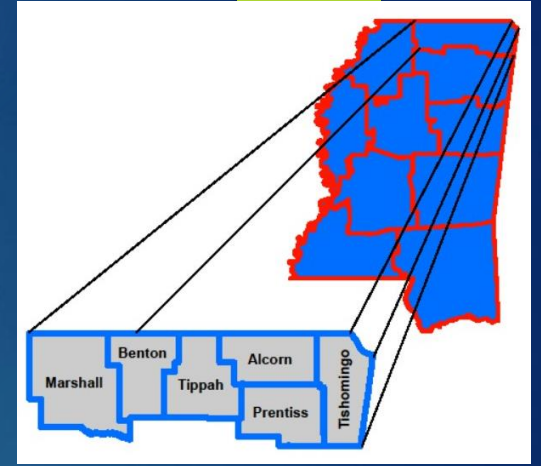




Northeast Mississippi Planning and Development District



*Comprehensive
Economic Development
Strategy
(CEDS)
2022-2026*

Mission Statement

To provide a mechanism for guiding, coordinating, and analyzing economic development efforts by presenting strategies and action plans to achieve stated goals and objectives.

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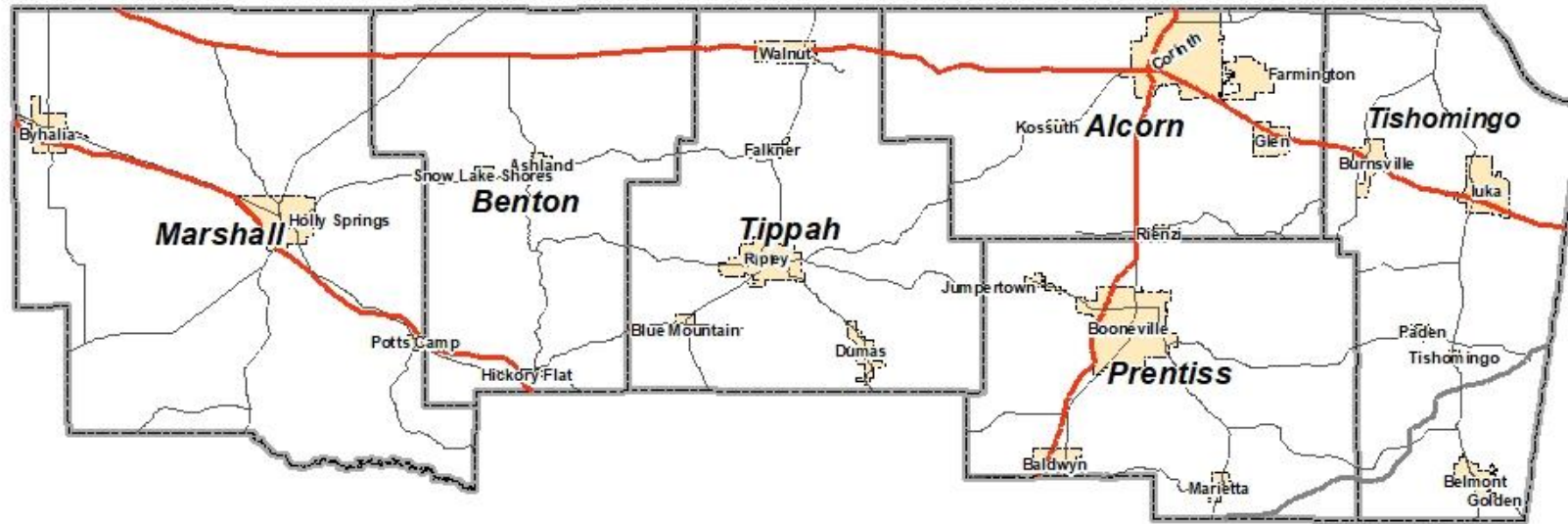


Northeast Mississippi Planning and Development District

Strategy Committee

The Strategy Committee consists of members from each of the six counties in the region, with representatives from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

ALCORN COUNTY	J.C. Hill	Private Sector/Minority
	Jimmy Tate Waldon	Elected Official
BENTON COUNTY	Ricky Pipkin	Elected Official
	Melvin Oatis	IHL/Minority
MARSHALL COUNTY	Chuck Thomas	Private Sector
	R. C. Anderson	Private Sector/Minority
PRENTISS COUNTY	Rex Coggins	Private Sector
	Mike Kesler	Elected Official
TIPPAH COUNTY	Jimmy Gunn	Elected Official
	Mary Childs	Private Sector
TISHOMINGO COUNTY	Michael Don Busby	Elected Official
	Windell Southward	Private Sector/Minority



Northeast Mississippi Planning and Development District

Alcorn County	Benton County	Marshall County	Prentiss County	Tippah County	Tishomingo County
* Corinth	* Ashland	* Holly Springs	* Booneville	* Ripley	* Iuka
Farmington	Hickory Flat	Byhalia	Baldwyn	Blue Mountain	Belmont
Glen	Snow Lake Shores	Potts Camp	Jumpertown	Dumas	Burnsville
Kossuth			Marietta	Falkner	Golden
Rienzi				Walnut	Paden
	* Indicates County Seat				Town of Tishomingo

Introduction

- ▶ **NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT's** purpose is to assist our six counties, and the twenty-six municipalities within those counties, with growth and improvement strategies based on the study of the region's problems, resources, and opportunities.
- ▶ The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is the result of a local planning process designed to guide the economic growth of NEMPDD's six-county area in a positive manner.
- ▶ The CEDS includes goals and objectives to aid the District's local governments in the creation of additional jobs, foster a stable and diversified economy, and improve the quality of life.
- ▶ The CEDS lists specific projects that will enhance the region's competitiveness and details a plan of action to assist with the implementation of those projects.
- ▶ An evaluation section is also included that will help in the assessment of the plan and will provide for updates in the future.
- ▶ The CEDS is a requirement of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to maintain funding eligibility for the region. The development of the CEDS continues to serve as a guideline for NEMPDD's role to partner and assist local governments and economic development groups with their economic development activities.

The Foundation of the CEDS

SUMMARY BACKGROUND

Demographic and socioeconomic conditions of the six-county region

SWOT ANALYSIS

Identifies regional strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats

ACTION PLAN

Identifies community and economic development strategies for the region

EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

Measures performance of the CEDS plan

Public and Private Partnerships

Partnerships

📍 NEMPDD works closely with the six counties and twenty-six municipalities within its service area.

📍 In addition, NEMPDD works with the State of Mississippi and agencies at the federal level to bring about economic and community development.

📍 Economic development professionals and chambers of commerce within the six counties are instrumental to the District.

📍 NEMPDD also works with private industries, institutions of higher learning, independent agencies, committees, utility boards, and special service organizations.

Public and Private Partnerships

Partnerships

☞ NEMPDD works with these partners to address a multitude of issues on a local, regional, and state level. Economic Development is not the only issue it addresses. The District also assists the elderly and handicapped population of the six-county area through its Area Agency on Aging and Medicaid Waiver Programs, assists businesses through the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program, and implemented the Workforce Investment Act.

☞ Following are lists of some of the major players in economic development and NEMPDD's partners in the implementation of the CEDS. This is a general list and is not intended to be all-inclusive.

Public and Private Partnerships

Lists 1 ~ 2

Alcorn County Electric Power Association
The Alliance
Appalachian Regional Commission
Architect Firms
Attorney's Office
Audubon Mississippi
Banks
Chambers of Commerce
Chickasaw Trail Industrial Park
Community Colleges
Construction Companies
Colleges and Universities
Delta Regional Authority
Development Districts of Appalachia

Economic Development Administration
Engineering Firms
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Food Service Providers
Hospitals
Institutes of Higher Learning
Marshall County Industrial Development Authority
MEGAPOP
Memphis Regional Economic Development Council
Mississippi Partnership
MS Association of Agri-Tourism Enterprises
MS Association of Planning and Development Districts
MS Association of Supervisors
MS Department of Archives and History

Public and Private Partnerships

Lists 3 - 4

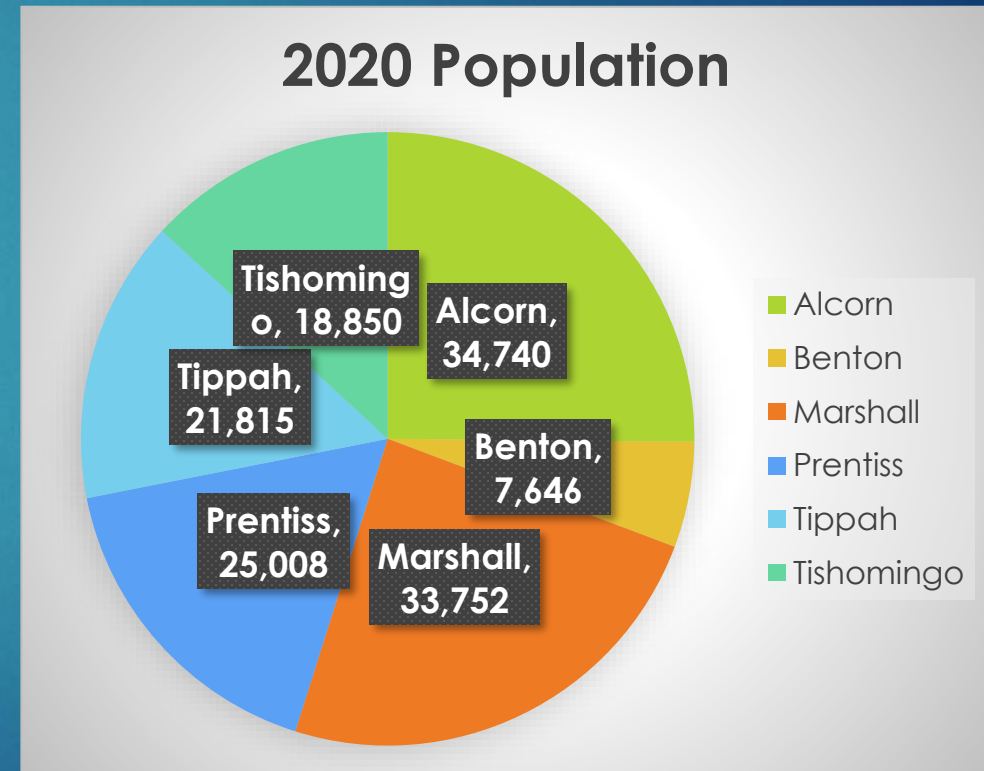
MS Department of Environmental Quality
MS Department of Human Services
MS Department of Transportation
MS Department of Transportation
MS Department of State Aid Road Construction
MS Emergency Management Agency
MS Hills Heritage Tourism Area
MS Manufacturers Association
MS Municipal League
MS Office of the Governor
MS Office of the State Auditor
National Association of Development Organizations
North MS Industrial Development Association
Prentiss County Development Association
Private Consultants

Private Developers
Rural Development Administration
State Legislators
TAP Alliance
Telecommunication Companies
Tippah County Development Foundation
Tishomingo County Development Foundation
Tri-State Industrial Park
U.S. Census Bureau
U.S. Department of Labor
U.S. Legislators
U.S. Small Business Administration
Volunteer Fire Departments
Yellow Creek Inland Port Authority

Population Background

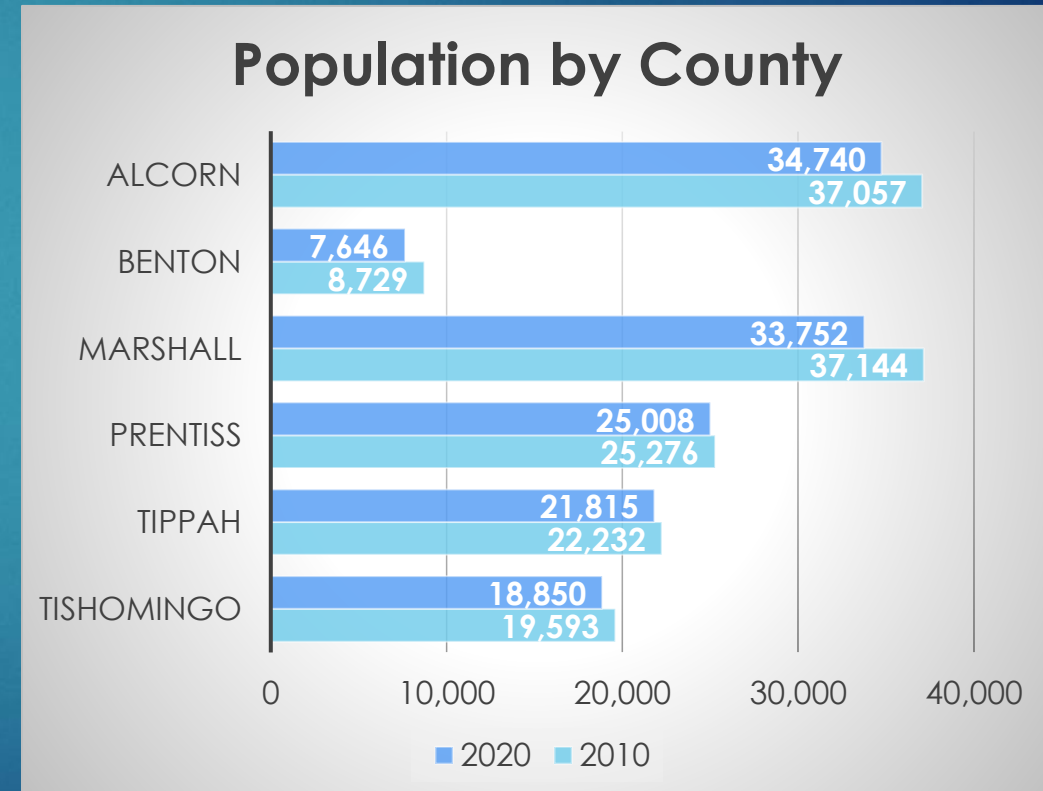
- ▶ **NEMPDD** covers 2,827 square miles in extreme northeastern Mississippi, with a population of approximately 141,811 (2020). The District includes six counties: **Alcorn, Benton, Marshall, Prentiss, Tippah, and Tishomingo**, as well as the twenty-six municipalities within those counties.
- ▶ The District is extremely rural, with only one municipality, the **City of Corinth** in **Alcorn County**, having a population of more than 10,000 (Estimated 14,622 – Census 2020).

Census Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau.



Population Changes by County ~ 2010 ~ 2020

- ▶ In 2020, Marshall County was our most populated with 37,144 residents, closely followed by Alcorn County with 34,740, but estimates in 2010 show that, although both Counties have decreased in population, Alcorn has the greater population of 37,057, compared to Marshall County's 33,752.
- ▶ Benton County is our least populated, with a total of 7,646 residents in 2020, which reflects even more of a decrease from 2010's 8,729
- ▶ All six of the NEMPDD's Counties reflect a decrease, with Prentiss County showing the least decrease, and Alcorn County showing the greatest decrease. However, the County Seat of Alcorn (Corinth) reflected an increase in population during the same time period.
- ▶ Tippah County and Tishomingo County each show a slight decrease in population from 2010 to the 2020 estimates.

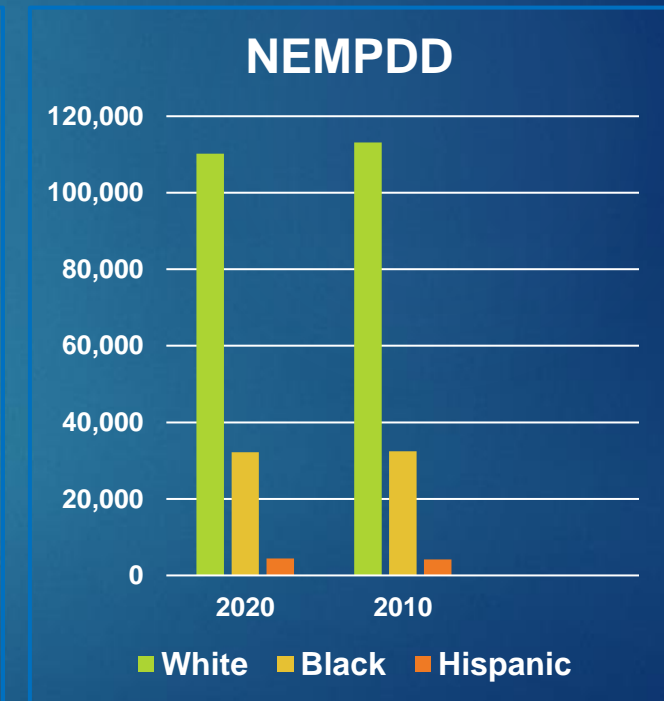
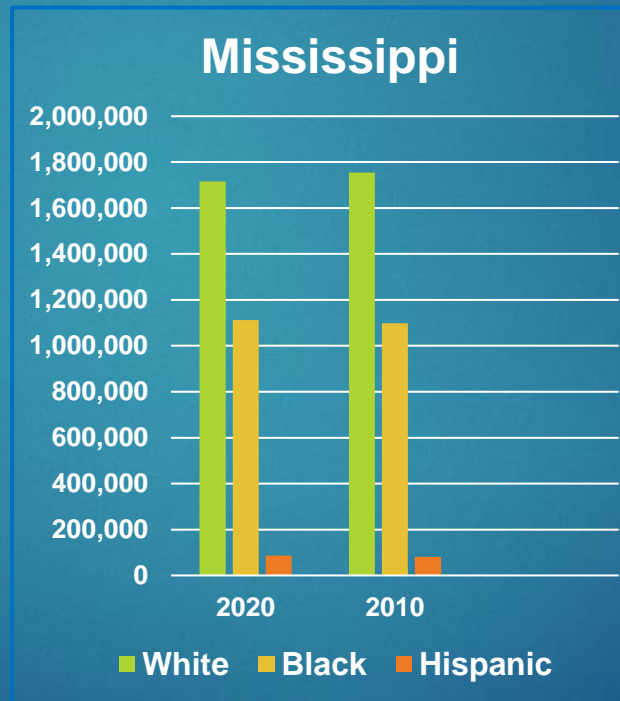


Population by Race – 2010–2020

In Mississippi the total population decreased by about 0.2% from 2010 to 2020 (2,967,297 to 2,961,279). When race is examined, the white population decreased by 5.5% (1,754,684 to 1,658,893); the black population decreased by 1.3% (1,098,395 to 1,084,481); and the Hispanic population increased by a significant 29.1% in that same time period (81,481 to 105,220).

In the NEMPDD, the total population decreased by 5.48% from 2010 to 2020 (150,031 to 141,811). The white population decreased by 8.5% (150,031 to 103,532); the black population decreased by 9.49% (32,463 to 29,383); and the Hispanic population in the District increased by 19.0% (4,195 to 4,993).

NOTE: Prentiss County in the NEMPDD reflected the greatest increase percentage-wise in Hispanic population of 31.9% from 2010 to 2020 (307 to 405), but numerically, Marshall County has the highest Hispanic population with 1,540 (a 29.2% increase from 2010 [1,192] to 2020.)



Population Summary

NEMPDD:

Population

- ▶ As previously mentioned, the District has seen a decrease in population in the past 10 years of 5.48%, which is significantly more than the State decrease of 0.2%

Median Age

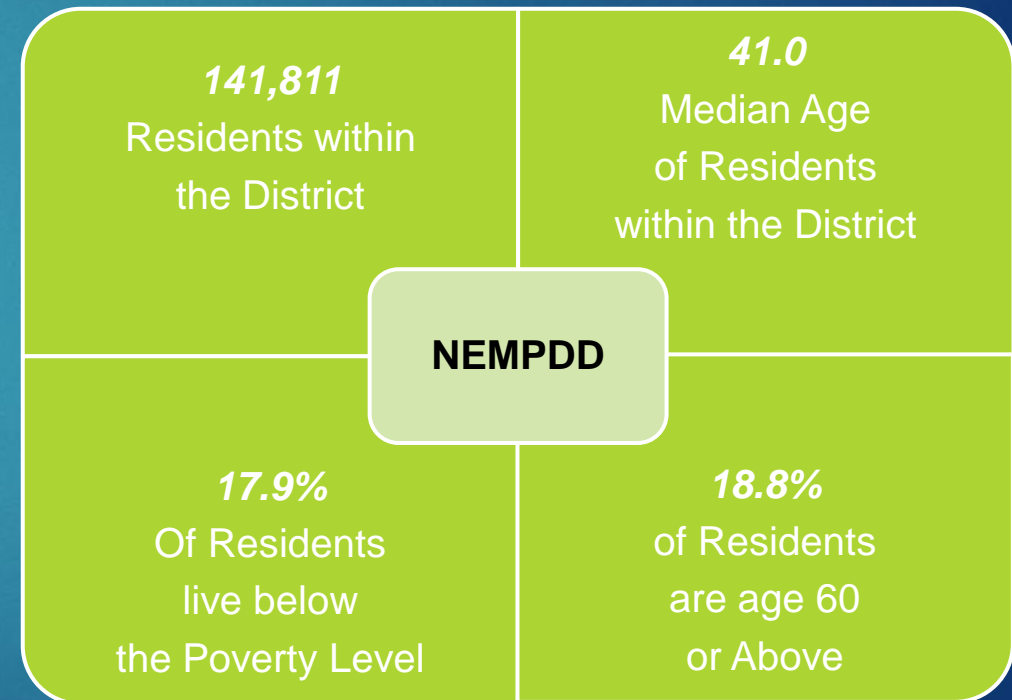
- ▶ The Median Age for residents in the District has increased slightly over the past five years from 39.1 years of age in 2010 to 41.0 years of age in 2020.

People who live below the Poverty Level

- ▶ The percentage of those residents living below the Poverty Level over the past five years has decreased from 20.5% in 2015 to 17.9% in 2020

Adults 65 years of age and older

- ▶ Residents who are 65 years of age or above who live in the District have decreased in number, from 21.7% in 2010 to 18.8% in 2020.



Education - Colleges

Within NEMPDD, there are two accredited institutions of higher learning and two community colleges.

- ❖ **Blue Mountain College** is a private, four-year, liberal arts college that is supported by the MS Baptist Convention. It is located in the Town of Blue Mountain in Tippah County.
- ❖ **Rust College** is a private, four-year, liberal arts, historically black college that is located in the City of Holly Springs in Marshall County.
- ❖ **Northeast Mississippi Community College**, located in the City of Booneville in Prentiss County, has three branch campuses. One branch is in the City of Corinth in Alcorn County. One branch is in the City of New Albany which is not in our District, but its service area includes Prentiss and Tippah Counties. A newer branch was recently opened in the City of Ripley in Tippah County. NEMCC also has partnership agreements with four universities, allowing students to receive B.S. or B.A. degrees while attending classes on its campus: MS State University, University of MS, Jackson State University,
- ❖ **Northwest Mississippi Community College** in the City of Senatobia (Tate County), is located outside the District, but its service area includes Benton and Marshall Counties; and it has a branch with GED classes only in the Town of Byhalia.



Blue Mountain College



Rust College



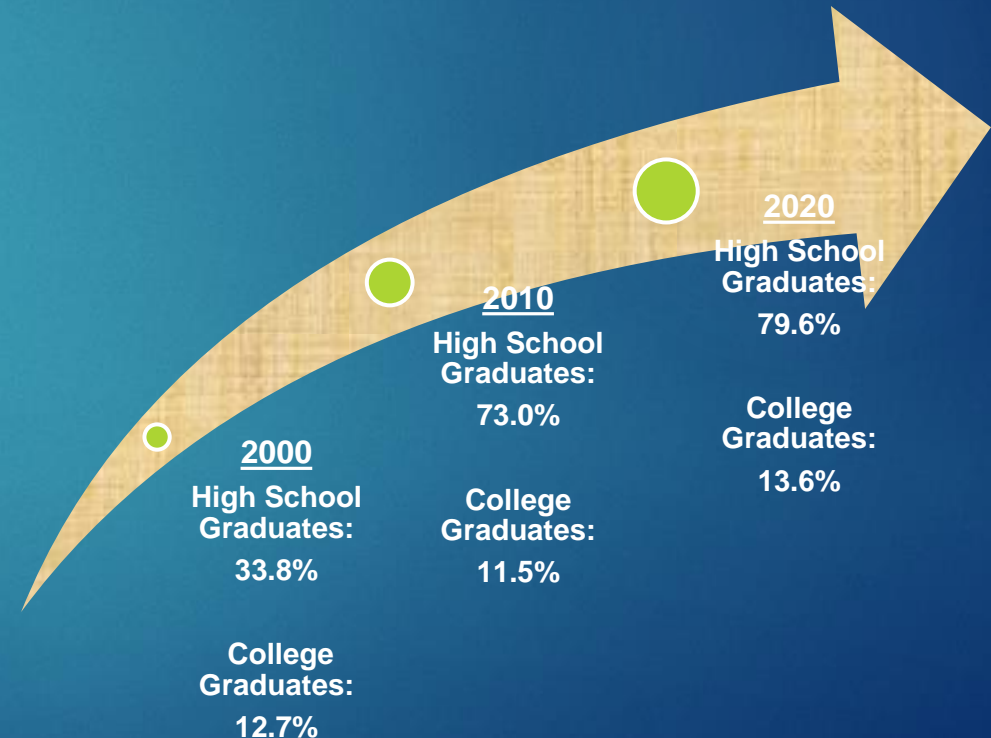
Northeast MS Community College



Northwest MS Community College

Education - Graduates

- ▶ According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the residents of NEMPDD have increased their educational levels for high school graduates substantially over the past twenty years.
- ▶ College students receiving a bachelors degree or higher have also shown an increase since 2010.



5

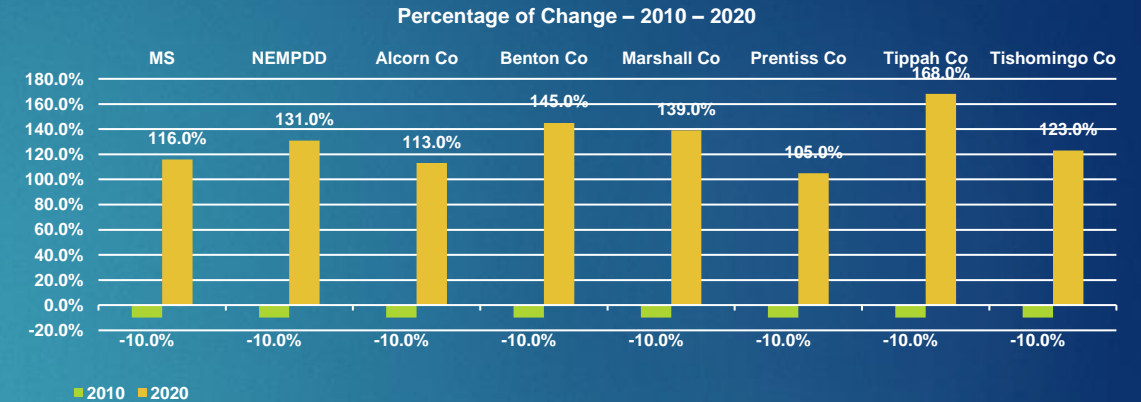
List	Population (2016)	Labor Force (09-2017)	Employment by Industry (09-2017)	Unemployment Rate	Income Data – Per Capita (2015)	Education – HS Grad / College Grad (2015)
MPWDA	885,430	412,100	320,170	5.0	\$39,871	85.2% / 19.8%
NEMPDD	141,811	63,150	42,422	4.3	\$37,499	79.6% / 13.6%
STATEWIDE	2,961,279	1,280,000	1,101,720	4.4	\$42,129	85.3% / 22.8%

Resources: U.S. Census Bureau; LMI, MDES

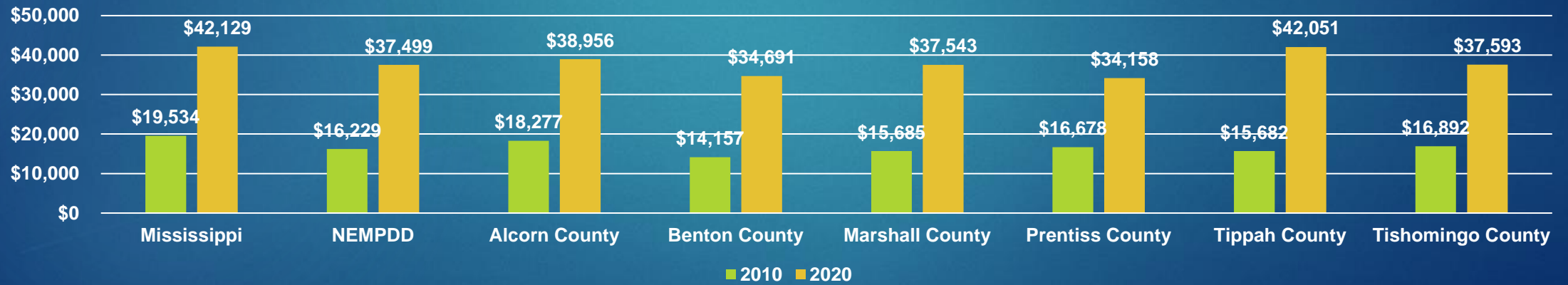
Per Capita Income

Per Capita Income data comparison:

Statewide, and NEMPDD district-wide, there was an exponential increase in per capita income over the past ten years. From 2010 until 2020, it must be noted that every county within NEMPDD experienced positive percentages, as far as per capita income.



Per Capital Income – 2010 - 2020



Alcorn County

Established 1870



**Alcorn County
Courthouse**

- ▶ **Alcorn County** – “Where History Meets the Future”.
- ▶ **Jacinto** was located in the geographic center of the original Tishomingo County. Within ten years of its founding, Jacinto became a flourishing town with stores, hotels, schools, churches, and taverns, serving as the center of government and commerce for the county. In 1869, Tishomingo was divided into three counties: Tishomingo, **Alcorn**, and Prentiss. Corinth became the county seat of newly established **Alcorn County**. The Jacinto Courthouse (built in 1854 for the original Tishomingo County) is located in the southern part of **Alcorn County**, east of the Town of Rienzi. The courthouse has been refurbished and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It is open to visitors.

Leading Industries *	Product or Service	# of Employees
Caterpillar	Remanufactured Diesel Engines	1300+
Corinthian	Upholstered Furniture	425
Kimberly-Clark	Non-Woven Fabrics	400+
KeyTronicsEMS	PC Boards & Other Computer Equip.	325
Mississippi Polymers	Vinyl Products	200

**Corinth
(county seat)
City Hall**



- **Corinth** was founded in 1853 as **Cross City**, so-called because it served as a junction for the Mobile & Ohio and Memphis & Charleston railroads. It was the town's early newspaper editor, W. E. Gibson, who suggested the name of Corinth, named for the city in Greece that also served as a crossroads.
- **Veranda House** (also known as the Curlee House)—built in 1857, served as headquarters for Confederate generals during the Battle of Corinth.
- **Coliseum Theatre** - Built in 1923-1924 in the Colonial Revival style. The Coliseum is the home of The Corinth Symphony Orchestra and hosts a wide variety of entertainment each year.
- **Slugburger Festival** - Named by Tripadvisor.com as one of America's Wackiest Summer Events, this annual festival pays tribute to Corinth's local culinary delight, the Slugburger, which consists of a patty made from a mixture of beef or pork and an inexpensive extender such as soybeans, and is deep fried in oil.

* Source: TAP Alliance

Benton County

Established 1870



**Former
Benton County
Courthouse**

- ▶ The former **Benton County Courthouse**, completed circa 1873, served the people of Benton County as their seat of government for over 125 years. Its prominent place on the elevated center of town square is unique in the immediate surrounding area and probably the State. It was closed, as the seat of county government, on February 8, 2002.
- ▶ It is locally believed that residents convinced the post-Civil War Reconstruction government that **Benton County** was to be named for U.S. Senator Thomas Hart Benton, but the name actually honored Confederate Brigadier General Samuel Benton of nearby Holly Springs in **Marshall County**.
- ▶ **Benton County** has a small economic base due to approximately 21% (409 square miles, or 261,760 acres) of the County's land being a part of the Holly Springs National Forest.

**Ashland (county seat)
City Hall /
Benton County
Courthouse**



- The Town of Ashland was established in 1871.
- "Small Town Living, Big City Pride" is its motto.



- Bottomland hardwood swamp at the confluence of Tubby Creek and the Wolf River in the Holly Springs National Forest near **Ashland, Mississippi**. From this point, the Wolf River flows alternately west and north into West Tennessee, joining the Mississippi River in downtown Memphis, Tennessee.

Leading Employers	Product or Service	# of Employees
TCI Automotive, LLC	Vehicle Supplies & Parts	100
TVA Magnolia Power Plant	Energy Sales	35
Chairs America, Inc.	Furniture Manufacturing	<25
Iron Crafters	Ornamental Iron / Security	20
Abbey Industries	Manufacturing & Wholesale	20

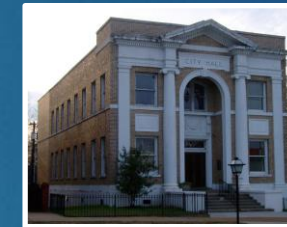
Marshall County

Established 1836



**Marshall County
Courthouse**

**Holly Springs
(county seat)
City Hall**



Leading Employers *	Product or Service	# of Employees
Amazon	Distribution Center	1,241
Thomas & Betts	Computer & Electronic Products	331
Marshall County Correctional Facility	Medium Security Prison	189
Parker Hannifin/Racor Division	Machinery Manufacturing	127
Hunter Fan Company	Distribution Facility	120

- ▶ **Marshall County** – Established in 1836
- ▶ The **Chickasaw Trail Industrial Park** in **Marshall County** encompasses 3,600 acres of developed industrial property positioned in the triangle of three four-lane highways, including the new Interstate Highway 69. This Industrial Park is an effort of private and public entities combining their resources to create a site so ideally located for distribution, industry, and business that it would have a major impact on commerce in mid-America.
- ▶ New shopping centers have sprung up in Holly Springs, Byhalia, and Potts Camp at the intersections of U.S. Highway 78, designated to be the new I-22 corridor, commercial activity is also growing along four-lane U.S. Highway 72 in northern **Marshall County** and a recently opened four-lane Highway 302.

- **Holly Springs** was founded by European-Americans in 1836, on territory historically occupied by Chickasaw Indians for centuries before the Indian Removal. It served as a trading center for the neighboring cotton plantations. It was originally called Suavatooky but in 1837 the city was incorporated and renamed **Holly Springs** and made the seat of government for the newly created Marshall County.
- There are about 175 historic buildings located in the City.
- **Holly Springs** is also home to an **Audubon Sanctuary** which is located 3 miles north of the town where an annual **Hummingbird Migration Celebration** is held in early September.

* Source: Marshall County Industrial Development Authority

Prentiss County

Established 1870



**Prentiss County
Courthouse**

Leading Industries *	Product or Service	# of Employees
ACCO Brands	Visual Communication Products/Distrib.	600
Swift Prepared Foods	Meat Packaging	400
Marathon Cheese	Cheese Packaging	225
Caterpillar	Remanufacture Diesel Engines/Components	185
ProVia	Building Material Supplier	70

**Booneville
(county seat)
City Hall**



- ▶ **Prentiss County** - "Old South Hospitality, New South Progress".
- ▶ **Prentiss County** is home to a variety of industries, including metal fabrication, PVC pipe production, metal fabrication, food processing, furniture manufacturing, plastics, and advanced manufacturing.
- ▶ **Prentiss County** includes several points of interests, ranging from the **W.M. Browning Cretaceous Park** south of Booneville to the recreational areas in the eastern part of the county near the **Tenn-Tom Waterway**.
- ▶ The **Browning Cretaceous Park** is located right off Highway 45 near Frankstown. The fossils in the Frankstown creek bed are about 75 million years old. These fossils come from the base of the Demopolis Formation and includes hundreds of sharks teeth and other fossils, which are free for the taking.
- ▶ **Old Bridge Beach**, located on Bay Springs Lake near the **Tenn-Tom Waterway**, offers crystal clear waters and some of the whitest sand in the State.

- The **City of Booneville**, was incorporated in 1861.
- Known as the "**City of Hospitality**". Participating in the State Hospitality Program, Booneville won the first award to be presented in Mississippi in 1958.
- Along with being the first City of Hospitality, there have been other firsts in Booneville, among those, the first hospital built in the nation under the Hill-Burton Plan was dedicated in 1949 in Booneville.
- Located inside the old Booneville, MS Train Depot, the **Rails & Trails Museum** features a comprehensive history of Booneville, from its founding to the Civil War, as well as touching on its role with the railroad.

* Source: TAP Alliance

Tippah County

Established 1836



**Tippah County
Courthouse**

- **Tippah County – “Moving Forward Together”.**
- The name "Tippah" is derived from a Chickasaw language word meaning "cut off." It was taken from the creek of the same name that flows across much of the original county from northeast to southwest before emptying into the Tallahatchie River. The creek probably was so named because it, and the ridges on either side, "cut off" the western part of the region from the eastern portion.

Leading Industries *	Product or Service	# of Employees
Ashley Furniture	Upholstered Furniture	1,250
Big M Trucking	Trucking and Logistics	400
Dirt Cheap Distribution	Distribution	260
Ecowater Systems	Water Filtration	152
Abby Manufacturing	ATV Accessories	125

**Ripley
(county seat)
City Hall**



- **Ripley, the “Small Town with a Big Vision”.**
- **Ripley** is the home of the **First Monday Trade Day** held the weekend prior to the first Monday of every month. It is one of the oldest outdoor flea markets in the United States. It started around the turn of the century at the old square but is now held south of Ripley along Highway 15 across from the Tippah County Fair Grounds.
- The main **City Cemetery** is home to the prominent and famed statue of Col. William C. Falkner, great-grandfather of **Nobel Laureate William Faulkner**.

* Source: Tippah County Development Foundation

Tishomingo County

Established 1836



**Tishomingo
County
Courthouse**

- In 1869, **Tishomingo** was divided into three counties: Tishomingo, Alcorn, and Prentiss. Corinth became the county seat of newly established Alcorn County, luka of the reduced Tishomingo County, and Booneville of the new county of Prentiss. **Jacinto** was located in the geographic center of the original Tishomingo County and was a flourishing town with stores, hotels, schools, churches, and taverns, serving as the center of government and commerce for the county. When the county seat was moved from Jacinto in 1870, the town's importance declined, and town residents and businesses began moving away.
- **Tishomingo County** is home to **Woodall Mountain**, which is the highest natural point (807 feet) in the State of Mississippi.
- **Tishomingo County** has eight marinas, 50,000 acres of water surface, the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, several private residential and retirement resorts, three state parks, one national park, three museums, thousands of acres of prime game preserves, and a cluster of outlet and import stores.

Leading Industries *	Product or Service	# of Employees
Vanleigh RV	Fifth Wheel Recreational Units	450
Tiffin Motorhomes	Motorhome Manufacturing	350
Comfort Revolution	Mattresses and Pillows	350
Golden Manufacturing	Military Uniforms/Chemical Suits	230
ATK	Aerospace Parts	175

**luka
(county seat)
City Hall**



- **luka** was founded in 1857, and is built on the site of a Chickasaw Indian Village.
- **Mineral Springs Park** - According to legend, Chickasaw Indian Chief luka was extremely sick and the tribe's healers were unable to find a cure. As a last resort, his tribe carried him these natural springs, which were rumored to have curative powers. After drinking from the springs, the chief was healed. Word of the miraculous recovery quickly spread. Before long, a town, which was named luka in his honor, popped up around the healing waters. luka quickly flourished, even attracting the Memphis and Charleston Railroad.
- luka has, as unique points of interest, a **covered bridge**, which is fully restored and accessible; and an **apron museum**, which houses thousands of aprons dating from the 1860's to the present.

* Source: TAP Alliance

Transportation - Highways



- **I-22**, formerly known as **U.S. Highway 78**, runs northwest to southeast – from Memphis, TN to Birmingham, AL, through **Marshall** and **Benton Counties**.
- When completed, **I-269** will create a fast connection to I-40 from **Marshall County**.
- **U.S. 72** enters Mississippi in western **Marshall County**. The route crosses the extreme northern part of the state, passing through **Benton, Tippah, Alcorn, and Tishomingo Counties** before crossing into Alabama. Most of US 72 in Mississippi has been upgraded to a four-lane highway.
- **U.S. 45**, which runs north-south from Ontonagon, Michigan, to Mobile, Alabama, begins its run through MS at the northern **Alcorn County** line and continues through **Prentiss County** to its southern line. It is entirely a divided four-lane highway.

- In the near future, the Mississippi Department of Transportation will begin construction on the four-laning of **MS Highway 15** in **Tippah County** and Union County. Highway 15 is a two-lane highway that runs the entire length of the State, from the Tennessee line, through **Tippah County**, and on to the Gulf Coast.
- MDOT has also begun the process of purchasing right-of-way along the northern section of **MS Highway 25** in Tishomingo and other counties along the eastern side of the State. Highway 25, another north-south corridor, runs from Iuka in **Tishomingo County** to Jackson, MS. When completed, Highway 25 will be the only four-laned option to the State Capitol.

Transportation - Airports



- NEMPDD has **six non-commercial airports**, with one located in each of the following counties: **Alcorn, Marshall, Prentiss, Tippah**, and two in **Tishomingo County**. The largest of the six, **Roscoe Turner Airport** located in **Corinth**, has a 6,500-foot runway and an average daily operation of 57.
- For commercial flights, the District primarily uses the **Memphis International Airport** where nine commercial carriers provide 285 daily departures to 90 non-stop destinations, including international service to Europe, the Caribbean, Canada, and Mexico. Located just 30 minutes from Marshall County and approximately 2 hours from the farthest point in NEMPDD, Memphis International Airport allows the region world class options in air travel.



- In addition to commercial flights, **Memphis International Airport** is home to Memphis-based **FedEx**, which has grown to become the world's largest express transportation company. Since 1999, **United Parcel Service (UPS)** has also had a presence at the Memphis International Airport, making Memphis the third largest UPS hub in the U.S. In all, there are nine cargo carriers located at the Memphis airport. All-cargo carriers continue to have a significant impact at the airport, which is one of the few dual-purpose airports in the country. For the past fifteen consecutive years, since 1992, Memphis International Airport has been the world's busiest cargo airport.

Transportation – Port Facilities



- **Tishomingo County** is the only county within the six-county area that has port facilities. **Tishomingo County** is served by the Tennessee River and the **Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway** with direct connections to the Port of Mobile and the Ohio-Mississippi-Missouri River network. A full-service port facility, **Yellow Creek Port**, handles loads up to 300 tons per lift, including containerized cargo. Two barge docks are also available.

- **Yellow Creek Port** offers a 20,000 square foot humidity-controlled warehouse with two 25-ton overhead cranes, a 15,000 square foot humidity-controlled warehouse, and a 20,000 square foot cargo/indoor storage warehouse. The port also has six acres of outdoor storage. Port equipment includes a 300-ton capacity mobile crane, two 150-ton mobile cranes, and forklifts with up to 80,000 pound capacity. The port has a rail yard with capacity for 21 rail cars, including specialized large object movers. The port offers barge/rail/truck transfer facilities. The port is a Foreign Trade Subzone and a Federal HUBZone. The most commonly handled products include steel coils, I-beams, pig iron, steel rods, paper and timber products, coal, grain, containers, sand, gravel, and others. A steel processing facility is on-site to provide steel slitting, leveling, and distribution with its own fleet of trucks.
- In addition, **Yellow Creek Port** offers approximately 2,500 acres of industrial sites. A number of towing companies offer barge service to Yellow Creek Port including American Commercial Barge Line, Eagle Marine, Warrior & Gulf, MEMCO, Ingram Barge Line, Celtic Marine, Crouse Barge, National Marine, Parker Towing, Oakley Barge Line, and others.

Transportation ~ Rail

- NEMPDD runs east-to-west along the Tennessee state line, with **Prentiss County** being the only non-contiguous County to Tennessee. Therefore, the District is served by three different main lines. The two westernmost counties, **Benton** and **Marshall**, are served by the **Burlington Northern - Santa Fe Railroad**, which parallels the route of **Interstate 22** (U.S. Highway 78). The **City of Corinth** in **Alcorn County** is where the Norfolk Southern Railroad and the Kansas City Southern Railroad intersect. The **Norfolk Southern** runs from Memphis to Huntsville, Alabama, west to east, along the route of U.S. Highway 72. The **Kansas City Southern** runs north to south from Jackson, Tennessee to Meridian, Mississippi, through **Alcorn** and **Prentiss Counties**, paralleling U.S. Highway 45. **Tippah County** is also served by the **Kansas City Southern**, which runs north to south through **Tippah**, Union, and Pontotoc Counties.



- In addition to the main lines, the District also has regional and local lines running throughout. **Marshall** and **Benton** are served by the **Mississippi Central Railroad**, which runs north to south from Grand Junction, Tennessee to Oxford, Mississippi. This line allows **Benton** and **Marshall Counties** to have direct rail access to the **Norfolk Southern Railroad**.
- **Tippah County** has the **Ironhorse Short Line**.
- **Tishomingo County** has four short lines: **Kansas City Southern**, **Yellow Creek Port Short Line**, **Tishomingo Railroad**, and **Redmont Short Line**, which also serves **Alcorn County**.

Communication - Broadband

Broadband speeds vary by county, with a desired amount of 25+ mbps minimum.

However, all the counties within NEMPDD have access to at least **1 Gig (GB)**:

- **Alcorn County:** 84.1% of residents
- **Benton County:** 37.5% of residents
- **Marshall County:** 63.5% of residents
- **Prentiss County:** 66.2% of residents
- **Tippah County:** 82.8% of residents
- **Tishomingo County:** 55.0% of residents



(Source: *BroadbandNow.com* – 2022)

Mississippi currently **rank 48th** among states in BroadbandNow's annual rankings of internet coverage, speed and availability.

Access to Wired or Fixed Wireless Broadband: **79.9%**

Number of Internet Providers in Mississippi: **130**

County Name / Percent of Broadband Coverage:

Alcorn / 91.2% Prentiss / 69.5%

Benton / 43.5% Tippah / 82.8%

Marshall / 69.6% Tishomingo / 57.8%

Hazard Mitigation

- Hazard Mitigation Planning is an ongoing effort by local officials within NEMPDD to reduce the impact natural disasters have on people and property. The Plan is part of a multi-jurisdictional participation by emergency management personnel, elected and non-elected officials, and community members from throughout the region.
- Due to the rising costs of natural disasters, emergency managers have altered their approach to disaster response and recovery. More emphasis is placed on pre-disaster or risk analysis in order to lessen the impact sustained by communities from a disaster.
- Since the original implementation of these plans in 2005, many local jurisdictions have taken significant strides to protect the safety and welfare of their residents by utilizing strategies outlined in their Mitigation Plan. This includes, but is not limited to, the implementation of drainage improvement projects, improving the capability of emergency warning systems, building community storm shelters, and purchasing emergency generators for critical facilities.



Like any other region, the six counties that comprise the NEMPDD are vulnerable to many different types of disasters. These disasters, which include tornadoes, flooding, winter storms, droughts, dam/levee failures, wildfires and severe thunderstorms, can have substantial human, economic, and environmental consequences.

Resiliency

The Economic Development Administration indicates that, in the context of economic development, economic resilience is inclusive of three primary attributes:

1. *The ability to recover quickly from a shock*
2. *The ability to withstand a shock*
3. *The ability to avoid a shock.*

Often the shocks/disruptions to the economic base of an area or regions are manifested in three ways:

1. *Downturns or other significant events in the national or international economy which impact demand for locally produced goods and consumer spending*
2. *Downturns in particular industries that constitute a critical component of the region's economic activity*
3. *Other external shocks (a natural or man-made disaster, pandemic, exit of major employer, etc.)*



The ability of a region or community to anticipate, withstand, and bounce back from shocks, disruptions, and stresses including:

- *Weather-related disasters or hazards
- *Climate change impacts
- *The closure of a large employer
- *The decline of an important industry
- *Changes in the workforce

As recommended by EDA, resilience in the CEDS should be a two-pronged approach:

1. *Planning for and implementing resilience through specific goals or actions to bolster the long-term economic durability of the region (steady-state)*
2. *Establishing information networks among various stakeholders in the region to encourage active and regular communications between public, private, education, and non-profit sectors to collaborate on existing and potential future challenges (responsive).*

Clusters



- Northeast Mississippi Planning and Development District has approximately **six leading clusters**.
- ❖ **Business, Management & Administration**
- ❖ **Government & Public Administration**
- ❖ **Health Science**
- ❖ **Hospitality & Tourism**
- ❖ **Manufacturing**
- ❖ **Transportation, Distribution & Logistics**
- The **majority** of jobs within the District are in Government & Public Administration, Health Science, and Manufacturing.
- In **Mississippi**, the Hospitality and Tourism cluster is the largest cluster overall, but **Information Technology is the fastest growing**.
- Marketing, Sales, and Service will add the most jobs in Mississippi.



- Within the top thirty occupations based on annual demand, those with wages greater than the statewide annual average of \$38,910 are Registered Nurses, General & Operations Managers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers, Elementary School Teachers, except Special Education; and First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers.
- Other analysis reveals that 59 of the top 100 occupations in our area require little or no formal training. 34 occupations require moderate to long-term preparation. 7 of the top 100 occupations involve extensive education and experience.

Source: *Mississippi-Clusters*
Images: *Clipart*

Source: *MDES – Occupations in Demand, 2018*

Clusters



The following information utilizes the Mississippi CTE (Career and Technical Education) Pathways / Programs of Study as a guide for NEMPDD's six leading clusters (See below) and the strengths within each County (See at right).

- **BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION:**
 - Management
- **GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION:**
 - Governance
 - National Security
 - Foreign Service
 - Planning
 - Revenue & Taxation
 - Public Management & Administration
 - Regulation
- **HEALTH SCIENCE:**
 - Health Care & Clinical Services
 - Sports Medicine
- **HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM:**
 - Culinary Arts
 - Lodging, Hospitality & Tourism
- **MANUFACTURING:**
 - Industrial Maintenance
 - Metal Fabrication
 - Precision Machining
 - Welding
 - Furniture Design & Manufacturing
- **TRANSPORTATION, DISTRIBUTION & LOGISTICS:**
 - Automotive Service Technician
 - Collision Repair Technician
 - Diesel Service Technician
 - Transportation Logistics
 - Heavy Equipment Operation

- **ALCORN COUNTY:**
 - Business, Management & Administration
 - Health Science
 - Hospitality and Tourism
- **BENTON COUNTY:**
 - Government & Public Administration
- **MARSHALL COUNTY:**
 - Health Science (recent expansion)
 - Transportation, Distribution & Logistics
- **PRENTISS COUNTY:**
 - Business, Management & Administration
 - Hospitality and Tourism
 - Manufacturing
- **TIPPAH COUNTY:**
 - Manufacturing
 - Transportation, Distribution & Logistics
- **TISHOMINGO COUNTY:**
 - Manufacturing



Clusters



- There was hope that the automotive industry, in particularly, the Toyota Plant in Blue Springs in neighboring Union County, would bring support industries to locations within **NEMPDD**. However, since Toyota opened in 2007, most of the support industries have located in other areas, with several being just south of **Prentiss County**.
- Even though most of the Counties within the NEMPDD have shown a decrease in the unemployment rate, the number of jobs lost over the last fifteen years in those Counties number into the thousands.
- Much of the workforce find employment outside the NEMPDD.
- It is crucial that the District's education system include automotive technology and other advanced technical skills to prepare the workers of tomorrow so that they are capable of working within the automotive industry.
- **Tippah County's** Career and Technology Center provides workforce preparedness training, including automotive construction technology.
- **Alcorn County** and **Tishomingo County** also have recently opened Workforce Training Centers through NEMCC.
- Just as with the health cluster, every effort should be made to develop more technology for the manufacturing cluster in our six-county region.

Image: FreePik

- As with most regions, health care is a major cluster that must be nurtured so that needed jobs will be added within the NEMPDD area. Each of the six counties, with the exception of **Benton County**, has a local hospital.
- Magnolia Regional Health Center, the District's largest hospital, is located in **Corinth (Alcorn County)** In 2013 Magnolia Regional Health Center opened its newly constructed 53,000 square feet addition which included a new front entrance, new radiology department which included new, state of the art equipment. Also included in that construction was a new Emergency Department, Cardiology area, Lab area and centralized registration.
- With the close proximity to Memphis and Tupelo, and the large medical center complexes there, it is imperative that the District's local hospitals finds their niche.
- Unlike other clusters, the medical cluster is less sensitive to cyclical economic pressures such as recession and unemployment. In addition, as the Baby Boomers age, more of the services that have previously been located solely in large medical centers will be needed at the local hospital. Every effort should be made to market the medical services of the District in order to maintain and grow this cluster. With an average annual income of \$36,000, this is a cluster that has the potential to raise the PCI of the District in the next few years.

Source/image: mrhc.org

SWOT Analysis

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats

In November 2021, the CEDS Steering Committee conducted a SWOT Analysis survey of the region's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats

The Analysis identifies what local government staff, elected officials, community members, and other stakeholders believe to be important in each category. The goals and objectives and vital projects lists were developed based on these results.

Strengths

- Workforce Training
- Transportation System
- Historic Properties
- Strong Work Ethic
- Education System
- Colleges
- Water
- Strong Communities

Weaknesses

- Citizen Leadership
- Recreational Opportunities
- Community Centers
- Senior / Child Care
- Affordable Housing
- Cultural Activities
- Roads and Bridges
- Surface Water for Industrial Parks

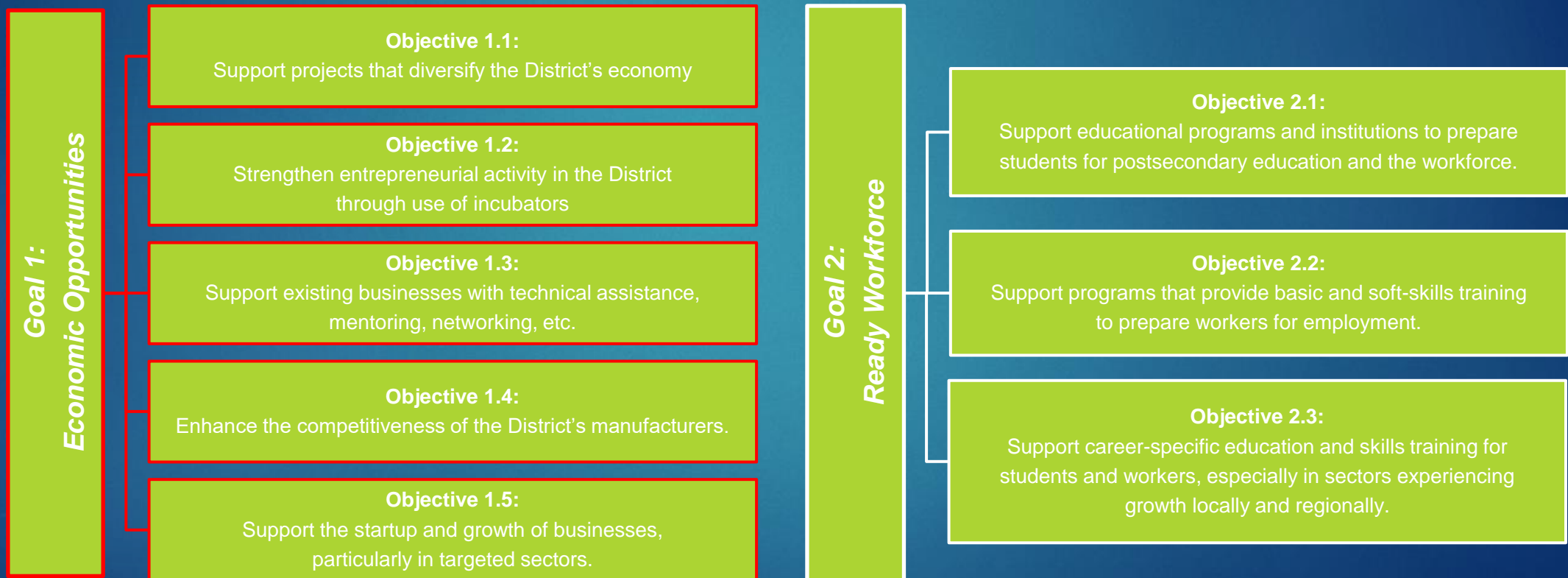
Opportunities

- State Park Improvements
- Tourism Tax
- Housing
- Tourism

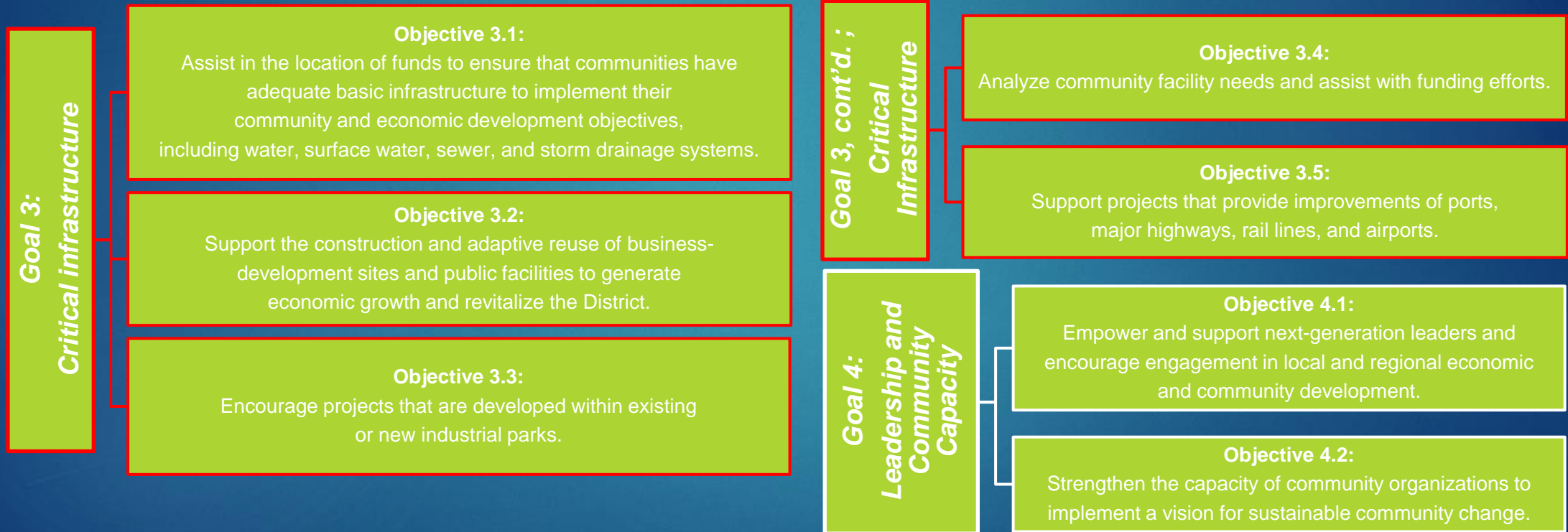
Threats

- Drug Use
- Lack of Housing
- Failing Infrastructure
- Perception of Rural Mississippi
- Natural Disasters

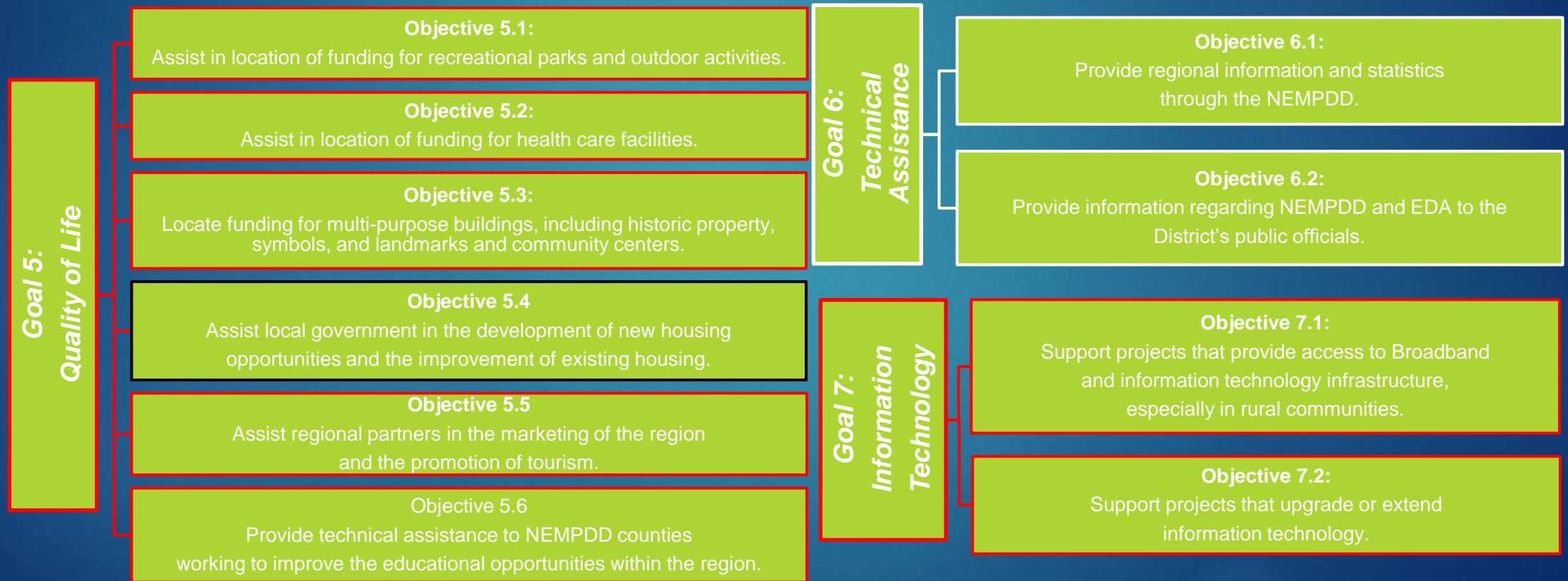
Goals and Objectives 1~2



Goals and Objectives 3 - 4



Goals and Objectives 5 - 7



Goals and Objectives 8



Vital Projects List

PROJECT	GOAL ADDRESSED	LOCATION	FUNDING SOURCES	OUTCOME
Historic Property, Symbol, or Landmark	Quality of Life	Districtwide	MDAH, State, Local	Projects that produce a high level of public benefit
Natural Gas Expansion	Critical Infrastructure	Districtwide	CDBG, State, DRA, ARC	Improve infrastructure for economic development, as well as quality of life
Reuse of Vacant Buildings	Economic Opportunities	Districtwide	EDA, State, ARC, Local	Improve infrastructure for economic development
Broadband Expansion	Information Technology	Districtwide	EDA, DRA, ARC, State	Improve infrastructure for economic development, as well as quality of life
Leadership Training	Leadership & Community Capacity	Districtwide	ARC, DRA, EDA	Empower next-generation leaders
Workforce Training	Ready Workforce	Districtwide	ARC, State, Local	Support programs that prepare workers for workforce
Recreational Parks & Outdoor Activities	Quality of Life	Districtwide	ARC, SMLPC, State, Local	Improve quality of life
Purchase & Development of High-Quality Industrial Sites	Economic Opportunities	Districtwide	EDA, State, Local	Increase economic development opportunities
Construction of Basic Infrastructure Systems, such as Water, Surface Water, and Sewer	Critical Infrastructure / Quality of Life	Districtwide	CDBG, EDA, ARC, State, Local	Adequate basic infrastructure to implement community and economic development objectives
Affordable Housing	Quality of Life	Districtwide	EDA, DRA, State	Development of new housing opportunities and improvement of existing housing
Transportation	Critical Infrastructure	Districtwide	EDA, ARC, State, Local	Improvement of transportation facilities, including roadways, rail, air, and port

Appendices

POPULATION:

- Population Background
- Population Changes by County
- Population by Race
- Population Summary
- Education – Colleges
- Education – Graduates
- Workforce Development
- Per Capita Income

COMMUNICATION:

- Broadband

COUNTIES and COUNTY SEATS:

- Alcorn County / Corinth
- Benton County / Ashland
- Marshall County / Holly Springs
- Prentiss County / Booneville
- Tippah County / Ripley
- Tishomingo County / Iuka

TRANSPORTATION:

- Highways
- Airports
- Port Facilities
- Rail