9:1	$ 105,740	947%
2010	$ 2,180,414		$ 22,732,000	$ -	$ 24,912,414	10.4:1	$ 111,222	1860%
2011	$ 1,747,820		$ 7,759,301	$ 40,000,000	$ 49,507,121	27.3:1	$ 111,511	1467%
2012	$ 2,226,220		$ 2,680,965	$ 82,500	$ 4,989,685	1.2:1	$ 119,282	1766%
2013	$ 1,415,326		$ 5,920,000	$ 95,000	$ 7,430,326	4.2:1	$ 111,553	1169%
2014	$ 1,436,247		$ 5,045,826	$ 150,000	$ 6,632,073	3.6:1	$ 130,086	1004%

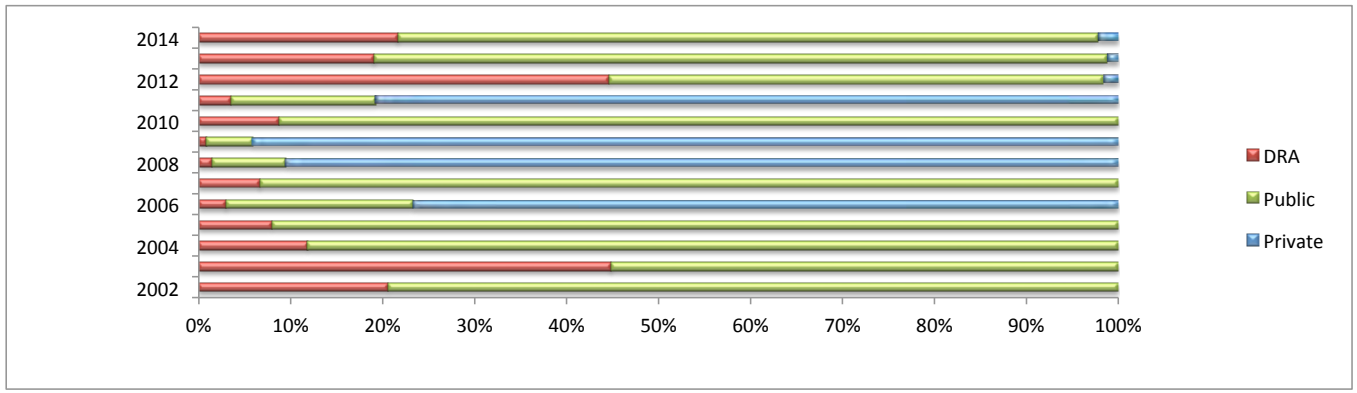
Cumulative Totals: FY02-FY14

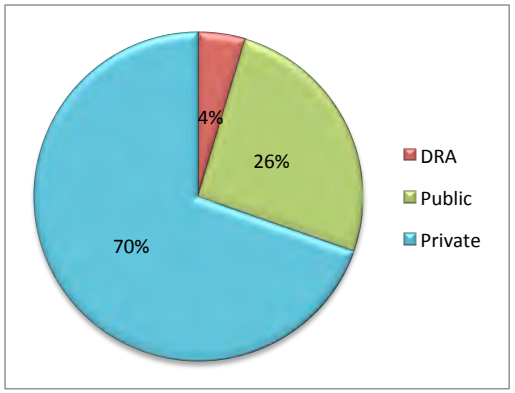
DRA	**$**	**20,776,487**
Public	**$**	**116,011,119**
Private	**$**	**313,589,500**
Total	**$**	**450,377,106**
Total Projects		**104**

Small state assessments, translate into large returns!!



Leverage Comparisons





Arkansas: City of Stuttgart Airport

Awardee: City of Stuttgart **Federal ID#:** 71-6016820

Awardee Contact: Marianne Maynard **Phone:** 870-673-3535

County: Arkansas **Congressional District:** 1

Funding:

DRA	$200,000	6.56%
EDA	$1,000,000	32.79%
State of Arkansas	$1,850,000	60.66%
Total	$3,050,000	100.00%

Description: CAVU Aerospace Inc. is based at the Stuttgart Municipal Airport and has exceeded its goals over the past three years in the aircraft parts recycling industry. The airport is proposing to further extend its relationship with CAVU by constructing a hangar and office complex and making road and parking improvements.

Benefits: With this investment by DRA, CAVU will create a minimum of 20 new jobs. Economic growth and development will be enhanced, a local business in the Delta will be able to expand, and, with the completion of this project, both Arkansas and Prairie counties will be better poised to attract and retain a talented and skilled workforce.

Arkansas: Rison City Sewer Project

Awardee: City of Rison **Federal ID#:** 71-0358607

Awardee Contact: Vernon Dollar **Phone:** 870-536-1971

County: Cleveland **Congressional District:** 4

Funding:

DRA	$196,250	100.00%
Total	$196,250	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used by the city of Rison to correct defects in the sewer pond that stop sanctions from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality.

Benefits: The necessary repairs will make the facility more efficient, safe, and compliant. The outcome of this project will bring the facility into compliance with all government regulations.

Arkansas: Big River Steel Sewer Improvements

Awardee: City of Osceola **Federal ID#:** 71-6016933

Awardee Contact: Dickie Kennemore **Phone:** 870-563-5102

County: Mississippi **Congressional District:** 1

Funding:

DRA	$256,500	29.65%
Applicant	$608,576	70.35%
Total	$101,719	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used to help finance the extension of water and sewer utilities from existing lines at the intersection of Highway 198 and County Road 239 to the new Big River Steel facility.

Benefits: This project will create approximately 600 jobs in the area and place 750-3000 participants in workforce training and education programs. Once this project has been completed, the new utilities will serve 57 households in the surrounding area and 6 commercial facilities.

Arkansas: Addison Shoe Company Equipment

Awardee: Wynne Economic Development Corporation **Federal ID#:** 45-3570024

Awardee Contact: Chris Clifton **Phone:** 870-932-3957

County: Cross **Congressional District:** 1

Funding:

DRA	$177,720	36.97%
Applicant	$153,000	31.83%
State of Arkansas	$150,000	31.20%
Total	480,720	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used as gap funding in the purchase of equipment for expansion and modernization of a shoe manufacturing facility for the Addison Shoe Company.

Benefits: The equipment will allow for retention and generation of 12 jobs, workforce training and education opportunities, and local investment in the company.

Arkansas: Clay County Road Upgrade

Awardee: Clay County **Federal ID#:** 71-6009854

Awardee Contact: Nelson Forest **Phone:** 870-598-2667

County: Clay **Congressional District:** 1

Funding:

DRA	$256,500	20.41%
State of Arkansas	$1,000,000	79.59%
Total	$1,256,500	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will assist in upgrading and paving a county road to be utilized by PECO Foods.

Benefits: With the DRA investment the project will result in the creation and retention of 40 jobs at the industrial site serviced by the proposed road upgrade. Additionally, this project will result in an improved access road to industrial sites servicing the City of Corning.

Arkansas: Marmaduke Rail Spur

Awardee: City of Marmaduke **Federal ID#:** 71-0412172

Awardee Contact: Steve Dixon **Phone:** 870-597-2753

County: Greene **Congressional District:** 1

Funding:

DRA	$100,000	44.44%
State of Arkansas	$18,000	8.00%
Local	$107,000	47.56%
Total	$225,000	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used in the construction of a rail spur alongside the Union Pacific main line for rail access to two industrial sites with committed industries.

Benefits: With help from DRA, this project will result in the retention of numerous jobs between two industrial sites serviced by the proposed rail spur construction.

Arkansas: Superior Uniform Group Parking Lot Reconstruction

Awardee: City of Eudora **Federal ID#:** 71-6003053

Awardee Contact: William Stanton **Phone:** 870-355-4436

County: Chicot **Congressional District:** 1

Funding:

DRA	$118,402	100.00%
Total	$118,402	100.00%

Description: The Superior Uniform Group's parking lot is in desperate need of repair. The company is the largest place of employment in the surrounding area. DRA funds will be used to repair and upgrade a parking lot utilized by Superior Uniform Group and owned by the city.

Benefits: DRA's investment will help Superior Uniform Group retain 206 full-time jobs and will help improve access for Superior's customers.

Arkansas: Excel Boats Roof Replacement

Awardee: Stone County **Federal ID#:** 71-6008747

Awardee Contact: Stacey Avey **Phone:** 870-269-3351

County: Stone **Congressional District:** 1

Funding:

DRA	$87,875	90.48%
Local	$9,250	9.52%
Total	$87,875	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will assist in the replacement of the roof on a county-owned building that houses Excel Boats—the nation's premier aluminum boat manufacturer with nationwide sales.

Benefits: DRA's investment will help create five jobs. Excel Boats currently employees 36 people.

Arkansas: Wynne Industrial Park

Awardee: Wynne Economic Development Corporation **Federal ID#:** 45-3570024

Awardee Contact: Chris Clifton **Phone:** 870-238-2601

County: Cross **Congressional District:** 1

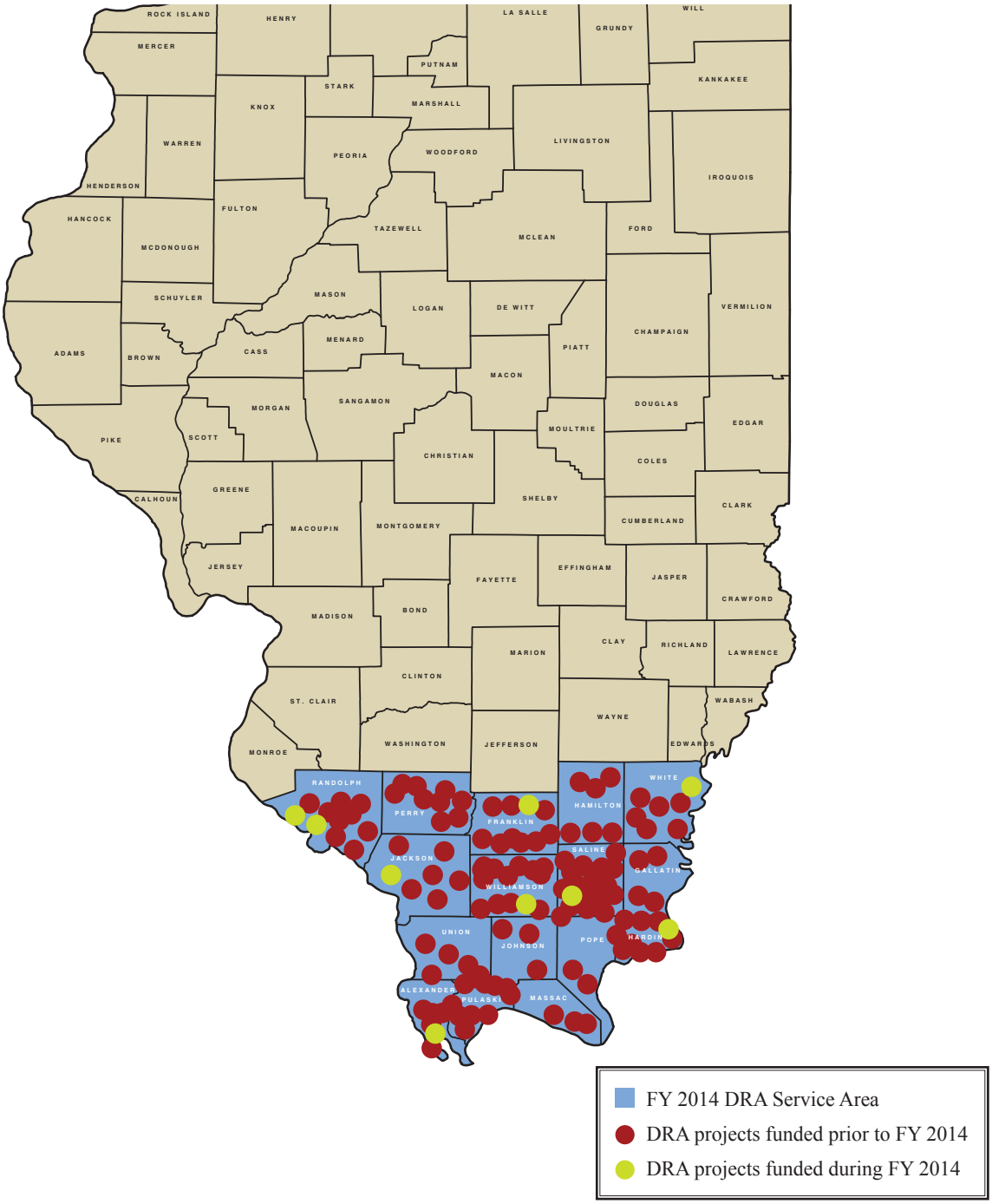
Funding:

DRA	$43,000	100.00%
Total	$43,000	100.00%

Description: Funding will be used on expenses incurred through the geotechnical engineering and land survey work required for the site. This may include all or part of the following: sample boring; basic laboratory testing on samples to determine the physical properties and engineering characteristics of the soils; preparation of an engineering analysis of the data collected in the field and laboratory determinations with the goal of developing recommendations for design and construction procedures and precautions including soil behavior with respect to seismic events as appropriate.

Benefits: The output and outcome measures include the generation of new jobs, workforce training and education opportunities and the investment in the region by the local government and business community. The outcome will also include positive impacts on households that benefit from employment opportunities, while the region will be able to successfully compete for new business. Useful life on the park development is well over 10 years and could result conservatively in doubling the size of the current manufacturing workforce in Cross County in the next 10 years. In regard specifically to the two preliminary services funded by DRA, the outcome will be a geotechnical quantitative analysis of the soil and a recorded deed of the land parcel that encompasses the industrial park.

DRA Projects in Illinois



Illinois Counties Served by DRA

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

Cumulative Illinois Benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2002 through FY 2014.

Total DRA projects	129
DRA Investment	$ 10,628,582
Other Public Investment	$ 66,834,675
Other Private Investment	$ 34,658,746
Overall Total Investment	$ 112,122,003
Total Investment Leverage Ratio	9.55
Jobs Created	783
Jobs Retained	1,644
Individuals Trained for Jobs	2,379
Families Affected	3,099
Projected Jobs Created	415
Projected Jobs Retained	1,287
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	5,945
Projected Families Affected	6,667

Source: Delta Regional Authority; January 20, 2015.

"These investments will give southern Illinois communities the extra boost they need to keep their infrastructure in good shape and to take advantage of the opportunities our ongoing economic recovery has to offer."

- Governor Pat Quinn

Illinois Benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2014.

Total DRA projects	9
DRA Investment	$ 744,740
Other Public Investment	$ 1,752,560
Other Private Investment	$ 550,000
Overall Total Investment	$ 3,047,300
Total Investment Leverage Ratio	3.09
Projected Jobs Created	18
Projected Jobs Retained	14
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	50
Projected Families Affected	6,243

Source: Delta Regional Authority; January 20, 2015.

"These infrastructure projects will not only bring new development to the area, but also create jobs and help move the economy forward."

- U.S. Congressman Bill Enyart

STATES' RETURN ON DRA INVESTMENTS - Illinois

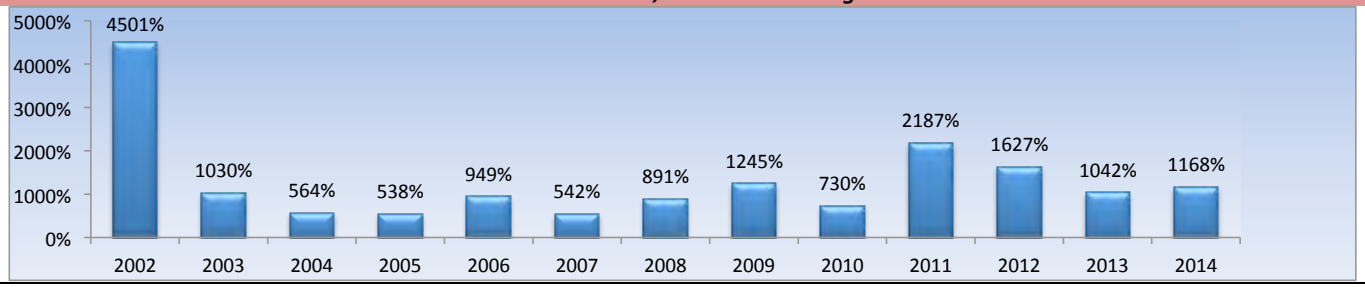
FISCAL YEARS 2002 THROUGH 2014

Illinois	DRA	% of total	Public	Private	Total	Ratio	Assessment	ROI
2002	$ 2,303,403		$ 10,071,756	$ -	$ 12,375,159	4.4:1	$ 50,060	4501%
2003	$ 655,370		$ 5,724,316	$ -	$ 6,379,686	8.7:1	$ 57,997	1030%
2004	$ 308,000		$ 3,033,920	$ -	$ 3,341,920	9.9:1	$ 46,417	564%
2005	$ 381,606		$ 1,466,088	$ -	$ 1,847,694	3.8:1	$ 59,781	538%
2006	$ 686,050		$ 9,982,537	$ 6,100,000	$ 16,768,587	23.4:1	$ 65,372	949%
2007	$ 341,629		$ 6,990,357	$ 7,400,000	$ 14,731,986	42.1:1	$ 53,243	542%
2008	$ 581,444		$ 2,312,916	$ 265,752	$ 3,160,112	4.4:1	$ 58,648	891%
2009	$ 819,518		$ 4,631,377	$ 100,000	$ 5,550,895	5.8:1	$ 60,949	1245%
2010	$ 518,050		$ 2,009,403	$ 15,000	$ 2,542,453	3.9:1	$ 62,391	730%
2011	$ 1,428,509		$ 5,048,966	$ 5,080,691	$ 11,558,166	7.1:1	$ 62,463	2187%
2012	$ 1,154,079		$ 3,087,992	$ 14,390,303	$ 18,632,374	15.1:1	$ 66,816	1627%
2013	$ 706,184		$ 10,722,487	$ 757,000	$ 12,185,671	16.3:1	$ 61,851	1042%
2014	$ 744,740		$ 1,752,560	$ 550,000	$ 3,047,300	3.1:1	$ 58,739	1168%

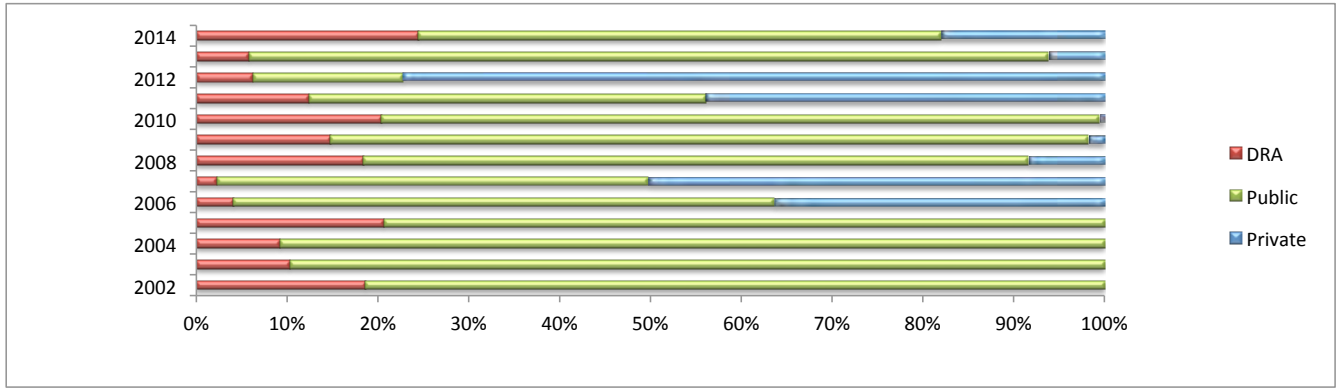
Cumulative Totals: FY02-FY14

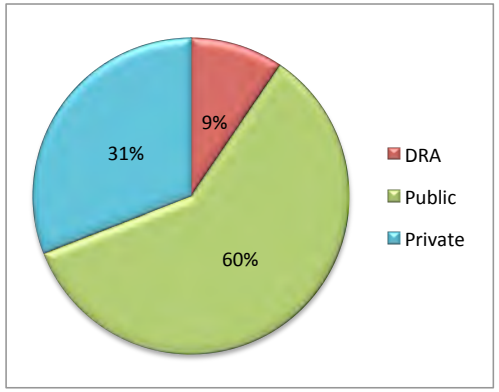
DRA	**$**	**10,628,582**
Public	**$**	**66,834,675**
Private	**$**	**34,658,746**
Total	**$**	**112,122,003**
Total Projects		**129**

Small state assessments, translate into large returns!!



Leverage Comparisons





Illinois: Baldwin Fifth Street Improvements

Awardee: Village of Baldwin **Federal ID#:** 37-0914503

Awardee Contact: Daniel Jones **Phone:** 618-785-2225

County: Randolph **Congressional District:** 12

Funding:

DRA	$100,000	84.00%
Applicant	$19,200	16.00%
Total	$119,200	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used to make improvements to Fifth Street running from the village's southern limits to northern limits due to heavy truck traffic hauling coal to Dynegy Midwest Power Plant.

Benefits: This project will provide a safe, smooth roadway within the village and will allow for a smooth transition from the municipal street to the county highways lying north and south of the village. These improvements will provide a safer intersection with State Route 154.

Illinois: Village of Prairie du Rocher MOCOC Phase IV

Awardee: Village of Prairie du Rocher **Federal ID#:** 37-6019566

Awardee Contact: Raymond Cole **Phone:** 618-284-7171

County: Randolph **Congressional District:** 12

Funding:

DRA	$100,000	83.33%
Applicant	$20,000	16.67%
Total	$120,000	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used to complete the slip-lining of the final 4 of 11 total gravity drains.

Benefits: This project will help ensure the recertification of the Prairie du Rocher-Modoc levee by the US Army Corps of Engineers and accreditation by FEMA that will allow the village to invite commercial and residential development.

Illinois: Hardin County General Hospital Laboratory Equipment Upgrade

Awardee: Hardin County General Hospital **Federal ID#:** 37-0702309

Awardee Contact: Roby Williams **Phone:** 618-252-7463

County: Hardin **Congressional District:** 15

Funding:

DRA	$59,062	90.43%
Applicant	$6,250	9.57%
Total	$65,312	100.00%

Description: Hardin County General Hospital will use DRA funds to purchase a new hematology analyzer that will allow HCGH to expand lab services to its two-county service area.

Benefits: The 140 hospital employees and estimated 800 inpatients, 5,500 emergency room patients, more than 18,000 hospital outpatients, and 12,000 clinic patients will have better laboratory procedures performed and analyzed within the hospital as opposed to being sent to an external lab for readings, thereby allowing quicker healthcare treatment.

Illinois: City of Eldorado Route 45 Utility Adjustments

Awardee: City of Eldorado **Federal ID#:** 37-6001987

Awardee Contact: Rocky James **Phone:** 618-273-6566

County: Saline **Congressional District:** 15

Funding:

DRA	$27,930	5.29%
IEPA	$500,000	94.71%
Total	$527,930	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used for improvements to and relocation of the city's utilities located along US Route 45 that is undergoing roadway expansion by the Illinois Department of Transportation. Funds will specifically be used for the adjustment of ten manholes and one box culvert.

Benefits: The area for improvements is predominantly populated by small business and residential homes and is almost fully developed. Relocating the city utilities will allow the city to maintain their utility system without permanent pavement blocking access to the system.

Illinois: I-57 Airport Business Park

Awardee: Benton/West City Economic Development Corp. **Federal ID#:** 37-1374614

Awardee Contact: David Cooper **Phone:** 618-435-3427

County: Franklin **Congressional District:** 12

Funding:

DRA	$115,287	88.88%
Applicant	$9,918	7.65%
Private	$4,500	3.47%
Total	$125,205	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used to open a 34-acre tract of land for the development of the Benton I-57 Airport Business Park by constructing a commercial roadway. Blue Ridge Tractor has committed to be a tenant of the business park.

Benefits: As a direct result of the project, the I-57 Airport Business Park will be established and 34 total acres of highly visible land will be available for development. Blue Ridge Tractor is a committed business and has agreed to create three new full-time jobs and to retain three jobs.

Illinois: City of Herrin Lift Station Upgrade

Awardee: City of Herrin **Federal ID#:** 37-6002360

Awardee Contact: Victor Ritter **Phone:** 618-942-3177

County: Williamson **Congressional District:** 12

Funding:

DRA	$100,000	11.86%
Applicant	$743,000	88.14%
Total	$843,000	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used to upgrade two existing sanitary sewer lift stations and replace a force-main to increase the capacity for businesses around developed areas.

Benefits: This expansion and upgrade of the system will ensure continued sewer service to the project area and an increased capacity that will allow for continued development. This project will help to enable the hiring of five new full-time employees.

Illinois: Southern Illinois Airport Authority Fiber Optic Extension

Awardee: Southern Illinois Airport Authority **Federal ID#:** 37-6001093

Awardee Contact: Gary Shafer **Phone:** 618-529-1721

County: Jackson **Congressional District:** 12

Funding:

DRA	$54,961	47.81%
Applicant	$60,000	52.19%
Total	$114,961	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will extend fiber optic and sewer lines at the airport technology park for current tenants and to attract a new agri-business opportunity.

Benefits: The fiber optic and sewer extensions provide direct benefit to the National Guard, technology park residents, aviation technology researchers, and a potential agri-business project. As a direct result of this project, the Southern Illinois Airport Authority will be able to expand business capacity by housing employees in a new location. The sewer extension provides necessary infrastructure for aviation researchers.

Illinois: CHESI Optometry Program

Awardee: Community Health & Emergency Services **Federal ID#:** 37-1100482

Awardee Contact: Fred Bernstein **Phone:** 618-457-0450

County: Alexander **Congressional District:** 12

Funding:

DRA	$112,500	87.25%
Applicant	$16,442	12.75%
Total	$128,942	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will assist in the purchase of equipment necessary to implement an optometry/ophthalmology program. The equipment purchased will reach the residents of both Alexander and Pulaski counties that utilize CHESI's mega-clinic and diagnostic center services.

Benefits: This project will help an estimated 300 people access optometry and ophthalmology services annually who would not otherwise have access to affordable care.

Illinois: City of Grayville Industrial Park Road

Awardee: City of Grayville **Federal ID#:** 37-6002349

Awardee Contact: Joe Bisch **Phone:** 618-375-3671

County: White **Congressional District:** 15

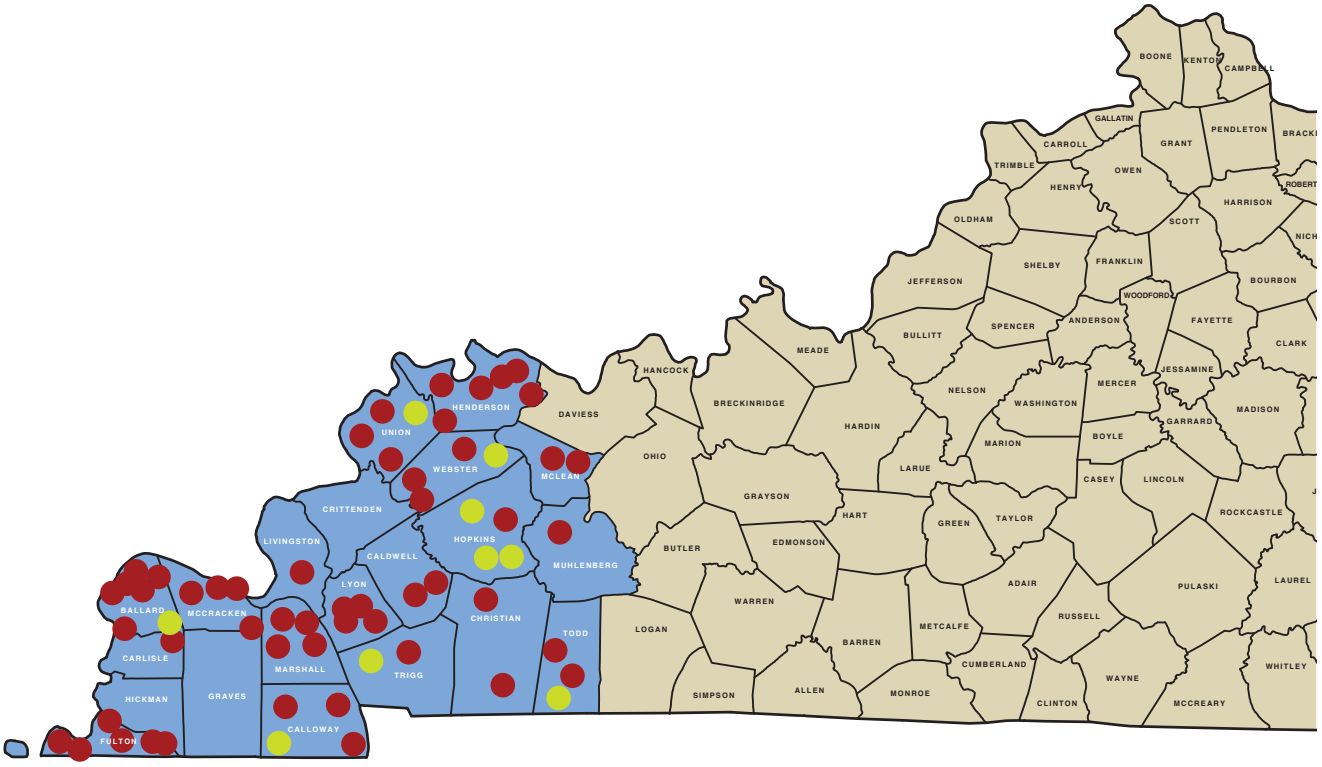
Funding:

DRA	$75,000	16.73%
Applicant	$373,250	83.27%
Total	$473,250	100.00%

Description: The city of Grayville is constructing 710 feet of truck access (IDOT standard) road that will be on city-owned property. The road will service several businesses within Grayville Industrial Park.

Benefits: This project will leverage a private investment by Road Ranger of $4,100,000 and will help create five jobs. The project will also help leverage a private investment of $250,000 by Western Kentucky Drilling that will create five additional jobs. This access road supports the continued occupation of 35 of the park's 130 total acres of developed land with three additional companies.

DRA Projects in Kentucky



- FY 2014 DRA Service Area
- DRA projects funded prior to FY 2014
- DRA projects funded during FY 2014

Kentucky Counties Served by DRA

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

Cumulative Kentucky Benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2002 through FY 2014.

Total DRA projects	64
DRA Investment	$ 11,361,895
Other Public Investment	$ 88,109,760
Other Private Investment	$ 127,195,000
Overall Total Investment	$ 226,666,655
Total Investment Leverage Ratio	18.95
Jobs Created	1,030
Jobs Retained	966
Families Affected	26
Projected Jobs Created	487
Projected Jobs Retained	362
Projected Families Affected	7,316

Source: Delta Regional Authority; January 20, 2015.

"The Delta Regional Authority plays an integral role in supporting projects in our western Kentucky communities that will boost both short-term and long-term economic growth and development."

- Governor Steve Beshear

Kentucky Benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2014.

Total DRA projects	9
DRA Investment	$ 867,003
Other Public Investment	$ 187,143
Overall Total Investment	$ 1,054,146
Total Investment Leverage Ratio	0.22
Projected Jobs Created	65
Projected Families Affected	7,320

Source: Delta Regional Authority; January 20, 2015.

"With the passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Kentucky's workforce professionals and partners are being challenged to retool and re-engineer. The resources made available by the Delta Regional Authority can be a catalyst in that continuous improvement process."

- Beth Brinly, *Workforce Investment Commissioner*

STATES' RETURN ON DRA INVESTMENTS - Kentucky

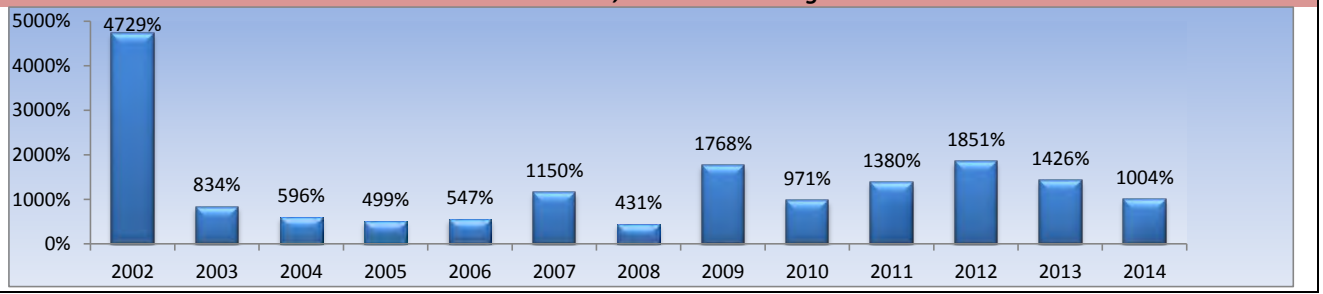
FISCAL YEARS 2002 THROUGH 2014

Kentucky	DRA	% of total	Public	Private	Total	Ratio	Assessment	ROI
2002	$ 2,500,000		$ 8,598,715	$ 24,800,000	$ 35,898,715	13.4:1	$ 51,766	4729%
2003	$ 560,432		$ 5,326,518	$ 7,100,000	$ 12,986,950	22.2:1	$ 59,975	834%
2004	$ 334,164		$ 298,713	$ 86,000,000	$ 86,632,877	258.3:1	$ 48,000	596%
2005	$ 380,000		$ 880,000	$ -	$ 1,260,000	2.3:1	$ 63,451	499%
2006	$ 449,240		$ 742,560	$ -	$ 1,191,800	1.7:1	$ 69,385	547%
2007	$ 704,604		$ 25,116,339	$ 7,500,000	$ 33,320,943	46.3:1	$ 56,382	1150%
2008	$ 330,000		$ 48,375	$ -	$ 378,375	0.1:1	$ 62,106	431%
2009	$ 1,177,709		$ 21,659,083	$ -	$ 22,836,792	18.4:1	$ 63,040	1768%
2010	$ 706,725		$ 11,280,800	$ -	$ 11,987,525	16.0:1	$ 65,998	971%
2011	$ 980,228		$ 8,438,225	$ -	$ 9,418,453	8.6:1	$ 66,214	1380%
2012	$ 1,381,897		$ 167,551	$ 150,000	$ 1,699,448	0.2:1	$ 70,828	1851%
2013	$ 989,893		$ 5,365,738	$ 1,645,000	$ 8,000,631	7.1:1	$ 64,872	1426%
2014	$ 867,003		$ 187,143	$ -	$ 1,054,146	0.2:1	$ 78,520	1004%

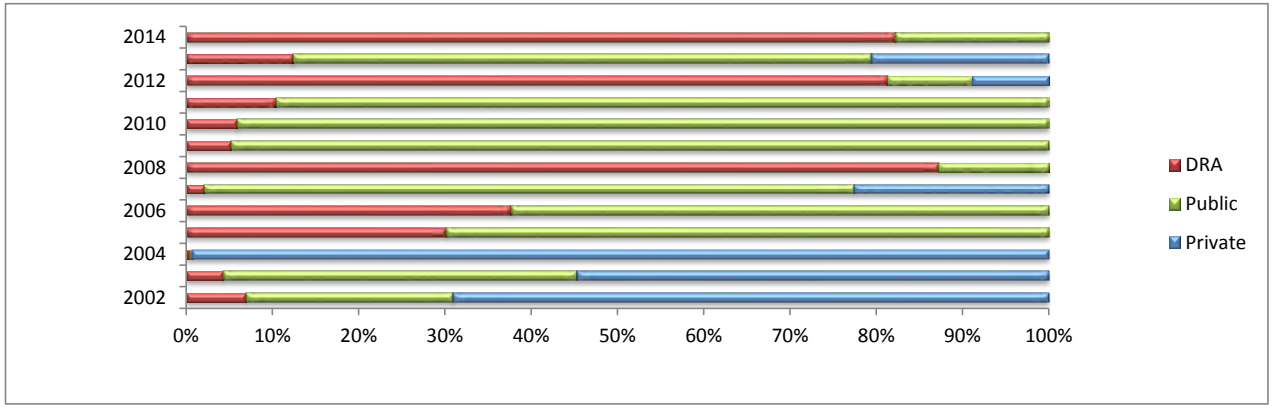
Cumulative Totals: FY02-FY14

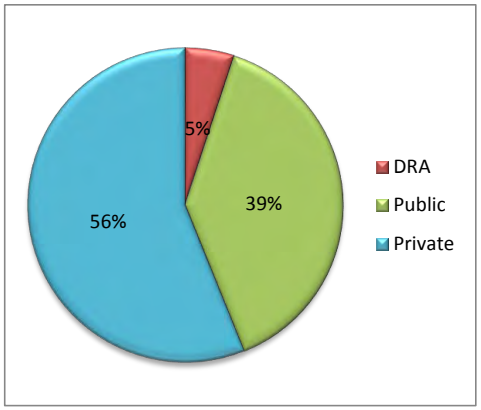
DRA	**$**	**11,361,895**
Public	**$**	**88,109,760**
Private	**$**	**127,195,000**
Total	**$**	**226,666,655**
Total Projects		**64**

Small state assessments, translate into large returns!!



Leverage Comparisons





Kentucky: Murray Retail Development

Awardee: City of Murray **Federal ID#:** 61-6001881

Awardee Contact: Bill Wells **Phone:** 270-762-0300

County: Callaway **Congressional District:** 1

Funding:

DRA	$89,003	38.22%
Applicant	$143,850	61.78%
Total	$232,853	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will ensure the installation of water, sewer, storm drainage, and entrance road to a private development.

Benefits: This project will spur more than $9 million in private investment, create more than 50 new jobs and enhance the economic development of the community.

Kentucky: Union County Flood Protection System

Awardee: Union County Fiscal Court **Federal ID#:** 61-6000887

Awardee Contact: Jody Jenkins **Phone:** 270-389-1081

County: Union **Congressional District:** 1

Funding:

DRA	$164,001	89.04%
Applicant	$20,196	10.96%
Total	$184,197	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will provide for the placement of new water valves and meters, enabling the city to isolate sections of the system to facilitate the location and repair of water leaks.

Benefits: The intended outcome of the project is to maintain the structural integrity of the flood protection system, to provide safety to the city of Uniontown's approximately 1,100 residents and numerous businesses. Another outcome of the project will be the recertification of the flood protection system by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Kentucky: Webster County Fiscal Court Tower Project

Awardee: Webster Fiscal Court **Federal ID#:** 61-6000887

Awardee Contact: James Townsend **Phone:** 270-389-1081

County: Webster **Congressional District:** 1

Funding:

DRA	$125,000	84.40%
Other	$23,097	15.60%
Total	$148,097	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will assist in the purchase, construction, and installation of a 180-foot communications tower for emergency communications capabilities and broadband service.

Benefits: This project will ensure the communications capabilities of Webster County's emergency services, provide all necessary communications upgrades, and complete a multi-year communications project. It will also benefit nine fire departments, five rescue squads, four police departments, two ambulance services and the county emergency management agency, which will help to keep residents and emergency workers safer in their communities.

Kentucky: Trenton Water and Sewer Line Extension Project

Awardee: City of Trenton **Federal ID#:** 61-0704644

Awardee Contact: JoAnn Holder **Phone:** 270-466-3332

County: Todd **Congressional District:** 1

Funding:

DRA	$50,000	100.00%
Total	$50,000	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used for the extension of water and sewer lines to an industrial site for a company that is constructing a new canola seed crushing facility.

Benefits: This project will allow for the creation of approximately 10-15 jobs in the area through a newly located industry.

Kentucky: Earlington Water System Improvements

Awardee: City of Earlington **Federal ID#:** 61-6001811

Awardee Contact: Mike Seiber **Phone:** 270-383-5364

County: Hopkins **Congressional District:** 1

Funding:

DRA	$30,000	100.00%
Total	$30,000	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used for the installation of valves in the city of Earlington's water system to facilitate leak detection and repairs.

Benefits: The project will reduce the amount of water that is lost to unrepaired leaks and decrease the amount of man-hours spent looking for leaks. It will also reduce the amount the city has to spend on lost water and will allow personnel to take a more proactive approach in maintaining and upgrading the current system.

Kentucky: Collaborative Care Practices

Awardee: Madisonville Community College **Federal ID#:** 61-1320380

Awardee Contact: Judith Rhoads **Phone:** 270-824-8633

County: Hopkins **Congressional District:** 1

Funding:

DRA	$74,001	100.00%
Total	$74,001	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will enable Madisonville Community College to partner with Baptist Health Madisonville to create a high-fidelity simulation-learning environment with a new high-fidelity manikin.

Benefits: By January 2016, Madisonville Community College will have equipped a simulation lab at Baptist Health Madisonville where there has not previously been the ability for training. The lab will help the hospital recruit additional medical staff and provide increased quality of care to area residents.

Kentucky: Trigg County Health Department Renovation

Awardee: Trigg County Fiscal Court **Federal ID#:** 61-6000722

Awardee Contact: Hollis Alexander **Phone:** 270-522-8459

County: Trigg **Congressional District:** 1

Funding:

DRA	$100,000	100.00%
Total	$100,000	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will assist the Trigg County Health Department in the demolition of 50+ year-old equipment and flooring and the installation of new equipment, flooring, cabinets, tables, lighting, paint, and a backup generator for the vaccine cooler.

Benefits: The chief benefit derived from this project will be the ability of the Trigg County Health Department to serve the low-income individuals and families of Trigg County with quality healthcare in an updated facility. Additionally, the project will result in the retention of approximately eight jobs at the Trigg County Health Department.

Kentucky: Mortons Gap System Improvements Project

Awardee: City of Mortons Gap **Federal ID#:** 61-6001877

Awardee Contact: Frank Stafford **Phone:** 270-258-5362

County: Trigg **Congressional District:** 1

Funding:

DRA	$35,000	100.00%
Total	$35,000	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will assist in the placement of new valves and meters to enable the city to isolate sections of the system to facilitate the location and repair of water leaks.

Benefits: The project will reduce the amount of water that is lost to unrepaired leaks and decrease the number of man-hours spent looking for leaks. It will reduce the amount the city has to spend on unaccounted water and allow personnel to work on maintaining and upgrading the current system.

Kentucky: Barlow Wastewater Improvement

Awardee: City of Barlow

Federal ID#: 61-6001781

Awardee Contact: John Wood

Phone: 270-334-3500

County: Ballard

Congressional District: 1

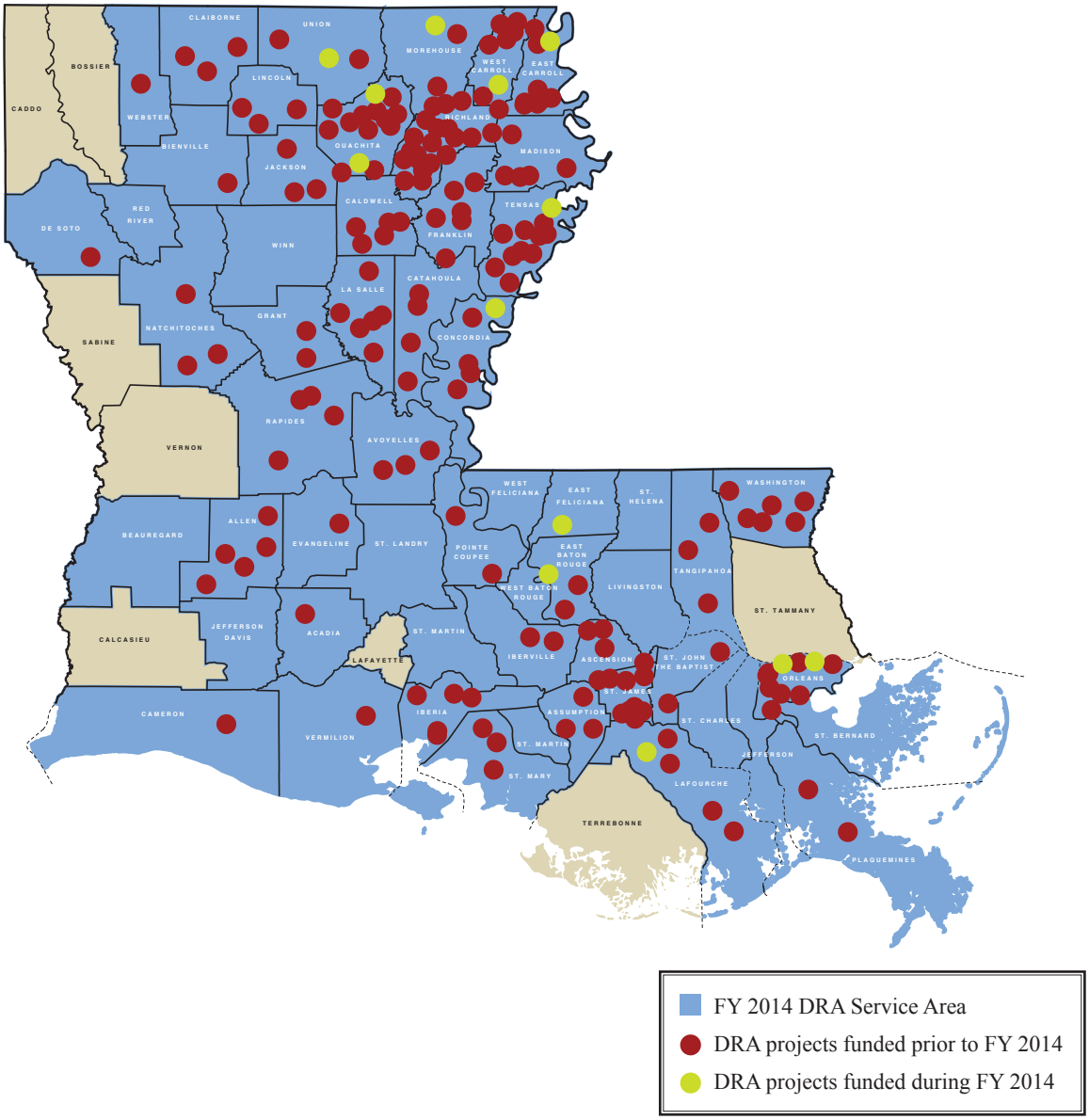
Funding:

DRA	$200,000	100.00%
Total	$200,000	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will provide for the improvements to two lift stations, construction of 3,800 linear feet of 8-inch gravity sewer lines, 1,700 linear feet of force mains, and lateral services.

Benefits: This project will assist the city in creating a better overall wastewater system to serve its customers in Barlow and the surrounding area of Ballard County. It will provide a better quality of life for the residents of the community and help conserve the natural resources in the surrounding area.

DRA Projects in Louisiana



FY 2014 DRA Service Area
DRA projects funded prior to FY 2014
DRA projects funded during FY 2014

Louisiana Parishes Served by DRA

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

Cumulative Louisiana Benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2002 through FY 2014.

Total DRA projects	185
DRA Investment	$ 23,282,914
Other Public Investment	$ 95,960,857
Other Private Investment	$ 765,450,000
Overall Total Investment	$ 884,693,771
Total Investment Leverage Ratio	37.00
Jobs Created	1,735
Jobs Retained	1,538
Individuals Trained for Jobs	27
Families Affected	8,875
Projected Jobs Created	4,755
Projected Jobs Retained	1,559
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	164
Projected Families Affected	12,935

Source: Delta Regional Authority; January 20, 2015.

"Our nation's infrastructure impacts our lives every day, and it needs attention and updates. Making sure it's up-to-date will continue to be a top priority, and these DRA investments will certainly help Louisiana move forward and accommodate our state's growth."

- U.S. Senator David Vitter

Louisiana Benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2014.

Total DRA projects	14
DRA Investment	$ 1,721,438
Other Public Investment	$ 1,952,015
Other Private Investment	$ 50,000
Overall Total Investment	$ 3,723,453
Total Investment Leverage Ratio	1.16
Projected Jobs Created	29
Projected Jobs Retained	254
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	87
Projected Families Affected	4,776

Source: Delta Regional Authority; January 20, 2015.

"Delta Regional Authority has played one of the most important roles in the support they have given Vidalia with our economic growth. Partnering with us on Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative has been pivotal to helping Vidalia receive recognition and funding for many projects. DRA investments have helped us complete construction, develop the new Vidalia port, and secure a commitment of $100 million from a local development company. We look forward to our continued partnership with Delta Regional Authority."

- Hyram Copeland, *Mayor of Vidalia*

STATES' RETURN ON DRA INVESTMENTS - Louisiana

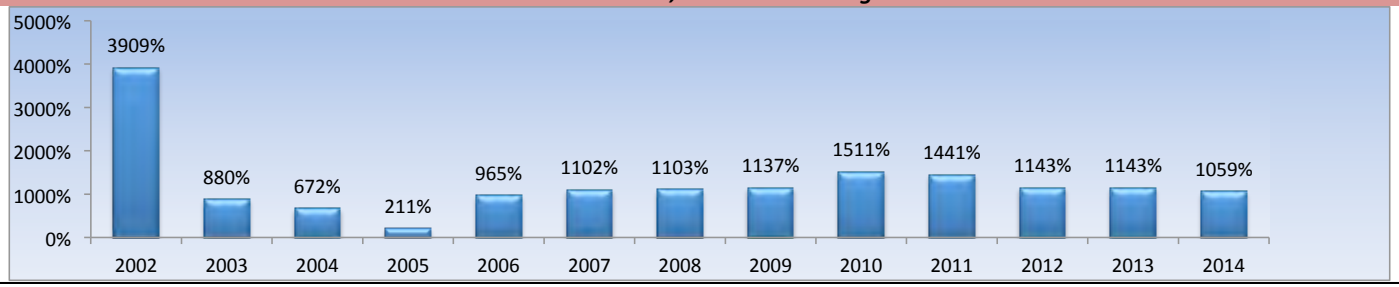
FISCAL YEARS 2002 THROUGH 2014

Louisiana	DRA	% of total	Public	Private	Total	Ratio	Assessment	ROI
2002	$ 4,941,253		$ 10,201,243	$ -	$ 15,142,496	2.1:1	$ 123,244	3909%
2003	$ 1,034,324		$ 12,679,750	$ 175,000,000	$ 188,714,074	181.5:1	$ 105,577	880%
2004	$ 761,728		$ 6,268,404	$ -	$ 7,030,132	8.2:1	$ 98,637	672%
2005	$ 415,749		$ 1,027,850	$ 5,095,000	$ 6,538,599	14.7:1	$ 133,749	211%
2006	$ 1,556,966		$ 7,514,704	$ 625,000	$ 9,696,670	5.2:1	$ 146,258	965%
2007	$ 1,574,662		$ 7,601,707	$ 200,000,000	$ 209,176,369	131.8:1	$ 130,958	1102%
2008	$ 1,736,038		$ 2,533,823	$ -	$ 4,269,861	1.5:1	$ 144,255	1103%
2009	$ 2,010,805		$ 1,767,636	$ -	$ 3,778,441	0.9:1	$ 162,578	1137%
2010	$ 2,140,788		$ 10,944,193	$ -	$ 13,084,981	5.1:1	$ 132,862	1511%
2011	$ 2,010,248		$ 20,352,893	$ 4,680,000	$ 27,043,141	12.5:1	$ 130,409	1441%
2012	$ 1,734,438		$ 10,945,631	$ 207,000,000	$ 219,680,069	125.7:1	$ 139,496	1143%
2013	$ 1,644,478		$ 2,171,008	$ 173,000,000	$ 176,815,486	106.5:1	$ 132,346	1143%
2014	$ 1,721,438		$ 1,952,015	$ 50,000	$ 3,723,453	1.2:1	$ 148,470	1059%

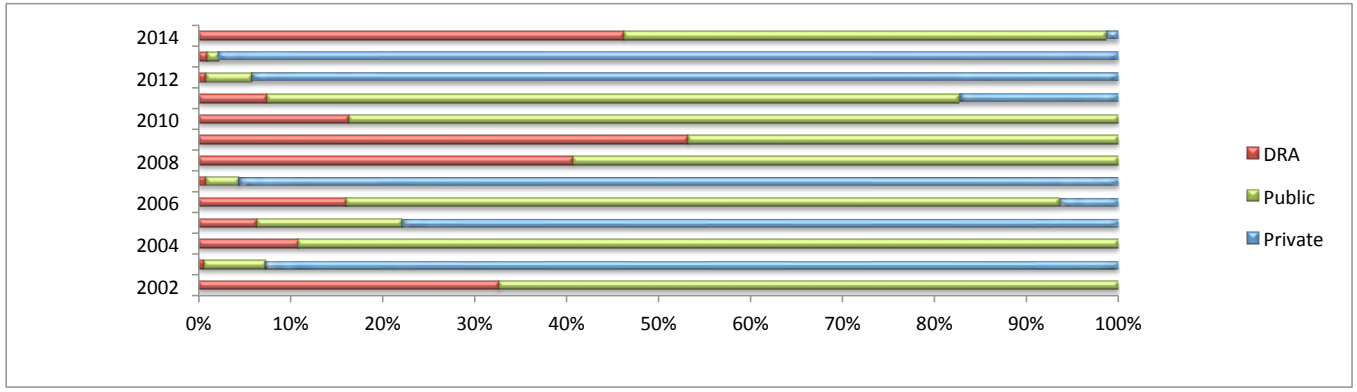
Cumulative Totals: FY02-FY14

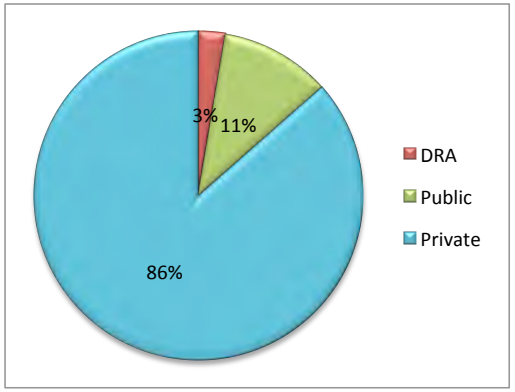
DRA	**$**	**23,282,915**
Public	**$**	**95,960,857**
Private	**$**	**765,450,000**
Total	**$**	**884,693,772**
Total Projects		**185**

Small state assessments, translate into large returns!!



Leverage Comparisons





Louisiana: Village of Forest Water Well

Awardee: Village of Forest **Federal ID#:** 72-0920241

Awardee Contact: Larry Denmon **Phone:** 318-428-9058

Parish: West Carroll **Congressional District:** 5

Funding:

DRA	$110,000	30.56%
CDBG	$250,000	69.44%
Total	$360,000	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will aid in the installation of a new water well for the village's potable water system and capping of an inoperable well.

Benefits/Outcomes: The project will ensure the reliability of the water system for the customers served by the Village of Forest Water System. By installing the new water well the system will come into compliance with Section 3.2.1.2 of the Recommended Standards for Water Works ensuring approximately 2,200 citizens clean water.

Louisiana: Lake Providence Port Rail Extension

Awardee: Lake Providence Port Commission **Federal ID#:** 72-0571915

Awardee Contact: James Thom **Phone:** 318-559-2365

Parish: East Carroll **Congressional District:** 5

Funding:

DRA	$210,000	100.00%
Total	$210,000	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used to extend a current rail line to accommodate the Myriant Succinic Acid Bio Refinery Plant. Through a collaborative effort with Southeast Arkansas Economic Development District, the Port Commission rail line is part of a $5 million rehabilitation project that will result in bringing the rail into operable status.

Benefits: While the most immediate impact of the project is the retention of 50 full-time employees, these improvements will also provide a cost-effective shipping option for industries in northeast Louisiana and southeast Arkansas and will provide the area with a competitive edge in attracting industries.

Louisiana: GIS Infrastructure for Tensas Assessor's Office

Awardee: Tensas Parish Assessor's Office **Federal ID#:** 72-6001387

Awardee Contact: Donna Ratcliff **Phone:** 318-766-3501

Parish: Tensas **Congressional District:** 5

Funding:

DRA	$100,000	100.00%
Total	$100,000	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used to update assessment software technology to integrate computer-assisted mass appraisal with GIS, acquire current pictometry, and update hardware.

Benefits: Tensas Parish Assessor's Office is responsible for the property values of 5,869 assessments. This IT Expansion Project will allow the integration of CAMA and GIS data, resulting in the 5,869 assessments being more uniformly assessed. Fair and accurate assessments affect individual taxpayers as well as businesses and generate appropriate revenue to the local taxing bodies.

Louisiana: ULM Unmanned Aerial Systems

Awardee: University of Louisiana Monroe **Federal ID#:** 72-0920241

Awardee Contact: Leonard Clark **Phone:** 318-342-1887

Parish: Ouachita **Congressional District:** 5

Funding:

DRA	$110,000	95.56%
CDBG	$5,106	4.44%
Total	$115,106	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used to provide training seminars on precision ag with an emphasis on unmanned aerial systems (UAS). There will be two types of training seminars: a two-day hands-on seminar with field components and a one-day demonstration with limited field components. The main focus of these seminars is to train farmers, crop consultants, business entrepreneurs and others interested in agriculture on how to integrate unmanned aerial systems into existing precision agriculture techniques.

Benefits: The use of UAS will ultimately increase agricultural productivity towards higher yields, higher quality crops,and less chemical applications. These seminars will create a workforce that is capable of using the latest technologies in UAS applications.

Louisiana: GIS Infrastructure for Morehouse Assessor's Office

Awardee: Morehouse Parish Assessor's Office **Federal ID#:** 72-6000910

Awardee Contact: John C. Hill **Phone:** 318-281-1802

Parish: Morehouse **Congressional District:** 5

Funding:

DRA	$100,000	83.33%
Applicant	$20,000	16.67%
Total	$120,000	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used to update assessment software technology to integrate computer-assisted mass appraisal with GIS, acquire current pictometry, and update hardware.

Benefits: Morehouse Assessor's Office is responsible for the property values of 6,000 assessments. This IT Expansion Project will allow the integration of CAMA and GIS data, resulting in the 6,000 assessments being more uniformly assessed. Fair and accurate assessments affect individual taxpayers as well as businesses and generate appropriate revenue to the local taxing bodies.

Louisiana: South First Street Sewer

Awardee: City of Monroe **Federal ID#:** 72-6000903

Awardee Contact: Chris Fisher **Phone:** 318-329-2331

Parish: Ouachita **Congressional District:** 2

Funding:

DRA	$71,859	100.00%
Total	$71,859	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be utilized in the replacement of collapsed sewer infrastructure on private properties thathave been donated to the city.

Benefits/Outcomes: This project will remove a health hazard affecting the entire community. The project will provide efficient and safe sewage service to six homes and will protect the whole community for several city blocks from exposure to conditions that pose hazardous health risks.

Louisiana: Louisiana Business and Technology Center

Awardee: Louisiana State University **Federal ID#:** 72-6000848

Awardee Contact: Winona Ward **Phone:** 225-578-7555

Parish: East Baton Rouge **Congressional District:** 2, 6

Funding:

DRA	$95,000	90.48%
Applicant	$10,000	9.52%
Total	$104,999	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used to jumpstart a prototype center—an entrepreneurial center focused on giving small business owners and entrepreneurs the tools needed to design and build new products.

Benefits: This project will benefit the entrepreneurial community in Louisiana by giving small businesses the ability to create rapid prototypes and computer renderings. The prototype center will spur innovation in small businesses and offer the client a more effective opportunity for success in the commercialization of their products. This will allow a culture of innovative products to be fostered and developed in Louisiana.

Louisiana: Brown's Dairy Infrastructure Improvements

Awardee: City of New Orleans **Federal ID#:** 72-6000969

Awardee Contact: Aimee Quirk **Phone:** 504-658-4248

Parish: Orleans **Congressional District:** 2

Funding:

DRA	$47,579	89.62%
Applicant	$5,509	10.38%
Total	$53,088	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used for public and transportation infrastructure upgrades surrounding the Brown's Dairy facility in central New Orleans, funding industrial strength streets, sidewalk improvements, and catch basins.

Benefits: With DRA's investment, 194 jobs will be retained, and a growing institution will remain in the city. New Orleans will enjoy improved transportation infrastructure and safety, and the project will ensure the local distribution of milk to the community.

Louisiana: Golden Meadow Floodwall Phase 3

Awardee: Town of Golden Meadow **Federal ID#:** 72-0882290

Awardee Contact: Joey Bouziga **Phone:** 985-475-5163

Parish: Lafourche **Congressional District:** 1

Funding:

DRA	$150,000	10.73%
FEMA	$1,048,500	75.00%
Applicant	$199,500	14.27%
Total	$1,398,000	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be utilized in the refurbishment and improvement of an existing floodwall to enhance business and community safety.

Benefits: The Golden Meadow seawall refurbishment will protect 881 homes and 82 commercial properties located in the municipality. The project will support continued infill development within an existing community and develop a stronger tax base for Golden Meadow.

Louisiana: Feliciana Airpark Business Development Complex

Awardee: East Feliciana Parish Dept. of Econ. Development **Federal ID#:** 41-2194319

Awardee Contact: Larry Thomas **Phone:** 225-921-1823

Parish: East Feliciana **Congressional District:** 5, 6

Funding:

DRA	$200,000	100.00%
Total	$200,000	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used in the construction of a common use aviation business development facility, which will provide small businesses and entrepreneurs a foundation to build their businesses.

Benefits: The construction of the Aviation Business Development Complex will result in an increase in the expansion of general aviation businesses. The general aviation industry has suffered a decline due to increased facility fees and therefore limiting opportunities for new aviation business startup.

Louisiana: GIS Infrastructure for Concordia Parish

Awardee: Concordia Parish Assessor's Office **Federal ID#:** 72-6015757

Awardee Contact: Jerry Clark **Phone:** 318-336-5122

Parish: Concordia **Congressional District:** 5

Funding:

DRA	$100,000	53.36%
Applicant	$87,400	46.64%
Total	$187,400	100.00%

Description: DRA's investment will fund GIS mapping infrastructure for public safety and strategic development. This project will establish an online tool allowing collaborative efforts sponsored and led by the Concordia Parish Assessor's Office to advance competitiveness of the area with cutting-edge GIS infrastructure. The GIS software will allow for layer conversion and expanded attribute database inputs.

Benefits: Installation and operation of the GIS infrastructure will advance the collaboration and effectiveness of the parish, stimulating private investment.

Louisiana: Reintroducing Lafayette Area Development District

Awardee: South Central Planning & Development Commission **Federal ID#:** 72-0721574

Awardee Contact: Kevin Belanger **Phone:** 985-851-2900

Parish: St. Landry **Congressional District:** 1

Funding:

DRA	$100,000	83.33%
Applicant	$20,000	16.67%
Total	$120,000	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used by South Central Planning & Development Commission to fund staff and travel, allowing employees to meet with local jurisdictions and conduct SWOT analyses related to the jurisdiction's staffing needs to rebuild the Lafayette Area Development District.

Benefits: SCPDC's efforts with the local parishes will help to reconstitute the former LADD to manage existing underutilized resources such as the Revolving Capital Fund Program to benefit citizen entrepreneurs within their areas.

Louisiana: Elevated Water Storage Tanks Blasting & Repairs

Awardee: Town of Bernice **Federal ID#:** 72-0721356

Awardee Contact: William Mitcham **Phone:** 985-851-3265

Parish: Union **Congressional District:** 4

Funding:

DRA	$250,000	49.50%
Applicant	$255,000	50.50%
Total	$505,000	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used for blasting, repairs, and lead paint abatement of two of three elevated water tanks owned by the town of Bernice. The funding is necessary to satisfy requirements and meet mandated repairs and timelines levied on November 9, 2011 by the Louisiana Department of Health and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Benefits: The refurbishment of the tanks will ensure clean water for the Bernice population of 1,689 that rely on the town's water supply system for potable water.

Louisiana: Pipelining Skills to Jobs in Greater New Orleans

Awardee: Greater New Orleans Development Foundation **Federal ID#:** 72-1177207

Awardee Contact: Michael Hecht **Phone:** 504-527-6900

Parish: Orleans **Congressional District:** 2

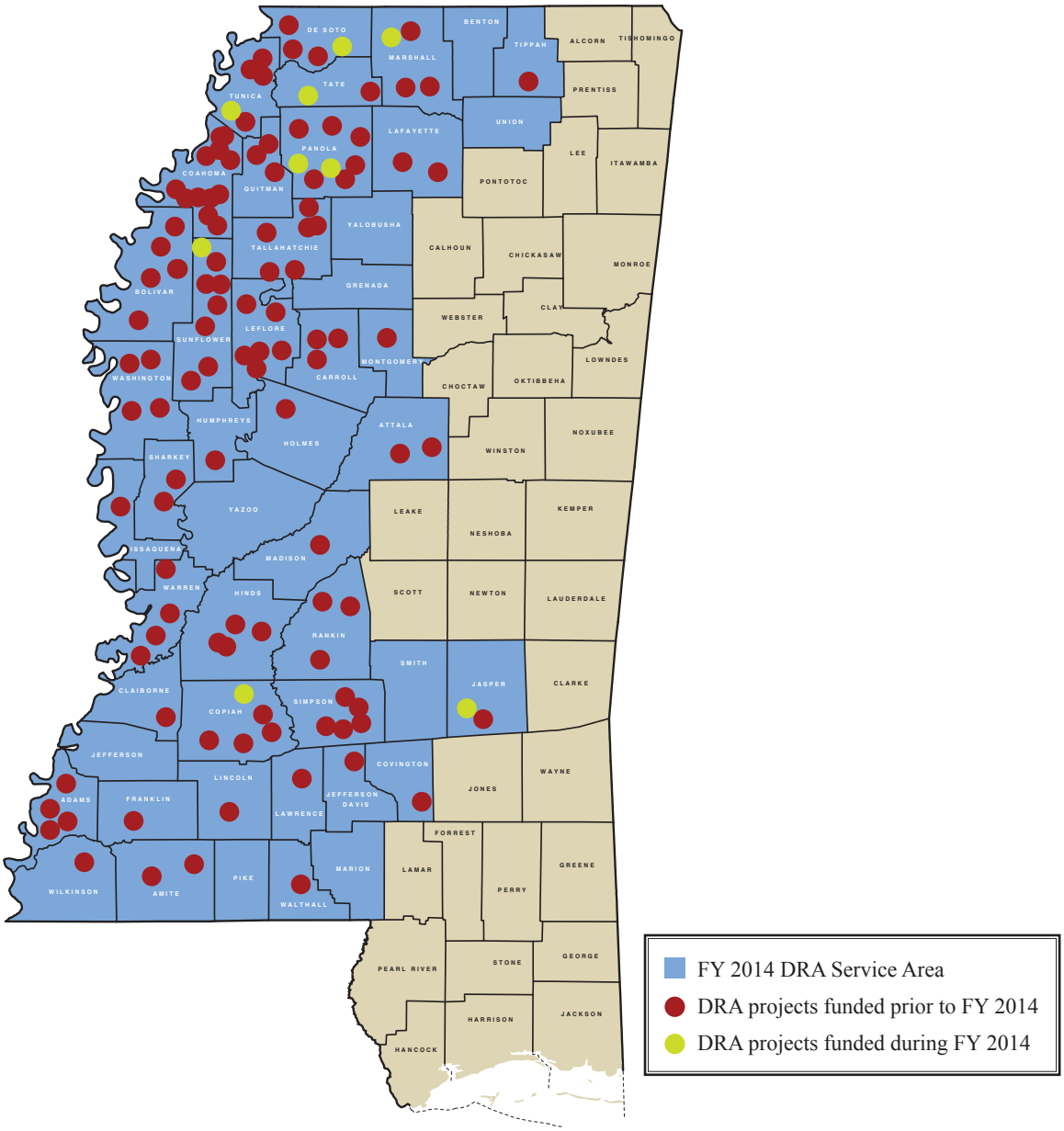
Funding:

DRA	$75,000	59.52%
State	$51,000	40.48%
Total	$126,000	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be utilized to help connect low-income residents (approximately 1,000-1,500 high school students) with jobs and satisfy industry demand for a workforce to fill specific positions.

Benefits: A total of 80 low-income residents will be connected with career pathways in skilled-labor fields to build a workforce pipeline to satisfy industry demand for a skilled workforce in New Orleans.

DRA Projects in Mississippi



Mississippi Counties Served by DRA

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

Cumulative Mississippi Benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2002 through FY 2014.

Total DRA projects	117
DRA Investment	$ 18,042,075
Other Public Investment	$ 86,469,659
Other Private Investment	$ 266,796,694
Overall Total Investment	$ 371,308,428
Total Investment Leverage Ratio	19.58
Jobs Created	730
Jobs Retained	566
Individuals Trained for Jobs	105
Families Affected	2,771
Projected Jobs Created	1,168
Projected Jobs Retained	650
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	216
Projected Families Affected	10,318

Source: Delta Regional Authority; January 20, 2015.

"These [DRA] investments will facilitate economic development in each of the local communities and pay dividends for the area's workforce. This will not only provide opportunities for growth of existing businesses, but also help to attract other companies to Mississippi."

- Governor Phil Bryant

Mississippi Benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2014.

Total DRA projects	9
DRA Investment	$ 1,336,206
Other Public Investment	$ 1,010,078
Other Private Investment	$ 1,248,825
Overall Total Investment	$ 3,595,109
Total Investment Leverage Ratio	1.69
Projected Jobs Created	10
Projected Jobs Retained	120
Projected Families Affected	5,193

Source: Delta Regional Authority; January 20, 2015.

"Encouraging everyone to have the skills necessary to succeed in the workplace is vital to creating an environment where not only workers, but also businesses can thrive. We look forward to working with the Delta Regional Authority to make our workers and our businesses increasingly competitive, and ultimately, successful."

- Jay Moon, *CEO and President of the Mississippi Manufacturers Association*

STATES' RETURN ON DRA INVESTMENTS - Mississippi

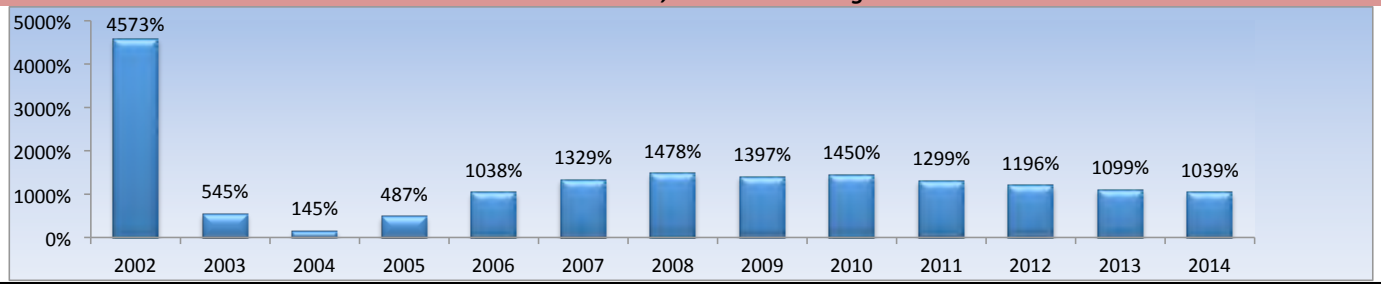
FISCAL YEARS 2002 THROUGH 2014

Mississippi	DRA	% of total	Public	Private	Total	Ratio	Assessment	ROI
2002	$ 3,880,756		$ 11,143,528	$ -	$ 15,024,284	2.9:1	$ 83,053	4573%
2003	$ 620,500		$ 2,097,057	$ -	$ 2,717,557	3.4:1	$ 96,223	545%
2004	$ 188,365		$ 1,413,517	$ -	$ 1,601,882	7.5:1	$ 77,011	145%
2005	$ 570,309		$ 1,321,567	$ 3,100,000	$ 4,991,876	7.8:1	$ 97,188	487%
2006	$ 1,209,484		$ 3,951,012	$ 7,500,000	$ 12,660,496	9.5:1	$ 106,278	1038%
2007	$ 1,283,830		$ 9,389,977	$ 90,000,000	$ 100,673,807	77.4:1	$ 89,827	1329%
2008	$ 1,560,956		$ 2,048,944	$ 200,822	$ 3,810,722	1.4:1	$ 98,946	1478%
2009	$ 1,459,985		$ 12,348,732	$ 1,250,000	$ 15,058,717	9.3:1	$ 97,518	1397%
2010	$ 1,637,589		$ 25,634,802	$ 65,000,000	$ 92,272,391	55.3:1	$ 105,668	1450%
2011	$ 1,482,253		$ 5,703,914	$ -	$ 7,186,167	3.8:1	$ 105,957	1299%
2012	$ 1,469,295		$ 639,316	$ 1,641,000	$ 3,749,611	1.6:1	$ 113,341	1196%
2013	$ 1,342,547		$ 9,767,215	$ 96,856,047	$ 107,965,809	79.4:1	$ 111,943	1099%
2014	$ 1,336,206		$ 1,010,078	$ 1,248,825	$ 3,595,109	1.7:1	$ 117,300	1039%

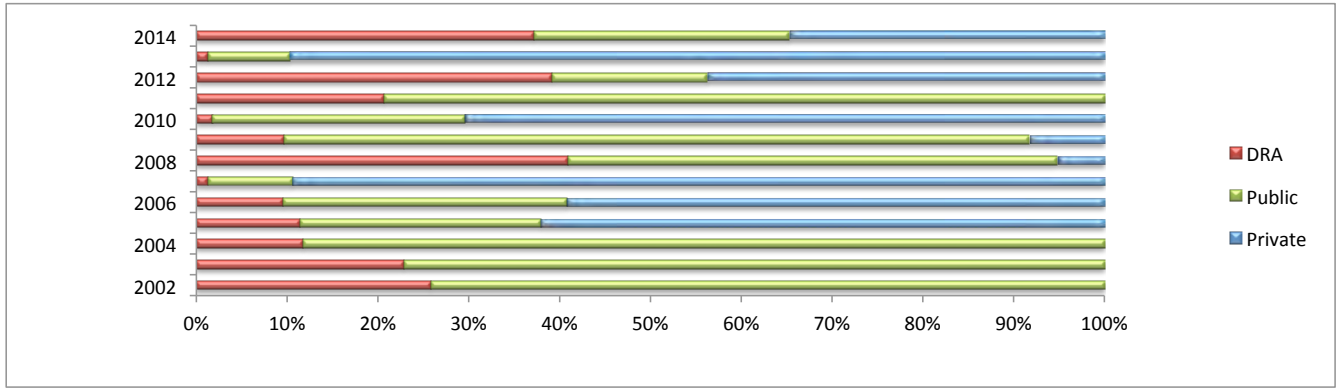
Cumulative Totals: FY02-FY14

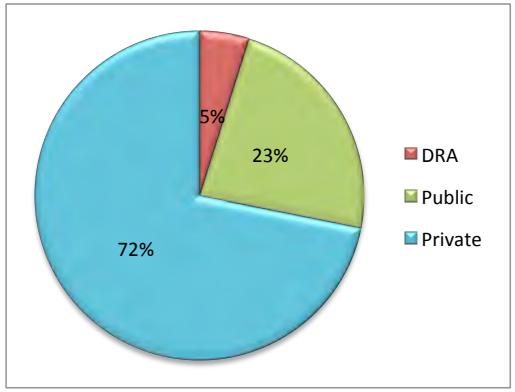
DRA	**$**	**18,042,075**
Public	**$**	**86,469,659**
Private	**$**	**266,796,694**
Total	**$**	**371,308,428**
Total Projects		**117**

Small state assessments, translate into large returns!!



Leverage Comparisons





Mississippi: Como Wastewater Treatment Facility

Awardee: Town of Como **Federal ID#:** 64-6000285

Awardee Contact: Everette Hill **Phone:** 662-561-4100

County: Panola **Congressional District:** 2

Funding:

DRA	$150,000	100.00%
Total	$150,000	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used for improvements to a wastewater treatment facility to include site work, pipe, disinfection system, post treatment aeration, and electrical work, which will help bring the town into DEQ compliance.

Benefits: This project will reduce health threats due to untreated raw sewage exposure, bring the town into compliance with the NPDES permit, and bring the treatment facility to an operational status that will properly treat the raw sewage before being discharged. The town will also be able to meet the requirements of the MDEQ Agreed Order.

Mississippi: Tunica Sewer Improvements

Awardee: Town of Tunica **Federal ID#:** 64-6001132

Awardee Contact: Chuck Cariker **Phone:** 662-326-2432

County: Tunica **Congressional District:** 2

Funding:

DRA	$41,504	90.00%
Applicant	$4,612	10.00%
Total	$46,116	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used for improvements to a wastewater treatment facility. These improvements include rehabilitation of the levee system controlling the wastewater in the lagoon, restoration of the gravel road along the top of the levee, and the removal and replacement of two electric poles.

Benefits: The town's residents will not be threatened with health issues due to untreated raw sewage exposure if the levee break, and the town's lagoon levee will be improved in order to handle the pressure from the lagoon water.

Mississippi: Industrial Road

Awardee: City of Bay Springs **Federal ID#:** 64-0663638

Awardee Contact: J. E. Smith **Phone:** 601-764-4112

County: Jasper **Congressional District:** 1

Funding:

DRA	$200,000	85.03%
Applicant	$35,211	14.97%
Total	$235,211	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used for road improvements to convert a residential street into an industrial street. The street will benefit a local homegrown industry that employs more than 500 workers in Bay Spring. The company, Hol-Mac, has four plants located throughout the city.

Benefits: This project will benefit the 120 workers of Hol-Mac Plant #1. The completion of the project will result in the creation of five new jobs with a wage rate greater than or equal to $15 per hour. The people employed by Hol-Mac are highly trained individuals and can receive training at the Jasper County Workforce Training Center (Jones Junior College), which is currently being constructed using DRA, EDA, Jasper County and other funding sources. The company will make a $15,000 private investment.

Mississippi: Indianola Grocery Store

Awardee: City of Indianola **Federal ID#:** 64-6000482

Awardee Contact: Steve Rosenthal **Phone:** 662-887-3101

County: Sunflower **Congressional District:** 2

Funding:

DRA	$364,230	90.00%
Applicant	$40,470	10.00%
Total	$404,700	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used to renovate a city-owned building to be leased to a grocery store. Improvements include roof replacement, electrical, heating & air, insulation, flooring, suspended ceiling, façade replacement, and entry and delivery doors.

Benefits/Outcomes: Upon completion of the renovation, Turner Cash Saver, Inc. will lease the building from the city and open a cash-saver grocery store that will employ 15 people and provide grocery options for downtown residents.

Mississippi: Primary Care Clinic

Awardee: Aaron E. Henry Community Health Services Center **Federal ID#:** 64-0624495

Awardee Contact: Aurelia J. Taylor **Phone:** 662-624-4292

County: Tate **Congressional District:** 1

Funding:

DRA	$100,000	14.62%
USDA	$50,000	7.31%
HRSA	$150,000	21.94%
Applicant	$383,825	56.13%
Total	$683,825	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be utilized in site preparation and equipment purchase for a new 5,000 square-foot primary care clinic in Tate County.

Benefits: The clinic will provide quality healthcare on a sliding fee basis regardless of ability to pay.

Mississippi: I-69/269 Corridor Economic Development

Awardee: DeSoto County Economic Development Corporation **Federal ID#:** 64-0616656

Awardee Contact: Jim Flanagan **Phone:** 662-561-4100

County: DeSoto **Congressional District:** 2

Funding:

DRA	$52,631	34.48%
EDA	$70,000	45.86%
Applicant	$30,000	19.66%
Total	$152,631	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used for a regional marketing study, toolkit, and action plan for economic development along the future I-69/269 Corridor in DeSoto, Marshall, and Tunica counties.

Benefits: The project will expand the initial strategic plan that was completed for the corridor to focus on developing a marketing plan on the economic prospects and potential new jobs that will benefit the entire I-69/269 corridor in the three counties.

Mississippi: City of Holly Springs Emergency Sewer Lagoon

Awardee: City of Holly Springs **Federal ID#:** 64-0659333

Awardee Contact: Kelvin Buck **Phone:** 662-252-4652

County: Marshall **Congressional District:** 1

Funding:

DRA	$150,000	20.00%
DIP	$500,000	66.67%
MDEQ	$100,000	13.33%
Total	$750,000	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will ensure repairs to existing wastewater facilities, which are currently out of compliance with MDEQ. The city proposes to replace existing aerators, acour pads, a 20-horsepower aerator, a de-chlorinator chamber, and chlorinator equipment with enclosure, a baffle, and sand filter.

Benefits: This project will allow for the improved health of 2,527 residential, commercial, and industrial users, who will be protected from potential diseases that result from untreated wastewater. Emergency upgrades to the non-compliant sewage lagoon due to discharge limits will also be made.

Mississippi: Lake Hazel Dam Rehabilitation Plan

Awardee: City of Hazlehurst **Federal ID#:** 64-6000437

Awardee Contact: Henry Banks **Phone:** 601-894-3131

County: Copiah **Congressional District:** 2

Funding:

DRA	$201,251	100.00%
Total	$201,251	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used to bring the city of Hazlehurst into compliance with MDEQ requirements for high hazard dams with improvements to the downstream slope and existing spillway.

Benefits/Outcomes: Addressing the deficiencies noted during past inspections will prevent the dam from breaking, which will in turn prevent the loss of property, injury, and potential loss of life to downstream residents. The lake offers recreational picnic areas as well as walking trails and fishing opportunities.

Mississippi: Addendum to MS-5586 Panola County

Awardee: Panola County

Federal ID#: 64-6000940

Awardee Contact: Kelly Morris

Phone: 662-563-6200

County: Panola

Congressional District: 2

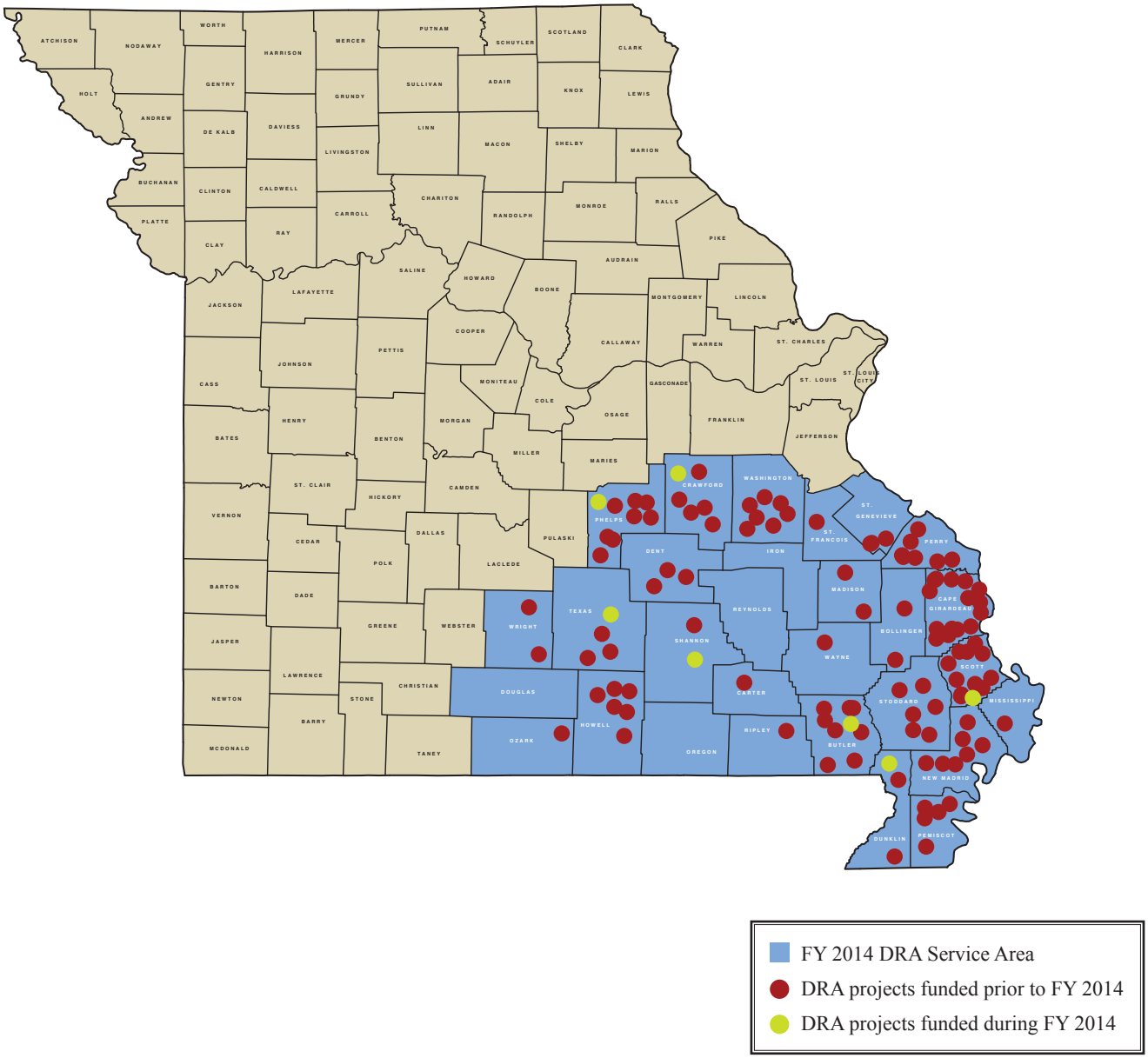
Funding:

DRA	$76,590	72.00%
Applicant	$29,785	28.00%
Total	$106,375	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used to relocate 2,400 linear feet of water line including 6 inch pipe, clamps, curb stops, tees, bedding, crushed stone, and fire hydrants.

Benefits/Outcomes: The benefit of this addendum project is a shallow water line will be relocated to a depth that will allow MS-5586 road improvements project to be completed. This water line relocation will ensure that the waterline will not break under the traffic that travels along this road.

DRA Projects in Missouri



Missouri Counties Served by DRA

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

Cumulative Missouri Benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2002 through FY 2014.

Total DRA projects	113
DRA Investment	$ 14,951,065
Other Public Investment	$ 61,630,664
Other Private Investment	$ 218,468,030
Overall Total Investment	$ 295,049,759
Total Investment Leverage Ratio	18.73
Jobs Created	1,211
Jobs Retained	1,736
Individuals Trained for Jobs	461
Families Affected	1,209
Projected Jobs Created	354
Projected Jobs Retained	3,574
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	407
Projected Families Affected	787

Source: Delta Regional Authority; January 20, 2015.

"The investments made by the Delta Regional Authority into the people, businesses, and communities of Southeast Missouri are important to the economic success of this region and our state. Projects that build up local infrastructure, workforce skills, and health access are essential to a thriving local economy. This funding moves our communities in the right direction."

- Governor Jay Nixon

Missouri Benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2014.

Total DRA projects	7
DRA Investment	$ 1,088,953
Other Public Investment	$ 7,426,957
Other Private Investment	$ 2,815,000
Overall Total Investment	$ 11,330,910
Total Investment Leverage Ratio	9.41
Projected Jobs Created	94
Projected Jobs Retained	61
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	50

Source: Delta Regional Authority; January 20, 2015.

"For many of our communities in the Missouri Bootheel DRA funding is what enables their citizens to achieve a better quality of life through their investments into economic development, workforce development, community infrastructure, and our local businesses and entrepreneurs."

- Missy Marshall, *Director of Sikeston Campus, Three Rivers College*

STATES' RETURN ON DRA INVESTMENTS - Missouri

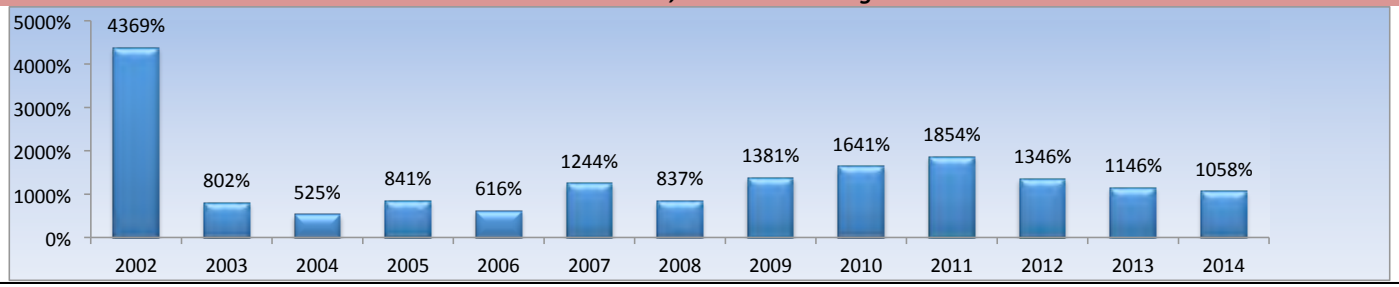
FISCAL YEARS 2002 THROUGH 2014

Missouri	DRA	% of total	Public	Private	Total	Ratio	Assessment	ROI
2002	$ 3,050,952		$ 6,327,151	$ -	$ 9,378,103	2.1:1	$ 68,262	4369%
2003	$ 713,047		$ 4,554,250	$ -	$ 5,267,297	6.4:1	$ 79,087	802%
2004	$ 395,883		$ 4,739,349	$ 5,500,000	$ 10,635,232	25.9:1	$ 63,296	525%
2005	$ 750,837		$ 5,486,501	$ -	$ 6,237,338	7.3:1	$ 79,826	841%
2006	$ 624,913		$ 1,219,949	$ 2,234,000	$ 4,078,862	5.5:1	$ 87,291	616%
2007	$ 948,122		$ 1,658,621	$ 169,560,000	$ 172,166,743	180.6:1	$ 70,542	1244%
2008	$ 728,034		$ 2,936,006	$ 14,315,030	$ 17,979,070	23.7:1	$ 77,703	837%
2009	$ 1,196,268		$ 8,707,245	$ 12,000,000	$ 21,903,513	17.3:1	$ 80,784	1381%
2010	$ 1,485,607		$ 6,778,956	$ -	$ 8,264,563	4.6:1	$ 85,328	1641%
2011	$ 1,634,745		$ 4,668,419	$ 9,902,000	$ 16,205,164	8.9:1	$ 83,669	1854%
2012	$ 1,293,874		$ 2,668,475	$ -	$ 3,962,349	2.1:1	$ 89,500	1346%
2013	$ 1,039,830		$ 4,458,785	$ 2,142,000	$ 7,640,615	6.3:1	$ 83,468	1146%
2014	$ 1,088,953		$ 7,426,957	$ 2,815,000	$ 11,330,910	9.4:1	$ 94,051	1058%

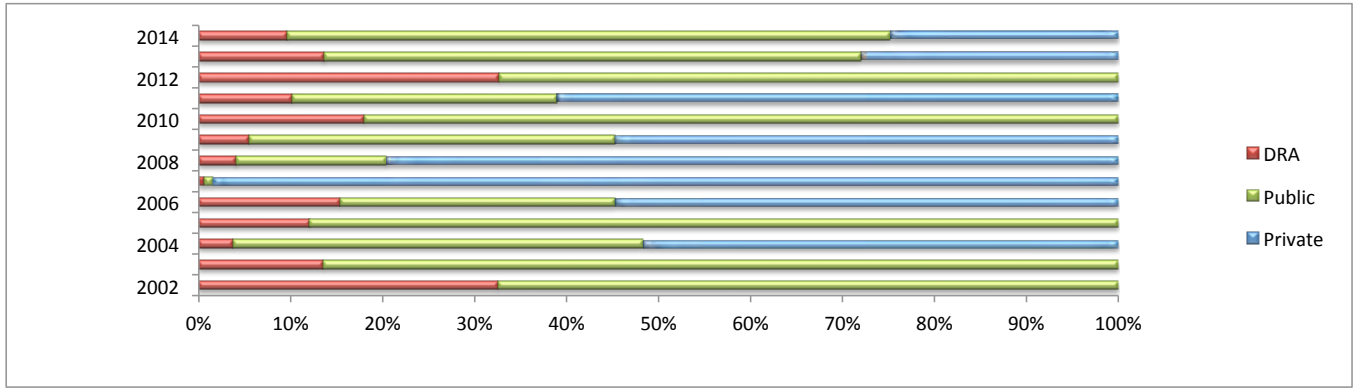
Cumulative Totals: FY02-FY14

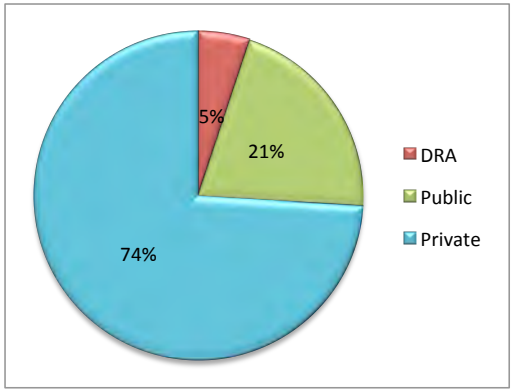
DRA	**$**	**14,951,065**
Public	**$**	**61,630,664**
Private	**$**	**218,468,030**
Total	**$**	**295,049,759**
Total Projects		**113**

Small state assessments, translate into large returns!!



Leverage Comparisons





Missouri: Infrastructure to Facilitate Economic Development

Awardee: City of Steelville **Federal ID#:** 43-6003613

Awardee Contact: Kerry Palmer **Phone:** 573-775-2815

County: Crawford **Congressional District:** 3

Funding:

DRA	$130,300	80.87%
Applicant	$30,820	19.13%
Total	$161,120	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used by the city of Steelville to extend road and utility services to a new lodge and open acreage for development adjacent to the industrial park in support of tourism industry.

Benefits: Extending the roadway and sewer line will facilitate the location of Bearcat Lodge, which intends to create 24 new jobs and invest approximately $2.7 million in construction of the facility. Bearcat Lodge will be add capacity to Steelville's tourism industry.

Missouri: Missouri Delta Medical Center Emergency Department Expansion

Awardee: Missouri Delta Medical Center Foundation **Federal ID#:** 43-1577510

Awardee Contact: Marcie Lawson **Phone:** 573-380-4658

County: Scott **Congressional District:** 8

Funding:

DRA	$205,320	3.47%
Foundations	$5,712,387	96.53%
Total	$5,917,707	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be utilized to renovate and expand the medical center's emergency department allowing Missouri Delta Medical Center to better serve area patients.

Benefits: The emergency department's expansion will improve patient privacy, decrease left-without-being-seen rate, decrease door-to-doctor wait time, enhance patient satisfaction, enable private entrance for the emergency medical service vehicles, and accommodate the project three percent growth of the emergency department over the next ten years.

Missouri: Ozark Foothills Development Association Incubator

Awardee: Ozark Foothills Development Association **Federal ID#:** 43-1464221

Awardee Contact: Felicity Brady **Phone:** 573-785-6402

County: Butler **Congressional District:** 8

Funding:

DRA	$200,000	23.26%
EDA	$380,520	44.25%
MO DED	$229,398	26.68%
RBOG	$50,000	5.81%
Total	$859,918	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used to expand the current business incubator operated by OFDA to provide an additional 10,000 square feet of space for new and growing businesses.

Benefits: The proposed project will add six business incubator spaces that will be available to new and expanding businesses in the five-county Ozark foothills region of southeast Missouri. The business incubator is an economic development tool to help improve the success rate of new and expanding firms, generate new jobs, and provide lower overhead costs within a shared environment.

Missouri: Naturally Meramec

Awardee: Meramec Community Enhancement Corporation **Federal ID#:** 43-1781474

Awardee Contact: Bonnie Prigge **Telephone:** 573-265-2993

County: Phelps **Congressional District:** 8

Funding:

DRA	$88,845	100.00%
Total	$88,845	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be utilized for the creation of a consortium of agritourism and business entities in Crawford, Dent, Phelps, and Washington counties to market and use each other's products.

Benefits: The collaboration of the four counties in agritourism and business will include an increase in marketing efforts, resulting in increased sales and more jobs.

Missouri: Eminence Industrial Road Improvements

Awardee: City of Eminence **Federal ID#:** 43-0838624

Awardee Contact: Jim Anderson **Phone:** 573-226-3717

County: Shannon **Congressional District:** 8

Funding:

DRA	$214,488	90.00%
Applicant	$23,832	10.00%
Total	$238,320	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used for the reconstruction and widening of an existing city street that serves as the primary access road to a major manufacturing company and the city's fire department.

Benefits: This project will create three new jobs and retain 29 jobs as well as facilitate the upgrading of access roads surrounding Eminence Industrial Park.

Missouri: Houston Water Tower and Well

Awardee: City of Houston **Federal ID#:** 44-6005503

Awardee Contact: Ron Reed **Phone:** 417-967-3348

County: Texas **Congressional District:** 8

Funding:

DRA	$150,000	14.29%
CDBG	$750,000	71.42%
Applicant	$150,000	14.29%
Total	$1,050,000	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used for the drilling of a new water well and construction of a new water tower for industry expansion in Houston. The water well will be constructed on city property for the purpose of water supply and fire suppression for two facilities – Dairymen's Best Creamery and Piney River Brewing Company.

Benefits: This project will result in a new water well and tower, helping to create 60 new jobs in the area. Additionally, this project will provide water for fire suppression for a nursing home within the vicinity of the Dairymen's Best Creamery and Piney River Brewing Company.

Missouri: Three Rivers College Kennett & Sikeston Campuses Nursing Program

Awardee: Three Rivers Community College **Federal ID#:** 43-0862849

Awardee Contact: Wesley Payne **Phone:** 573-840-9689

County: Duncan **Congressional District:** 8

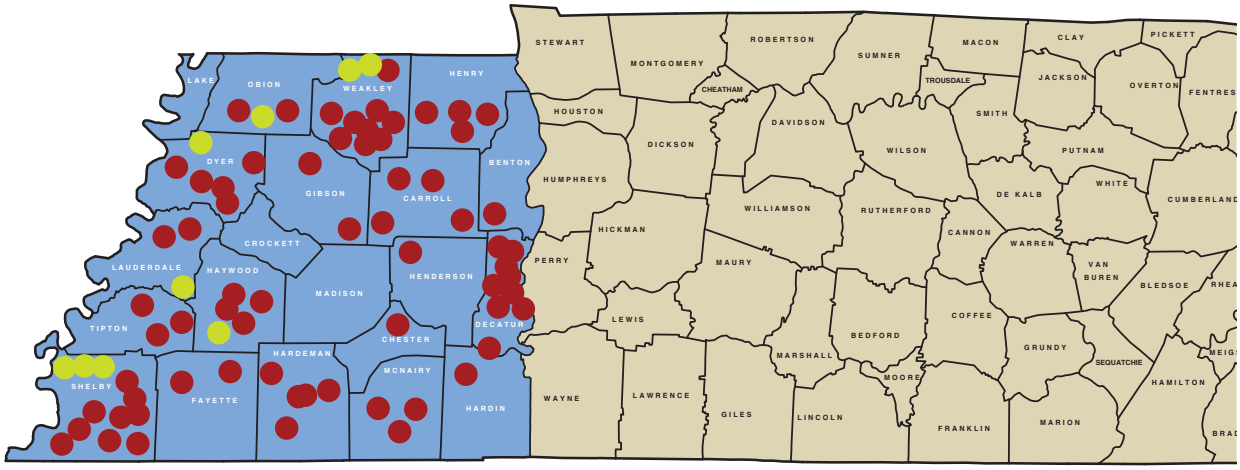
Funding:

DRA	$100,000	50.00%
Applicant	$100,000	50.00%
Total	$200,000	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will be used for simulation technology. Simulation technology utilizes computer-based simulators with CD-ROM applications. Learners move through a clinical situation by responding to questions and selecting therapies. These applications require learners to analyze the data and make a response. Simulation can be used to teach theory, assessment, technology, pharmacology, and skills. The emphasis in simulation is on the application and integration of knowledge, skills, and critical thinking.

Benefits: Approximately 50 students per year will be trained as a result of the TRC nursing simulation lab. Currently, the college's Licensed Practical Nursing program admits 40 students per year and the EMT/Paramedic program admits 10 students per year. Within the next two years, Three Rivers College plans to begin offering a Registered Nursing Bridge Program which will allow students who have been trained as Licensed Practical Nurses to move to a Registered Nursing Program; with the addition of this career track, the number of students using the simulation lab will likely increase to as many as 75 to 80 per year.

DRA Projects in Tennessee



FY 2014 DRA Service Area
DRA projects funded prior to FY 2014
DRA projects funded during FY 2014

Tennessee Counties Served by DRA

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

Cumulative Tennessee Benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2002 through FY 2014.

Total DRA projects	77
DRA Investment	$ 16,642,838
Other Public Investment	$ 160,351,993
Other Private Investment	$ 296,012,818
Overall Total Investment	$ 473,007,649
Total Investment Leverage Ratio	27.42
Jobs Created	1,819
Jobs Retained	11
Individuals Trained for Jobs	53
Families Affected	4,368
Projected Jobs Created	3,131
Projected Jobs Retained	1,312
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	282
Projected Families Affected	7,864

Source: Delta Regional Authority; January 20, 2015.

"The DRA is a strong, natural partner of USDA-Rural Development as we both strive to empower rural communities for success through strategic investments into local infrastructure, workforce, and businesses. With similar missions and strategies for developing West Tennessee, we are always proud to work with DRA on initiatives that increase opportunities and improve life for West Tennesseans."

- Bobby Goode, *Tennessee State Director for USDA-Rural Development*

Tennessee Benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2014.

Total DRA projects	9
DRA Investment	$ 1,298,506
Other Public Investment	$ 1,843,005
Other Private Investment	$ 8,240,612
Overall Total Investment	$ 11,382,123
Total Investment Leverage Ratio	7.77
Projected Jobs Created	181
Projected Jobs Retained	92
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	252

Source: Delta Regional Authority; January 20, 2015.

"The critical path to growing minority and women-owned businesses in the Delta begins with organizations like the DRA understanding the value of strategic partnerships and the importance of investing resources in a solution. The recent pilot funded by a DRA investment has served nearly 300 M/WBEs in the Delta but there is more work that needs to be done. I applaud Chairman Masingill and the DRA for championing small business growth for minority and women businesses, but more importantly for directing dollars to achieve economic development outcomes."

- Luke Yancy III, *President & CEO, The MMBC Continuum*

STATES' RETURN ON DRA INVESTMENTS - Tennessee

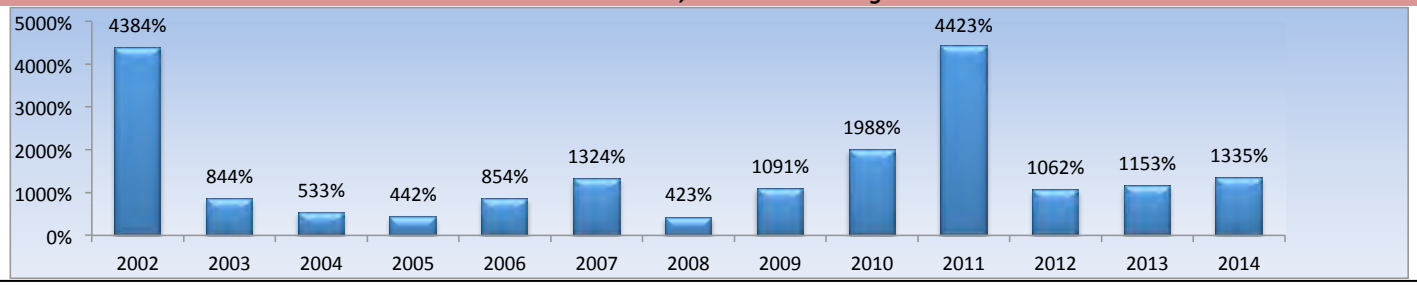
FISCAL YEARS 2002 THROUGH 2014

Tennessee	DRA	% of total	Public	Private	Total	Ratio	Assessment	ROI
2002	$ 2,805,583		$ 4,948,390	$ -	$ 7,753,973	1.8:1	$ 62,574	4384%
2003	$ 684,384		$ 91,016	$ -	$ 775,400	0.1:1	$ 72,497	844%
2004	$ 367,513		$ 1,388,281	$ -	$ 1,755,794	3.8:1	$ 58,022	533%
2005	$ 506,952		$ 2,749,520	$ 1,390,000	$ 4,646,472	8.2:1	$ 93,589	442%
2006	$ 976,017		$ 396,003	$ -	$ 1,372,020	0.4:1	$ 102,342	854%
2007	$ 1,179,815		$ 207,900	$ 165,000,000	$ 166,387,715	140.0:1	$ 82,843	1324%
2008	$ 477,264		$ 4,062,989	$ -	$ 4,540,253	8.5:1	$ 91,253	423%
2009	$ 908,220		$ -	$ -	$ 908,220	0.0:1	$ 76,240	1091%
2010	$ 1,665,525		$ 6,360,500	$ -	$ 8,026,025	3.8:1	$ 79,774	1988%
2011	$ 3,748,646		$ 137,181,588	$ 120,000,000	$ 260,930,234	68.6:1	$ 82,876	4423%
2012	$ 1,030,200		$ 483,818	$ 905,000	$ 2,419,018	1.3:1	$ 88,654	1062%
2013	$ 994,213		$ 638,983	$ 477,206	$ 2,110,402	1.1:1	$ 79,356	1153%
2014	$ 1,298,506		$ 1,843,005	$ 8,240,612	$ 11,382,123	7.8:1	$ 90,511	1335%

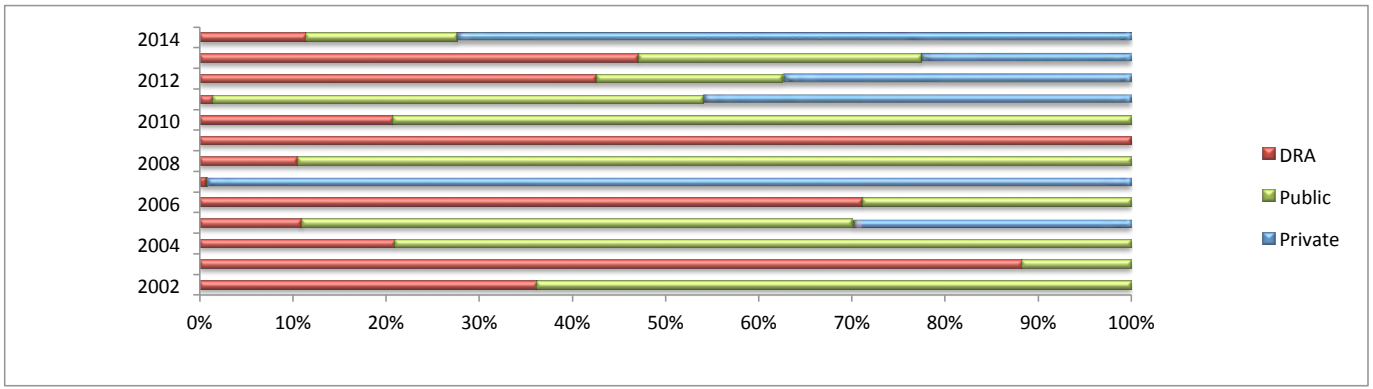
Cumulative Totals: FY02-FY14

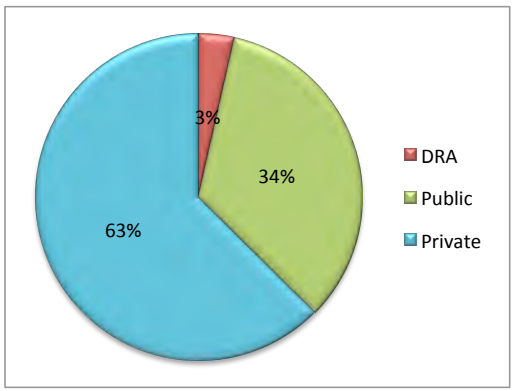
DRA	**$**	**16,642,838**
Public	**$**	**160,351,993**
Private	**$**	**296,012,818**
Total	**$**	**473,007,649**
Total Projects		**77**

Small state assessments, translate into large returns!!



Leverage Comparisons





Tennessee: Gates Infrastructure Improvements

Awardee: Town of Gates **Federal ID#:** 62-6019015

Awardee Contact: Dwayne Dixon **Phone:** 731-836-7501

County: Lauderdale **Congressional District:** 8

Funding:

DRA	$150,000	62.76%
Applicant	$89,000	37.24%
Total	$239,000	100.00%

Description: DRA investment will relocate an exposed fiber optic line for an ongoing rail spur project.

Benefits: The rail spur project will have a tremendous impact on the operation of Wright's Auto Parts and Metals and will contribute to its effectiveness in the following ways: the expansion will allow WAPM to sell recyclable materials to markets with higher value, the company will no longer be limited to the markets of the surrounding area, and the investment will benefit the network of suppliers, the city of Gates, and Lauderdale County.

Tennessee: Seeding Entrepreneurship Across the Mid-South (SEAM)

Awardee: SeedCo **Federal ID#:** 13-2875743

Awardee Contact: Chermale Casem **Phone:** 901-328-5828

County: Shelby **Congressional District:** 8, 9

Funding:

DRA	$265,226	100.00%
Total	$265,226	100.00%

Description: DRA investment will be used to promote entrepreneurship, workforce development, family and work support programs and technical assistance services for small businesses and non-profits. Working together with community partners and leveraging local resources, Seedco's SEAM program provides a comprehensive, scalable model utilizing entrepreneurship as the foundation for reducing poverty through asset, wealth, and job creation.

Benefits: Graduates will be equipped with new management skills, extensive connections, a business mind-set and confidence to enter or return to the workforce through the creation or expansion of their own thriving microenterprise. The successful launch of a microenterprise by participants will increase asset ownership that over time will allow families to move from poverty to long-term prosperity.

Tennessee: Dyer Workforce Solutions: Expanding the Digital Works in Tennessee

Awardee: Dyersburg City Schools **Federal ID#:** 62-0986509

Awardee Contact: Neel Durbin **Phone:** 731-699-0234

County: Dyer **Congressional District:** 8

Funding:

DRA	$100,000	59.70%
Applicant	$67,504	40.30%
Total	$167,504	100.00%

Description: The Digital Works concept will be expanded to offer customer service representative and server programming training to residents of Dyer County and surrounding rural areas.

Benefits: Digital Works will allow new forms of work to be introduced, taking advantage of a value-priced, high-tech workforce. As local capacity builds, the community will be able to leverage the workforce to recruit advanced technology companies, not just traditional manufacturing facilities. The community will gain access to thousands of jobs available to underemployed and displaced workers and will provide younger workers with an opportunity to earn a good living as part of a skilled workforce.

Tennessee: Stanton Digital Factory

Awardee: City of Stanton **Federal ID#:** 62-0676932

Awardee Contact: Allan Sterbinsky **Phone:** 731-258-5002

County: Madison **Congressional District:** 8

Funding:

DRA	$72,000	90.00%
Applicant	$8,000	10.00%
Total	$80,000	100.00%

Description: DRA investment will be used to conduct Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Digital Factory training for local residents. LiveOps—a local company—has ensured REDI they will hire all successful graduates.

Benefits: The people successfully trained at the Digital Factories will be employed as Direct Response Agents for an Internet Company called LiveOps averaging between $8-15 hourly wages. LiveOps has ensured REDI that they can employ all successful graduates as Direct Response Agents.

Tennessee: Expansion of OutsideIn Training Programs

Awardee: OutsideIn **Federal ID#:** 46-1665470

Awardee Contact: Jani Leellen Smith **Phone:** 731-699-0234

County: Weakley **Congressional District:** 8

Funding:

DRA	$31,200	100.00%
Total	$31,200	100.00%

Description: DRA investment will be utilized for the expansion of the OutsideIn training program in Troy to focus on workforce training for chronically unemployed and indigent women with a past history of addiction and/or low educational attainment.

Benefits/Outcomes: This project will provide increased training and work space for 16 OutsideIn trainees, increased training for staff members to improve curriculum, and a better product to guarantee sustainability. The addition of three new sewing machines will allow for the hiring of seven workers by 2016, while also increasing production for OutsideIn.

Tennessee: Implementing a Multi-State GIS Project

Awardee: Central US Earthquake Consortium **Federal ID#:** 37-1172914

Awardee Contact: Chris Pope **Phone:** 901-544-3570

County: Shelby **Congressional District:** 9

Funding:

DRA	$225,000	77.59%
Applicant	$65,000	22.41%
Total	$290,000	100.00%

Description: DRA investment will be used to expand the capacity of a multi-state GIS system for the purpose of enhancing regional disaster planning through the Central US Earthquake Consortium.

Benefits: This project will provide workforce training for a minimum of 25 people, create a regional GIS model in DRA's footprint, connect nine states to share essential elements of information, make geospatial data maps and images available to hundreds of city and county governments, speed up response and road status, and maximize the potential of a regional GIS.

Tennessee: NextFarm Agricultural Innovation Accelerator

Awardee: Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center **Federal ID#:** 46-0531054

Awardee Contact: Carol Reed **Phone:** 731-587-4213

County: Weakley **Congressional District:** 7, 8, 9

Funding:

DRA	$100,000	100.00%
Total	$100,000	100.00%

Description: DRA investment will support NextFarm Ag Accelerator serving 18 counties in northwest Tennessee, providing mentorship, training, capital investment opportunities, and legal services to ag-based entrepreneurs.

Benefits: The NextFarm Accelerator will help to produce a heightened interest in the ag-tech sector for rural West Tennessee. An accelerator of this type is projected to recruit 16 potential entrepreneurs, help develop 6 companies each cycle of the accelerator, and support the creation of 12 jobs.

Tennessee: City of Greenfield Access Road for Industrial Expansion

Awardee: City of Greenfield **Federal ID#:** 62-6000296

Awardee Contact: Cindy McAdams **Phone:** 731-587-4213

County: Weakley **Congressional District:** 8

Funding:

DRA	$107,550	100.00%
Total	$107,550	100.00%

Description: DRA funds will assist in the construction of an access road for Plastic Products Company. The asphalt access road will consist of a 6-inch gravel base from Parker Drive to the south wing expansion at Plastic Products.

Benefits: The project will lead to the creation of 122 new jobs over three years. The construction of the proposed access road is the final step of a $1.7 million expansion project at Plastic Products Company. The project will save the company considerable funds, which can be reinvested in the local workforce.

Tennessee: Millington Flight Academy

Awardee: City of Millington

Federal ID#: 62-6000367

Awardee Contact: Terry Jones

Phone: 901-873-3341

County: Shelby

Congressional District: 9

Funding:

DRA	$247,530	1.82%
State	$724,150	51.05%
Applicant	$706,855	41.28%
Local	$100,000	5.85%
EDGE	$150,000	7.78%
Total	$1,928,535	100.00%

Description: DRA investment will be utilized for the redevelopment of an airport hangar for a flight academy—Crew Training International (CTI). DRA funds allow for milling and overlaying of Funafuti Avenue, which bisects the proposed flight school campus.

Benefits/Outcomes: The Flight Academy will help to create 75 new jobs, recruit CTI students to the local communities, and attract a $6 million construction investment by CTI.

DRA Policy Initiatives and Programs

Program Overview

Throughout six years of partnership, the Delta Regional Authority and the Department of Defense have collaborated to bring the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program to the Delta region. IRT medical missions deliver free, quality medical care, provided by licensed medical professionals serving in our reserve forces, to residents of rural communities that otherwise have little to no access to quality health care. IRT clinics operate for a temporary time frame (usually about 10 days) during which patients can receive general medical, dental, and optical care for themselves and their family members, all of which are high-demand health care needs in the Delta.

Second Quarter FY 2015 Update

DRA is working with three units to plan IRT missions in Missouri and Alabama in 2015:

Missouri Bootheel:

- Sikeston, Dexter, and Malden, Missouri

West Alabama:

- Selma, Demopolis, and Camden, Alabama

East Alabama:

- Tuskegee, Eufaula, and Clayton, Alabama

The initial planning sessions have been planned and DRA staff is currently working in each of the locations to prepare for the summer of 2015 for the missions.

Expectations for the Remainder of FY 2015

All three missions are currently in the planning stages, and a DRA representative will be meeting with each of the mission coordinators for a second and final planning session in Missouri and Alabama. Each mission will be executed in the summer of 2015.

Goals and Outcomes

Each mission will provide medical services including, but not limited to, general medical, dental and optical care. Services will be provided on a first-come, first-serve basis with each location providing services that benefit those in the communities that are underserved and in need of medical attention. The expectation is that each mission will provide care to between four and five thousand patients in the region. Thus far, in six years of partnership, the DRA and DOD are proud to have delivered free medical care to nearly 50,000 patients in Delta communities.

Delta Doctors

Program Overview

In an effort to increase the number of doctors serving Delta residents, the Delta Regional Authority began implementing the Delta Doctors program in 2003. The program allows foreign physicians who are trained in the US to work in medically underserved areas for three years by providing those physicians with J-1 Visa Waivers. Most choose to stay far longer once they develop a patient base. Those in the Delta Doctors program do not take jobs away from U.S.-born physicians. Instead, they provide services in areas where there would otherwise be a shortage of physicians.

Second Quarter FY 2015 Update

Applications are currently being received by the DRA. Meanwhile, the DRA was invited to attend a J-1 Visa Waiver Summit on Immigration in Washington, DC. The meeting was hosted by Immigration Attorneys who specialize in J-1, J-2, H1B and J-O cases. A DRA representative, Bevin Hunter, spoke to the attendees about the Delta Regional Authority Delta Doctors program, and about how the DRA's program differs from Conrad 30 programs and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) program.

During the summit, it was noted several times by speakers that the DRA's program is exceptional, and that DRA has played and continues to play a major role in placing doctors within high-need Delta communities. DRA held a conference call with a committee of attorneys who frequently use the Delta Doctors program. Those attorneys included: Greg Siskind, Adam Cohen, Barry Walker, Brad Sandler, Klari Tedrow, Doreen Dobson, Jeremy Zollinger to discuss the new DRA Website Delta Doctors page and suggestions for streamlining and updating the application process to make it more efficient.

Expectations for the Remainder of FY 2015

With the launch of the new DRA.gov website, there will be construction of a Delta Doctors jobs board and additional interactive resources provided to foreign physicians and local hospitals interested in participating in the Delta Doctors program. The Delta Doctors program also has a new logo and will incorporate updated classification notes, reordering of the application checklist to be more streamlined, additional documents to the website that are form fill able and increased user experience for those seeking to learn more about the program.

Goals and Outcomes

Applications

- In addition to the success of the 80 applications in FY 2014, DRA fully expects to process a similar number in 2015. Currently as of January 1, 2015 the program has received 14 applications which have been processed.

Marketing

- DRA staff are working on a new brochure that will use the new logo created for the Delta Doctors program. The new brochure will be geared towards employers and will include photos of our current doctors around the region, a map of the region and important information to help businesses and stakeholders understand the program and DRA's role.
- A push card resource for interested international doctors will also be created, and will be available to DRA partners and attorneys, to help them promote the Delta Doctors program and the documentation necessary to apply.

Outreach

- Staff will be utilizing a checklist and will emphasize taking action to facilitate drop-in visits around the region to talk with DRA's Delta Doctors.
- Staff will be attending job fairs in the region to talk with hospitals and potential candidates.
- Staff will attend health conferences that pertain to J-1 Waivers to keep up with information and to continue to make contacts throughout the region.

DRA and HHS/HRSA Delta Region Technical Assistance Partnership

Program Overview

The Delta Regional Authority and the US Department of Health and Human Services / Health Resources Services Administration (HHS/HRSA) are working closely together to develop a series of webinars and in-person workshops that will be packaged together as a "Delta Region Technical Assistance Partnership". This partnership is currently in development.

The goal of this new DRA and HHS/HRSA partnership is to help applicants in the Delta region gain access to HRSA grants and funding. The webinars and workshops will be designed to provide broad overviews of the various funding sources that are available through HRSA, while also delving into more technical details and step-by-step instructions, providing applicants with a more in-depth understanding of how to make an application for HRSA funds successful, and how to gain access to the right kinds of funding that health stakeholders in the Delta region need. The webinars and workshops will be directed toward, and applicable to, a wide range of stakeholders, including but not limited to: community health centers, hospitals, community colleges, and various health workforce training programs.

The opportunity for DRA to work with HRSA to create this partnership arose following a successful event in the Delta region, when the DRA hosted HRSA Administrator Dr. Mary Wakefield in Arkansas for a site visit tour of three Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) military medical clinic sites. Following this successful tour, HRSA conveyed its interest in continuing to partner with DRA on new and existing programs. Over the course of ongoing discussions about how the two agencies can most effectively work together to provide the best possible outcomes to the region, the DRA and HHS/HRSA Technical Assistance Partnership was born.

Second Quarter FY 2015 Update

This partnership is currently in development, with the first phase of this partnership – a series of webinars designed specifically for Delta region stakeholders – tentatively set to begin Thursday, February 26th 2015 from 2:00 – 4:30 pm eastern. The first webinar will cover two specific HRSA rural funding programs with application periods that are currently open: the Rural Network Allied Health Training Program funding opportunity (applications due by March 31, 2015) and the Rural Health Care Coordination Network Partnership Program (applications due by April 6, 2015). Additional information about how to join the webinars is forthcoming.

Expectations for the Remainder for FY 2015

The DRA looks forward to three in-person workshops which will be held in three different locations within the region. Two of these workshops will be hosted by DRA in partnership with HRSA, and a third workshop will likely be hosted in partnership with the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and HRSA. DRA hopes that these events will occur in spring and fall of 2015. The open application periods for the various funding opportunities that will be covered will also have a bearing on the actual event dates.

The DRA has proposed specific locations and content for the workshops, which are subject to change pending HRSA's input about the feasibility of the recommended locations.

Goals and Outcomes

DRA has conducted an analysis of data provided by HRSA showing locations and funding programs for which applicants in the Delta region may not be successfully applying (i.e., applications may be submitted but may not be strong enough for the applicant to be awarded funding). Following an analysis of this data, DRA has asked HRSA to focus specifically on three funding categories that are of interest to Delta region stakeholders: 1) Rural Health Networks and Outreach; 2) Workforce and Professional Needs and Trainings; and 3) Health Infrastructure and Telehealth.

By hosting focused workshops focused on these three health opportunity funding categories, DRA is hopeful that the regional events will lead to an outcome of more successful Delta region applications submitted for HRSA funding, and more Delta region applicants awarded HRSA funding in the future.

Small Business and Entrepreneurship Initiative

Program Overview

DRA's Small Business and Entrepreneurship Policy Framework focuses on policy areas aimed at creating an entrepreneurial ecosystem in local communities that will develop more skilled entrepreneurs, lead to the creation of more job-creating new businesses, and help grow small businesses. The initiative addresses five key priority areas to guide this initiative:

- Developing a pipeline of educated and skilled entrepreneurs
- Cultivating technology exchange and innovation
- Improving access to affordable capital
- Promoting awareness and advancing regional market opportunities
- Optimizing the regulatory environment

Projects Funded Under the SB&E Initiative:

- **M/WBE Strategic Growth Services (M/WBE)-** $250,000; The MMBC Continuum aims to address the challenges that hinder M/WBE growth by partnering with economic development organizations to share innovative minority business development strategies. The project's focus is on delivering targeted business training, development, and technical assistance programs to assist M/WBEs with growing their businesses through addition of new customers, increased business with existing customers, increased revenue, improved business operations and capacity, and ultimately job creation to impact economic growth in their respective regions.
    - The program will impact at least 150 M/WBEs through 10 training and development events within a 100-mile radius of five DRA counties including Jefferson County, AR, Jackson County, IL, Ouachita Parish, LA, Madison County, MS, and Cape Girardeau County, MO.

- **Idea Village Entrepreneurs in Residence (EIRs)-** $50,000; The Idea Village brings together entrepreneurs, professional resources providers and potential investors to support local startups through New Orleans Entrepreneur Week. EIRs provide the critical technical assistance, mentorship and access to professional and investor networks necessary to support and sustain high-growth ventures. The individuals help guide emerging entrepreneurs by providing management oversight on business challenges and lead pitch preparation with insight from investor experience.
    - Program will enable approximately 55 local, early stage, high-growth start-ups to accelerate their businesses during Entrepreneur Season. Areas served include Jefferson Parish, St. Bernard Parish, Placquemines Parish, St. Tammy Parish, St. Charles Parish, and St. John Parish.

- **Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub-** $201,105; The Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub is a collection of spaces dedicated to fostering innovation in arts, small business, technology, and entrepreneurship. The Hub encompasses an incubator, makers space, resources, and support services to create a positive environment for small businesses and entrepreneurs to thrive.
    - DRA's investment is funding the renovation of a building in the Argenta Arts District of North Little Rock to serve as the Argenta Innovation Center and house multiple spaces for entrepreneurship development including the Art Connection, the Steam Lab, the Launch Pad, and the Silver Mine. The Hub hosts activities such as StartUp Arkansas Global Entrepreneurship Week, Youth Makers Camps, and a full schedule of events targeted at youth and student entrepreneurs.

Second Quarter FY 2015 Update

M/WBE Strategic Growth Services:

- Hosted Part 1 of the featured M/WBE seminar in two markets (Monroe, LA and Ridgeland, MS)
- Hosted Part 2 of the featured M/WBE seminar in Cape Girardeau, MO
- Hosted seventh annual Economic Development Forum which regional stakeholders attended
- Launched corporate outreach component to engage corporations for B2B opportunities
- Completed five market visits including Stakeholder Meetings with Economic Developers and Community Leaders
- Completed 12 market engagements (5 visits/7 seminars) connecting with 66 Community and Economic Development Stakeholders and 110 M/WBEs

Idea Village Entrepreneurs in Residence:

- Hosted 33 IDEA sessions (one-on-one 90 minute strategy session)
- Partnered with GNO, Inc. and Launch Pad to bring entrepreneurs on a road show that engaged the national investor community in a dialogue about New Orleans with the goal of getting national investments while keeping the companies here locally and showcasing the result of best practices developed in New Orleans.
- Retained an EIR to help with strategic planning and preparation for the upcoming Entrepreneur Season. EIR managed program development and entrepreneur outreach.

Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub:

- As of November 2014, the Argenta Innovation Center had completed the installation of electrical wiring and painting of the walls and is now completely open for programming.

- On November 12, 2014, the Argenta Innovation Center officially opened its Launch Pad space that hosted the Arkansas Technology Summit which gave twenty tech startups in the state the opportunity to present for further business development.
- The Innovation Hub was announced as participant community in the Local Foods Local Places program to create a regional Food Innovation Center that will increase downtown development opportunities by supporting food entrepreneurs and creating a market for local rural farmers.

Expectations for the Remainder of FY 2015

Looking to the future for the DRA Small Business & Entrepreneurship Initiative, an exciting next step is that DRA leadership is in the development phase of a partnership with the EDA's Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship for a Delta Entrepreneurial Ecosystems program. Initial meetings have been held between DRA and EDA, and both agencies are working to outline available funding and programming capabilities.

Goals and Outcomes

M/WBE Strategic Growth Services:

- Engage M/WBEs to determine growth potential
- Conduct a minimum of two training and development session per market
- Conduct ongoing project monitoring and evaluation to track progress

Idea Village Entrepreneurs in Residence:

- Host 92 IDEA sessions
- Continue strategic planning and preparation for Entrepreneur Season
- Meet goal of accepting 10 Companies into the IDEx accelerator program

Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub:

- Renovation of downtown building into Argenta Innovation Center to serve as home to four spaces for education, training, prototyping and startup and entrepreneurial opportunities for Arkansans
- Innovation Center and Hub have become a center for entrepreneurial activity and leadership in Arkansas, hosting the Arkansas Technology Summit, the ARK Challenge pitch competition, StartUp Global Entrepreneurship Week competition, coding workshops, a robotics competition, and numerous youth trainings–events and opportunities that have been created from the Innovation Hub.

SBA Access to Affordable Capital Workshops

Program Overview

The Delta Regional Authority is working in conjunction with the US Small Business Administration to plan a series of "Meet the Lenders" access to affordable capital workshops across the DRA region. The workshops will address a key priority identified in the DRA small business and entrepreneurship policy framework, "Strengthening Our Local Economies," to improve access to affordable capital. Workshop objectives include:

1. Providing new and existing small business owners with detailed information on how to access affordable capital;
2. Presenting an array of business support services offered by the SBA and SBDC;
3. Facilitating the initial dialogue between entrepreneurs, bankers, and service providers; and
4. Offering a show of support for federal partnering agency SBA to execute programmatic goals.

Second Quarter FY 2015 Update

The first three small business workshops were held in FY15 in Illinois on September 30, in Arkansas on October 23 and in Mississippi on November 13, hosting more than fifty participants and eight to twelve lenders at each location. These workshops focused on brief explanations of SBA programs with a round robin at the end affording the opportunity for small business owners to talk one-on-one with lenders.

Expectations for the Remainder of FY 2015

DRA staff will work with our SBA partners in Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, and Tennessee to schedule these workshops in spring of 2015.

Goals and Outcomes

The DRA is working to help stakeholders in the Delta thrive by providing educational and technical support for small businesses to grow and expand, improving education and training opportunities to develop a robust small business communities in the Delta. The DRA expects to continue participation levels of fifty small businesses and entrepreneurs at each of the upcoming workshops.

Delta Entrepreneurship Network

Program Overview

The Delta Entrepreneurship Network program will identify, connect, nurture, and grow entrepreneurs and support organizations from across the Mississippi River Delta and the Alabama Black Belt regions by addressing regional deficiencies in capital, training, and best practices through a connected infrastructure of support organizations, investors, and educators. In the pilot year of a possible three-year partnership with The Idea Village in New Orleans, LA, the Delta Entrepreneurship Network will launch a competitive fellowship program to identify entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship support organizations in the region.

This fellowship will identify up to sixteen entrepreneurs and sixteen entrepreneurship support organizations to receive a fellowship to participate in a special segment of New Orleans Entrepreneur Week (NOEW) with programmatic workshops and mentorship from panelists and industry experts.

For Entrepreneurs: Applicants will compete in a series of pitch competitions in the region, known as The Delta Challenge. These regional pitch competitions will identify entrepreneurs that have highly scalable, investable ventures throughout the region. The top three winners of the respective competitions will receive a $1500 fellowship to attend New Orleans Entrepreneur Week March 25-27, 2015. While at NOEW, these entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to showcase their ideas to a panel of investors and network with panelists, experts, mentors, and other entrepreneurs.

For Entrepreneurship Support Organizations: Applicants will be individuals or organizations that promote, nurture, and grow entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurship ecosystem in their communities. Those that provide direct entrepreneurship support or education services are encouraged to apply. Up to sixteen individuals or organization representatives will be identified to represent the eight-state region and will receive a $1500 fellowship to attend New Orleans Entrepreneur Week March 24-27, 2015.

New Orleans Entrepreneur Week 2014 had 5,209 participants, and $240,644 in startup capital was allocated across 38 startup ventures. By participating in the Delta Entrepreneurship Network, fellows will have access to industry experts, gain technical knowledge, expand their entrepreneurial network, and enhance the entrepreneurial ecosystem of the DRA region. Through The Network, fellows will experience the development of a more connected, comprehensive network among entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial support service providers and educators. Additionally, the end result will promote the five key concepts of creating a successful

entrepreneurial ecosystem as outlined in DRA's Small Business and Entrepreneurship Policy Framework, Strengthening Our Local Economies.

Second Quarter FY 2015 Update

DRA launched the program and opened applications as of January 15, 2015. Applications for entrepreneurs will be open until March 2, 2015 and applications for entrepreneurship support organizations will be open until February 15, 2015. Webinars were held January 27, 2015 and February 3, 2015.

Expectations for the Remainder of FY 2015

A series of pitch competitions, known as The Delta Challenge, will be used to identify the sixteen entrepreneurs throughout the region. The pitch competitions will happen during the month of February 2015. All fellows will be identified as of March 4, 2015. Fellows will attend New Orleans Entrepreneur Week March 24-27, 2015 in New Orleans, LA. Engagement with fellows will continue throughout the year through meetings, educational opportunities, and follow-up site visits. DRA will continue to engage with entrepreneurs and support organizations to build an engaging and resourceful network.

- **February 2015:** The Delta Challenge competitions will be held to identify sixteen entrepreneurial fellows to attend New Orleans Entrepreneur Week. Three winners from each Delta Challenge will be announced as fellows. Entrepreneurship Support Organizations will be interviewed on February 25, 2015.

- **March 2015:** Entrepreneurship Support Organization fellows are announced on March 4, 2015. Support Organization fellows will participate in New Orleans Entrepreneur Week March 24-27, 2015. Entrepreneur fellows will participate in New Orleans Entrepreneur Week March 25-27, 2015.

- **April 2015-October 2015:** Follow-up with fellows after NOEW. Follow-up will include site visits, region-wide conferences and workshops, and electronic forums to connect entrepreneurs and support organizations.

- **October 2015-December 2015:** Pilot year evaluation and strategic planning for 2016.

Goals and Outcomes

The inaugural class of the Delta Entrepreneurship Network will help to disseminate ideas, best practices, and resources to address deficiencies in the entrepreneurial ecosystem of the DRA region.

The Network aims to provide access to mentors, programmatic workshops, and experiential best practices of entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship support organizations throughout the Delta region. Through a connected infrastructure of support organizations, investors, and educators, the Network aims to give entrepreneurs and support organizations access to affordable capital, technical training, mentorship, and programmatic events to encourage new entrepreneurial activity and strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the DRA region.

Reimagining the Delta Workforce

Program Overview

The Delta Regional Authority partnered with Ted Abernathy and the Southern Growth Policies Board to produce the report, *Re-imagining Workforce Development*. From this report it was determined that there was a need to build the capacity of local officials and connect government, education, and business stakeholders to work together in building a pipeline of skilled workers for mutual achievement. In order to address this need, the DRA convened these local stakeholders at state-specific summits to introduce leaders to the proposed Reimagining the Delta Workforce framework. The DRA then built a competitive, technical assistance, capacity building, and implementation investment program that empowers rural communities and parishes to develop a connected regional workforce system inclusive of both business/industry and education systems.

Strategies for enhancing workforce development that DRA is using as a suggested framework for Delta communities in creating a successful pipeline of skilled workers to attract job creation and business investment as well as decrease the skills gap within DRA counties and parishes:

- **Reimagining readiness**- Applicants should demonstrate plans to strengthen connections between education and job skills, rethink the value of credentials in the workplace, expose students to the work world, and scale take technology to scale.
- **Reengaging adult learners and disconnected youth** - Applicants should demonstrate plans to target adults who lack a degree or credentials, assist dislocated workers to rejoin the workforce, and recover disconnected youth.
- **Realigning relationships and resources** - Applicants should demonstrate plans to create continuity in education and workforce development, align and track data across the education and workforce pipeline, and engage business in a meaningful way.
- **Ramp up** - Applicants should demonstrate plans to take new development workforce development plan to scale upon program completion.

Second Quarter FY 2015 Update

The final three workforce summits were held in FY15, along with the last two webinars for the Reimagining the Delta Workforce NOFA. The applications for the NOFA were due to the DRA on November 10 and all applications were reviewed and final recommendations were made on November 21 to the Federal Co-Chairman. The board was notified of the accepted applications on November 24 and successful applicants were notified shortly afterwards. Out of the 18 complete applications 12 were deemed eligible and 6 were deemed ineligible.

Chairman Masingill announced the 12 awardees via conference call with reporters and a press release to the public in mid December 2014. DRA staff has contacted those eligible awardees to

provide technical assistance in implementing the proposed project and to begin working with awardees to start their projects.

Due to the evident need of workforce development capacity building among project partners, seven of the twelve funding recipients will be participating in an ACT Work Ready Communities Academy specifically held for and targeting Delta communities. The first session will be held on March 4-5, 2015 in New Orleans.

Goals and Outcomes

The expected impact will be a well-educated and highly skilled workforce that can both fill available jobs for existing businesses and attract future job creation by incoming or growing businesses. This job creation and decrease of the skills gap will help connect our workforce to improved quality of life through employment. Program development and recommendations are based on findings in the DRA-commissioned report. The DRA sees the benefits of engaging in workforce development planning by helping communities to implement the below strategies identified in Re-imagining Workforce Development as goals for their workforce development system.

Summits

In total, more than 680 education, business, and government stakeholders registered for the Reimagining the Delta Workforce summits in all eight states. As follow-up from the summits, DRA staff built event surveys and asked registrants to provide feedback on the summits and next steps. See below:

Positive Feedback from Attendees

"It was refreshing to see that DRA has the pulse of Business and Industry. The partnership that was exhibited at this Summit can serve as a model. Enjoyed this event very much!" – Arkansas summit attendee

"The morning was incredible and something everyone should hear." – Missouri summit attendee

"Good job. Lots of good information! Thank you! Would love to attend when and if other workforce related summits/seminars are held." – Mississippi summit attendee

"I thought the summits was excellent overall. Workforce development is in a crisis stage and we need to recruit future workers as soon as possible." – Mississippi summit attendee

"I'm new to DRA so I'm not really sure about the agency but if this workforce summit is a vision of things to come, I look forward to the next summit." – Louisiana summit attendee

"Above awesome." – Louisiana summit attendee

"Enjoyed all the speakers…excellent information." – Kentucky summit attendee

Lessons Learned from Surveys

- Need to include more discussion on veterans re-entering the workforce.
- Need for more K12 educators to be part of the conversation.
- Future events need to consider breakout sessions that connect stakeholders for a more substantive conversation on partnership building and next steps.
- Important to discuss transportation's role in aligning workers with jobs and training in the region.
- Panelists did not distinguish well between education and job training…big distinction!
- Healthcare was not mentioned as part of the conversation with job training and economic development.
- Need more employers present.

Capacity Building and Technical Assistance Fund

18 complete applications were received from diverse stakeholders and partnerships that represented all eight states. 12 applications were deemed eligible and will be funded. Six applications are more program-specific and will be considered for future funding that does not fall under the current Reimagining the Delta Workforce fund NOFA.

DRA expects the proposed projects to result in:

- Increased number of community leaders that have been trained through the ACT Work Ready Communities Academy
- Increased number of Delta workers/students that have achieved National Career Readiness Certification
- Increased job creation for Delta communities and business location due to availability of highly skilled workforce

Jobs for America's Graduates

Program Overview

Jobs for America's Graduates, Inc. (JAG) is the nation's largest school-to-work system for at-risk and disadvantaged youth. JAG focuses on keeping students in school through graduation by equipping them with the academic and technical skills necessary to improve their employability, which is parallel to DRA's commitment to invest in strategies that boost employment and educational success.

For Phase III of the partnership to boost both employment and education outcomes for high-risk youth, it is proposed that:

A. A total of $280,000 be invested to support the implementation of the JAG program at 14 new schools at $20,000 per school in the DRA service area within the seven states where JAG has long-standing and proven operations;
B. A total of $70,000 be invested in the JAG National Organization for JAG oversight and support for the implementation of the 14 new schools with monitoring, evaluation, technical assistance, training, and other assistance to JAG Affiliates; and
C. A total of $50,000 be invested to support the implementation of the JAG program at 5 new schools in Mississippi's Delta region. This will be accomplished under the joint leadership and supervision of Jobs for America's Graduates and Jobs for Mississippi Graduates. This $50,000 will be matched by an additional $50,000 from the State of Mississippi as approved by Governor Phil Bryant. Both of these amounts will be matched by local schools (or over matched) in support of implementation of the JAG model by the five participating schools.

Second Quarter FY 2015 Update

A total of 17 schools have been approved for funding and are implementing the JAG program:

Alabama

Escambia County High School

Arkansas

Helena-West Helena School District

Nettleton School District

Wynne School District

Kentucky

Hopkinsville High School

Mississippi

Coffeeville School District

Hinds County School District

McComb School District

Okolona School District

Warren County School District

(including Vicksburg and Warren Central)

Yazoo City School District

Louisiana	**Missouri**
Bolton High School	Caruthersville School District
Peabody Magnet High School	Hayti School District
	Kennett School District
	South Pemiscot School District

Expectations for the Remainder of FY 2015

Additional schools are being vetted and assessed regarding their readiness for implementation, availability of matching resources, and likelihood of being able to sustain funding for the program after the DRA incentive funding has completed.

Goals and Outcomes

It is anticipated that the outcomes from the Phase III Proposal will include:

1. Engaging a wide range of schools in the seven states in the DRA service area where JAG has operations, to fully inform them about the success of the JAG programs in their states, as they consider participation in JAG;
2. Engaging state leadership, including Governors and state education and workforce systems, to recognize the commitment of the Delta Regional Authority and to highlight the one-time-only matching grant strategy, with its proven success over the past 30 years of Jobs for America's Graduates. As part of that process, other state resources will be sought that could be attractive in expanding the program in the DRA service area;
3. Serving an additional 450 or more high-risk youth in the DRA service area who would have the opportunity to participate in the JAG program and benefit from the dramatic improvements in graduation, employment, and college attendance rates that JAG has demonstrated for more than 30 years. Total youth to be served in the 20-22 schools from Phases II and III in the 2014-2015 school year would be 850; and
4. Creating mechanisms to sustain the JAG program in the 14 new schools from other sources for the 2014-15 school year and beyond. Based on the track record of Jobs for America's Graduates over the past 30 years, it is anticipated that at least 2,000 more high-risk youth will be served by the JAG program in the DRA service area as a result of this proposed grant over the following four years from the end of Phase III in 2015.

Program Overview

First announced on June 9, 2014 during a White House Rural Council meeting in Washington, DC, which was also livestreamed to other locations across the country, the Local Foods, Local Places (LFLP) program aims to boost economic opportunities for local farmers and businesses, to improve access to healthy foods, and to revitalize downtowns and traditional neighborhoods by supporting farmers markets, food hubs, community gardens, and community kitchens and improving accessibility of these amenities.

The partnership exemplifies the White House Rural Council's commitment to leveraging community solutions to solve economic challenges in rural America. The program focuses on developing local food systems as a means of revitalizing traditional downtowns and promoting economic diversification. The program helps the winning communities improve their livability by promoting economic development, preserving rural lands, and increasing access to locally grown food.

In addition to the White House Rural Council, six federal partners have joined together to jointly fund and support the LFLP program: the US Department of Agriculture, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the US Department of Transportation, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Delta Regional Authority, and the Appalachian Regional Commission. The funding for this program totals more than $750,000 and provides technical assistance in the form of in-person workshops and direct assistance from a contractor with the Renaissance Planning Group (RPG) which will help communities develop implementation plans and attract funds for implementation. USDA, EPA, DOT and CDC funds will be used for the planning phase of the program, and DRA and ARC will be used to help support implementation of the communities' plans.

Second Quarter FY 2015 Update

On December 3, 2014 the federal partners joined together to announce 26 communities selected to participate in the LFLP program nationwide, with seven of those awardees located in the DRA footprint. The DRA held a Delta region-wide press call led by Chairman Masingill along with Doug McKalip, White House Domestic Policy Council Senior Policy Advisor for Rural Affairs, and other federal representatives to announce the seven communities in four DRA states. All seven awardees participated in the call as well as local and federal representatives and members of the press. The seven communities receiving LFLP awards are:

- **Tuskegee, Alabama:** will receive technical assistance to pursue a plan for economic development and food security through downtown revitalization and regional marketing initiatives.

- **Flippin, Arkansas:** the Flippin School District will receive technical assistance to transition chronically empty properties adjacent to the high school parking lot into a farmers market.

- **North Little Rock, Arkansas**: the Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub and the community of North Little Rock will receive technical assistance to create a Regional Food Innovation Center. The center will increase downtown development opportunities by supporting food entrepreneurs and creating a market for local rural farmers.

- **Osceola, Arkansas**: will receive technical assistance to connect the downtown historic district with local food opportunities.

- **New Orleans, Louisiana**: the Friends of Lafitte Corridor in New Orleans will receive technical assistance to create a permanent farmers market structure on its site, where farmers and gardeners growing food along the Lafitte Greenway can sell their harvest several times a week.

- **Clarksdale, Mississippi**: will receive technical assistance to develop a job training program based on vegetable farming and community gardens that will supply food for a farmers market and a café.

- **Itta Bena, Mississippi**: will receive technical assistance to create a permanent grocery store and lasting local food network.

Expectations for the Remainder of FY 2015

Contractors with RPG will work with each community to help them develop an implementation plan, through a series of conference calls leading to an in-person workshop and additional follow-up thereafter. RPG will also help the communities prepare a scope of work and other materials needed in order for the communities to potentially access DRA funds and other outside funds supporting the implementation of their plans.

Goals and Outcomes

Project plans among the communities receiving an LFLP award include goals to create local food networks, establish regional food innovation centers, and develop job training efforts around local food entrepreneurship. Since the planning process is just beginning, there are not yet any outcomes to report at this time. DRA looks forward to working with our federal partners, RPG, and the awardees in the region to support their missions and help them be successful in reducing food insecurity, gaining access to technical assistance, and integrating local food systems into community economic development plans.

Made in Rural America Export and Investment Initiative

Program Overview

The Made in Rural America Export and Investment Initiative was first announced on February 7, 2014, when the President directed his administration, working through the White House Rural Council, to develop a new initiative focused on rural exporting. The main aim of the initiative is to bring together federal resources to help rural businesses and leaders take advantage of new investment opportunities and access new customers and markets abroad.

The initiative includes many federal partners, including but not limited to the Delta Regional Authority, the US Department of Agriculture, the US Department of Commerce, the Small Business Administration, the Export-Import Bank, and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

In FY 2014, in partnership with the White House Rural Council, the Delta Regional Authority hosted the largest of five major summits held across the country. The summits were born out of the Made in Rural America initiative and brought together businesses and experts to share best practices for exporting goods and services from rural areas. Secretary Penny Pritzker of the US Department of Commerce and Delta Regional Authority Federal Co-Chairman Chris Masingill were the keynote speakers at the Memphis forum. The event connected attendees to technical assistance as well as state and federal resources and provided an opportunity for business owners and exporters to network with local, state, and national leaders around the shared interest in building the pipeline for exports from the Delta region. The summit was held in north Memphis on Thursday, July 17th at Southwest Tennessee Community College. More than 250 participants attended the forum representing communities from all eight Delta states and across the country. The forum featured many different speakers who relayed their best practices and recommendations for aspiring and new rural exporters. The extensive lineup of speakers during the event included: Karen Nippert, Southwest Tennessee Community College Vice President of Institutional Advancement; Phil Trenary, Greater Memphis Chamber President and CEO; Doug McKalip, White House Domestic Policy Council Senior Policy Advisor for Rural Affairs; David Spann, Memphis US Export Assistance Center Director for US Commercial Service; Don Lake, Vice President of Global Operations for Dunavant Logistics Group; Craig Simonton, Sales and Marketing Manager for Hydratek; Reid Dulberger, President and CEO for Memphis and Shelby County Economic Growth Engine (EDGE,) Mayors AC Wharton and Mark Luttrell, and many others.

First Quarter FY15 Update

In FY 2015, the White House Rural Council has again directed the DRA, along with other federal partners, to continue to develop the MIRA initiative. The DRA has agreed to host capacity building workshops in the Delta region with support from the US Department of Commerce and other agencies to continue the important work of training business leaders to become successful exporters and to prepare them for, and support them in attending, international trade missions.

Expectations for the Remainder of FY15

The DRA looks forward to a potential upcoming Presidential announcement on the next phase of this initiative, and to launching of capacity building workshops and other efforts to support exporters in the Delta region.

Goals and Outcomes

The Made in Rural America summit held in Memphis in July was attended by more than 250 participants. The event generated success stories and inspired business leaders in the Delta.

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development Policy Conference

Program Overview

In December 2014, the White House Rural Council (WHRC) announced that the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Rural Development Policy Conference: "National Prosperity through Modern Rural Policy" will be held in Memphis, Tennessee, May 19-21, 2015. The conference will mark the 10th meeting of the world's leading policy officials, international experts and representatives from the private sector for discussing best practices for rural areas, and will take stock of the evolution and progress made in rural development since the first conference of its kind held in 2002. It will be hosted by the White House Rural Council with the support of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and Mexico's Secretariat for Agrarian, Territorial and Urban Development. The OECD is an international economic organization of 34 countries founded in 1961 to stimulate economic progress and world trade.

At the time of the upcoming conference's announcement, the Delta Regional Authority was asked by its White House Rural Council (WHRC) and US Department of Agriculture (USDA) partners to participate with, and logistically support, the conference and related events in the Delta region. DRA has also agreed to assume responsibility for the planning of tours for international participants only, beginning on May 21 and ending on May 23, in surrounding areas and other parts of the Delta region. The DRA will also host a reception for conference attendees on the first night of the conference.

The OECD "National Prosperity through Modern Rural Policy" conference will include panels and plenary sessions featuring Secretaries and Ministers from countries all over the world. Workshops will cover topics such as: natural resources and rural development; food security and the role for modern policy; housing and land use in rural areas; creating jobs and economic opportunities; linking rural and urban places; and building resilience in rural areas. These are just some of the many important topics that will be addressed, as the OECD and its partners work to measure progress that has been made over the past decade, and to set policy goals and recommendations for the future.

Second Quarter FY 2015 Update

The OECD Policy Conference is currently in development. The DRA is working closely with USDA, OECD, and numerous other partners to plan event logistics for the conference. So far, DRA has helped to arrange for the hotel, meeting venues, convention center and visitors' bureau and other spaces that will be utilized by the attendees of this invite-only conference. DRA has also agreed to assume responsibility for the planning of tours for international participants only, beginning on May 21 and ending on May 23, in surrounding areas and other parts of the Delta region. There will be four tours for the conference's international travelers to choose from, and the tours will include regional highlights including Discovery Park of America, the US Space and Rocket Center, the Clinton Presidential Library, the BB King Museum, and other cultural and

historic attractions in the region. The DRA will also host a reception for conference attendees on the first night of the conference.

Expectations for the Remainder of FY 2015

The DRA will continue to work alongside the planning to committee and looks forward to a successful event, May 19-21 2015 in Memphis, Tennessee.

Program Overview

The Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) is an interagency Obama Administration initiative designed to accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing, thereby helping to cultivate an environment for businesses to create well-paying manufacturing jobs in regions across the country. The IMCP rewards communities that demonstrate best practices in attracting and expanding manufacturing by using long-term planning that integrates targeted investments in workforce training, infrastructure, research, and other key assets. Designation as a Manufacturing Community is given to communities with optimal strategies for attracting and expanding private investment in the manufacturing sector and increasing international trade and exports. IMCP partner agencies coordinate in order to leverage complementary activities while also preventing duplication of efforts. The IMCP was launched in 2013 with a series of roundtables. The application period closed for round one in March of 2014, and 12 winning communities were designated and announced by Secretary Pritzker in May of 2014.

Second Quarter FY 2015 Update

Twelve IMCP Communities were designated in round one of applications. DRA was active in the selection process and also committed to be a partner agency providing preferential consideration for supplemental funding to any IMCP-designated communities within DRA's geographic footprint.

Expectations for the Remainder of FY 2015

Following the announcement of the designated communities, the DRA was asked by the White House National Economic Council and other partners to provide a "federal point of contact" to work between the federal IMCP team and the Southwest Alabama "Partners for Growth Consortium," one of the twelve IMCP Manufacturing Communities designated in the first round, the geographic scope of which falls partially within DRA's service area. The DRA designated Mirielle Burgoyne as the staff lead. Mirielle conducted a site visit in Mobile, Alabama, in 2014 and continues to work alongside the community to help them gain access to the federal funding that is aligned through the IMCP.

Delta Leadership Institute

Program Overview

The Delta Leadership Institute is a body of fellows and alumni leaders who participate in a year-long Executive Academy program and continue to communicate and collaborate in order to foster and strengthen cross-cultural, inter-governmental bonds throughout the region. Since 2005, DRA's Delta Leadership Institute (DLI) has worked to improve the decisions made by community leaders across the Delta by building a corps of alumni that have: a regional and national perspective of the Delta, a toolkit of resources for addressing issues facing their local communities, and the training and professional development needed to extend the pipeline of skilled local leadership within our rural communities. The motivation for the creation of this Executive Academy and, later, the Delta Leadership Network (DLN) under the Delta Leadership umbrella was, to have a "corps" of well-informed community leaders who understand not only their issues but the Region's issues as well. Over the course of the Executive Academy academic year, participants attend six sessions and engage in training, case study discussion, and on-the-ground field studies of priority issue areas including workforce training and education, small business and entrepreneurship, transportation and basic public infrastructure, healthcare, and policy and governance. Upon beginning DLI's Executive Academy, fellows become members of the Delta Leadership Network, where they engage with community leaders both within their state and across the Delta. With more than 350 alumni, the DLN commits time, talent, service, and often financial resources to initiatives like Emergency Preparedness and Innovative Readiness Training missions and has become the voice for the Region and the DRA.

Second Quarter FY 2015 Update

The conclusion of FY14 saw fifty fellows representing eight states in Class IX of the Delta Leadership Institute, which met seven times over the course of the year in Oxford, MS; New Orleans, LA; Memphis, TN; Cape Girardeau, MO; Paducah, KY; Washington, DC; and Little Rock, AR. They focused on everyday issues facing the Delta region and looked at ways to bring regional solutions to community problems like building a strong civic infrastructure for sustained economic growth, furthering good governance, maintaining quality infrastructure, and securing adequate schools and quality health care services by working together toward community and regional growth. Final assessment of the Executive Academy and the Institute (summarized below) showed that the participant experience was both extremely positive and valuable.

Throughout the fall of 2014, DLI also held the first two sessions for Class X in Oxford, MS and Marion, IL. Forty-nine leaders have now completed their certification in *Crucial Conversations* in addition to evaluating the Delta region as a whole by completing a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis of the region both by the numbers and by the nuances that bring our participants together from near and far; and covering policy issues focused

on Public Health and Access to Healthcare which included workshops on innovative health initiatives being implemented within the region and the implementation of the Affordable Care Act—looking at the different ways that the state and community leaders are increasing coverage and access to medical care across the eight states.

Expectations for the Remainder of FY 2015

The third DLI session focusing on small business and entrepreneurship was held January 20-22, 2015 in New Orleans, LA. Additionally, in coming weeks and months, DLI sessions will focus on workforce training and education in Memphis, TN (which will also be the site and timeframe of the Delta Leadership Network Annual Conference); policy and governance in Washington, DC, and transportation and infrastructure in Point Clear, AL, where graduation will take place. At each session, the leaders study best practices in community and economic development and learn from experts who share resources that these leaders can apply in their communities, which include programming designed to allow fellows to apply critical thinking skills to real-world issues affecting their respective communities. The Institute will also launch its new website, application tool, and online alumni portal during the spring of 2015, looking toward an application period to be open between April and July, to apply for and enroll in Class XI – tentatively set to begin sessions in October (dates not yet confirmed).

Goals and Outcomes: The table below outlines both quantitative and qualitative responses to the 2013-2014 Executive Academy.

Measured element with background	Results
The workshops, case studies, and field experiences were assessed along four dimensions and used to create an overall mean based on the following criteria: • Knowledge of the speaker • Speaker's ability to communicate • Active participation • Value of the subject matter	The highest-rated Executive Academy session across all dimensions was Session V—Washington, DC with an overall mean of 8.71 out of 10. The overall mean for each academy is listed below: • Washington, DC – 8.71 • Oxford, MS – 8.62 • Cape Girardeau, MO – 8.45 • Little Rock, AR – 8.36 • Memphis, TN – 8.30 • Paducah, KY – 8.24 • New Orleans, LA – 7.95

Thoughts on Leadership When respondents were asked if their thoughts on leadership had changed as a result of the Delta Leadership Institute, the vast majority stated that their thoughts had either been changed or reinforced as a result of the Delta Leadership Institute program. The following statements are emblematic of the responses:	*"Leaders have to be the catalyst for change or improvement in a community or a region. Leadership is not necessarily just an individual trait, but can be accomplished by a group of leaders. I am looking forward to connecting with the DLN and keeping involved with improving our region."*
	"This experience has definitely expanded my idea of leadership. I've learned that leadership doesn't necessarily mean being a one-woman show, it actually involves working with others to get the job done."
Community Implementation When respondents were asked if they had introduced or implemented any initiatives as a result of the executive academy sessions, an overwhelming 77.3% have introduced or implemented an initiative in their communities as a result of the Delta Leadership Institute. The following statements are examples of the responses:	*"I am working in Missouri to reinvigorate the Missouri Rural Partnership. This rural council has a federal designation, but has been dormant for years due to lack of leadership and an inability to find a niche or purpose. I think the Partnership can be a valuable resource and clearinghouse for all community and economic development agencies, organizations and professionals working in Missouri..."*
	"I am trying to implement a youth entrepreneurship education program into the elementary schools. Part of my area has Junior Achievement, but that is not exactly what I would like to do. Part of my region also has the CEO program for High School seniors. I think that entrepreneurship education is lacking in the elementary age and junior high age kids."

Bridging the Blues

Program Overview

Bridging the Blues (BTB) is a tri-state regional coalition focused on branding and marketing existing events in the Delta region related to music and heritage (festivals, concerts, art museum exhibits, tours, and various special events) to achieve the following:

- Creation of an annual, ongoing, and comprehensive online event calendar including directions, "travel tips," and specific event details;
- Increased attendance and awareness of Delta region events and growth in the volume of annual visitors to the region;
- Increased amount of first-time international and domestic visits to the region through a comprehensive marketing plan of Delta region cultural highlights and assets with a focus on specific two-week time frames;
- Maximization of visitors' average lengths of stay by providing event information relative to visitors' interests;
- Support of existing events through co-promotion and communication; and
- Creation of a cohesive communication and information-sharing system to benefit the events as well as the consumer.

Second Quarter FY 2015 Update

The DRA has committed $150,000 to support the involvement of three states – Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee – with each state dedicating an additional $50,000 from their tourism budgets, for a total commitment of $300,000.

Expectations for the Remainder of FY 2015

Among the anticipated plans and expectations for 2015 are two major festivals to be marketed as part of the Bridging the Blues partnership: the King Biscuit Blues Festival and the Mighty Mississippi Music Festival, both of which will incorporate the former Highway 61 Festival and broaden its scope to include other genres. Additionally, there are at least eight smaller festivals that will be involved in this regional effort.

The DRA also looks forward to a press conference with the Governors of Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee to announce this partnership during the National Governors Association Winter Meeting in Washington, DC.

Goals and Outcomes

This initiative will help to increase and support live music and the tourism industry in the Delta region, which in turn will help to bring international travelers and additional investment to the region.

Healthy Workforce Challenge – After Action Report

Program Overview

This past fall, the Delta Regional Authority's five Healthy Workforce Challenge recipients concluded their programs that commenced in August of 2013. The year-long Healthy Workforce Challenge programs infused more than $800,000 into projects in Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana and Missouri. The programs were funded to promote behavioral changes in the workplace to combat the high toll of chronic disease on the region.

The funding was released in partnership with the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Delta States Rural Development Network Grant Program. The DRA supplemented HRSA's $5.4 million investment in their twelve awardees with an additional $800,000 in new funding to address worksite health. Five of the Delta States Rural Development Network Grant Program recipients were selected to receive the additional funding from the DRA to work with employers on the health of the regions' workers.

The five recipients were:

Awardee	Location	Amount
Tombigbee Healthcare Authority	Demopolis, AL	$163,144.50
ARcare	Augusta, AR	$170,517.80
Southern Illinois University	Carbondale, IL	$187,500.00
North Louisiana Regional Alliance	Delhi, LA	$139,432.50
Mississippi County Health Department	Charleston, MO	$158,345.30

Final Outcomes

The DRA believes businesses large and small will enjoy significant savings by adopting the programs that combat and prevent chronic disease. DRA staff expects the report will show that businesses participating in the Healthy Workforce Challenge incurred savings through the improved health outcomes that result in increased productivity and decreased workplace absences.

Additional Rationale for the Program

The DRA's own regional health database shows the high rates of chronic disease in the Delta region. Circulatory disease death rates are 16 percent higher than the national average, with cancer deaths rates 12 percent above the national average. Thirty-two percent of Delta residents are obese, compared to 26 percent nationally, while nearly 12 percent in the Delta are diabetic and about 9 percent of all Americans have diabetes.

DRA awardees developed and implemented programs that partnered with local businesses and industry to incentivize healthy living through behavior change in the workplace. Successful applicants designed programs that include clear benchmarks and performance measures. The selected programs have also been designed to be readily shared as best practices and modeled by other businesses and industry in the region.

Businesses in the Delta currently pay disproportionate costs related to chronic disease due to the high rates in the region. According to the U.S. Workplace Wellness Alliance's Almanac of Chronic Disease, "Overweight workers incur larger medical costs and miss more days of work than normal weight coworkers." The DRA's Healthy Workforce Challenge attempts to tackle this problem head-on by implementing programs and practices that prove that these high costs are preventable.

Health IT Revolving Loan Fund – After Action Report

Program Overview

The Delta Regional Authority's efforts to improve health outcomes in the Delta region led to the development of a program designed to assist in the transition of rural health care providers to electronic health records. The DRA provided upfront revolving loans in $5,000 or $7,500 increments to rural and underserved providers struggling to make the transition to electronic health records.

AHIMA, a locally based non-profit, worked with the DRA and the HHS Office of Minority Health to identify provider participants for the program. The DRA provided $25,000 of the $500,000 in RCAP funding to cover the costs AHIMA incurred in expanding technical assistance workshops and internet education opportunities to participating providers in all eight DRA states.

Health IT Loan Fund at a Glance

- Of the $500,000 FY2011 project, $114,000 was disbursed (loans, contractual and technical assistance)
- DRA awarded $64,000 total in loans
- Repayments total $64,000
- $89,600 in DRA's HIT account (includes loan repayments, technical assistance expenses and application fees)
- $386,000 unused in USDA's possession has been approved to fund the Workforce Development Capacity Building & Technical Assistance Project

Final Outcomes

DRA provided nine loans totaling $64,000 and all repayments have been received. Four of the loan recipients made repayments in full within the 6-month repayment time period. There were four extensions (90 days) granted as a result of issues with filing for reimbursement from Medicaid for meaningful use. All four repayments were made before the 90 day deadline. One physician didn't utilize the loan received for unspecified reasons and funds were returned to DRA after several attempts to recover repayment.

In closing, eight physicians were assisted in the purchase of an electronic medical record system. Several of the physicians communicated their systems are viable and utilized for patient encounters, billing, and claims submissions, among other uses.

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