



Delta Regional Authority

Program Overview



Kentucky Governor's Local Issues Conference
August 2024

www.dra.gov

Moving The Delta Forward

The DRA was established in 2000 as a formal framework for joint Federal-State collaboration to promote and encourage the economic development of the lower Mississippi River and Alabama Black Belt regions. To fulfill this purpose, DRA invests in projects supporting transportation infrastructure, basic public infrastructure, workforce training, and business development. DRA works to create jobs, build communities, and improve the lives of those that reside in the region. DRA's region encompasses 252 counties and parishes in parts of Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee.

DRA's enabling legislation dictates that at least 75% of DRA's funds must be invested in economically distressed counties and parishes and isolated areas within non-distressed counties and parishes. In addition, half of DRA's funds must support transportation infrastructure and basic public infrastructure.



Creating Jobs. Building Communities. Improving Lives.

DRA envisions the region as a place where people and businesses have access to economic opportunities in vibrant, sustainable, and resilient communities. DRA's mission is to realize that vision through the practical application of innovative ideas and strategies that will foster inclusive communities, strengthen regional collaboration and productive capacity, achieve sustained, long-term economic development, and produce meaningful opportunities for all people in the DRA region.



DRA Service Area (KY)

Green River Area Development District

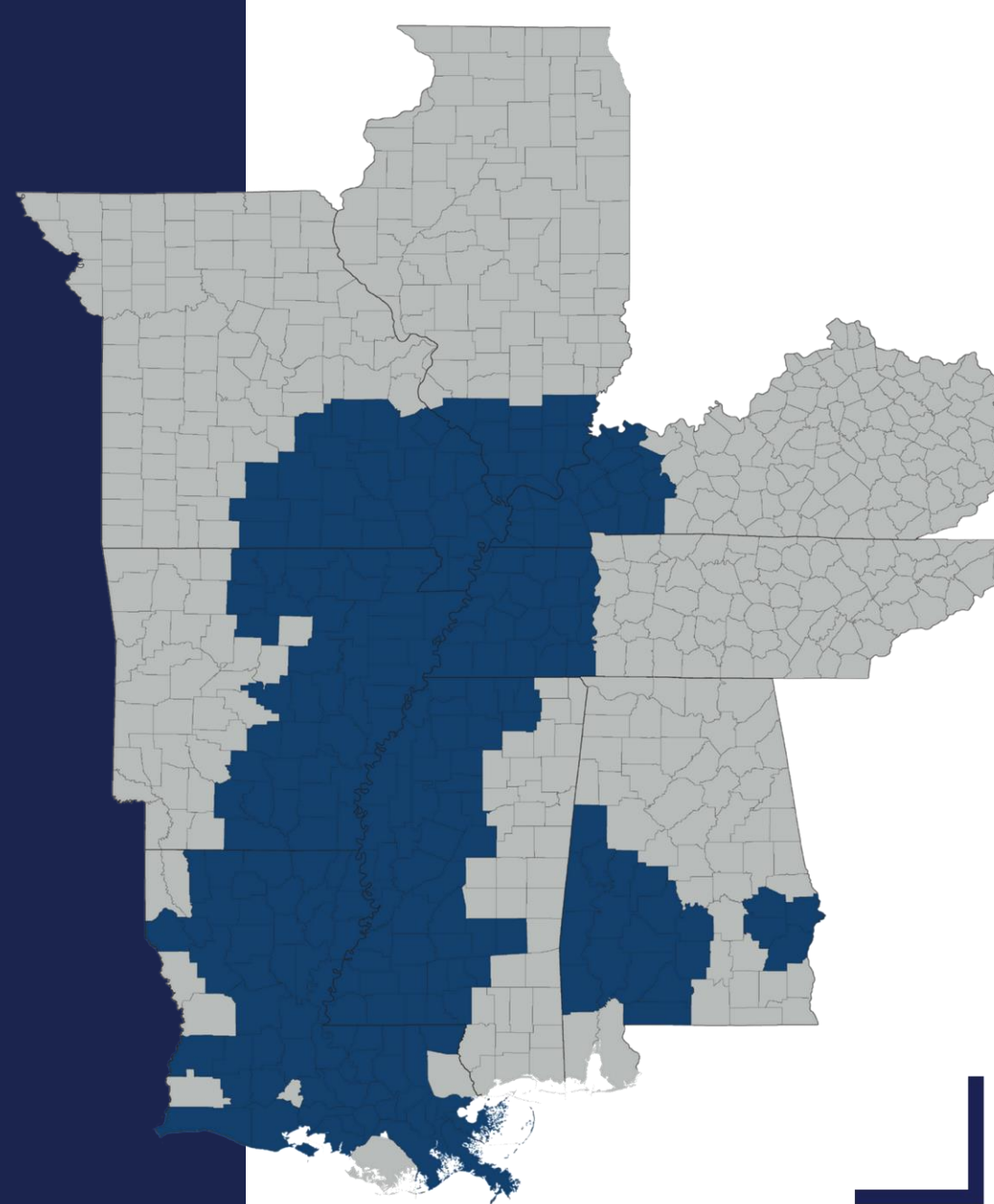
- Henderson
- Union
- McLean
- Webster

Pennyrile Area Development District

- Caldwell
- Hopkins
- Muhlenberg
- Christian
- Livingston
- Todd
- Crittenden
- Lyon
- Trigg

Purchase Area Development District

- Ballard
- Fulton
- Marshall
- Calloway
- Graves
- McCracken
- Carlisle
- Hickman



Our Programs

DRA supports and promotes economic development within the lower Mississippi River Delta and Alabama Black Belt regions through its programming opportunities. Designed to make strategic investments in critical and human infrastructure, DRA's programming aims to impact economic growth and opportunity in economically distressed communities.

*Applications to DRA programs may be accessed via: dra.communityforce.com

Capacity-Building	Critical Infrastructure	Human Infrastructure
LDD Community Support Pilot Program	States Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP)	Leadership
Strategic Planning Program	Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF)	Health
	Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (PWEAA)	Workforce



Capacity-Building

LDD Community Support Pilot Program

Funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, PL 117-58), this program has been designed as a capacity-building program for Local Development Districts (LDDs) with the goal of bolstering access to resources for economically distressed communities.

Program Objectives

- To provide LDDs with resources to fill capacity gaps and undertake any additional workload associated with the increase in federal funding from the American Rescue Plan, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act, etc.
- To increase the number of applications submitted by economically distressed, isolated areas of distress, and persistent poverty communities for federal, state and/or DRA funding.
- To increase the delivery and total dollar amount of DRA and other resources in the most economically distressed and underserved areas in DRA's service area.
- To increase the total amount of matching funds leveraged in DRA's service area.

Eligible Use

Funds may be used for any costs associated with working directly on the program, such as:

- Equipping existing staff, travel expenses, supplementary pay, and fringe benefits
- Hiring new staff and interns (LDDs are encouraged to identify leveraged resources to sustain employment)
- Contractual services
- *Funds cannot be used to cover expenses for work in non-distressed communities.*



Strategic Planning Program

With an increase in federal funding over the past few years, DRA has designed the Strategic Planning Program (funded through the BIL) to ensure that communities across the eight-state region are in the best position possible to strategically plan for and access these resources. This is a “bottom-up” program that gives applicants the autonomy to choose the type of plan that is right for them.

Program Objectives

- To help revitalize local and regional economies by providing communities across the region access to planning resources that aid problem-solving.
- To enhance the resilience of underserved communities experiencing social and economic vulnerability such as high poverty rates, aging infrastructure, and economic downturns.
- To establish partnerships that reflect the collaborative nature of planning and problem-solving.

Program Priorities

DRA will place special consideration on proposals that:

- Demonstrate goals that will improve economic development in economically distressed, isolated areas of distress, or persistent poverty communities, such as plans that address job training, improving infrastructure like water and sewer, and other catalysts for growth.
- Incorporate input from community members and underserved groups, e.g., focus groups or community meetings that measure community challenges and needs.
- Demonstrate local or regional collaboration, e.g., a local government applying with an institution of higher education or a multi-county/parish proposal that addresses regional economic development
- Demonstrate alignment with DRA’s Regional Development Plan IV



Capacity-Building

Strategic Planning Program

Eligible Applicants

- Local Units of Government
- Public Authorities and Associations
- Non-profit Organizations
- Local Development Districts
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- Institutions of Higher Education

Eligible Plans

Including, but not limited to:

- Comprehensive Economic Development Plans
- Master Plans
- Capital Improvement Plans
- Workforce Development Plans
- Preliminary Engineering Reports
- Transportation Plans
- Broadband Deployment Plans
- Utility Rate Studies
- Feasibility Studies

Award Information

Awards will range from \$25,000 to \$150,000. The period of performance is up to 24 months. Grantees will be required to sign a participation agreement.



Capacity-Building Programs

Staff contact information

- Matthew Campbell, Strategic Partnerships Program Manager
mcampbell@dra.gov (601) 431-2122
- Tineciaa Harris, Strategic Partnerships Program Coordinator
tharris@dra.gov (205) 318-1803
- Jakob Marsh, Capacity-Building Program Analyst
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**2024
States Economic Development
Assistance Program (SEDAP)
Notice of Funding Availability
(NOFA)**



SEDAP Funding Categories

- Basic Public Infrastructure
 - In distressed counties/parishes & isolated areas of distress
- Transportation Infrastructure
 - For the purposes of facilitating economic development in the region
- Business Development
 - With focus on Entrepreneurship
- Job training or employment-related education
 - With emphasis on use of existing public education institutions located in the region



2024 STATE ALLOCATIONS

\$1,737,855	10.26%	Alabama
\$2,468,119	14.58%	Arkansas
\$1,370,671	8.10%	Illinois
\$1,540,051	9.10%	Kentucky
\$3,336,555	19.71%	Louisiana
\$2,629,301	15.53%	Mississippi
\$1,984,801	11.72%	Missouri
\$1,863,289	11.01%	Tennessee

2024 State Allocations



Eligibility Information

- Eligible applicants, see NOFA for full listing
- Documentation of Economic Impact required of complete applications
- 10% match
 - Required for all job training/business development projects
 - Required in non-distressed counties/parishes
 - Match of any type encouraged to ensure a competitive application
 - Sources may be non-federal, other federal, or a combination



CIF Funding Categories

- Basic Public Infrastructure
- Transportation Infrastructure
- Flood Control



Community Infrastructure (CIF)

- \$29,554,524
- Rolling Application Cycle
- Funding Range \$500,000 to \$2,000,000
- Funding decisions made on a monthly basis, pending availability of funds



Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance

- EDA Partnership
- \$3,000,000 Annually
- Since 2016, DRA has funded 21 projects



Criterion	Points (maximum)
Project Information	Section Total 75 Points
I. Project Description	25 Points
a. Description of Project Service Area	7
b. Project Design	10
c. Demonstration of Inclusion in a Distressed County/Parish and isolated areas of distress in the region	3
d. Demonstration of Inclusion in a Persistent Poverty County/Parish	1
e. Project Timeline	4
II. Project Purpose	25 Points
a. Description of Need	12
b. Alignment with DRA's Strategic Investment Goals	3
c. Alignment with SEDAP Federal Priorities	7
d. Alignment with Local Economic Development Priorities	3
III. Project Outputs and Outcomes	13 Points
a. Demonstration of Realistic and Attainable Outcomes	8
b. Demonstration of Job Created or Retained, Families affected or People Trained	5
IV. Management Team and Partners	12 Points
a. Local and Regional Collaboration	5
b. Demonstration of Local and Regional Partnerships (to include Community Colleges, Unions, Training Providers, etc.)	4
c. Demonstration of Partnership(s) with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) and/or Federally Recognized Tribe	3
Evidence of Community Demand or Employer Needs	Section Total 15 Points
I. Demonstration of Community Demand for Proposed Project	5
II. Evidence of Employer Engagement	3
a. Inclusion of a Participation Agreement Guaranteeing Job Creation or Retention	7
Funding Information	Section Total 5 Points
I. Budget/Budget Narrative Alignment	5

Application Review Information



Critical Infrastructure Programs

Staff contact information

- Amanda Allen, Director of Critical Infrastructure
aallen@dra.gov (662) 483-8203
- Darci Malam, Critical Infrastructure Program Manager
dmalam@dra.gov (417) 824-1616
- Daniel Musgrave, Critical Infrastructure Program Analyst
dmusgrave@dra.gov (662) 966-4403





DRA Human Infrastructure Programs Overview

Cheyton Pendley, Workforce Program Analyst

DELTA LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Delta Leadership Institute (DLI) was created to empower leaders with the tools, experiences, and networks to address local and regional challenges. The DLI Executive Academy trains leaders from diverse backgrounds, sectors, and industries to improve the economic competitiveness and social viability of the Mississippi River Delta and Alabama Black Belt regions.



DELTA LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE EXECUTIVE ACADEMY



Tools

Develop skills and knowledge in policy areas relevant to economic and community development and competencies that enhance your ability to improve your community.



Experiences

Visit different locales and learn from numerous communities the strategies that are helping to grow local economies and explore opportunities in diverse cities and towns throughout the region.



Networks

Connect with fellow community leaders, practitioners, and experts to develop a strong network for regional collaboration, information sharing, and continued learning.

DELTA LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Planning Team



Administration & Logistics

Chase Smith, Event Manager
Office of Executive Education &
Strategic Engagement, Sam M.
Walton College of Business



Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging & Case Studies

Dr. Cherisse Jones-Branch, Dean
of the Graduate School Fellow,
Agricultural History Society

Andrea Allen, Executive Director
Delta Center for Economic
Development

Frankie Gilliam, Community
Economic Development
Specialist



Executive Education

Dr. Bevalee Vitali, Director,
Institute for Leadership
Development, Professor of
Management

2024 DLI CALENDAR

Session I: Orientation – New Orleans
October 30, 2023

Session II: Little Rock, AR
January 22-25, 2024

Session III: Baton Rouge, LA
March 4-7, 2024

Session IV: Carbondale, IL
May 13-16, 2024

Session V: Cape Girardeau, MO
July 15-18, 2024

Session VI: Graduation – Jackson, MS
September 9-12, 2024



DELTA LEADERSHIP NETWORK

The Delta Leadership Network (DLN) is now almost 700 members strong. Like the Executive Academy, the DLN focuses on promoting action-oriented leadership in the Delta region. Through our alumni, we continue to build awareness of DRA priorities.



2025 DLI TIMELINE

The Executive Academy program planning as well as the participation application and selection process will begin in April/May 2024. The 2025 class sessions will begin in Fall 2024 with orientation and learning sessions starting in January 2025 through September 2025 meeting in locations across the DRA footprint.

Applications Open	June 3, 2024
Applications Due	August 16, 2024
Application Review	August – October 2024
Notification to Applicants	October 2024
2025 DLI Press Release	November 2024
Orientation/Session I	January 2025
Graduation	September 2025



Health Programs Overview



Health Programs Staff

Christina Wooden,
Health Programs Manager

Anita Stasher,
Health Programs Analyst

Health Programs

- Delta Doctors
- Innovative Readiness Training
- Delta Region Community Health Systems Development Program

Delta Doctors Program

Purpose

- Ensures the workforce within DRA's footprint has access to quality health care
- Provides medical services in health professional shortage areas and medically underserved areas

Innovative Readiness Training

Active and Reserve Military Forces work in partnership with the Delta Regional Authority to provide no-cost medical services to the community while receiving training in medical mission command, mission command for health service support, and mission command for force health protection support.

Innovative Readiness Training

JOINT MILITARY SERVICES



AMERICAN COMMUNITY



Innovative Readiness Training

- Applications submitted by DRA to the Department of Defense September 2024.
- Applications approved by the Department of Defense July 2025.
- Mission Planning Begins October/November 2025.
- Mission Execution Occurs June/July 2026 (Two Week Medical Mission).

Innovative Readiness Training:

Preparation

- On Site Survey
- Initial Planning Meeting
- Mid Planning Meeting
- Final Planning Meeting
- Bi-Weekly Comms Calls
- Weekly Comms Calls
- Continuous Community Coordination

**Delta Region
Community
Health
Systems
Development
Program**

The DRCHSD Program helps rural Delta communities to address health care needs and strengthen the local health care system through comprehensive technical assistance.

Delta Region Community Health Systems Development Program

- The DRCHSD Program is funded through HRSA's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy.
- 10 participants are selected each year for the 3 year program.

Delta Region Community Health Systems Development Program

The National Rural Health Resource Center provides selected health care organizations and their communities with expert technical assistance to make in-depth health system enhancements.

Delta Region Community Health Systems Development Program

- Applications for the DRCHSD Program are accepted on a rolling basis.
- Applications are evaluated based on:
 - How well each applicant organization's technical assistance needs coincide with the program's purpose and goals.
 - The commitment of the organization's leadership to participate fully in the program.



Delta Workforce Grant Program Overview

Delta Workforce Grant
Program Staff

Sea Talantis,
Director of Human Infrastructure

Cheyton Pendley,
Workforce Program Analyst

Delta Workforce Programs



Delta Workforce Grant Program (DWP)



Workforce Opportunities for Rural Communities (WORC)



DELTA WORKFORCE PROGRAM

APRIL 30, 2024

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM / NATCHEZ CONVENTION CENTER / 211 MAIN ST. / NATCHEZ, MS

HEALTHCARE & MANUFACTURING BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY EMPLOYER ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION II



LABOR MARKET
TRENDS



TECHNOLOGY &
INNOVATION



DIVERSITY,
EQUITY, &
INCLUSION



CORPORATE
RESPONSIBILITY

RSVP BY APRIL 23

Lakitsha Rogers, Workforce Development Program Coordinator | lrogers@natchez.ms.us

In 2018, the Delta Regional Authority launched the Delta Workforce Program, an initiative designed to build long-term community capacity and increase economic competitiveness across the Mississippi River Delta and Alabama Black Belt regions.



Natchez
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
For Natchez and Adams County



Natchez, Inc.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
For Natchez and Adams County



Delta Workforce Grant Program Priorities

The Delta Workforce Program prioritizes investments in communities and regions that have been negatively impacted by economic transition and need assistance to help build their workforce pipelines and strengthen their economies.



Investment priorities include:

Supporting industry-led workforce training

Building collaborative talent pipelines

Supporting or enhancing industry clusters

Accelerating local or regional economic development



Delta Workforce Grant Program Funding



Total Program Funding: \$10,000,000

Award Funding Range: \$50,000 - \$450,000

Cost Share / Match: 10 % Cost Share (Cash and/or in-kind)
No Cost Share Requirements for Economically Distressed Counties/Parishes

Annual Funding Cycle: September – December

Period of Performance: 24 months

Eligible Entities

- Counties/parishes, cities, or other political subdivisions of a state, including a special purpose district of a state or local government engaged in economic or community development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions,
- Public or Private nonprofit organizations or associations,
- Regional development organizations,
- Economic development organizations,
- Workforce Investment boards,
- Unions/labor organizations,
- Community-based organizations

Eligible Entities

- Faith – Based organizations,
- Institutions of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education,
- Historically Black Colleges & Universities,
- Minority-serving institutions,
- Trade/technical schools, and
- Federally Recognized tribes

Workforce Opportunities for Rural Communities

In partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Employment and Training Administration (ETA), the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), and the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC), approximately \$49.2 million in grants are available under the Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC) initiative to support workforce training and education in rural communities across the Delta, Appalachian, and Northern Border regions.

To complement this federal partnership, DRA facilitates pre-award technical assistance workshops and webinars, as well as post-award technical assistance to grantees.



Workforce Opportunities for Rural Communities (WORC)

Total Program Funding:	\$49,200,000
Award Funding Range:	Up to \$1,500,000
Cost Share / Match:	NONE
Annual Funding Cycle:	April 4 – June 20
Period of Performance:	36 months

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- State Government
- County Government
- City or Township Government
- State or Local Workforce Development Board
- Special District Government
- Regional Organization
- Independent School District
- State Controlled Institution of Higher Education
- Indian/Native American Tribal Government (federally recognized)



ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- Public/Indian Housing
- Nonprofit Organization with IRS 501(c)(3) Status
- Nonprofit Organization without IRS 501(c)(3) Status
- Private Institution of Higher Education
- Hispanic-serving Institution
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)
- Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs)

