



# Delta Regional Authority



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# Locations and Contact Information

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# The Delta Region

252 Counties and Parishes

210 Deemed “Distressed”

9,852,807 Residents



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# Delta Regional Authority

Modeled on the Appalachian Regional Commission – a highly successful multi-state economic development commission – the Delta Regional Authority was created by Congress (“DRA Act of 2000”) as an independent federal agency.

- Purposed to serve as a regional focal point to coordinate resources, planning and ideas.

With its investment program, the States’ Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP), and parallel policy initiatives, the Authority is a catalyst for progress in the Delta region.

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# Mission of DRA

The Authority will create climates of opportunity to increase private-sector investment, employment, and productivity.

By doing so, the Region becomes a greater magnet for capital, talent, and innovation.

The Delta Regional Authority strives to create jobs, build communities, and improve the lives of the people in the Delta region.

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# Governance and Key Congressional Directives

- Led by a Federal Co-Chairman, who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, plus the Governors of AL, AR, IL, KY, LA, MO, MS and TN.
- The Authority serves almost 10 million people in 252 counties and parishes – the vast majority of which are distressed.

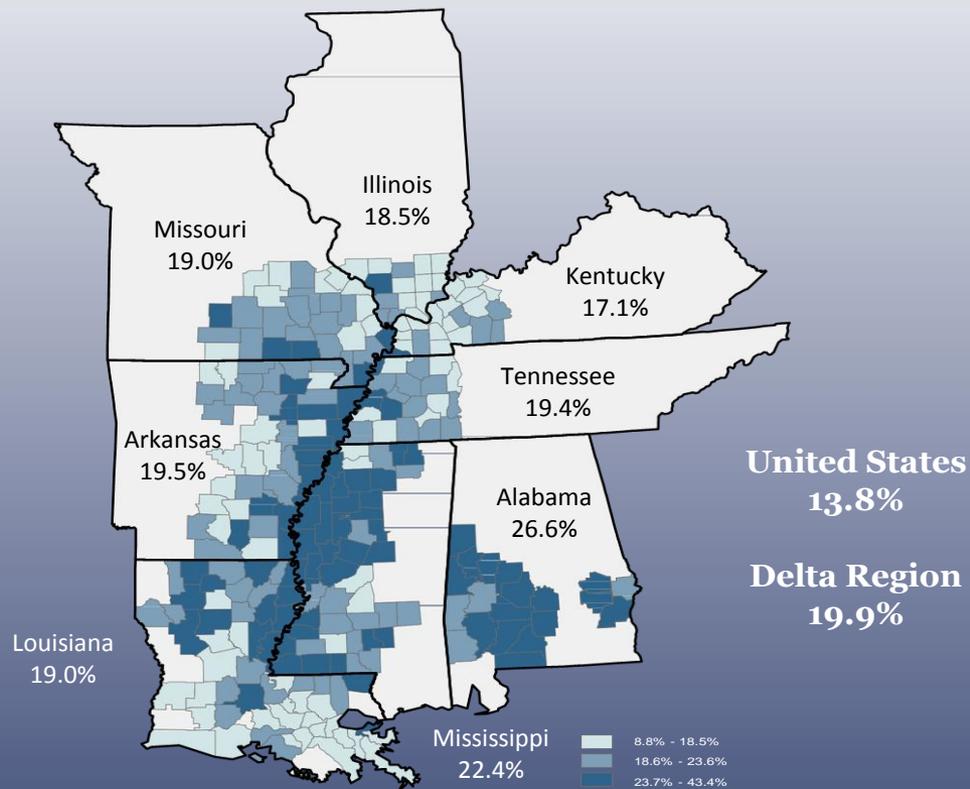
*With its SEDAP investment program, the Authority must:*

- Invest at least 75 percent of its funds into Economically Distressed Counties and Parishes; and
- Invest at least 50 percent of its funds into Transportation and Infrastructure projects.

***KEY -- DRA's funds can be the state/local match.***

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# Poverty in the Delta



Percent of population living in poverty by county/parish: 2006-2010  
Source: US Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey

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# Economic Status of the Delta

- 96% of DRA counties and parishes have per capita income levels at or below the national average;
- The rate of persistent poverty (46%) in the region is 370 percent higher than the national average;
- 29.1% of youth in the Delta are living in poverty, 10 percentage points higher than national average.

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# Investment Impacts

## USDA March 2010 Study

“We (ERS-USDA) find that per capita income and transfer payments grew more rapidly in DRA counties than similar non-DRA counties.”

“And, these impacts are larger in counties where DRA spending was larger.”

“Each additional dollar of DRA spending per capita is associated with an increase of \$15 in personal income per capita between 2002 and 2007 – including an increase of \$8 in earnings and \$5 in transfer payments.”

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# States' Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP)

- Formally the DRA Federal Grants Program
- With 45 Local Development Districts as front-line project managers, these investments by the Delta Regional Authority support job creation and community development projects.
- Applications available late Spring

[funding.dra.gov](http://funding.dra.gov)



# Priorities of Investment

- (A) Basic public infrastructure in distressed counties and isolated areas of distress.
- (B) Transportation infrastructure for the purpose of facilitating economic development in the region.
- (C) Business development, with emphasis on small businesses and entrepreneurship.
- (D) Job training or employment-related education, with emphasis on use of existing public educational institutions located in the region.

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# SEDAP Investments

In its 12 funding cycles (2002-2013), DRA has:

- Invested \$119 million into 799 projects;
- Leveraged \$681 million in other public funds (5.7 to 1);
- Attracted \$1.7 billion in private-sector funds (17 to 1);
- Total investment leveraged -- \$2.7 billion (22.7 to 1).

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# SEDAP Investment Outcomes

Through 12 cycles of investments from 2002-2013, the DRA is helping to achieve the following outcomes:

- 41,857 jobs are being created and retained;
- 61,643 families will have new water and/or sewer; and
- 29,763 individuals will be trained for jobs in their area.

\*Outcomes through twelve funding cycles (2002-2013)

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# Emergency/Contingency Program (EC)

- For community needs identified outside of the SEDAP program cycle
- Requires action from respective state governor
- Example: Hickman-Fulton County Port Dredging in August 2012

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# Other DRA Programs



[www.dra.gov/initiatives/health](http://www.dra.gov/initiatives/health)



# Health in the Delta lags the nation

- Life expectancy for both men and women in every county and parish of the Delta are below the national average;
- Compared with the national rates:
  - Deaths from circulatory diseases are 16 percent higher;
  - Deaths from cancer are 12 percent higher; and
  - Deaths from accidents are 39 percent higher;
- 32 percent of adults report that they are obese (compared to 26 percent in non-Delta counties)
- 12 percent of adults report having diabetes (compared to 8.9 percent in non-Delta counties)

\*Statistics drawn from DRA's publication *Today's Delta*

[www.dra.gov/initiatives/health](http://www.dra.gov/initiatives/health)



# Healthy Delta Initiative

## Healthy Workforce Challenge –

In partnership with HRSA's \$17.1 million Delta States Rural Development Network Grant Program, DRA has awarded more than \$800,000 to five programs that will work with local business and industry to incentivize health living through behavior change in the workplace and work towards a healthier workforce.

Program Name	Location	Amount Awarded
The Tombigbee Healthcare Authority	Demopolis, Alabama	\$163,144.50
ARcare	Augusta, Arkansas	\$170,517.80
Southern Illinois University Center for Rural Health and Social Service Development	Carbondale, Illinois	\$187,500.00
North Louisiana Regional Alliance	Delhi, Louisiana	\$139,432.50
Mississippi County Health Department	Charleston, Missouri	\$158,345.30

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# Healthy Delta Initiative (cont.)

- Rural Health IT Loan Fund –

In partnership with USDA, DRA created an innovative revolving loan fund to assist health care providers working in Health Provider Shortage or Medically Underserved Areas of the Delta to install and adopt electronic health records systems with \$7,500 interest-free loans.

So far, nine physicians have acquired loans for EHR systems and two have fully paid back their loan.

- Affordable Care Act outreach –

This summer, DRA proactively facilitated Affordable Care Act outreach and enrollment as part of a larger coordinated effort helping to improve health outcomes throughout the Delta region.

DRA distributed nearly 13,000 health resource cards to help inform and connect uninsured individuals to affordable insurance options.

[www.dra.gov/initiatives/health](http://www.dra.gov/initiatives/health)



# Other Health Initiatives in the Delta

- Delta Doctors –

In an effort to increase access to quality health care for Delta communities the DRA provides foreign physicians who have been trained in the U.S. with a J-1 Visa Waiver to work in medically underserved areas for three years.

As of this year, DRA has placed 261 doctors in eight states of the Delta, 56 of which have been placed in 2013.

- SHARE Connectivity Program

DRA and the Arkansas Office of Health Information Technology are providing up to \$10,000 awards to critical access (CAHs) and small rural (SRHs) hospitals to complete integration into Arkansas' statewide health information exchange – the State Health Alliance for Records Exchange (SHARE). The program will reach hospitals in 11 counties of the Delta region.

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# Innovative Readiness Training

- Partnership with the U.S. Department of Defense
- Five years of medical missions
- More than 35,000 Delta residents reached, 2009-2013
- Medical – Dental – Optical – Mental – Other Services

In Summer 2013, DRA and DOD sponsored 4 missions in 11 communities in Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee.

[www.dra.gov/initiatives/health](http://www.dra.gov/initiatives/health)



# Delta Leadership Institute

- Executive Academy – a year-long leadership development program for regional leaders desiring to prepare themselves for the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century

53 new fellows for 2013-2014 class will participate in seven sessions on diverse topics in cities across the Delta and in Washington, DC.

- Delta Leadership Network – alumni association to foster continued regional collaboration and leadership development
  - DLN now consists of more than 350 regional leaders from the eight states of the Delta region.

[dra.gov/leadership](http://dra.gov/leadership)



# Small Business and Entrepreneurship Initiative

Over the past four funding cycles, DRA has invested \$3.7 million and leveraged another \$12.5 million in projects focused on increasing resources and support for small businesses and entrepreneurs. Investment highlights include:

- EDIE's Village
- Farm to Fuel: Creating WealthWorks Value Chain in Eastern Arkansas
- Mid-South Minority Business Council (MMBC) Continuum
- Operation JumpStart

[www.dra.gov/initiatives/small-business.aspx](http://www.dra.gov/initiatives/small-business.aspx)



# Small Business and Entrepreneurship Initiative

- EDIE's Village
  - The El Dorado Incubator Environment is a business accelerator for local and student entrepreneurs that offers:
    - Business development and product marketing opportunities;
    - Retail space in low-cost environments; and
    - Additional resources from other federal entities such as SBA.
- Farm to Fuel
  - Through this pilot program in DeWitt, AR, communities will build their capacity to generate, utilize, and market thousands of gallons of biodiesel produced from local energy crop feedstocks (camelina) through a micro-refinery.
  - Technology developed at Mid-South Community College will provide the basis for value chain creation in eastern Arkansas.
  - If successful, project partners hope to expand to 40 communities.

[www.dra.gov/initiatives/small-business.aspx](http://www.dra.gov/initiatives/small-business.aspx)



# Small Business and Entrepreneurship Initiative

- Operation JumpStart (OJS)
  - OJS has increased the capacity for communities to train, support, and mentor aspiring entrepreneurs and to accelerate the number of new ventures created in the Delta.
  - 824 individuals have completed the 36-hour training program.
  - Graduates have created more than 250 new businesses that are sustaining at a rate of 80 percent.
- MMBC Continuum
  - Scalable business model has resulted in its minority and women business enterprise (M/WBE) firms earning more than \$662 million in contract awards from 2008 through 2012.
  - DRA is supporting MMBC in expanding throughout the Delta their model of training M/WBEs to gain a competitive edge in public and private procurement opportunities.

[www.dra.gov/initiatives/small-business.aspx](http://www.dra.gov/initiatives/small-business.aspx)



# Federal Family Partnerships

Through membership on the White House Rural Council, the Delta Regional Authority has developed partnerships with numerous other entities in the family of federal agencies.

DRA commitments with these agencies have brought more than \$21 million in funding awards, capacity building and technical assistance, and medical and engineering assistance to the Delta.

[www.dra.gov/transparency/federal-affairs.aspx](http://www.dra.gov/transparency/federal-affairs.aspx)



# Federal Family Partnerships

- Economic Development Administration (EDA)
  - Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge
  - Make it in America
- Small Business Administration (SBA)
  - Affordable Care Act seminars for small businesses in Summer 2013
- US Department of Agriculture (USDA)
  - Rural Development Delta Health Care Services Grant Program in coordination with Healthy Workforce Challenge
  - Rooting Wealth that Sticks Conference in November 2013
  - Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge
- US Department of Defense (DOD)
  - Innovative Readiness Training

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# Federal Family Partnerships

- US Department of Health and Human Services  
Health Resources and Services Administration
  - Affordable Care Act outreach during Summer 2013 IRT missions
- US Department of Labor (DOL)
  - Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant Program
- White House Council on Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2)
  - Collaborative Conversation about Philanthropy, Federal Funding and Partnership in the Delta in March 2013
- Make it in America Challenge – EDA, DOL-ETA, DOC-NIST
  - Awarded \$1.93 mil to Mississippi State University project supporting regional economic development, advanced skills training, and greater supply chain access.

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# Other Partnerships

- Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative
  - Coalition of 60 mayors from communities along entire Mississippi River advocating for policies that support the economic vitality and conservation of Mississippi River
  - In partnership with MRCTI and City of Memphis, DRA hosted the first-ever Mississippi River Economy Summit (October 2013) to discuss river infrastructure, economic investment, and a potential container-on-barge shipping system along the river
  - Have signed a resolution with MRCTI for continued support
- Pathways to Prosperity
  - Conference on Sector Initiatives in the Mid-South on November 14<sup>th</sup> in Memphis, TN – Chairman's ongoing commitment to workforce development

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# THANK YOU



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