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DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

LOUISIANA

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ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) presents its 2022 Annual Report, which serves as the agency's annual report to the U.S. Congress. This publication highlights DRA's strategic investments and priority programs in the past year. You will find details about the many programs and initiatives DRA supported in 2022.

The federal programs and region-wide initiatives included in this report are part of DRA's mission to help create jobs, build communities, and improve the lives of the 10 million residents in the 252 counties and parishes of the eightstate DRA region.

The report highlights:

- economy.

- Key investments in each state that support basic public infrastructure and transportation infrastructure to rural residents, provide quality workforce training and education for job seekers, and improve opportunities for entrepreneurs and small businesses to grow and thrive in the DRA region.
- Strategic programs and regionwide initiatives that are increasing workforce competitiveness and community capacity, such as the Delta Workforce Program and the Delta Leadership Institute.
- Agency efforts to invest in targeted economic and community development projects driven by outcomes and supported by public-private partnership that are essential for DRA communities to compete in the modern

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INVESTING IN THE REGION

FEDERAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMS

States' Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP)

The States' Economic Development Assistance Program is DRA's primary investment program. In FY 2022, DRA invested \$18.3 million in 57 projects that will improve water and sewer systems, boost business development, enhance infrastructure, and support job training in communities throughout the Delta region. These investments were matched by \$32.9 million and will attract an additional \$5 million in private investments. These investments are expected to create or retain 563 jobs, train over 1,100 individuals, and affect 23,483 families.

SEDAP Investments:

These investments strengthen the economic viability of our Delta communities. In FY 2022, DRA invested \$33.1 million in projects to address flood control, basic public infrastructure, and local transportation infrastructure improvements that enhance local and regional economies throughout the DRA region.

• At least 50% must be used for transportation infrastructure and basic public infrastructure. • At least 75% must be made in counties and parishes that are economically distressed.

Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF)

Public Works & Economic Adjustment Assistance (PWEAA)

The U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration made \$3 million of its FY 2022 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance program available to DRA. This program supports rural communities by investing in projects that leverage existing regional assets and the implementation of community development strategies that advance economic prosperity in distressed regions.

TOTAL STATE INVESTMENTS



Private Investement:



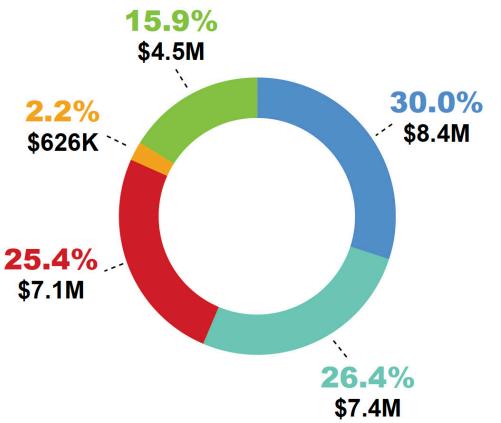
Anticipated Outcomes



Jobs Created & Retained	1,857
Individuals Trained	1,211
Families Affected	53,026

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In 2022, the United States Department of Agriculture defined rural communities as those with a population of less than 50,000 residents. In 2022, over 84% of DRA funds were invested in rural communities throughout the eight-state DRA region.

RURAL INVESTMENT

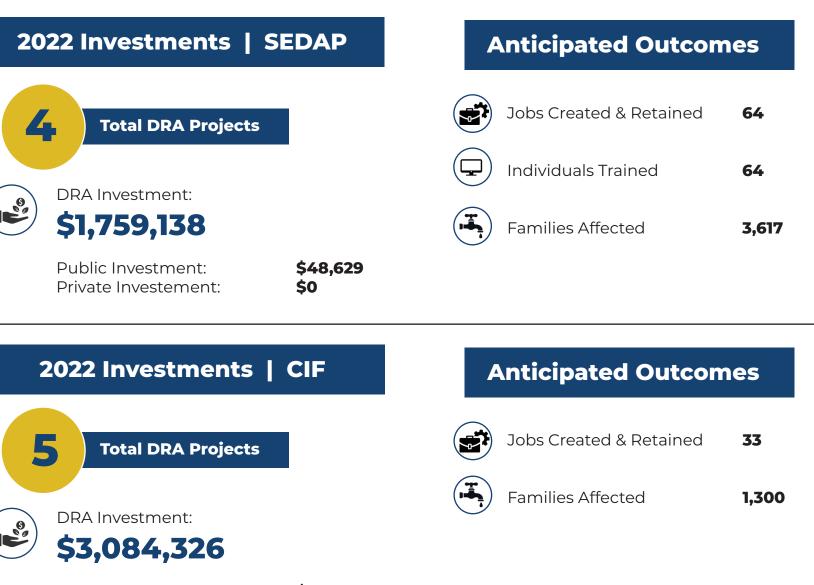


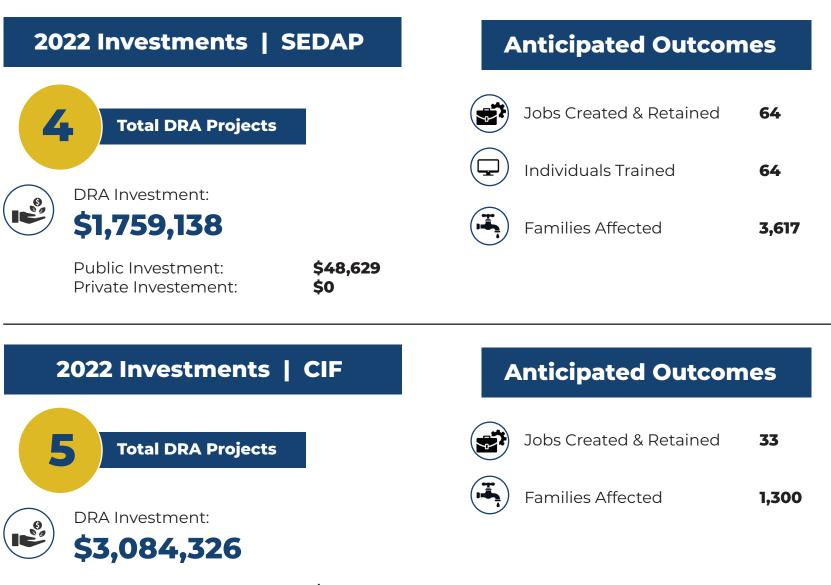
NOTE: All figures are based on the location of the awardee.

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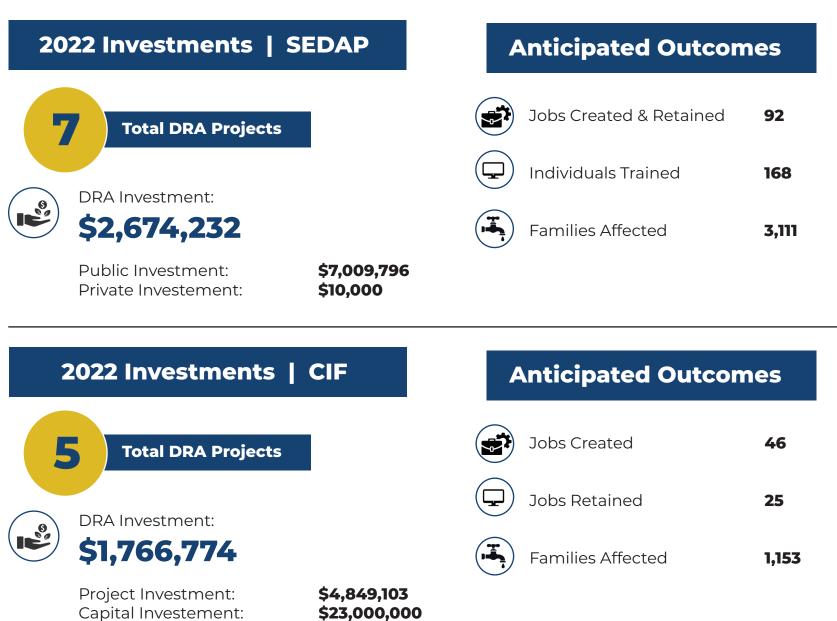




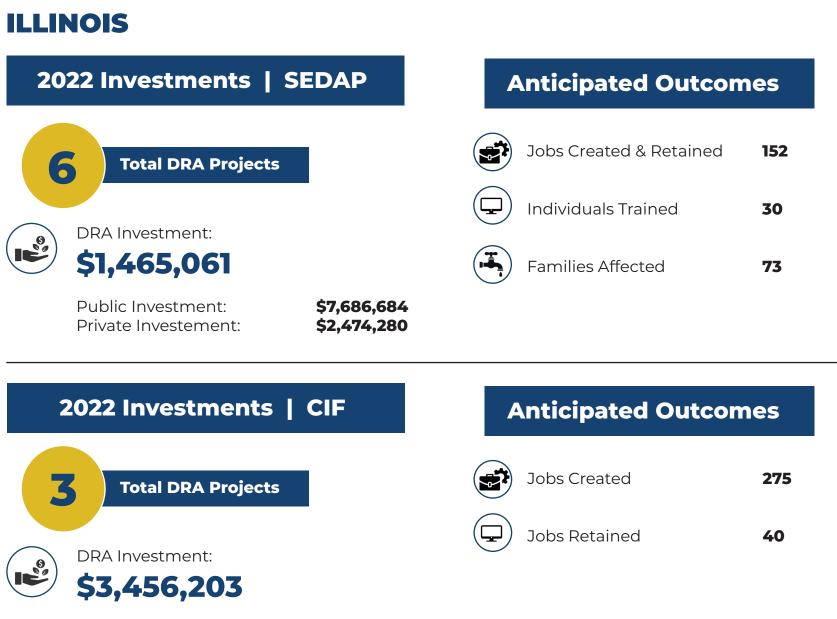
Project Investment: Capital Investement: \$3,902,801 \$10,700,000

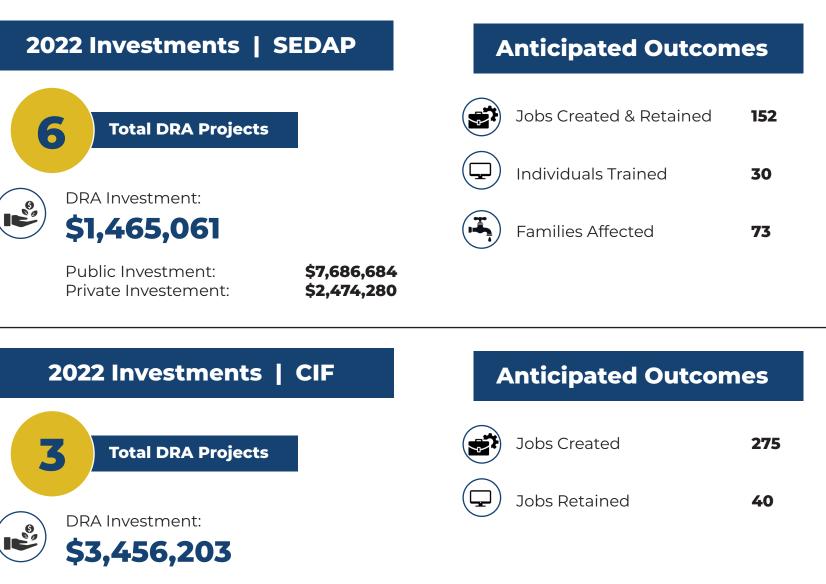
STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS: ARKANSAS





STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS: ILLINOIS





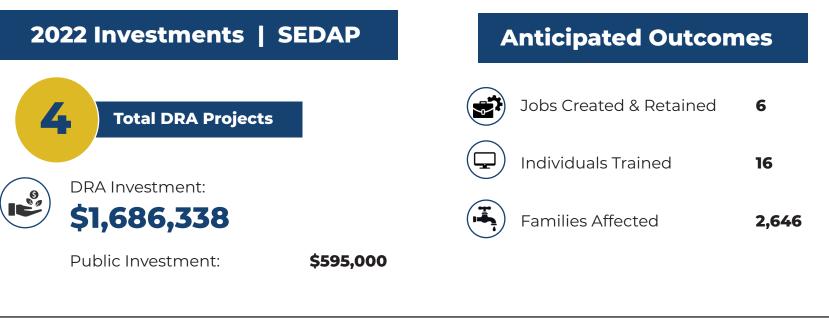
Project Investment: Capital Investement:

\$3,827,902 \$32,550,000 17

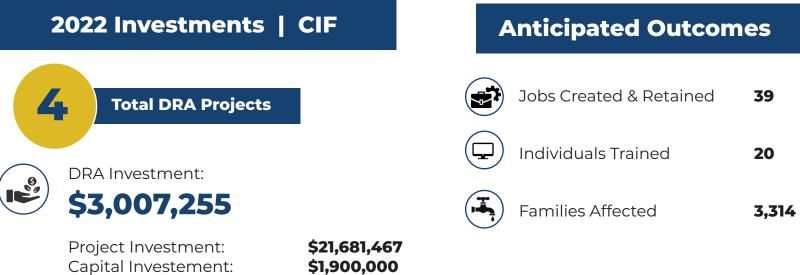
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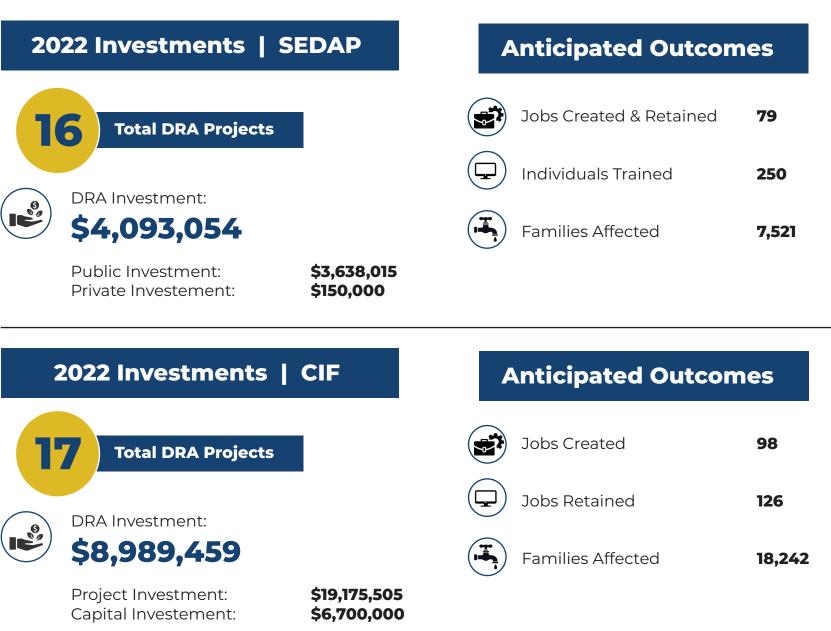
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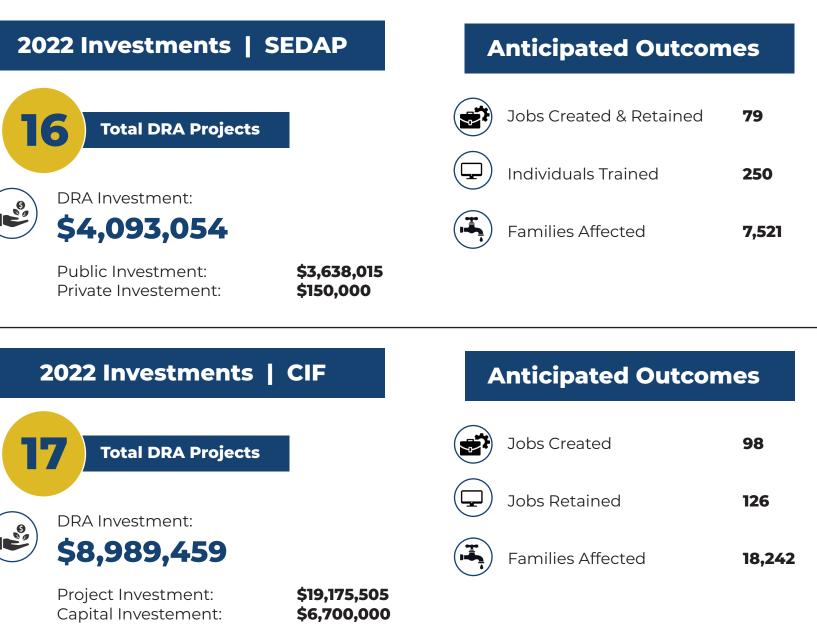
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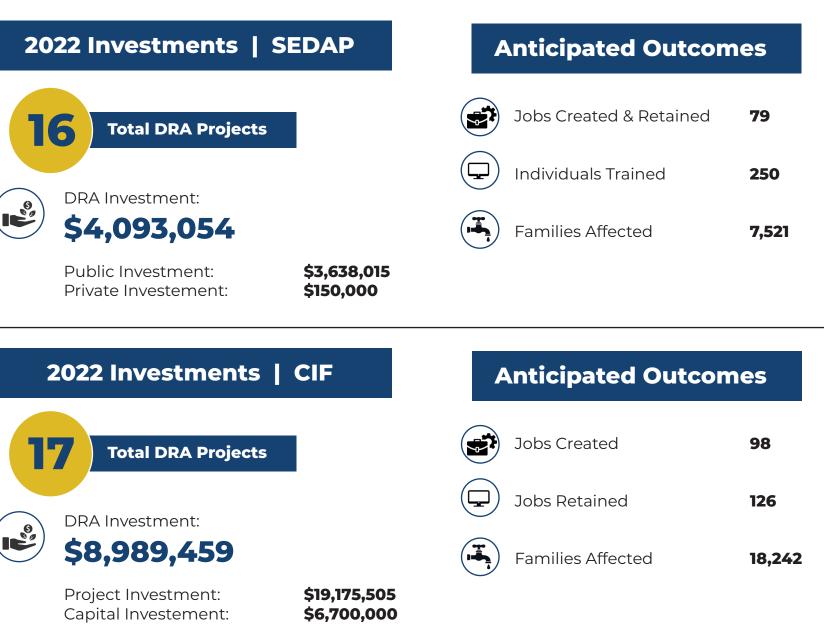
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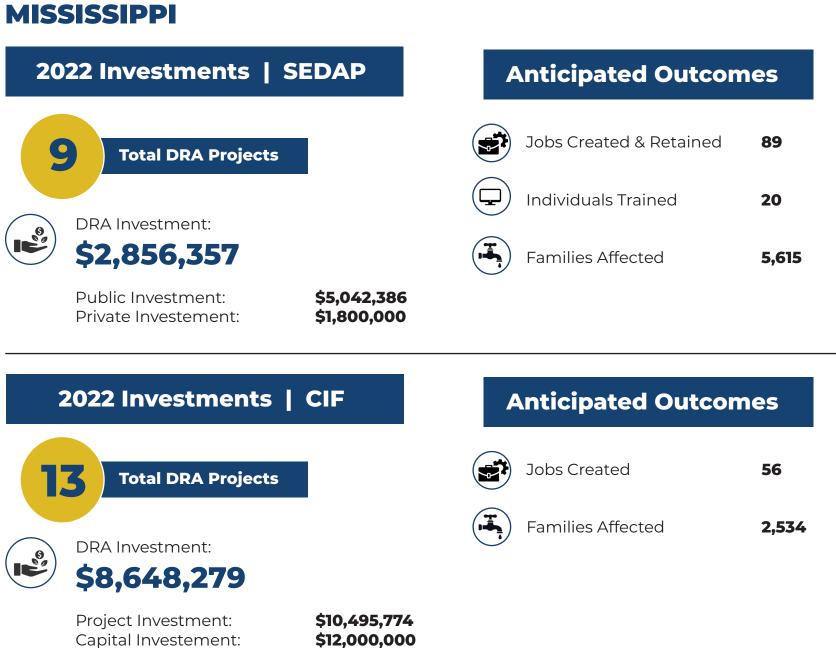
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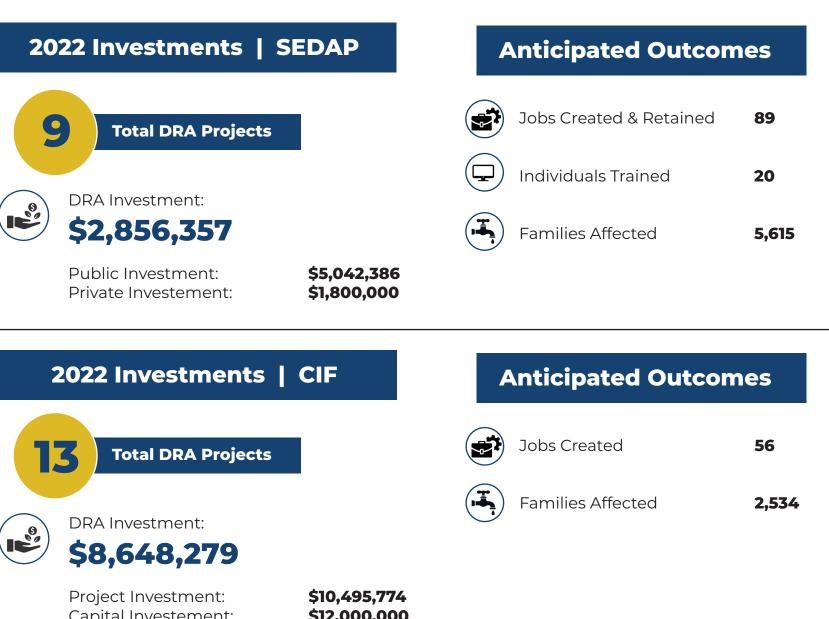






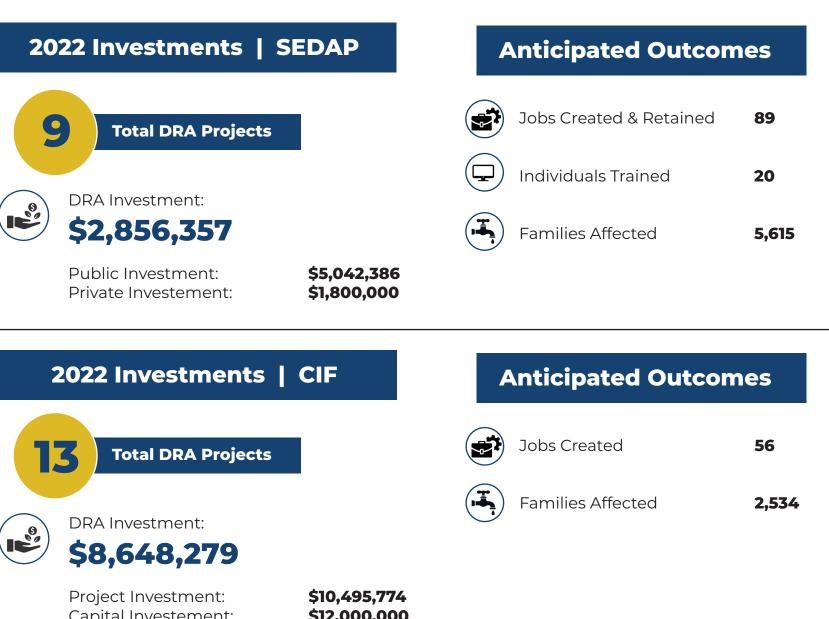
STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS: MISSISSIPPI



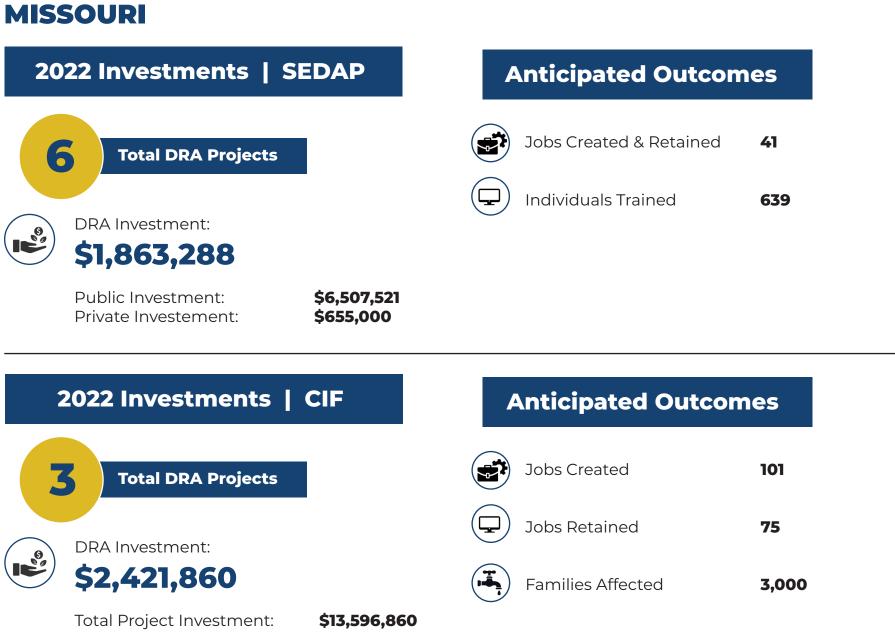


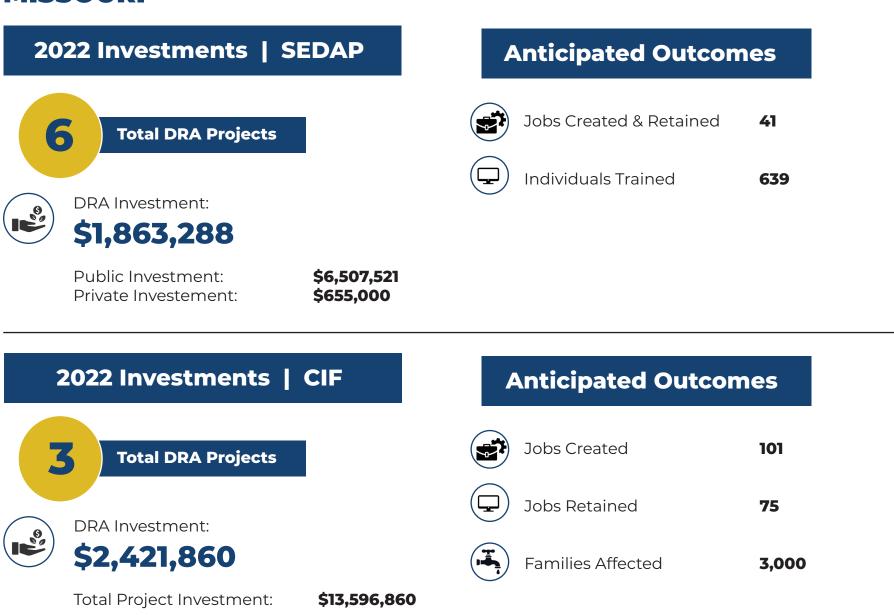
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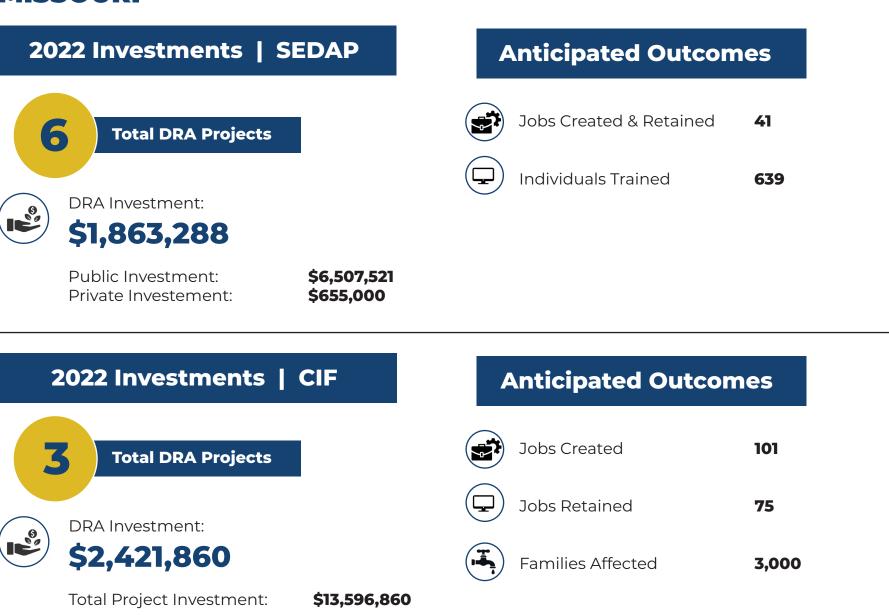


STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS: MISSOURI



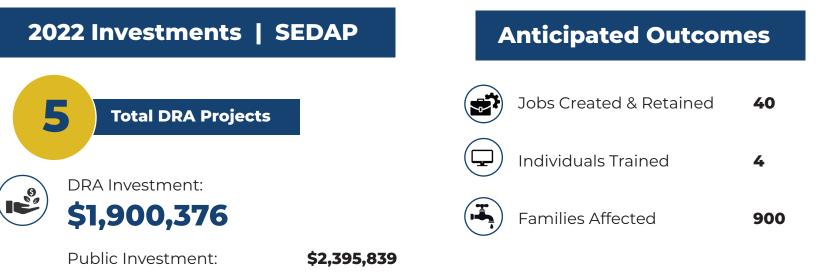


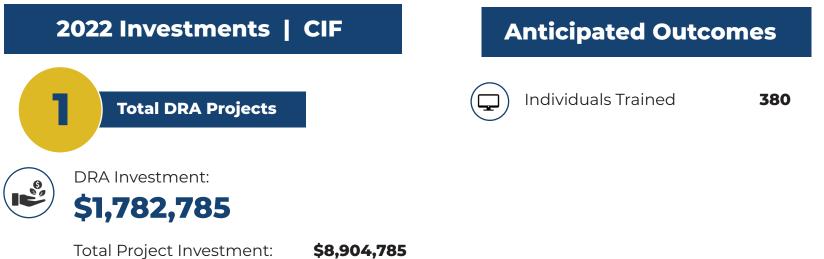
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STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS: TENNESSEE









WORKFORCE: DELTA WORKFORCE PROGRAM

The Delta Workforce Grant Program (DWP) targets federal resources toward communities in the DRA region particularly hard hit by industrial downsizing, business closures, and job losses as a result of the public health and economic crisis. More specifically, DWP supports projects and initiatives that create a more vibrant economic future for the region by expanding job training and re-employment opportunities, aligning workforce and economic development strategies, creating sustainable talent pipelines, establishing or enhancing locally/regionally significant public-private partnerships, and supporting enhanced workforce productivity through investments in innovative programming.



WORKFORCE: WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITY FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES



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• In partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), approximately \$34.4 million in grants was made available under the Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC) initiative to provide employment and training services to regional and local workforces.

 Authorized by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, WORC grants will fund projects to invest in education, training, and career support services. DOL awardees align community-led economic and workforce development strategies and provide services to residents of the two regions including those who are dislocated workers; new entrants to the workforce, including students or the long-term unemployed; incumbent workers looking to improve their career prospects; and individuals affected by persistent poverty. Ranging from \$835,499 to \$1,441,292 million, the grants.

• In FY 2022, the fourth round of WORC grants, DOL invested nearly \$17.1 million into 13 projects in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee to support workforce training programs designed to provide employment and training services to regional and local workforces.

The FY 2022 WORC Awardees were:

Alabama Department of Commerce (AL): \$1,384,792

Arkansas Center for Data Sciences (AR): \$1.390.214

Delta Health Alliance. Inc. (MS): \$1,394,196

Dream Innovations, Incorporated (MS): \$1,394,535

Mississippi Community College Board (MS): \$1,394,535

New Orleans Career Center (LA): \$1,283,998

NextOp, Inc. (LA): \$1,143,215

Ozark Action, Inc. (MO): \$1,394,535

South Arkansas Community College (AR): \$835.499

Southeast Missouri Hospital College of Nursing and Health Sciences (MO): \$1.394.535

Strada Collaborative. Inc. (IN): \$1,394,534

Workforce Development Board SDA-83, Inc. (LA): \$1,394,535

YoWealth Academy (TN): \$1,388,377

HEALTH: DELTA DOCTORS

In partnership with the U.S. Department of State, DRA's Delta Doctors program helps address the health disparities and high levels of health professional shortages by granting J-1 visa waivers for physicians who are willing to provide medical services in distressed DRA communities. The program allows foreign physicians who are trained in the United States to work in medically underserved areas for three years, but most doctors placed through this program choose to continue serving their communities beyond their three-year commitment. Physicians participating in the Delta Doctors program do not take jobs away from U.S.-born physicians, but instead provide services in areas where there would otherwise be a shortage of physicians, increasing access to affordable, quality healthcare.

In FY 2022, DRA processed 173 applications for the Delta Doctors program.



HEALTH: DELTA REGION COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

DRA collaborates with the Health Resources & Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on a technical assistance program, Delta Region Community Health Systems Development Program (DRCHSD), that enhances healthcare delivery in the DRA region. The program supports providers in select rural communities, including critical access hospitals, small rural hospitals, rural health clinics and other healthcare organizations.

Assistance includes:

- health outcomes
- services



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- Improving hospital or clinic financial operations
- Implementing guality-improvement activities to promote the development of an evidence-based culture leading to improved
- Increasing use of telehealth to address gaps in clinical service delivery and improve access to care
- Ensuring access to and availability of emergency medical

Identifying workforce recruitment and retention resources targeted to rural communities

The following 11 healthcare facilities were selected for the DRCHSD Cohort 2021 (to begin program in 2022).

- Hill Hospital of Sumter County | York, Alabama
- Dallas County Medical Center | Fordyce, Arkansas
- T.W. Wagner, INC | Manila, Arkansas
- Allen Parish Community Healthcare Hospital Kinder. Louisiana
- Franklin Medical Center | Winnsboro, Louisiana
- LaSalle General Hospital | Jena, Louisiana
- St. James Parish Hospital | Lutcher, Louisiana
- Springhill Medical Center | Springhill, Louisiana
- West Feliciana Parish Hospital | St. Francisville, Louisiana
- Cape Family Medical Clinic | Cape Girardeau, Missouri
- Salem Memorial District Hospital | Salem, Missouri

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HEALTH: DELTA REGION RURAL HEALTH WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAM

DRA, in partnership with the Health Resources & Services Administration's (HRSA) Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, launched in 2021 the Delta Region Rural Health Workforce Training Program, which supports education and training to aid development of strategic workforce training for critical health administrative support occupations. The program funds specialized training such as medical coding and billing, clinical documentation, information management, and claims processing.

Louisiana Tech University was awarded a \$600,000 grant through the Delta Region Rural Health Workforce Training Program.

Louisiana Tech University, along with academic partner Bossier Parish Community College, educational technology partner BetaFlix, Inc., and rural healthcare partners North Louisiana Medical Center/Allegiance Healthcare Management and Jackson Parish Hospital have come together as strategic network partners. The network will create a sustainable pipeline of trained rural health professionals and assist in retaining current healthcare staff in nine rural parishes with opportunities for training and education in critical positions.

HEALTH: INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING



DRA partners with the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and the U.S. Military's reserve forces to host Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) medical missions, bringing medical, dental, and optical care to Delta residents in need of quality healthcare at no cost to the patients. IRT is a DoD military training opportunity that delivers joint training opportunities to increase deployment readiness while simultaneously providing key healthcare services with lasting benefits for Delta communities. By utilizing their extensive resources, the military is able to meet some of the region's most urgent healthcare needs. Among the services provided during IRT missions are basic medical and wellness exams, vision exams and single lens glasses, and dental exams and extractions.

Western Kentucky Wellness Mission

Total Number of Patients: 807 Total Number of Procedures/Services Provided: 2,385 Medical, Nutrition, Behavioral Health: 799 Dental: 1.589 Optometry: N/A Total Mission Value: \$221,553.06

South Central Missouri Wellness Mission

Total Number of Patients: 1.358 Total Number of Procedures/Services Provided: 4,438 Medical, Nutrition, Behavioral Health: 291 Dental: 3.687 Optometry: 460 Total Mission Value: \$661,643.00

Southern Illinois Wellness Mission

Total Number of Patients: 755 Total Number of Procedures/Services Provided: 2,456 Medical, Nutrition, Behavioral Health: 318 Dental: 1,708 Optometry: 430 Total Mission Value: \$275,011.67



The Delta Leadership Institute (DLI) Executive Academy is an extensive, ten-month executive leadership development program that brings together public, private, and nonprofit sector leaders from all eight DRA states.

In September 2022, DLI graduated 31 fellows from its 18th class. The graduates participated in six training sessions over the past year, learning best practices employed throughout the Delta region for economic and community development in order to catalyze innovative solutions implementable in their own community and region. DLI fellows learned from subject matter experts in infrastructure and transportation, small business and entrepreneurship, workforce development, public health, and other fields necessary to facilitate economic growth.

DELTA LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE





JUSTICE40

President Biden's Justice40 Initiative aims to deliver 40 percent of the overall benefits of climate, clean energy, affordable and sustainable housing, clean water and other investments to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, overburdened, and underserved. The Justice40 Initiative is a directive created through Executive Order 14008 and supports the Administration's comprehensive approach to advancing equity for all as designated in Executive Order 13985.

activities.

DRA is participating in Justice40 through its grantmaking activities, including Bipartisan Infrastructure Law-funded

BUILD AMERICA, BUY AMERICA

The Build America, Buy America Act was signed into law in 2021 by President Biden as a part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The Act requires that federal agencies ensure that funds for a federal financial assistance program for infrastructure are obligated only to projects that use iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials that are produced in the United States. Federal agencies are required to include a Buy America preference in the terms and conditions of each award for applicable infrastructure projects.

DRA's Federal Co-Chairman may waive the application of a Buy America preference under an infrastructure program in any case in which:

- 1. applying the domestic content procurement preference would be inconsistent with the public interest (a "public interest waiver"),
- 2. types of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality (a "nonavailability waiver"),
- 3. the inclusion of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent (an "unreasonable cost waiver").

WHITE HOUSE STRATEGY ON HUNGER, NUTRITION, AND HEALTH

In September 2022, the Biden-Harris Administration announced more than \$8 billion in new commitments as part of the call to action for the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health. The Biden-Harris Administration hosted the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health on September 28, 2022, which catalyzed the public and private sectors around a coordinated strategy to accelerate progress and drive transformative change in the U.S. to end hunger, improve nutrition and physical activity, and close the disparities surrounding them.

health.gov.



President Biden's goal is to end hunger and increase healthy eating and physical activity by 2030, so that fewer Americans experience diet-related diseases like diabetes, obesity, and hypertension. DRA is proud to join with the White House and our federal partners to support this initiative. To learn more about the work being done, visit

DRA's stated commitment is to implement prioritization criteria in its grant programs to support initiatives with a direct connection between economic development and healthy food access.

EXECUTIVE ORDER ON RACIAL EQUITY

Delta Regional Authority is proud to join over 90 other Federal agencies in releasing a historic Equity Action Plan to support the Biden-Harris Administration's whole-of-government equity agenda. View DRA's Equity Action Plan to learn more about our efforts to prioritize meaningful community engagement and increase investments in persistent poverty counties.

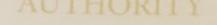
The White House has launched a new federal equity microsite that includes the findings from the year-long equity process that agencies have conducted, and the executive summaries of the equity action plans submitted by the largest federal agencies.

On February 16, 2023, President Biden signed a second Executive Order on equity to reaffirm the administration's commitment to equity-centered governance and outcomes.



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ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS

ACCOUNTABILITY & OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

DRA is committed to being a good steward of taxpayers' dollars, and it recognizes its institutional focus to be fiscally responsible and effective in making investments into economic and community development projects while it works to help create jobs, build communities, and improve lives in the Mississippi River Delta and Alabama Black Belt regions.

DRA conducts annual audits with a certified audit firm to ensure compliance and accountability. DRA will continue to ensure strong accountability, transparency, and operational excellence.



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