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Celebrating 25 Years of Impact in the Delta Region

[Clarksdale, MS] – The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) is commemorating its 25th anniversary, marking a significant milestone in its mission to strengthen economic opportunity, build resilient communities, and improve quality of life across the Delta region.

Established in 2000 by Congress, DRA is a federal-state collaboration created to address persistent economic distress in the lower Mississippi River and Alabama Black Belt regions. Over the past quarter-century, the Authority has partnered with states, local governments, nonprofit organizations, and community stakeholders to invest in critical public infrastructure, workforce training, and business development initiatives. Today, DRA serves 255 counties and parishes across Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee.

“For the past 25 years, the Delta Regional Authority has worked to serve some of the most economically distressed communities in our country by making strategic investments aimed at strengthening and uplifting our Delta region,” said Dr. Corey Wiggins, Federal Co-Chair.

“Through investments that support infrastructure, workforce and business development needs, DRA is working to build a better region where everyone can work, live and thrive.”

Since its founding, DRA has remained committed to creating jobs, building communities, and expanding economic opportunities for residents across the region. These efforts have supported long-term growth while strengthening the capacity of local communities to respond to financial challenges and pursue sustainable development.

Just in the past four years, DRA has invested more than \$218 million across 484 projects throughout its eight-state footprint. These investments have:

- Positively impacted more than 203,000 families
- Provided workforce training to over 18,000 individuals
- Helped create or retain more than 40,000 jobs
- Leveraged an additional \$335 million in outside funding

As part of its 25th anniversary observance, DRA has shared leadership and stakeholder testimonials on its social media and website, which highlight the people, partnerships, and projects that have shaped its work over the last two and a half decades. DRA will continue to share these stories as well as its new interactive timeline exploring key program milestones into early 2026.

“When we think about 25 years of DRA and even DRA of the future, it is leveraging the resources that we have that will have a direct impact in our communities,” said Wiggins. “But knowing that that direct impact can be amplified, that it is sustainable, that not only does it impact today's generation, but it also impacts future generations.”

The Delta Regional Authority invites partners, stakeholders, and community members to join in the celebration by following its anniversary content on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#) channels.

To learn more about the Delta Regional Authority and the breadth of DRA’s impact, visit [dra.gov](#).

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