

# ADECA

*Building Better Alabama Communities*



## Commitment



## In Action

*2010-2011  
Annual Report*



2010-2011  
*Annual Report*



# building better alabama communities

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs

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**Robert Bentley**  
GOVERNOR



**State of Alabama**



**ROBERT BENTLEY**  
GOVERNOR

## **A Message from Governor Robert Bentley**

We will never forget April 27, 2011. We can't.

On that day tornadoes and heavy winds devastated north and central Alabama. Communities were wiped out, 248 people lost their lives and several thousand were injured. Homes, businesses and public facilities were damaged or destroyed in 31 counties. Untold numbers had their lives shattered, all within a few minutes.

Alabamians have proven time and again that we are a resilient people. Responding to this tragedy, the people of Alabama demonstrated a level of strength and resolve that is truly remarkable. Even before the storm clouds had cleared the state, volunteers stepped forward to help their neighbors. Many joined in rescue efforts and helped clear debris while others opened their homes to those who needed shelter or donated clothing and canned goods to support relief efforts. We can all be proud of the way Alabamians responded in this time of crisis.

I also am proud of the thousands of dedicated local, state and federal employees who worked extraordinarily long and hard to save lives and help survivors rebuild. The staff of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs joined employees of many state agencies who rushed to provide assistance immediately after the storms struck. Following the initial rescue and relief efforts, I designated ADECA and its Director Jim Byard Jr. to coordinate the long-term recovery efforts that will be required so that our communities can be restored and victims can rebuild their lives.

ADECA is the perfect agency to coordinate the recovery. As an arm of the Governor's Office, ADECA administers a wide range of programs designed to strengthen communities and improve the quality of life for Alabamians.

Many ADECA grants support the creation of new jobs, the top priority of my Administration. ADECA-funded programs help people who have lost their jobs as a result of business closings or layoffs to train for new and rewarding careers. Grants to law enforcement agencies across the state make our neighborhoods and highways safer.

ADECA's Surplus Property Division enables schools, local governments and non-profit agencies to stretch thin budgets by helping them obtain desperately needed equipment and supplies at a very low cost. The department's energy and weatherization programs make government buildings and schools more energy efficient and reduce utility bills for senior citizens and the poor.

Other ADECA grants help communities create parks, playgrounds and trails which contribute to the health of our residents and provide a greater appreciate of the natural wonders that Alabama has to offer.

We cannot and we will not forget the victims of April 17. The survivors, whose visions of that horrendous day will never be erased, continue to need our prayers and support. The recovery and rebuilding process will take years to complete, but I find comfort in knowing that ADECA is focused and dedicated to the recovery efforts and to administering programs that improve the lives of Alabamians throughout the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Bentley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert Bentley  
Governor

**ROBERT BENTLEY**  
GOVERNOR



**STATE OF ALABAMA**



**Jim Byard, Jr.**  
DIRECTOR

I am an optimist by nature. But in the immediate aftermath of the tornadoes and powerful storms that struck Alabama on April 27, I felt despondent. Viewing such widespread devastation, it is impossible to imagine anyone not having that reaction.

Much of that despair was lifted, however, when I witnessed how quickly those closest to the devastation went to the aid of their neighbors. They put on gloves, and went to work. Amid the tears there were a lot of hugs, and even a few smiles.

I should not have been surprised. I observed a similar response and the same sense of community just a few years earlier when a tornado struck the city where I was mayor. Deep down, I always knew we would pull together to conquer this latest adversity. We are, after all, Alabamians.

As the weeks and months passed, the stories of love, concern and sacrifice multiplied. Businesses donated materials and equipment and Alabamians from every corner of the state volunteered to help clear debris.

There are hundreds of local, state and federal officials and employees who also deserve our gratitude for their tireless work to restore communities. I witnessed a level of dedication from our public servants that went far beyond the requirement of a job.

Here at ADECA, the recovery process has become a central part of our mission. Our staff members began assisting with the relief effort before the last storm clouds rolled out. Following the initial response, Governor Robert Bentley issued an executive order charging our department with the duty of overseeing long-term recovery efforts. We are honored to receive this responsibility and are dedicated to carrying it out to the utmost of our capabilities.

We have assembled a Long-Term Community Recovery staff with the knowledge, perseverance and the passion to meet the needs of those affected by the storms. Working with impacted communities, other state agencies, businesses and volunteers we are facilitating the development and implementation of plans to rebuild and reemerge stronger and more vibrant. Community by community, family by family, it will be done.

Although storm recovery has captured the headlines, ADECA has by no means abandoned its mission of building better Alabama communities throughout the state. For nearly three decades, ADECA programs have been improving the quality of life for all Alabamians, and we remain committed to that objective.

Helping Alabamians strengthen their job skills and find and maintain employment remains the steadfast goal of our workforce development programs. ADECA's Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division has not wavered in its focus to make our communities and our highways safer. Our Energy Division continues to help Alabama businesses and residents use energy more efficiently, reduce utility bills, strengthen the state's economy and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

We have restructured our Community and Economic Development Division to respond more effectively to Alabama communities that need assistance: securing economic development projects; providing residents with basic services like clean water, properly functioning sewer systems and safe roads; and enhancing the quality of life with public parks, playgrounds, ball fields and trails. We have made significant progress, but the sadness of that April day still lingers. It is appropriate and it is important that we not forget. We should remember those who lost their lives or were injured. We should remember the destruction and the devastation and the shattered lives. We should remember the heartfelt grief that consumed us all across the state. Most important, we should remember the powerful sense of unity we felt, the strong outpouring of love and support we experienced, and the strength displayed by Alabamians of all walks of life as they rose to overcome an extraordinary challenge.

ADECA is committed to effectively administering programs that address challenges faced by Alabamians. Inspired by the people we serve, the ADECA staff strives each day to put our "commitment in action."

**ADECA**

Director

Assistant Director

### Energy Division

Terri Adams, Division Chief

- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant
- Agriculture Energy Efficiency Program
- Energy Emergency and Assurance
- Local Government Energy Loan Program
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Building Energy Codes Program
- Biomass Energy Program
- Energy Efficiency in Rural Water Systems
- State Energy Program
- State Buildings Energy Efficiency Program
- Industrial Energy Efficiency Program
- Alternative Transportation Fuels Program
- Energy Efficient Homes Program
- School Retrofit Program
- Renewable Energy Program
- Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)
- Energy Education Program
- ENERGY STAR® Program

### Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division

Eddie Davis, Acting Division Chief

- Family Violence and Victims' Programs
- Juvenile Justice
- Highway Traffic Safety
- Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities
- Law Enforcement Programs
- Corrections

### Workforce Development Division

Steve Walkley, Division Chief

- Workforce Investment Act
- Alabama's Career Center System
- Focused Industry Training
- Career Readiness Certificate Initiative
- Alabama Customized Employment Program
- Incumbent Worker Training
- Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development
- Rapid Response

### Community and Economic Development Division

Gina P. Smith, Acting Division Chief

- Economic Development
- Planning Grants
- Recreational Trails Program
- Enterprise Communities
- Alabama Advantage
- Community and Economic Development Technical Assistance
- Community Enhancement
- Emergency Shelter Grants
- Land & Water Conservation Fund
- Delta Regional Authority
- Minority Business Enterprises
- Community Service Block Grants
- Appalachian Regional Commission
- Renewal Communities
- Gulf Opportunity Zone Credit Program
- Alabama Enterprise Zones
- ConnectingAlabama



Granting Entities



Support Entities



Other Entities

**Long-Term Community  
Recovery Unit**

**Office of Water Resources Division**

Brian Atkins, Division Chief

- Floodplain Management
- Interstate Support Program
- Alabama Water Resources Commission
- Water Management Program

**Surplus Property Division**

Shane Bailey, Division Chief

- State and Federal Property Collection
- Transfers to Governments, Non-profits
  - Public Auctions



*Alabama Center for Commerce*

**Communications  
and Information Division**

Larry Childers, Division Chief

- Public Information
- Graphic Arts
- Census Bureau Liaison
- Legislation
- General Services
- Charitable Campaigns

**Financial Services Section**

Tammy Rolling, Section Chief

- Fiscal Section
- Property Management
- Purchasing
- Payroll

**Information Services Section**

Scott Randolph, Section Chief

- PC Support
- GIS Management
- Operations
- Programming

**Legal Section**

Eddie Davis, Legal Counsel  
Claudia Smith, Legal Counsel

**Audit Section**

Wendy Hester, Section Chief

**Human  
Resources Section**

Ramona Carroll, Section Chief

## *Legislative Oversight Commission*

The Legislative Oversight Commission was a part of the 1983 Act which created the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs—Act 83-194. The commission is composed of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance and Taxation, three members of the Senate appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House.



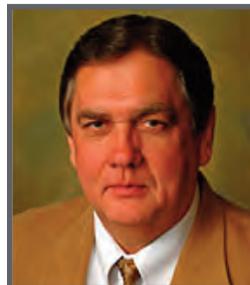
*Chairperson  
Representative Jack Williams*



*Senator  
Phil Williams*



*Senator  
Billy Beasley*



*Representative  
Steve Hurst*



*Representative  
Pebblin Warren*



*Senator  
Bryan Taylor*



*Senator  
Authur Orr*



*Representative  
Jim Barton*



*Representative  
Steve Clouse*

*Note: One Senate position remains unfilled.*

# ADECA History

## ADECA Has History of Meeting Needs of Alabama Communities

In order to consolidate a range of economic planning and federal grant programs under one agency, the Legislature created the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs in February 1983. ADECA was established as a department “within the Office of the Governor and directly under his supervision and control.”

The purpose of this consolidation was to “encourage comprehensive and coordinated planning and programming of economic and community affairs.” ADECA provides a single location where local governments and nonprofit agencies can come for assistance with community and economic development issues. Working together, the divisions and programs of ADECA focus available resources to address the many challenges that confront Alabama communities.

To manage ADECA, the Legislature provided for a Director who serves at the pleasure of the Governor. The department is divided into seven divisions managed by division chiefs hired under the state merit system.

Through the years, ADECA has been assigned responsibility for a diverse range of programs that support economic development, infrastructure construction, law enforcement operations, workforce development, enhancement of community life, energy efficiency, recreation and reuse of resources, and much more. These programs have the common purpose of strengthening the capacity of communities to develop economically, improving the quality of life of Alabama residents.

Although many ADECA programs have remained largely unchanged through the years, there are occasions when new or temporary programs are formulated to address developing issues or emergency needs. Such was the case when Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina struck Alabama’s gulf coast and, more recently, as the nation confronted

the economic and housing crisis. In these instances, additional federal funds were provided to ADECA in response to an emergency request or because of specific federal initiatives.

This year, a series of violent and deadly tornadoes in north and central Alabama required that ADECA refit itself to assist communities to recover and rebuild. Governor Robert Bentley directed ADECA to take the lead in the rebuilding process and the Long-Term Community Recovery section was established at ADECA to manage these new responsibilities.

While the Long-Term Community Recovery section is coordinating recovery efforts, this annual report illustrates how nearly every division and section at ADECA has contributed resources, manpower and expertise to assist communities to overcome the devastation. It has always been our mission to be a partner to Alabama communities working to address challenges. Recovery from this disaster will require a long, sustained effort, but the entire staff of ADECA will extend a helping hand for as long as it takes.



***Despite the scope and power of April's tornadoes, Alabamians showed remarkable determination to rebuild neighborhoods and communities.***

# Long-Term Community Recovery Section

## Long-Term Community Recovery: ADECA's Commitment to Storm Survivors

April 2011 will go down as one of the deadliest, most devastating months in Alabama history. Tornadoes and vicious storms struck the state on April 15 leaving behind seven dead, many injuries and property damage in at least 13 counties. Alabamians were still picking up the pieces on April 27 when a record-breaking series of storms swept across the state spawning 62 tornadoes in north and central Alabama and killing at least 248 people. Property damage was reported in 39 counties and several communities were almost completely destroyed.

Alabama residents, nonprofit organizations and every level of government went to work immediately to rescue survivors and provide emergency assistance. As the recovery effort took shape, almost every division of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs became involved. The Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division helped replace destroyed police equipment while the Community and Economic Development Division helped with funding to rebuild public infrastructure. The Surplus Property Division supplied heavy equipment and trailers that served as temporary city halls, police and fire departments and medical facilities. The Energy Division provided information and funding so that rebuilt structures would be more energy-efficient. The Communications and Information Division supplied backup support to the Alabama Department of Emergency Management, served as a point-of-contact for the news media and provided public information online.

In June, the state's response to this disaster entered a new phase when Governor Robert Bentley signed Executive Order 18 naming the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs as the coordinating agency for long-term community recovery efforts.

ADECA, under the direction of the Governor's Office, began work with private and public agencies to develop long-term recovery plans tailored to each affected community. Six task forces were created to focus on specific areas of recovery: Community Planning and Capacity Building; Economic Recovery; Health and Social Services; Housing; Infrastructure; and Natural and Cultural Resources.

Governor Bentley and ADECA Director Jim Byard Jr. made it clear that recovery efforts would be community led. The task forces met with community leaders and held "visioning meetings" to enable residents of each



**James Davis found few things that survived a tornado in Pleasant Grove.**

impacted town to map out how they wanted their community to be rebuilt.

To strengthen ADECA's support, Director Byard established a Long-Term Community Recovery unit within the department and Governor Bentley appointed three new staff members to be dedicated to the effort. Working with the impacted communities, the unit is providing technical assistance and helping communities to locate and secure the resources needed for recovery. The unit also is offering guidance about rebuilding and preparing for future disasters.

As we approached the end of the year, officials from the Alabama Emergency Management Agency estimated that 99 percent of the tornado and storm debris had been removed. While this is a positive and important milestone, it represents only the first step on the road to long-term recovery. Although their journey will be long and require sustained effort, the victims of this disaster share the same destination as every other Alabamian: a better life, a better future and a better place to raise their families. Creating an environment where these dreams can be realized is the motive behind ADECA's mission of building better Alabama communities; supporting the recovery effort is an example of our commitment in action.

# Community and Economic Development Division

## Division Reorganized to Provide Greater Impact in Alabama

In 2011 the ADECA Director reorganized the department by placing several related ADECA units under the umbrella of the Community and Economic Development Division.

The units that compose the CED Division include Community Development Block Grant and Emergency Shelter, Community Services Block Grant, Appalachian Regional Commission, Alabama Broadband Initiative, Recreation and Conservation, and Governor's Resources for Economic Assistance Programs/Delta Regional Authority.

The merger improves coordination and efficiency for programs that share similar goals and achievements. When these programs work together they often can have a greater impact on communities. This synergy has been demonstrated often in the past when funding from Community Development Block Grants and grants from the Appalachian Regional Commission have been used together to support major job-creation projects and community improvements.

## CDBG Programs Improve Alabama, Help Spur New Jobs

Since the April tornadoes, ADECA has been committed to helping Alabamians recover from the devastation. A community that urgently needed a helping hand was the town of Hackleburg.

After the storm clouds cleared, the people of Hackleburg were confronted with the prospect of another disaster that threatened the town's very existence: The area's largest employer, with its 205,000-square-foot business and warehouse leveled, considered shutting down permanently. Many observers thought the loss of the nearly 150 jobs at the Wrangler Distribution Center would make recovery impossible for the town of just 1,500 people.

While VF Corp., Wrangler's parent company, studied the issue, ADECA's Energy Division provided some critical funding that helped the company resume operations in a temporary location. Local and state officials continued to work with the company and within a few months those efforts paid off when the



**CDBG funds will help Wrangler rebuild distribution center and preserve vital jobs in Hackleburg.**

company announced it would rebuild and even expand its operations.

To prepare for the construction of a new Wrangler facility, Hackleburg applied to ADECA for a \$750,000 Community Development Block Grant. CDBG funding would be used to repair two water tanks damaged by the tornado and install new water lines to the warehouse location. In addition to providing adequate water service, the improvements would support fire protection for the company and keep insurance costs affordable. The grant also would enable testing and repair of the destroyed plant's concrete foundation to ensure it can support the new facility.

Since the mid 1970s CDBG funding has helped Alabama communities respond to a wide range of emergencies and take advantage of economic development opportunities. ADECA has provided hundreds of millions of dollars that communities needed for vital improvements. Funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, ADECA's CDBG grants have been used to help Alabama communities build or improve sewer and water systems, roads and other infrastructure; remove unsafe and dilapidated structures; plan redevelopment projects; and provide a better living environment for thousands of Alabamians.



**ADECA Director Jim Byard, Jr. greets Lakeside Steel CEO Ron Bedard during an expansion announcement in Thomasville. CDBG funding supports infrastructure projects necessary for businesses to locate or expand in Alabama. (Photo by The Clarke County Democrat.)**

Most Community Development Block Grants are awarded to communities through competitive grants that are divided into three categories: small city, large city and county. In most instances, applicants are required to provide some local support for a project, either financial or in labor and equipment costs.

The improvements made possible by the CDBG

program are often urgently needed but beyond the reach of locally generated revenue or resources. Other projects, if financed on a local level, would require local governments to cut existing services or borrow money.

Each year, ADECA sets aside a portion of its Community Development Block Grant funding to be used specifically to create or preserve jobs in Alabama through infrastructure improvements. Some CDBG awards are given to upgrade housing and prevent homelessness.

Although every county and municipal government is eligible to apply for some types of CDBG funding through ADECA, the largest cities, known as entitlement communities, receive CDBG funding directly from HUD.

### **Community Service Block Grants Provide Disaster Relief to Low-income Residents**

Throughout the year, Community Service Block Grants awarded through ADECA provide funding to help thousands of low-income residents achieve a better quality of life for themselves and their families.

Following the April tornadoes, the assistance provided through the CSBG program became more important than ever in many areas of the state. Disaster assistance was extended to 1,030 low-income families whose homes were destroyed or damaged by the storms. These families received help with critical

and basic needs like food, shelter and clothing thanks to the program.

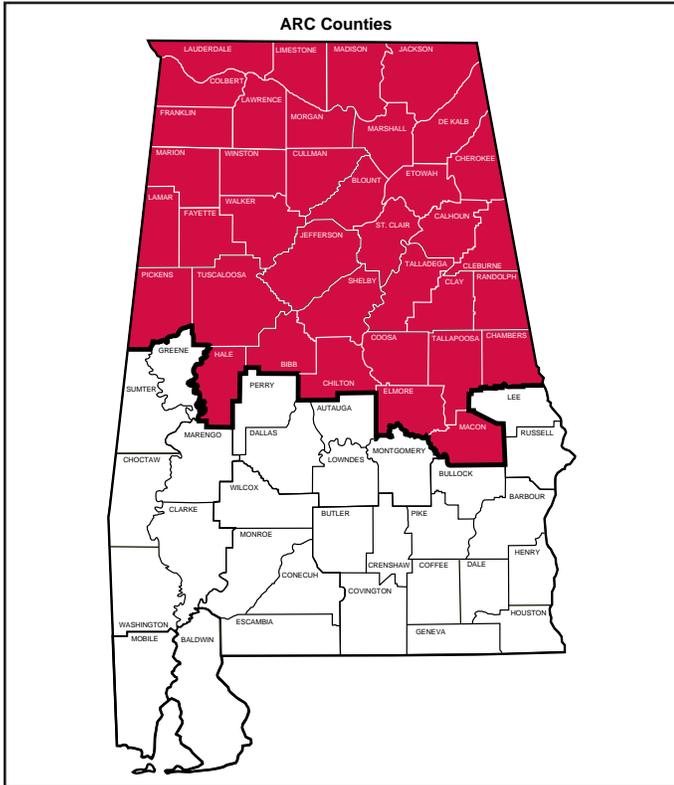
The long-term goal of CSBG is to help low-income residents, through a variety of programs and community activities, to become gainfully employed and improve their quality of life. ADECA receives CSBG funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and works with 21 Community Action Agencies to deliver services throughout Alabama. These agencies help low-income persons find employment and improve their education. When necessary, the agencies also assist with housing, child care, transportation and other

needs.

During this fiscal year, ADECA distributed \$11.7 million in federal funds and \$812,056 in state funds to enable Community Action Agencies to help approximately 270,000 low-income Alabamians who needed and qualified for assistance.

## Appalachian Regional Commission Supports Recovery, Jobs

Although the Appalachian Regional Commission has strived to improve the lives of people in the Appalachian region of the United States for more than four decades, its focus in Alabama shifted slightly in response to the deadly storms of spring 2011.



**The Appalachian Regional Commission serves more than half of the counties in Alabama.**

ARC devoted more than \$200,000 this year to assist Pickens County governments in protecting county residents from future storms. Pickens County missed the brunt of the April 27 storms, but by no means is the county immune to spring and fall tornadoes in Alabama. Over the years the county has suffered major storm damage several times. The funds are being used to construct storm shelters or safe houses to serve residents in areas of population concentration that currently have no safe haven from storms.

ARC also conducted a grant-writing workshop in Tuscaloosa, one of the hardest hit areas during the April 27 tornado outbreak. The workshop focused on long-term economic recovery and economic development and was aimed at the many businesses that were destroyed or heavily damaged during the storms.

ARC's main focus continues to be job creation. Since its beginning in the mid-1960s, the mission of ARC has been to increase job opportunities and per capita income in Appalachian America and help the

region to reach parity with the rest of the nation. ARC grants seek to strengthen the capacity of the people of Appalachia to compete in the global economy; develop and improve Appalachia's infrastructure to make the region economically competitive; and to reduce isolation by developing a road system that reaches into remote areas.

ARC grants are often used in combination with the Community Development Block Grants that ADECA administers to help communities attract new jobs. Like CDBGs, ARC grants boost economic development and jobs by funding infrastructure improvements required to support new or expanding businesses and industries.

ARC is a partnership of federal, state and local governments that serves parts of 13 states stretching from Alabama to New York. In Alabama the program is administered by ADECA. Thirty-seven Alabama counties are part of the ARC and eligible to receive funding.

### Governor's Resources for Economic Assistance Programs

While much of our state was recovering from a natural disaster, another region continued to struggle with long-standing economic hardships. For many years, residents in Alabama's Black Belt counties have been beset by a lack of employment opportunities, high student dropout rates and insufficient access to health care services.

Created by Congress in 2000, the Delta Regional Authority seeks to advance local economies and health care in its region which includes all or parts of eight states including the Black Belt of Alabama. The director of ADECA and the manager of ADECA's Governor's Resources for Economic Assistance Programs repre-



**Chris Masingill, federal co-chair of the Delta Regional Authority, addresses a group in Selma on rural concerns.**

sent the Governor of Alabama on DRA matters.

DRA funding, combined with a Community Development Block Grant awarded through ADECA, paved the way for Lakeside Steel to open in Thomasville and create 80 jobs. DRA and CDBG funding was used to provide required public infrastructure for the building site.

In August, Chris Masingill, DRA federal co-chairman, visited Selma as part of a series of meetings in DRA states to determine the needs of rural communities and listen to other concerns.

“Our job is to help rural America grow and thrive,” Masingill told those who attended the meeting.

One DRA project is to help provide high-speed Internet services in rural areas. Many of those attending the Selma meeting commented that the service would help attract industries to Alabama’s DRA region and improve educational opportunities.

Linda Derry, site director of Old Cahawba, said the lack of high-speed internet and spotty cell phone coverage has been a major obstacle to improvements in the ghost town that was Alabama’s first capital and is now a tourist attraction.

“It’s so bad that we can’t have computerized cash registers (at the gift shop),” she said.

REAP manages several other programs including the Alabama Enterprise Zone Act which encourages businesses to locate in economically depressed areas and the Office of Minority Business Enterprises which assists minority or woman-owned businesses.

### **Recreation Programs Benefits Alabamians in Numerous Ways**

In June 2011, a massive fire, fanned by coastal winds and aggravated by drought, threatened Gulf State Park and surrounding areas in Baldwin County. Highly destructive and potentially deadly, it was vital that the wildfire be brought under control.

Firefighters at the scene discovered they had a



***Despite the immense wildfire in Gulf State Park, recreation trails doubling as firebreaks helped prevent the fire from spreading even more.***

valuable ally in the fight: a recreational trail project funded by ADECA. The wide asphalt trails in the Hugh S. Branyon Backcountry Trail in Orange Beach significantly impeded the fire’s movement by creating a buffer between the fire and its potential fuel supply.

“It absolutely played a part in finally getting containment of the fire,” said Phillip West, coastal resources manager for the city of Orange Beach. “We couldn’t have held it to 200 acres, but we limited it to 1,000 acres instead of 100,000.”

Although developers of the trails knew they might provide firebreaks, their main focus was to provide recreational opportunities and an ecological educational center for visitors and residents of Alabama’s gulf coast. Funded by grants from ADECA’s Recreation and Conservation Unit, the trails are fulfilling the mission that was envisioned.

West said the trails get widespread use from area residents including some who rent bicycles to explore the paths. During peak times the trail system may be attracting as many as 300 to 400 new visitors a week in addition to its regular users. With equipment rentals, trail-related purchases, food and other essentials, West estimates that the average visitor utilizing the trails spends \$130 locally.

Many of those who enjoy the trail system have physical limitations.

“When we designed this trail we wanted to make sure as much as we could that it was American Disabilities Act compliant from stem to stern,” West said. “Now, one of the most rewarding points of the trail for me is to go out and see people using those trails in wheelchairs or hand-cranked bikes. I have even seen a blind teenager on a three-wheel bike riding along with his dad who was giving him voice commands.”

The trail system has been designated a National Recreation Trail by the U.S. Department of Interior secretary.

ADECA’s Recreation and Conservation Unit administers dozens of grants each year under its two programs, the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Recreational Trails. LWCF awards, funded by the U.S. Department of Interior, are used to build and improve parks, playgrounds, ball fields and other outdoor recreation features. Alabama counties and municipalities receiving the awards are required to provide funding equal to or greater than the amount of the grant.

The Recreational Trails Grant Program, part of the Federal Highway Administration, funds projects for walking and hiking, bicycling, boating and paddling, horseback riding and more. Local governments and non-profit



**Grants helped supply tools and tool trailers to build and repair trails throughout Alabama.**

groups that are awarded grants are required to supply local funding matches of at least 20 percent.

Several small Recreational Trail grants awarded by ADECA paid huge dividends to communities damaged by the spring 2011 storms. A \$10,000 grant to the Cawaco Resource Conservation and Development Council helped provide tools, equipment and a utility trailer needed to restore trails at Ruffner Mountain Nature Center in Birmingham. Volunteers and supporters used the equipment to clear the trails and remove storm debris enabling the park to reopen to the public sooner than expected.

Similar grants were awarded to Tuscaloosa and the Alabama Hiking Trail Society. Equipment to all three entities will be used to help build, maintain and repair trails throughout Alabama.

**Alabama Advantage Promotes Living in Alabama**

The programs administered by ADECA help ensure that Alabama continues to be a great place to live, work and play. The Alabama Advantage program helps spread that message throughout the nation.

Originally intended to draw retirees to the state, Alabama Advantage has broadened its mission to encourage skilled workers to consider relocating to our state. Alabama Advantage works in partnership with the Alabama Department of Tourism and the Alabama Development Office to promote the state.

Each year the program publishes a magazine that is distributed nationwide touting Alabama’s regions, cities and communities and all they have to offer to newcomers and visitors. A website, [www.alabamaadvantage.org](http://www.alabamaadvantage.org), also promotes living and visiting in Alabama.

Alabama Advantage sponsors two week-long exhibits annually: In the winter, the Alabama Advantage Expo is held in Orange Beach and a summer expo is conducted at the state Capitol in Montgomery. Both exhibits feature booths and representatives of cities and communities throughout

Alabama. For the past several years, the Montgomery exhibition has concluded with a ceremony to honor the many Alabama National Guard units that have been deployed to active duty during the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**ConnectingALABAMA: Helping Improve Access to High Speed Communications**

When disaster strikes, quick and reliable communication can be a matter of life and death. The EF5 tornado that struck Hackleburg on April 27 destroyed about two-thirds of the town and severed the lines of communication. Quickly reestablishing voice and data communication was essential to public order and an effective recovery process. Fortunately, telecommunication companies that were already working with ADECA’s Connecting ALABAMA program, responded by sending mobile cell phone towers to restore service to the area. The equipment not only supported the work of public safety and recovery workers, it also made it possible for residents to establish contact with relatives and friends.

Developments in communication technology, especially high-speed Internet connections, are revolutionizing the way we conduct business and live our lives. Residents who live in areas of Alabama that do not have full access to this technology find themselves at a serious disadvantage.

Established in 2008, ConnectingALABAMA is spreading the message that all areas of Alabama need broadband Internet access to successfully compete in the 21st Century. To help expand access, a detailed map showing the availability of both wired and wireless high-speed Internet services in Alabama has been developed.

When broadband Internet is available, schools are able to offer a wider curriculum, special programs and teaching enhancements; companies can conduct business more efficiently and compete across the globe; and doctors, hospitals, government and nonprofit agencies are able to provide more services at lower cost.

Because of sparse populations, rural communities are less likely than urban areas to have broadband service and they are a primary focus of Connecting ALABAMA. Because broadband needs differ throughout the state, ConnectingALABAMA established 12 regions and brought together a team of both private and public sector representatives in each region to develop and implement a broadband expansion plan tailored to meet local priorities.

Reports outlining the goals and objectives identified by each of the 12 regional teams, broadband coverage maps and additional information about ConnectingALABAMA are available at [www.connectingALABAMA.gov](http://www.connectingALABAMA.gov).

# Energy Division

## **Energy Division Helps Wrangler Employees Keep Working**

It was hard enough for residents of Hackleburg to cope with the death and destruction caused by an April 27 tornado, but the twister also put many jobs and livelihoods in jeopardy when it destroyed the Wrangler Distribution Center, the area's largest employer. Uncertainty lingered into the summer as VF Corp., Wrangler's parent company, considered whether to rebuild the destroyed facility or relocate somewhere else, putting more than 150 Alabamians out of work. Determined to keep the jobs in Hackleburg, a team of officials from area local governments and state agencies, including ADECA, pulled together to encourage the company to rebuild.

On August 1, the hopes and prayers of the community were answered when VF Corp. not only announced the distribution center would stay in Hackleburg, but also that the new facility would be built larger to handle additional shipping capacity. As many as 50 new jobs could be added when the new distribution center opens in 2013.

What would happen to the workers in the meantime? A \$200,000 grant awarded to Hackleburg through ADECA's Energy Division helped keep them on the job. The grant helped pay for energy-efficient upgrades and repairs to the old Wrangler Sewing Plant building which will house the plant's operations and, most importantly, keep workers employed while the company rebuilds. Since the building was not in use, it contained broken and out-of-date equipment and fixtures. The grant enabled the installation of new energy-efficient heating, ventilation and air-conditioning equipment and new lighting fixtures.

"This decision is a result of a tremendous team effort involving state and local officials who are committed to putting Alabamians back to work," Governor Robert Bentley said on the day of VF Corp.'s announcement.

## **Helping Alabama Save Energy and Money**

As the State Energy Office, the mission of ADECA's Energy Division is to help Alabamians to reduce energy consumption by increasing energy efficiency and adopting renewable-energy technologies. Assistance

provided by the division over the past year has created substantial savings in energy and money throughout Alabama.

As communities affected by the April tornadoes turned toward rebuilding, the division sponsored the Green Building Focus Conference and Expo in Birmingham. While the conference is held every year to help construction industry professionals learn the benefits of designing and building with energy-efficiency in mind, this year's conference focused on "Rebuilding Sustainable Communities." More than 500 participants attended 24 different workshops and sessions focused on community rebuilding after natural disasters.

Division staff members also participated in four expos held by ADECA's Long-Term Community Recovery Unit to help tornado victims take the first steps toward rebuilding their homes. The division presented information and brochures to help residents understand how incorporating energy-saving features into a home can save thousands of dollars in utility costs over the long run.

While the assistance to Hackleburg and the expos demonstrate the Energy Division's commitment to long-term recovery, the division also assisted the state's efforts in the immediate aftermath of the April tornadoes. Once the state's Emergency Operations Plan was activated, an Energy Division staff member reported to the Alabama Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Operations Center in Clanton. The staff member was responsible for monitoring and coordinating a response to any fuel shortages in the state and helped coordinate multiple requests for assistance from ADECA programs.

## **Weatherization Assistance Helps Low-income Alabamians Reduce High Energy Bills**

Natural disasters are sudden and dramatic, but sometimes a job loss or other financial difficulty can be a personal disaster for an Alabama family. Paying high home energy bills for heat during winter months and for cooling in the summer is a challenge for low-income families even in the best of economic times. When difficult circumstances occur, the burden of high energy bills can become impossible for some families

to bear. Fortunately, the Alabama Weatherization Program gives many low-income residents some relief by making their homes more energy efficient.

Since mid-2009 ADECA has awarded \$67.5 million to weatherize Alabama homes using funds made available to the state through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. As of September 2011, ARRA funds have enabled weatherization work to be performed on more than 6,100 homes.

ADECA provided funds to a network of community action and other agencies that administer the program locally. The program gives priority to the elderly, those with disabilities and low-income residents with small children. Houses that qualify for weatherization assistance are tested to determine the most cost-effective measures needed. Typical improvements include adding extra insulation, sealing leaks in ductwork, performing repairs and tune-ups to heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems and replacing incandescent lights with more energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs.

One-time assistance to help pay high heating and cooling bills is available through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. ADECA administered more than \$60 million in LIHEAP assistance to 105,116 families in fiscal year 2011.

### **Programs Help Businesses, Schools and Governments Cut Energy Costs**

The Energy Division administers grant and loan programs that have helped dozens of Alabama public school systems, businesses and local governments cut utility costs by making energy-efficiency upgrades to their facilities.

ADECA's \$60 million AlabamaSAVES revolving loan program was established in December 2010 to help the state's existing businesses make upgrades that will save energy, reduce expenses and boost employment opportunities. Low-interest-rate loans of \$50,000 to \$4 million are available to help existing commercial and industrial businesses finance energy-saving improvements. The energy savings generated by the improvements will be greater than loan repayments, meaning extra cash flow to help businesses remain competitive, retain workers and create new jobs. The first company to participate in the program was The Dixie Group, which is using a \$2.3 million loan to install upgrades that will save energy and create up to 20 new jobs at its Roanoke carpet yarn plant.

The Energy-Efficient Retrofits for Schools program helps public school systems install more efficient

heating and air conditioning systems, double-paned windows, lighting systems and energy management systems in school buildings. Since the program started in 2005, more than \$6 million in grants have been awarded for retrofits at more than 120 schools. The improvements have resulted in energy savings of about \$1 million per year.

ADECA's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program helps local governments and nonprofit groups improve the energy efficiency of buildings, reduce fossil fuel emissions and create or retain jobs. Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the EECBG program awarded \$1.4 million in grants to 12 municipal and county governments in 2011.

The division also supports demonstration projects that turn waste into renewable energy. One such project, completed by the city of Scottsboro in late 2011, is a system that collects gas generated by garbage at the Scottsboro landfill and turns it into electricity. The system captures the methane gas and



**Officials break ground in Scottsboro for a project that converts methane gas from a landfill into electricity.**

a generator converts the gas into enough electricity to power the landfill, saving the city approximately \$100,000 per year. A \$500,000 EECBG grant from ADECA helped the city complete the project.

Additional assistance is available through the Local Government Energy Loan Program. The program makes zero-interest-rate loans available to help municipal and county governments, K-12 schools, colleges and universities pay the up-front costs of energy-saving improvements.

# Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division

## LETS Assists Hackleburg Police in Storm Recovery

When an F5 tornado struck Hackleburg on April 27 with 210-mile-per-hour winds, the impact was deadly and nondiscriminatory. Eighteen residents lost their lives and many more were injured.

The tornado leveled the landscape. It took down the Wrangler Distribution Center, the town's largest employer, and 30 of the town's 31 businesses were seriously damaged or destroyed. Gone too were the high, middle and elementary schools, churches and about 75 percent of the houses.

The storm also destroyed the town's fire department and police station. Officer Jeremy Marbutt escaped injury by taking refuge in the town's old jail, but the patrol car he was driving was reduced to rubble.

ADECA's Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division stepped in and offered the support necessary to enable the Police Department to become fully functional again. An \$85,000 grant allowed the department to purchase a new police vehicle and replace other lost and damaged equipment.

"We're getting a lot of use out of (the patrol vehicle)," Marbutt said in late 2011. "The vehicle has been helpful in allowing us to get back on our feet and getting everything back in order. Slowly, but surely we're making the recovery."

Grants that help law enforcement agencies upgrade and replace equipment is just one way that funding



**Officer Jeremy Marbutt, who escaped injury in the tornado, said the new police vehicle is receiving much use.**



**The Yellow Dot program gives first responders your medical history if you are injured in a car crash.**

from LETS supports the efforts of local governments to improve public safety for residents.

Drug and violent crime task forces around the state receive ADECA grants to investigate arrest and assist in the prosecution of drug offenders. In addition to apprehending drug dealers and suppliers and confiscating large quantities of illegal drugs, task force members have located and dismantled many dangerous methamphetamine laboratories containing caustic chemicals that endanger neighbors, the community and the environment.

The LETS division also administers grants that fund overtime pay for patrol officers to enable them to participate in highway safety campaigns such as the national "Click It or Ticket" safety belt enforcement effort and other activities aimed at removing drunken drivers from Alabama roads and highways.

The free Yellow Dot program, which provides an individual's medical information to first responders in the event of a vehicle crash, is continuing to expand county by county with funding through ADECA. Currently 35 Alabama counties have implemented the program, and thanks to a couple of articles in USA Today, the program is getting national and international attention.

Victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse across Alabama are receiving vital free services thanks in part to grants from ADECA that supplement the resources of nonprofit victim service agencies.

Juvenile justice programs also receive ADECA grants to help reverse negative behaviors in youth. A number of innovative programs are working to help at-risk youth to make wise decisions, avoid the criminal justice system and become productive citizens.

# Workforce Development Division

## The Workforce Development Division Helps Communities Clear Storm Debris

The deadly April tornadoes destroyed not only lives and properties, but also jobs. ADECA's Workforce Development Division took immediate steps to help those who lost jobs get back on their feet.

Within hours after the storms hit, the division applied for a \$10 million National Emergency Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. The request was quickly approved and ADECA used the funds to give a helping hand to hard-hit communities and workers who found themselves suddenly unemployed.

ADECA awarded grants to 20 counties, cities, towns and organizations across Alabama to hire 254 temporary workers to clear storm debris, operate shelters and food banks and start the rebuilding process.

First priority was given to workers whose employers were forced to close because of the tornadoes. County and municipal governments worked with Alabama Career Centers in their areas to find eligible applicants. Temporary workers continue to assist with the demolition, repair, renovation and reconstruction of destroyed public facilities within the affected communities.

ADECA works with the Alabama Career Center System to connect Alabamians with programs designed to help them learn the skills needed to qualify for careers in new or expanding industries. Services are provided through a network of 45 Career Center locations across the state.

When one of the April 27 tornadoes ripped through Cullman County, the Hanceville Career Center located at George C. Wallace Community College sustained damage, lost power and was put out of service. Fortu-



*ADECA's WDD mobile career center was called into duty to assist residents in the Cullman area following the April tornadoes.*

nately, ADECA maintains a full-service career center on wheels. The unit was promptly dispatched to Hanceville to serve area residents while the permanent location was repaired. In addition to providing a backup in case of disaster, the mobile unit also travels to areas impacted by business closings and layoffs.

### **Workforce Development Programs Help Workers Recover from Job Loss**

The April tornado outbreak was not the only disaster to hit our state recently. The Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010 wreaked havoc to Alabama's Gulf Coast economy, shutting down shrimping grounds, seafood processing plants and charter-boat fishing. Although the oil has stopped flowing and the tourism industry has largely recovered, many seafood-industry businesses remain closed, leaving some south Alabama residents without a job or a paycheck. Fortunately, with the help of a \$5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, ADECA's workforce programs are providing training to help these workers qualify for jobs in new and growing industries. As of September 30, 2011, more than 200 workers had received job-training assistance through the program. Many have acquired skills that will enable them to qualify for higher-demand careers as welders, nursing assistants and truck drivers.

Natural and environmental disasters can have a big impact on employment, but a major economic crisis can cause even greater job loss. The global economic downturn has caused many Alabama jobs to disappear, but ADECA's Workforce Division is trying to turn the challenge of a job loss into an opportunity for a brighter future in a new or expanding industry.

ADECA funds and coordinates a multi-agency Rapid Response Team that travels to the site of a plant closing or layoff to assist affected employees. The team meets with employees individually and in group

sessions to explain how to file for unemployment compensation, discuss options for continuing health insurance coverage and assist with other immediate needs. The team also explains the free job search assistance available through Alabama Career Centers and the opportunities for job training to qualify for new careers.

One program that helps workers earn a paycheck while learning a new career is the On-the-Job Training program. The program reimburses employers up to half of a participant's salary for six months while they learn new skills on the job.

Skills training, job placement, educational opportunities and other workforce development services are funded by the Workforce Investment Act. In addition to serving the employment needs of adults, WIA also supports special programs aimed at wayward youth. Jobseekers and employers may access WIA workforce development services through the Career Center System.

In order to keep jobs in Alabama, it is important that our businesses maintain their ability to compete globally.

ADECA's Incumbent Worker Training program helps currently employed workers increase their skills so that their companies can be more competitive in today's economy. Grants awarded through the program help businesses cover the costs of training



**The WDD mobile career center has widely traveled the state.**

employees to streamline work, reduce waste, enhance safety, improve time management and eliminate unnecessary expenses. During fiscal year 2011, Incumbent Worker Training grants totaling \$671,871 were awarded to 25 Alabama companies.

An executive order issued by Governor Robert Bentley in May 2011 streamlined management of the state's workforce development activities by dissolving the Governor's Office of Workforce Development and making ADECA responsible for oversight of all Workforce Investment Act programs.

# Office of Water Resources Division

## Office of Water Resources Helps Alabama Prepare and Respond to Drought, Floods

Historically, Alabama has been called a water-rich state because of its large network of rivers and streams, deep groundwater resources and annual rainfall of about 54 inches per year. But there is never an “average” year of rainfall in Alabama. While the statewide average is measured from sampling points located across the state, individual yearly totals since 1895 have ranged from just 33.58 inches in 1954 to 76.23 inches in 1975. Even when the overall state total approaches the average, it frequently rains too little in some areas and too much in others, leading to disastrous droughts or floods. As the state office responsible for water resource planning, coordination, development and management, ADECA’s Office of Water Resources is committed to

could be forced to reduce operations or even shut down. Throughout the year, OWR closely monitored rainfall and forecasts and kept water systems, pulp and paper mills, and other users of large amounts of water informed of the emerging drought situation through briefings and presentations.

As part of the Alabama Drought Plan, OWR convened the Alabama Drought Monitoring and Impact Group. The group met 11 times in 2011 to analyze climatic, meteorological, hydrological and soil moisture data to determine the severity of drought conditions in various regions of the state. OWR also worked to ensure the U.S. Drought Monitor map released each week reflected actual conditions for the Alabama portion of the map.

Based on analysis by the Monitoring and Impact Group, OWR issued six drought advisory declarations for the state in 2011. The advisories summarized conditions

throughout the state and urged public water systems to closely monitor water conditions and review their water conservation plans in the event that conditions worsened. By September, 29 counties in the eastern and southeastern portion of the state were in drought warning status, one step away from drought emergency status – the most severe drought declaration.

OWR not only monitored conditions and issued advisories, it also worked to mitigate the potential effects of a drought. Working with officials from local water systems, staff members encouraged water conservation and collected information on water-use

restrictions issued by local authorities. OWR coordinated with Alabama Power, the Tennessee Valley Authority and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to manage water in its reservoir systems as efficiently as possible.

The office worked with state and federal agencies to investigate citizen inquiries and issues related to low-water conditions. The office also worked with federal, state and local groups to maintain a network of gauges that measure water flow in several streams and rivers



**The Floodplain Management Unit hosted open-house meetings in Montgomery County to help residents see if their properties were located in a flood risk zone and to answer questions about the National Flood Insurance Program.**

helping Alabama prepare and respond to the threat of drought or floods.

For most areas of the state, 2011 proved to be much drier than normal. Extended dry conditions can adversely affect many industries like our power-production plants and pulp and paper mills that depend on water from Alabama’s rivers and streams. When river and stream levels drop beyond a critical point, hundreds of jobs can be impacted as businesses

providing valuable data about the condition of Alabama's water resources.

While much of 2011 was focused on the current dry spell, steps also were taken to ensure the state would continue to strengthen its ability to handle similar drought situations in the future. An executive order issued by Governor Robert Bentley in June streamlined the structure of the state's drought planning and response efforts under the Alabama Drought Assessment and Planning Team, which is led by the OWR director. OWR is working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and others to develop an early warning system for drought conditions in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint river basin. The goal of the system is to develop consistent early indicators of droughts that would impact Alabama, Florida and Georgia - states in the ACF river basin.

The office's Water Management Unit also continues to collect water data from municipal water systems, industrial facilities, irrigators and other users of large amounts of water to create a clear picture of water use throughout the state.

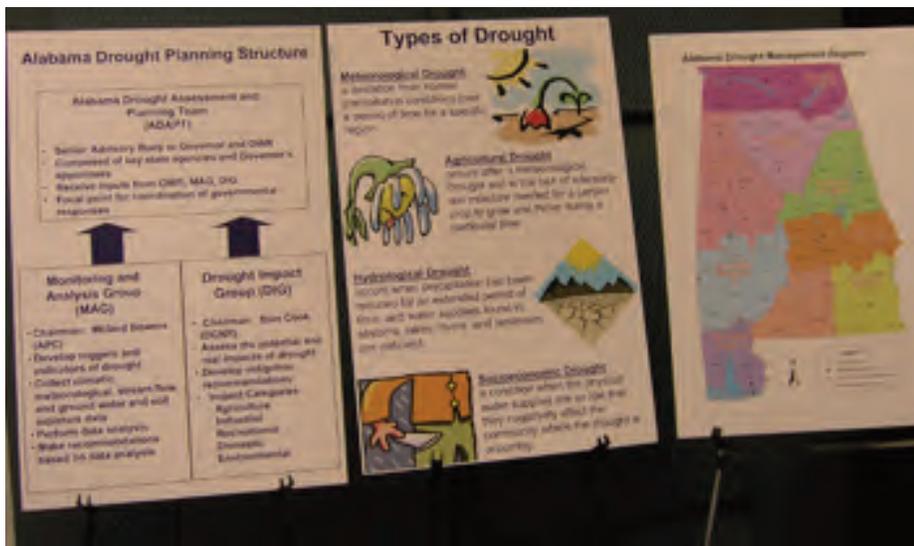
makes insurance available and affordable to owners of homes and buildings in areas at risk of flooding. Since 2003, OWR has secured approximately \$45 million in FEMA funding to support the flood insurance program in Alabama and has updated digital floodplain maps in all 67 counties.

The unit receives FEMA grants for flood studies and mapping, elevation data and coastal flood studies in Baldwin and Mobile counties. The unit also processes small revisions to flood hazard areas or base flood elevations on a floodplain map.

An important component of maintaining accurate data is the continuous incorporation of changes to special flood hazard areas caused by development or other physical alterations in a floodplain. In 2011, OWR was working on new multi-year flood study and mapping projects in 28 counties. In September, the program received \$6.8 million from FEMA to begin studies in 10 additional counties and to plan flood-study needs in five watersheds for possible funding in 2012.

Assisting OWR are local floodplain managers who enforce ordinances intended to reduce the risk of

property damage during a flood. The ordinances are required for participation in the Flood Insurance Program, and the availability of flood insurance opens more opportunities for residential and industrial development. In 2011, 10 new communities began participating in the Flood Insurance Program. Additionally, the unit reviewed 100 community flood ordinances, trained 215 new floodplain managers and provided technical assistance to more than 400 floodplain administrators, property owners, elected officials and developers. The unit's staff



**OWR monitors drought conditions in Alabama and issues advisories as needed.**

also conducted informational meetings to help community residents understand their potential for flood risk and learn the steps necessary to protect their properties and families.

### Floodplain Management Unit Helps Protect Properties from Floods

While a drought can have devastating consequences, too much rain can be equally destructive. Heavy rains can turn a peaceful river into a raging flood. Working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, OWR is helping safeguard residents from the economic devastation caused by flood damage.

OWR's Floodplain Management Unit is composed of two FEMA-funded programs: the National Flood Insurance Program and the Flood Mapping Program. FEMA, partnered with the unit, creates maps of each county in the state to pinpoint areas of flood risk. The maps are used by the Flood Insurance Program, which

### OWR Represents Alabama's Interests in Water Disputes

OWR's Interstate Support Unit supports the Governor in negotiations and litigation required to protect our state's water interests. The unit provides extensive technical analysis of water allocation issues related to the long-standing dispute with Georgia and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers over water withdrawals from Lake Lanier and Lake Allatoona, large reservoirs in Georgia managed by the Corps. Excessive withdrawals can adversely impact water flows in Alabama.

# Surplus Property Division

It is hard to imagine a doctor attempting to practice medicine without a clinic, but that is the situation that faced Dr. Keith Morrow when a tornado destroyed his practice in Hackleburg in April 2011. The storms wiped out most of the town including the building where he had the only medical practice in the community. Using a tent for an office, the doctor tried to help patients as best he could.

Fortunately, ADECA's Surplus Property Division was able to step in to provide Dr. Morrow with not only a trailer, but also many of the furnishings he required including some medical supplies, desks, chairs and a generator. With these items, Dr. Morrow was able to re-open his practice in an environment where he could serve his patients much more effectively.

From its warehouses in Montgomery and Eva, Surplus Property supplied urgently-needed equipment to Hackleburg and other communities that were affected by the deadly storm system. The equipment list included forklifts to various locations, an excavator to the town of Bridgeport, a bucket truck to Cullman, a backhoe to Ider, and trailers to Walker County.

An assortment of smaller pieces of equipment and supplies were delivered to other areas.

Surplus Property obtains its equipment and supplies from numerous state and federal agencies and U.S. military bases around the world. Some of the equipment used in the tornado recovery came from as far as Japan. The division also receives property that was abandoned by travelers at the security checkpoints of several airports in the Southeast.

ADECA makes surplus property available year-round to Alabama's local governments and nonprofit agencies enabling them to obtain needed equipment at a fraction of the new cost. Items range from office furniture and equipment to automobiles, trucks, tractors, and an occasional ambulance or fire truck.

Federal and state surplus property that is not transferred to government and nonprofit agencies is available at public auctions held several times a year and on Internet websites such as eBay and GovDeals. Funds collected from sales and auctions, minus expenses, are transferred to the state's General Fund.



**Surplus Property holds public auctions several times a year to sell the state's unneeded items.**

# Communications and Information Division

## CID Keeps Public Informed about Tornado Recovery, ADECA Grants and Programs

As April 28 dawned on Alabama, it was clear that the devastation caused by the historic tornado outbreak the day before would require a long-term commitment from state, federal and local governments to recover and rebuild. As ADECA's main point of contact for the public and news media, the Communications and Information Division provided immediate support for state government efforts to assist victims and help communities begin the rebuilding process.

In the week following the tornado outbreak, two employees from the division assisted at the Alabama Emergency Management Agency's operations center in Clanton. Another employee helped answer calls to a special hotline set up for victims needing assistance and information. Callers from across the nation also used the hotline to offer help with the recovery. Another CID employee served as an overnight point of contact for news media members requesting information about the damage.

In early May, CID's **Public Information Unit** helped get the word out to affected communities that \$10 million in National Emergency Grant funds secured from the U.S. Department of Labor were available to hire temporary workers to clear debris and help with relief efforts.

After ADECA was named by Governor Bentley as the lead state agency for long-term community recovery in June, the department arranged several meetings between state, local and Federal Emergency Management Agency officials. CID notified the public and news media about each of the meetings and responded to inquiries from news reporters after the meetings. CID also helped develop a website dedicated to the long-term recovery effort, [www.ltcr.alabama.gov](http://www.ltcr.alabama.gov).

In its day-to-day duties, CID's Public Information Unit helps maintain accountability for the state and federal funds administered by the department by posting announcements of grant awards online and writing and issuing news releases. CID also provides advance notification to members of the Alabama Legislature of grant awards that impact

their districts.

The division helps promote ADECA programs that can have an impact across the state, and sometimes the nation. In December 2010, the division developed a promotional campaign to launch AlabamaSAVES, the department's new loan program to help state businesses make energy-saving upgrades to their facilities.

In May 2011, a USA Today article focused on the benefits of the ADECA-supported Yellow Dot program that helps provide medical information to first responders in the event of an automobile crash. Soon after the article's publication, ADECA received hundreds of requests for more information about the program from individuals across the nation and abroad. To provide a timely response, CID assembled and distributed information packets with complete details about the program.

CID's **Graphic Arts Unit** provides additional support for ADECA programs by designing and printing handbooks, brochures, reports, forms, posters, signs and other materials. The **General Services Unit** processes mail and parcels, delivers interoffice correspondence, manages fleet vehicles and maintains necessary supplies for the department.



**CID staff were among the ADECA employees who assisted with disaster response that was coordinated from the state Emergency Management Agency operations center in Clanton.**

# Support Services

## Support Sections Provide the Background Services that Run ADECA

Just as a building is only as strong as its foundation, the effectiveness of ADECA programs similarly depend upon a largely unseen support system. ADECA's support staff, organized into five key sections, work in the background but play a tremendous role by providing services and guidance that improve and strengthen each of the department's programs.



**ADECA's Financial Services Section maintains a careful inventory of all state equipment and furniture at ADECA.**

The **Audit Section** provides additional checks and balances for the hundreds of grants issued annually by ADECA's divisions. Along with monitoring conducted by individual program staff, ADECA's auditors help ensure that all funds are used for the purpose intended. The Audit Section holds several training programs each year and meets with grant recipients and recipient auditors to ensure financial regulations and requirements are met, and that current and future funding are not jeopardized.

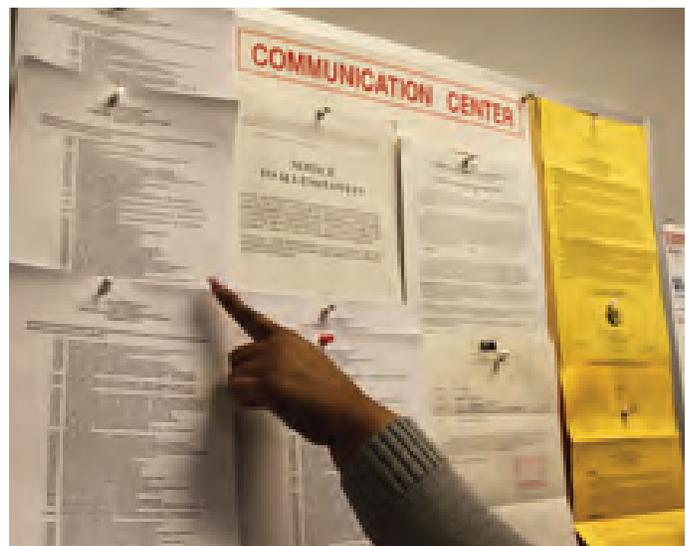
ADECA's **Legal Section** provides legal guidance to divisions regarding contracts, grants and other actions. Section attorneys monitor state and federal legislative and administrative activities and advise the department of changes that have an impact on ADECA programs. The attorneys are designated as Assistant Attorneys General enabling them to represent ADECA in litigation and appear on behalf of the department at judicial and administrative hearings.

The **Financial Services Section** keeps close tabs on the millions of dollars of taxpayer money and public property entrusted to ADECA. Accounting, budget preparation, purchasing, payroll and property

management are the key functions of the section. The section monitors all financial transactions and maintains careful records to ensure compliance with federal and state laws and ADECA policies.

**Information Services** may work deep in the background, but without its services ADECA could not function. The section is responsible for maintaining the computer and telecommunications equipment and networking essential to the operation of a modern office. The section provides the technical support required to develop and maintain ADECA's Internet presence ensuring that the public has online access to current information about ADECA programs and operations. The newly formed Geographic Information Systems Development unit provides mapping services and products for a wide range of data mapping projects that enhance many ADECA programs.

ADECA relies strongly on capable and knowledgeable employees, and the **Human Resources Section** is at the forefront of ensuring the department's personnel needs are met. Working with ADECA divisions, the section develops and updates the job specifications and skill requirements needed by the Alabama State Personnel Department to screen and test able applicants for each position at ADECA. In addition to hiring new staff, the section also coordinates transfers and promotions and helps ensure that ADECA employees with outstanding service and performance are duly recognized. Supervisors



**Human Resources provides information for employees on career advancements, job opportunities and retirement.**

and employees rely heavily on the section for guidance about evaluations and other personnel actions, and for guidance about employee benefits.

# Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs

## 2010-2011 Federal Receipts and Disbursements

Highlight indicates ARRA programs.

Federal Grantor/Program Title	Receipts	Expenditures
<b>DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE</b>		
Environmental Sciences, Applications, Data, and Education through UAH	11,161	10,861
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program - ARRA	10,000	9,286
State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program - ARRA	1,451,030	1,443,432
<b>DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT</b>		
Community Development Block Grants/State's Program	51,206,955	51,200,414
Emergency Shelter Grants Program	1,277,965	1,279,697
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS	1,273,447	1,273,447
Community Development Block Grants/State's Program - ARRA	1,568,623	1,571,160
Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program - ARRA	6,287,874	6,288,429
<b>DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR</b>		
U S Geological Survey_Research and Data Collection	102,690	43,556
National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreements Program	42,065	42,748
Outdoor Recreation_Acquisition, Development and Planning	468,054	468,054
<b>DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE</b>		
Sexual Assault Services Formula Program	260,207	260,207
Offender Reentry Program	(62,310)	
Juvenile Accountability Block Grants	734,572	798,562
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention_Allocation to States	608,039	608,456
Title V_Delinquency Prevention Program	63,701	63,458
Crime Victim Assistance	5,551,947	5,553,090
Violence Against Women Formula Grants	1,941,541	1,947,414
Violence Against Women Formula Grants - ARRA	832,156	832,534
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners	573,483	579,911
Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program	6,934	14,633
Project Safe Neighborhoods	78,810	76,469
Public Safety Partnership and Community Policing Grants	275,843	275,843
Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program	290,307	290,166
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program	4,882,059	7,734,877
Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant Program	414,232	414,419
Anti-Gang Initiative	26,366	26,352
State Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program - ARRA	8,226	8,226
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program - ARRA	1,961,113	2,141,635
<b>DEPARTMENT OF LABOR</b>		
WIA Adult Program	9,330,973	9,365,995
WIA Adult Program - ARRA	530,498	538,495
WIA Youth Activities	7,854,175	7,747,384
WIA Youth Activities - ARRA	1,954,232	1,995,859
WIA Dislocated Workers	3,886,453	4,030,010
WIA Dislocated Workers - ARRA	6,817,543	6,891,875
WIA Pilots, Demonstrations, and Research Projects	(64,799)	(64,799)
Work Incentive Grants	24,230	24,230
Community Based Job Training Grants	326,770	327,092
Program of Competitive Grants for Worker Training and Placement in High Growth and Emerging Industry Sectors - ARRA	1,834,142	1,819,219
WIA National Emergency Grants	257,422	247,537
WIA Dislocated Worker Formula Grants	9,166,815	9,011,242

<b>Federal Grantor/Program Title</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION</b>		
Recreational Trails Program	1,085,884	1,117,754
State and Community Highway Safety	3,506,167	3,604,107
Alcohol Impaired Driving Countermeasures Incentive Grants	2,687,201	2,590,292
Occupant Protection Incentive Grants	578,891	592,312
Safety Belt Performance Grants	464,129	496,739
State Traffic Safety Information System Improvement Grants	497,935	526,935
Incentive Grant Program to Increase Motorcyclist Safety	114,238	114,238
<b>APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION</b>		
Appalachian Area Development	769,286	769,286
Appalachian Research, Technical Assistance, and Demonstration	112,805	108,382
<b>GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION</b>		
Donation of Federal Surplus Personal Property (value of property - not cash received)	19,621,485	22,038,679
<b>DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY</b>		
Petroleum Violation Escrow	1,869	(271,276)
State Energy Program	595,779	603,188
State Energy Program - ARRA	29,850,692	29,853,852
Weatherization Assistance for Low-Income Persons	2,981,231	2,965,573
Weatherization Assistance for Low-Income Persons - ARRA	22,228,803	22,253,320
Conservation Research and Development	41,707	41,707
State Energy Program Special Projects	(3,218)	(3,218)
State Energy Program Special Projects - ARRA	193,189	193,189
Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, Research, Development and Analysis - ARRA	215,688	215,688
Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program - ARRA	1,681,123	1,681,123
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program - ARRA	6,142,131	6,146,484
<b>DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</b>		
Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities_State Grants	127,577	126,519
<b>DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY</b>		
Delta Area Economic Development	11,700	11,700
<b>DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES</b>		
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance	61,261,898	61,049,690
Community Services Block Grant	12,318,589	12,293,094
Family Violence Prevention and Services/Grants for Battered Women's Shelters	1,439,420	1,439,481
Community Services Block Grant - ARRA	852,529	935,630
<b>DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY</b>		
Community Assistance Program State Support Services Element	91,114	87,455
National Dam Safety Program	42,680	47,968
Cooperating Technical Partners	5,324,781	5,323,610
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS</b>	<b>298,902,842</b>	<b>304,144,977</b>

# Get Connected to ADECA Services

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<b>Community and Economic Development Division (CED)</b> .....	(334) 242-0492
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Community Services Block Grant Unit (CSBG).....	(334) 353-4909
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Governor's Resources and Economic Assistance Programs Unit (REAP) .....	(334) 242-5370
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<b>Office of Water Resources Division (OWR)</b> (Main number) .....	(344) 242-5499
<b>Workforce Development Division (WDD)</b> (Main number) .....	(334) 242-5300
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Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs

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