



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



A Legacy of Progress

DEFENDANT'S
EXHIBIT
253

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



Kay Ivey
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALABAMA

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Kenneth W. Boswell
DIRECTOR

A Legacy of Progress

I have had the privilege of serving as director at the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs since May 2017, and I am deeply grateful for the trust that Gov. Kay Ivey has placed in me and our agency. Throughout this time, I am pleased to say, ADECA programs have significantly impacted Alabama communities and individuals.

Our Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division has made Alabama's roads and communities safer. Grants to agencies that assist domestic violence victims have offered victims the refuge and fresh starts they desperately need.

Our Energy Division, in addition to fostering innovation and energy efficiency, has been instrumental in providing grants to install electric vehicle charging stations throughout the state for the increasing number of people adopting this mode of transportation.

Through Community Development Block Grants and our partnerships with the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Delta Regional Authority, we have provided businesses and industry the infrastructure they require to locate or expand in Alabama, providing new job opportunities for Alabamians.

These programs have provided Alabama towns and counties with the resources they need to expand or improve water and sewer systems, pave roads, revitalize communities and more. Recreational improvements provide the invitation for families to enjoy Alabama's great outdoors and spend quality time together.

Our Surplus Property Division has provided needed equipment to government agencies and nonprofits at vastly reduced costs, and our Office of Water Resources works daily to ensure that Alabama's vast water resources remain plentiful now and in the future.

As much as I am proud of those and our other programs, I am extremely delighted with our Alabama Digital Expansion Division and with good reason. I believe it is one of most monumental yet fulfilling programs that ADECA has taken on in its now 40-year history.

When the Alabama Digital Expansion Division was created by Gov. Ivey in 2021, rural Alabama was a barren land as far as broadband service was concerned.

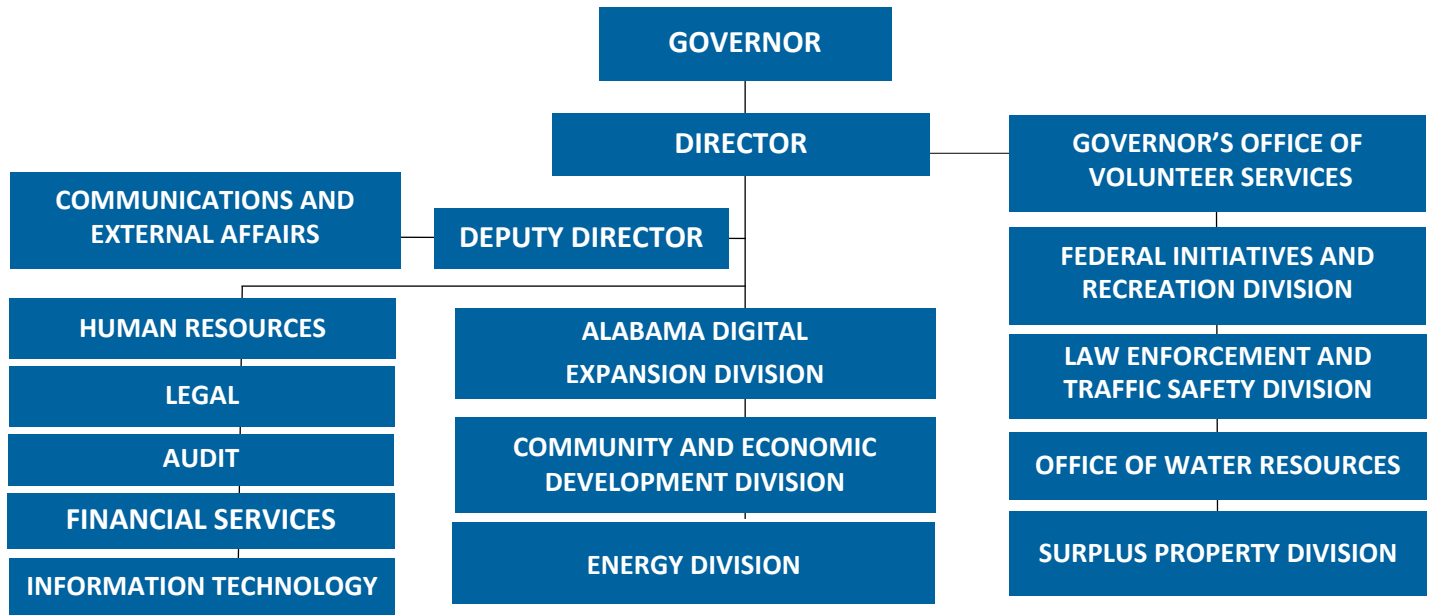
Since that time and thanks to our multiple partners, we have both figuratively and literally come miles in the journey to provide this life-changing service to rural communities including schools, town halls, fire and police stations, businesses and residences. While we are not where we want to be in terms of completing this project, I think we are all pleased with how far we have come in a brief time.

As we move forward, it is my hope and that of our employees that we continue to uphold and enhance ADECA's legacy of progress.

Sincerely,

Kenneth W. Boswell

ADECA ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Mission Statement

The mission of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs is to improve and strengthen communities and the quality of life in Alabama through a wide range of diverse and comprehensive programs involving economic development, infrastructure, law enforcement, education, energy conservation and technology upgrades, and responsible management of water resources.



The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs is housed in the Alabama Center for Commerce building in Montgomery.

ALABAMA DIGITAL EXPANSION DIVISION

Broadband expansion efforts accelerated in 2023, bringing high-speed internet to many previously unserved areas throughout the state and launching the Be Linked Alabama brand; that momentum has carried over into 2024 and shows no signs of slowing.

ADECA's Alabama Digital Expansion Division continues working to ensure that all Alabamians have access to what has become an essential service. Broadband is vital to operating a thriving business, expanding educational opportunities, providing emergency medical care and supporting many other elements of modern life. The Digital Expansion Division was created by the Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Kay Ivey in 2021 to focus exclusively on broadband expansion in the state.

Beginning in 2023, ADECA Director Kenneth Boswell joined Gov. Ivey for a broadband tour of Alabama to announce some of the projects being launched in different areas of the state. The tour included stops in Oakman, Cullman, Atmore, Troy and culminated in Gov. Ivey's hometown of Camden with the announcement of more than \$188 million in grants through the Alabama Anchor Institution and Middle Mile grant program. A later ceremony at the state Capitol announced nearly \$150 million in Capital Projects Fund grants to fund new broadband projects throughout the state.

The development of a statewide map identifying the areas that lack high-speed internet has helped identify the top-priority areas for expansion. Over the course of 2023, the map changed significantly as more homes, businesses and community institutions gained the infrastructure to access high-speed internet. To see the current map, visit broadband.alabama.gov/broadband-maps.

These broadband expansion efforts have impacted communities in all 67 counties and fall into several categories.

Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund (ABAF). In 2018, Gov. Ivey signed the Alabama Broadband Accessibility Act, establishing the Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund. In 2023, ADECA funded nine projects totaling nearly \$25 million in ABAF grant dollars. In total, grants totaling \$82 million have been awarded through ABAF since 2018, supporting 107 projects. Once all projects are complete, more than 72,000 households, businesses, and community institutions will have access to high-speed internet service.

Alabama Community Broadband Technical Assistance Program (TAP). ADECA launched this program to provide planning support and technical assistance to local communities. ADECA has held meetings in all 67 counties and with Historically Black Colleges and Universities and tribal governments. There have been numerous seminars and listening sessions seeking feedback from community organizations, nonprofits, other government agencies and internet service providers. ADECA has developed profiles for each county based on the meetings, and they are available on the Be Linked Alabama website at broadband.alabama.gov/profiles/.



Broadband projects have had an impact in all 67 Alabama counties.

Alabama Capital Projects Fund (CPF). In February 2024, Governor Ivey awarded grants totaling \$148.3 million to support 66 broadband expansion projects in 48 counties from the Capital Projects Fund. The funds were allocated as part of the American Rescue Plan Act for a "last mile" grant program that is similar to the ABAF. Once completed, the projects will extend access to 53,892 households, businesses and community institutions.

Alabama Statewide Middle-Mile Network Grant Program. In September 2022, Gov. Ivey awarded \$82.45 million in American Rescue Plan Act money to the Alabama Fiber Network Inc., a corporation made up of seven rural electric cooperatives and one generation/transmission electric cooperative. The grant agreement was signed in February 2023. The project will create a "middle-mile" broadband network connecting almost 3,000 miles of existing and new fiber infrastructure across the state within a three-year period.

Alabama Anchor Institution/Middle Mile Program (AIMM). In February 2024, Governor Ivey awarded grants totaling \$188.4 million to support 21 projects to add 4,287 miles of "middle-mile" fiber. The projects also fund fiber connectivity to community anchor institutions such as colleges and universities, rural hospitals and government facilities. In total, the projects will have connected almost 800 anchor institutions. The funding for this program was allocated by the Alabama Legislature in 2023 from the state's portion of the American Rescue Plan Act Funds.

Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD). The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) in 2023 announced a \$1.4 billion allocation for internet expansion in Alabama. These funds have allowed Alabama to continue the TAP throughout Alabama and to complete a statewide survey on digital access and equity. These planning efforts will allow the state to access additional funds from NTIA, including the approximately \$1.4 billion that has been allocated to Alabama's BEAD broadband expansion efforts. ADECA expects these BEAD funds to be available by 2025.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

The Community and Economic Development Division is home to programs that significantly impact Alabama counties, cities, neighborhoods and residents. The Community Development Block Grant program has played a significant role in improving numerous municipalities and counties since its inception while smaller CED programs have had big effects in their targeted areas.

Community Development Block Grants

The CDBG program, funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, supplies grants for the projects that serve lifelines of communities such as water, sewer, roads, economic development and downtown revitalization. Additionally, special CDBG funding is allocated for disaster recovery. Funds are allocated by Congress to areas impacted by violent storms or emergencies like the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

CDBG competitive awards are issued annually to assist towns, cities and counties with projects, mainly infrastructure, that they might not otherwise be able to undertake without outside financial assistance.

Grant allocations are determined by various factors, including the number of low and moderate-income families benefitting from a project and the project's urgency and necessity.

To ensure equitable distribution, CDBG competitive grants are categorized into three main groups: **Small City** (populations of 3,000 or less), **Large City** (populations of 3,001 or more) and **County**. Furthermore, small and large cities and counties may also qualify under the **Community Enhancement** CDBG fund which encompasses a broader range of eligible projects such as community and senior centers, firehouses, recreational trails and playgrounds. Each category has a grant ceiling ranging from \$400,000 to \$500,000.

Additionally, **planning grants**, capped at \$40,000 per recipient, play a crucial role in guiding local governments to better and more orderly futures. Planning grants often serve as a road map for cities and counties and may involve downtown revitalization, zoning, growth projections and other patterns that help local governments outline short-range and long-range plans.

In 2023, Gov. Kay Ivey awarded 44 competitive CDBGs totaling \$17.5 million. Among those grants was a \$400,000 Community Enhancement grant to enable the town of Elmore to construct a 2,000-square-foot building for its senior citizens to meet. The town's other senior citizen building was declared unsafe.

CDBG Economic Development awards have been instrumental in bringing new jobs and fostering economic growth in Alabama. These awards help usher in new

companies and industries by providing funds for sewer, water, road, and other major infrastructure needs.

In 2023, Gov. Ivey awarded 17 economic development grants through the CDBG program aiding local governments in encouraging businesses and industries to locate or expand in their jurisdictions.

The city of Bay Minette was awarded a \$2.5 million grant in 2023 to provide sewer and water to Novelis Inc. The Atlanta-based company is in the process of constructing a \$2.4 billion low-carbon and energy efficient aluminum rolling and recycling plant near the intersection of Interstate 65 and Alabama Highway 287. Once in production, the plant will employ 800 people.

Similarly in north Alabama, a \$1.5 million economic development grant was awarded to the Lawrence County Commission to provide infrastructure needed for First Solar Inc. to construct a \$1 billion solar module manufacturing facility, bringing 700 jobs to the region.

ADECA is in the process of awarding more than \$500 million **CDBG Disaster Recovery** funds in a nine-county area affected by Hurricane Sally and Hurricane Zeta in 2020. Baldwin, Mobile, Clarke, Dallas, Escambia, Marengo, Wilcox, Perry and Washington counties, along with the city of Mobile, have until Sept. 30, 2029 to utilize the funds on housing, infrastructure and economic development. Approximately \$280 million of the \$500 million has been allocated by ADECA to the Home Recovery Alabama Program to address storm damage suffered by single-family housing in the nine counties. Mobile and Baldwin counties and the city of Mobile will receive an allocated amount for repairs while the other seven counties will be awarded funds on a competitive basis.



Community Development Block Grants help many Alabama cities and counties with road improvements.

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Other CED Programs**Healthy Foods Financing Program**

Enacted by the Alabama Legislature in the mid-2010s, this program addresses healthy food accessibility issues by awarding state-funded grants to non-profit organizations and businesses to help make fresh food available to those living in rural communities and in urban areas where fresh foods are not readily available.

Projects that have been awarded grants include mobile food trucks, food pantries, grocery stores and farmer's markets.

The Emergency Solutions Grant Program

This initiative provides funding to local governments and non-profit organizations to prevent people from becoming homeless and offers shelter to those in need. The program is funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and helps meet the operating expenses of homeless facilities and domestic violence shelters. Often in Alabama, local governments that receive funding will contract with local non-profit agencies to ensure shelter is available to individuals and families who need those services. In 2023, Gov. Ivey awarded 11 grants totaling \$2.5

million for Emergency Solutions programs. A \$400,000 grant enabled the city of Huntsville to contract with several groups to provide housing and shelter needs in Limestone, Madison and Morgan counties.

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program

Designed to prevent the decline of older residential areas, this program rehabilitates aging houses, making them available for sale or rent to people seeking housing. Keeping occupancy in a neighborhood often prevents a mass exodus of residents and makes those housing areas vibrant places to live once again.

The Minority Business Enterprise Program

This program provides certificates to minority-owned and women-owned businesses enabling them to compete for government contracts. Owners must apply with their business's qualifications before being awarded a certificate.

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS

This program provides housing assistance and support services to low-income persons and HIV/AIDS disabled people and their families.



The Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless is a regular beneficiary of the Emergency Solutions Grant Program. The coalition provides aid for the homeless in Montgomery, Elmore, Lowndes, Bullock and Autauga counties, including collecting coats and distributing them as cold weather approaches.

FEDERAL INITIATIVES AND RECREATION DIVISION

You might say the Federal Initiatives and Recreation Division is one of the newer kids on the block, but technically you might be wrong.

While the Division is less than two years old, most of its programs have been staples at ADECA for years.

The division was created in 2022 to align similar programs within a single division. Programs in the division are the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Delta Regional Authority and the newer Southeast Crescent Regional Commission. All three programs are federal-state partnerships. The Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Recreational Trails Program make up the recreation side of the division.

Appalachian Regional Commission

The Appalachian Regional Commission was created by Congress in 1965 with the goal of bringing impoverished Appalachian Mountain areas up to the same living standards as other parts of the United States. ARC extends in 13 states and 423 counties. In Alabama, 37 counties are part the ARC region and are eligible for funding.

ARC funds can be used to build or upgrade infrastructure, enhance education and job opportunities and improve overall quality of life, including health care.

In 2023, 28 ARC grants were awarded for projects in Alabama totaling \$10.6 million.

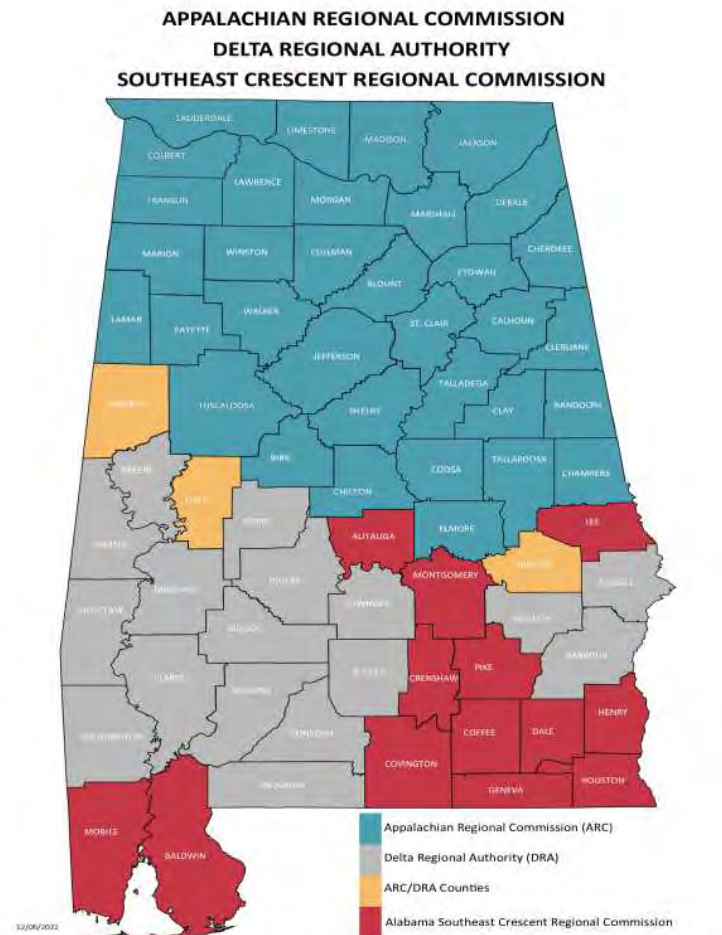
Among those grants was a \$1 million grant to help First Solar meet the increasing demand in the United States for solar power by building a new facility in north Alabama. The facility will create 700 jobs. ARC funds were used to provide water and sewer improvements in the Mallard Fox West Industrial Complex in Lawrence County, where First Solar will be located. The grant was combined with a \$1.5 million Community Development Block Grant, also awarded through ADECA, that will help aid future industries at the industrial park.

Delta Regional Authority

Much like its ARC predecessor, the Delta Regional Authority seeks to improve the quality of life in the Mississippi River Delta and Alabama's Black Belt region. The federal program was created by Congress in 2000 and it takes in all or part of eight states, including 20 counties in Alabama.

Over the years, DRA has contributed to the creation of jobs, better education and training opportunities, improved infrastructure and upgrades of health-care services.

Six projects totaling \$1.68 million were awarded in Alabama from DRA State's Economic Development Assistance program funds while another five grants, totaling \$2.1 million, were awarded through DRA Delta Workforce Grant program.



The city of Selma was awarded \$2 million to help in its recovery from a tornado in January 2023 that devastated parts of the town. In Lowndes County, the town of Hayneville received \$761,000 to improve the town's wastewater treatment lagoon while the town of Lowndesboro was awarded about \$500,000 to upgrade its water system.

Southeast Crescent Regional Commission

The commission, which fills the remaining Alabama counties not covered by the ARC or DRA programs, is expected to see its first funding programs in 2024. While established by Congress in 2008, the commission was not officially organized until 2022 and took in its first grant applications in 2023.

The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission area covers parts of seven Southeastern states. Included in that are 13 Alabama counties. It was developed with the same goals as the ARC and DRA programs and is expected to help boost economic development and overall quality of life in the state's southeastern section along with Mobile and Baldwin counties in the southwest part of the state.

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The Land and Water Conservation Fund

A program of the National Park Service, the Land and Water Conservation Fund provides recreation related grants to Alabama cities, counties, state agencies and educational institutions. Grants can be used to acquire or develop land into parks, ballfields, playgrounds or trails. Grant recipients are required to match dollar for dollar the amount of the grant in cash or in-kind services. The maximum grant that can be awarded is \$500,000.

In 2023, ADECA awarded 17 grants totaling \$3.9 million. Among those grants was one for \$250,000 to the Colbert County Commission to upgrade a campground, construct restroom and shower facilities and add picnic tables at Rose Trail Park near Cherokee.

Recreational Trails Program

Funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration, the Recreational Trails Program funds projects to construct or rehabilitate trails for pedestrians, motorized and non-motorized vehicles and horseback riding. Safety and environmental education programs and equipment also qualify for funding under the program.

Grants of up to \$100,000 are available for multi-purpose trail projects while \$50,000 is the limit for single-use projects. The program requires a 20 percent local match.

In 2023, eight grants totaling \$2.5 million were awarded. Among those grants was a \$350,000 award to the Shelby County Commission to construct approximately 12 miles of trail at Double Oak Park.



ADECA has provided several grants to Weathington Park. The park, which overlooks the Tennessee River near Scottsboro, offers one of the state's more scenic views.

ENERGY DIVISION

The mission of ADECA's Energy Division, which serves as the state's Energy Office, is to support and fund energy innovations and projects while bringing awareness to the importance of conserving energy and improving energy efficiency.

The division is home to multiple programs that solidify its mission. They range from encouraging the use of alternative fuels and energy production to assisting low-income families with home energy costs and helping to make their homes more resilient to extreme weather conditions.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure. Electric vehicles are making their way into the lives of Americans as U.S. automobile manufacturers – including those with a presence in Alabama – are producing more of those type of vehicles. Alabama is responding to the consumers' choice to drive electric vehicles by ensuring that charging infrastructure is in place as more electric vehicles appear on the state's roads and highways.

Under Gov. Kay Ivey, ADECA's Energy Division has helped coordinate "Drive Electric Alabama", which is a public education program about driving electric vehicles. "Drive Electric Alabama" engages consumers through several methods including billboards, social media, television and radio advertising and special events and promotions.

The State Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan was released in 2022 and just updated in early 2024 with input from a stakeholder advisory group of 66 people, including electric vehicle owners and representatives of organizations with an interest in electric vehicles. The plan outlines the use of future federal funds through the National Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure plan, primarily the installation of charging stations on major highways and heavily populated areas of the state.

In 2023, \$2 million in state funds were allocated for the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Program. Also in 2023, eight projects were awarded from that program to install charging stations. Among those was a \$461,700 grant to the Montgomery County Commission to install eight charging stations at Montgomery Whitewater, a manmade paddling complex near Interstate 65 that is expected to attract people throughout the United States.

Alabama is projected to receive \$79 million from the Federal Highway Administration through fiscal year 2026 to administer the federal charging infrastructure plan. Currently the state has \$45 million of those funds to install electric vehicle charging stations along the state's interstate system. Those funds may also be used to train people to install and maintain the electric charging stations.

State Energy Program. The State Energy Program awards grants to lower energy costs in schools, government buildings and non-profit facilities through upgrading

lighting, heating and air-conditioning systems, roof coatings and other energy-saving modifications. In 2023, Gov. Ivey awarded \$2 million in state energy program funds for 12 projects including a \$250,000 grant for the city of Center Point to install solar panel systems at City Hall, the community center and the city library.

Alabama Research and Development Enhancement Fund. Created by state law in 2019, this program provides funds to research institutions and state universities to develop products and innovations to improve lives and create jobs in Alabama. In 2023, one university and two research institutions were awarded nearly \$1 million for innovations and research.

Assistance Programs. The Energy Division manages four programs to assist low-income persons and families.

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program partners with community action agencies to help recipients with temporary assistance for high energy bills in the hot summer months and cold winter months. The program is funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Community Services Block Grants provide emergency assistance and offer programs to help families and low-income people obtain self-sufficiency. The program is funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The Weatherization Assistance Program provides improvements to the homes of qualified persons to help them conserve energy and save on utility costs. It is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy.

The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program helps qualified families with funding needed to supply their houses with public water service and sewer costs. Funding can also be used to pump septic tanks. The program from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, started during the COVID pandemic, is slated to end in 2024.



The Montgomery County Commission received an electric vehicle charging grant to install these chargers at Montgomery Whitewater, which attracts paddlers throughout the United States.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND TRAFFIC SAFETY DIVISION

ADECA's Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division supports law enforcement agencies, protects victims and seeks to bring lawbreakers to justice on several fronts.

The division's Highway Safety and Justice Programs units maintain statewide programs that enforce traffic safety and criminal justice laws while the Victims of Crime and Violence Prevention units work to prevent crime and provide refuge to victims of domestic violence and abuse of the elderly and children.

Highway Safety and Justice Programs. ADECA annually participates in two major national highway safety programs to improve safety on the state's roads and to ensure dangerous drivers are taken off the road or change their driving habits. The *"Click It or Ticket"* campaign is conducted around Memorial Day and is geared toward getting motorists and passengers to adhere to the state's mandatory seatbelt law. The state has maintained an 86 percent seatbelt use rate for many years.

"Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" is another federal highway safety campaign sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. It is intended to remind motorists of the dangers of getting behind the wheel of an automobile while under the influence of alcohol or any substance that causes impairment. During the campaign, which is conducted around Labor Day in late summer, additional police and troopers are placed on the roads to enforce traffic safety laws.

In 2023 LETS awarded \$10.6 million for highway safety campaigns, programs and projects.

The Justice Programs unit funds projects that provide new and upgraded equipment to state, county and municipal law enforcement departments and provides funding to the state's regional drug task force units that work to take drugs off the street and arrest offenders. In 2023, LETS awarded 28 grants totaling \$624,384 for law enforcement equipment purchases and \$1.8 million was allocated for the state's drug task force, including the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, which oversees the program.

Funds are also awarded for several juvenile justice programs that strive to steer juveniles onto paths for successful careers and lives. Additionally, funds are provided to train law enforcement officers in many areas, including forensics.

Victims of Crime and Violence Prevention. Domestic violence and sexual assault are crimes that not only can cause physical injury to victims and their families but can result in mental scars that last a lifetime if help is not provided. The Victims of Crime and Violence Prevention Unit annually provides funding to help domestic violence victims flee hostile situations and find safe refuge and medical attention if needed along with other aid to help them rebuild their lives.

The unit contracts with multiple agencies throughout Alabama to provide safe shelter for victims and other programs ranging from successful prosecution of offenders to obtaining needed employment skills for a successful transition in their lives.

The unit also provides funds to assist victims of sexual assault, child and elderly abuse and human trafficking.

Additionally, some funds are allocated for education programs to help end domestic abuse and other types of abuses.

Grants are awarded through several federal programs including the Victims of Crimes Act, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act and the Violence Against Women Act.

On the state level, the Domestic Violence Trust Fund is awarded to several shelters around the state. The awards are appropriated quarterly and originate from a fee on marriage license recordings.



The Jacksonville State University Center for Applied Forensics uses LETS funds for training of law enforcement officials throughout Alabama.

OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES

ADECA's Office of Water Resources has multiple functions with the goal of ensuring there is a plentiful supply of water for Alabamians now and for generations to come.

OWR maintains three major units: the Water Management Unit, the Floodplain Management Unit and the Interstate Water Issues Unit.

The **Water Management Unit** has the responsibility of monitoring the state's ground and surface water. As part of that process, the Alabama Water Use Reporting Program maintains an inventory of current water use from public water systems and industry and businesses that require using large amounts of water in their operations.

OWR is working to streamline that process with an updated e-Use water reporting system. That system will enable users of large amounts of water to digitally submit water-use data. OWR is working with the Alabama Office of Information Technology, ADECA's Information Technology Section and private firms with a goal to make the system fully operational by 2025.

ADECA also maintains a system to monitor drought in the state. The Drought Planning and Response Program includes a technical committee made up of OWR staff, reservoir operators, industries and businesses which require large usages of water, and the public. While the committee meets intermittently, those meetings become more frequent – typically in summer and fall – when drought conditions become more common in the state. When conditions require, OWR issues a Drought Declaration Map to inform Alabamians of current and forecasted drought conditions in the state.

The **Floodplain Management Unit** deals primarily with excessive water. The unit manages two programs for the state: the National Flood Insurance Program and the Alabama Risk Mapping Assessment and Planning Program.

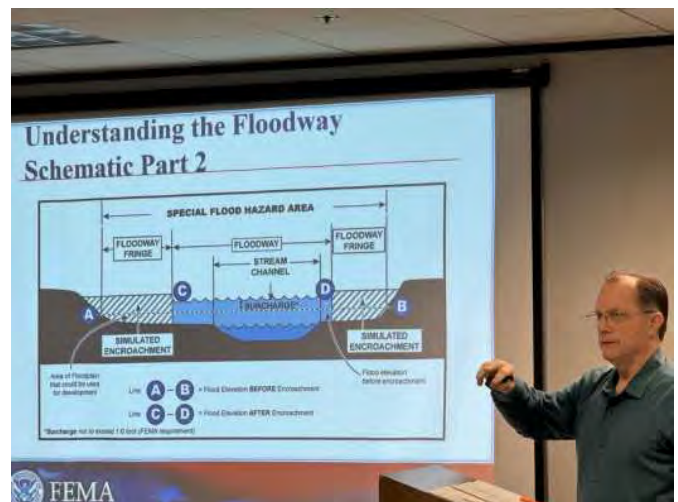
The unit works with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to administer the national federal flood insurance program in the state. As part of that responsibility, OWR works with and trains city and county representatives to ensure local programs adhere to regulations that enable property owners to obtain federal flood insurance.

OWR also works with FEMA in updating watershed maps to determine areas prone to flooding and how often flooding will occur. Maps are done on a regular rotating basis to reflect any changes in topography and waterway routes that may have occurred after the previous map was completed.

The **Interstate Water Issues Unit** plays a large role in the water rights dispute involving Alabama, Georgia, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (and to a lesser degree where Alabama is concerned, the state of Florida). Alabama's position is to ensure the state has equal access to water in rivers and waterways that flows in each of the states.

Although the disagreement has been waged for decades, it was announced in December 2023 that a tentative agreement had been reached pending Corps approval regarding water flow in the mid and lower Chattahoochee River basin, which is part of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint rivers complex.

Water disputes also involve the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa rivers complex.



The Office of Water Resources along with the Federal Emergency Management Agency conduct a floodplain management workshop for city and county representatives as part of the National Flood Insurance Program.

SURPLUS PROPERTY DIVISION

They say one man's junk is another man's treasure.

Nowhere could that be any truer than at ADECA's Surplus Property Division where unwanted and often gently used computers, furniture and office equipment, vehicles and tractors and other items are turned in to the division by state agencies and then reclaimed by other governmental agencies and nonprofit groups.

It's often a winning situation for both the givers and the takers. The givers usually are turning in equipment in favor of newer and more up-to-date equipment while the takers – usually small municipalities or nonprofit groups with limited budgets - are picking up much-needed items at sharply reduced prices.

On an almost daily basis eligible and registered entities can travel to Surplus Property's warehouse in Montgomery to pick up items that suit their needs. Government entities can obtain office furniture while senior citizen centers find value in kitchen equipment to help feed their clients and fitness equipment to offer them exercise. Law enforcement and rescue squads, particularly those with mechanically minded members, can find boats, all-terrain vehicles, mobile trailers and emergency equipment to make difficult tasks a bit easier.

The transfer of property not only provides those agencies and organizations with needed equipment, but it also saves them money that can be used for other services.

In addition to obtaining used equipment from other state agencies, Surplus Property also receives items from the federal government through the General Services Administration's Federal Surplus Personal Property Donation Program. In addition to its Montgomery location, another Surplus Property Division warehouse in the north Alabama town of Eva deals only with GSA property.

Another source of Surplus Property items stems from several airports in the Southeast where plane passengers voluntarily turn over property not allowed on flights.

In the end the public gets another benefit.

Several times a year, surplus items not selected by other agencies are put up for public auction. For years Surplus Property conducted the auction at its Montgomery location, but in recent years has converted to online auctions. Items can be viewed online and bids are taken over the internet.

The introduction of online sales has naturally resulted in larger participation along with added assurance that all items up for auction will be sold. Minus the costs involved, all profits from the auctions are deposited in the state's General Fund.

Surplus Property also manages the Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) program which enables law enforcement agencies in the state to obtain surplus

equipment from the U.S. Department of Defense.

The LESO, or 1033 Program, enables the transfer of excess military property and can include tactical equipment, field gear, office equipment, vehicles and training and support items.

While eligible law enforcement agencies can obtain the equipment at no charge, they are competing with other law enforcement agencies across the U.S. for the same equipment and they are required to arrange transportation no matter the location of the item.

The Atmore Police Department was one of several law enforcement agencies to take advantage of the LESO program. The department acquired all-terrain vehicles to assist them in search and rescue operation and other police activities in rural areas. The department also obtained a portable sign to post speed limits to improve traffic safety.

On occasion, the employees and resources at Surplus Property are called on by local governments to assist areas struck by disasters, like tornadoes, hurricanes and floods to provide equipment necessary in cleanup and maintaining public safety.



ADECA's Surplus Property Division sponsors the federal Law Enforcement Support Office program which enables member law enforcement agencies throughout Alabama to obtain equipment that can assist in protecting communities and enforcing the law.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES

The Governor's Office of Volunteer Services is a multi-faceted entity with the goal to improve the quality of life in Alabama on many fronts including education, health care, substance abuse, homelessness and the environment.

The office also assists Alabama, a state known for its volatile storms, with disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

Acting as the State Service Commission and home for the AmeriCorps state program, the Governor's Office of Volunteer Services responds to local needs in Alabama. The agency received \$1.4 million in federal funds in 2023 to carry out its programs.

During the year, AmeriCorps state representatives helped multiple local organizations recruit and manage volunteers for community projects. AmeriCorps volunteers also provided services for military veterans and active-duty military personnel and assisted in schools by helping K-12 students improve their study skills and academic performance.

During 2023, AmeriCorps members engaged the assistance of 972 volunteers who performed more than 17,000 volunteer service hours. Many of those hours were spent in classroom and school environments and in the wild where volunteers contributed to preserving public lands by helping with several outdoor activities.



GOVS works with students of all ages to spark interest in schools and help improve grades.

In addition to providing numerous disaster education programs, the office maintains a place during severe storms at the state Emergency Operations Center in Clanton which is the command center for monitoring Alabama storms and initiating immediate and long-term recovery.

In 2023, the Governor's Office of Volunteer Services was activated several times during storms and severe weather.

In preparation for those events, GOVS sponsored several trainings involving storm response and enlisting volunteer assistance. The office also promoted the Ready Alabama program, a disaster preparedness program. As part of that, the office conducted more than 50 outreach events in which staff worked with state agencies, non-profit organizations, youth groups, community-based organizations and local churches.

Also in 2023, the Governor's Office of Volunteer Services continued its partnership with the state-based, non-profit Council on Substance Abuse to conduct a series of trainings focusing on mental health.



Volunteers help clean up the Dog River in south Alabama.



AmeriCorps members from the SCA-Alabama Conservation Corps, serving on the fire crew, participate in prescribed burns to support conservation efforts on public lands in Alabama.

SUPPORT SERVICES

ADECA relies on many “behind the scenes” divisions and offices to carry out its mission to serve the people of Alabama and improve communities.

Communications and External Affairs

This office promotes all of ADECA’s grant programs, and through a strong emphasis on media releases and videos the office demonstrates their value and benefits to all Alabamians. That public display has several benefits. News releases and videos enable the public and elected officials to know about programs ADECA offers, and they also serve as a broadcasted log of where taxpayer money is being distributed. CEA also works with other state agencies on promotions benefitting Alabamians and is the state’s liaison for the U.S. Census.

Information Technology

In an era where people, businesses, enterprises and government agencies are reliant on technology and computers, it is instrumental to have people on board who have the technical expertise to provide reliable guidance. IT staff members develop programs unique to ADECA’s needs and provide needed service and maintenance to computers and other technology. Additionally, in an age where computer malware and other malicious activity are constant threats, IT staff monitors against attacks and ensures that ADECA staff is knowledgeable and competent against would-be computer and software invaders.

Legal

The Legal Division touches virtually every ADECA document and contract to ensure they adhere to state and federal law and spell out specifically obligations of the parties involved. Legal also monitors the Alabama Legislature to keep ADECA staff abreast of legislation that may affect the department and its programs.

Audit

The Audit staff ensures that funds expended through ADECA are used for their intended purpose. The office conducts trainings and meets with grant recipients to ensure they are knowledgeable of grant obligations and requirements. The staff is also readily available when any recipients encounter questions regarding funding.

Financial Services

Financial Services handles the day-to-day budgeting, purchasing, property management and payroll at ADECA. The office also advises ADECA staff on expenditures and ensures that all offices stay within their allotted budgets.

Human Resources

This office assists in the hiring of qualified workers needed to perform the multiple duties and positions that are available at ADECA. HR also assists ADECA employees in advancements and programs that will help them better perform their duties.

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FEDERAL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**2022-2023 Federal Receipts and Expenditures****For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

Federal Grantor/Program Title	Federal CFDA Number	Receipts	Expenditures
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE			
State Digital Equity Planning and Capacity Grant	11.032	56,640	57,558
Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program	11.035	21,484	22,933
Economic Adjustment Assistance (American Rescue Plan (ARP))	11.307	626,207	626,207
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT			
Community Development Block Grants/State's Program	14.228	20,397,557	20,439,677
COVID 19 Community Development Block Grants/State's Program	14.228	16,952,259	16,957,179
Emergency Solutions Grant Program	14.231	3,139,939	3,140,487
COVID-19 Emergency Solutions Grant Program (CARES Act)	14.231	2,790,532	2,793,645
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS	14.241	2,415,790	2,418,783
COVID-19 Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (CARES Act)	14.241	199,929	199,929
Hurricane Sandy Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery	14.269	260	260
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR			
Outdoor Recreation Acquisition, Development and Planning	15.916	1,194,691	1,194,614
Water Use and Data Research	15.981	16,444	16,444
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE			
Sexual Assault Services Formula Program	16.017	496,745	496,731
COVID-19 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program	16.034	29,385	2,874,256
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention	16.540	501,557	501,818
Crime Victim Assistance	16.575	23,185,694	23,200,370
Violence Against Women Formula Grants	16.588	2,667,768	2,656,394
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners	16.593	286,310	286,246
Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program	16.607	35,604	5,723
Project Safe Neighborhoods	16.609	114,179	113,691
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program	16.738	3,693,028	2,902,223
Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant Program	16.742	349,925	349,925
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION			
Highway Planning and Construction	20.205		9,796
Recreational Trails Program	20.219	1,459,832	1,459,787
Highway Safety Cluster			
State and Community Highway Safety	20.600	4,648,315	4,589,971
National Priority Safety Programs	20.616	3,340,621	3,340,485
Total Highway Safety Cluster		7,988,936	7,930,456
APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION			
Appalachian Area Development	23.002	2,617,183	2,743,106
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION			
Donation of Federal Surplus Personal Property (value of property - not cash received)	39.003	4,758,984	4,473,758
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY			
Petroleum Violation Escrow	81.Unknown		-334,017
State Energy Program	81.041	865,129	768,257
Weatherization Assistance for Low-Income Persons	81.042	3,579,193	3,596,275
State Energy Program Special Projects	81.119	-5,686	-5,787
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES			
Family Violence Prevention and Services/Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis Services and Supports	93.497	650,729	649,420
Low Income Household Water Assistance Program	93.499	6,619,980	6,574,047
COVID-19 Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (American Rescue Plan (ARP))	93.499	4,456,456	4,449,057
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance	93.568	67,816,859	68,660,176
COVID -19 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (American Rescue Plan (ARP))	93.568	5,483,140	5,433,537
COVID-19 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (CARES Act)	93.568	-16,312	-3,527
Community Services Block Grant	93.569	14,873,154	14,930,949
COVID-19 Community Services Block Grant (CARES Act)	93.569	1,148,102	1,119,292
Family Violence Prevention and Services/Domestic Violence Shelter and Supportive Services	93.671	1,961,947	2,019,304
COVID-19 Family Violence Prevention and Services/Domestic Violence Shelter and Supportive Services (American Rescue Plan (ARP))	93.671	785,664	785,407
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY			
Community Assistance Program State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE)	97.023	730,890	701,693
Cooperating Technical Partners	97.045	4,032,854	3,847,627
TOTAL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS		216,967,899	218,994,162

COMMUNITY VISITS 2023



Director Boswell and Deputy Director Ashley Toole visited Lisman with Mayor Jason Ward and other local leaders to discuss community projects and ADECA's grant programs.



Director Boswell visited Clanton to meet with Mayor Jeff Mims and learn about economic development and community development projects in the city. Boswell shared information about ADECA's many grant programs that are positively impacting Alabama.



Director Boswell made a community visit to Centre, in Cherokee County, where he met with Mayor Mark Mansfield and City Council Member Jay Howell to discuss community needs and ADECA programs that may be able to help.



Director Boswell visited Alabama A&M University to meet with President Daniel Wims, toured the campus, and discussed the university's plans and ADECA's programs. He briefly addressed the president's cabinet meeting during his tour.



Director Boswell met with officials in the Town of Nauvoo to discuss ADECA's role in assisting small communities with economic development opportunities.



Director Boswell and local leaders in the Wiregrass discussed ADECA programs and how they could benefit the rapidly growing and hard working community of Wicksburg.

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Director Boswell joined a host of elected officials and other people involved in economic development for a ribbon cutting ceremony for a new industrial spec building at the Interstate Business Park in Autauga County.

