

# Golden Triangle Planning & Development District, Inc.



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Rupert L.  
"Rudy"  
Johnson  
Executive  
Director

## From the Director. . . . .



The Declaration of Independence is defined as the formal statement written by Thomas Jefferson declaring the freedom of the thirteen American colonies from Great Britain. It is one of the most important documents in the history of the United States. This important document highlights many areas. The first part of the text "the consent of the governed" is also equivalent to "the will of the people". The "will of the people" is determined one way by citizens choosing to vote. The voting process helps individuals to establish an elected government that portrays similar or same interests and concerns as the voting citizen. Voting is the way to express the opinion of a citizen in a democratic nation.

### Reasons to vote:

- ◆ Every vote matters!
- ◆ It is a constitutional right and privilege that our founding fathers stood for.
- ◆ Voting is a right that generations of Americans have struggled to win. Many people in other countries are still fighting for it.
- ◆ Everyone has a voice and wants to be heard in one way or another, **THIS IS YOUR VOICE!**

Don't let those who have fought and served to give the right to vote be in vain.



## FY2019 CDBG Public Facilities Applications Submitted

The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) has received, from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), an allocation of \$24,000,000 for the FY2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. This CDBG program provides funding for public infrastructure improvements with water and sewer needs having the greatest priority. The minimum threshold requirements are that at least 51% of the project beneficiaries are of low and moderate income and applicants must have no open Public Facility (Regular or Small Government) grants. Recently GTPDD staff prepared and submitted five (5) Public Facilities applications that are currently under review. MDA received 25 applications in the Regular Public Facilities competition requesting \$12,033,218 from an allocation of \$3,850,000. 51 applications were received in the Small Government category, requesting \$20,828,121.50 from an allocation of \$8,289,374.

### CDBG PUBLIC FACILITIES APPLICATIONS

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Funds Requested</u>
Town of Artesia	Sewer & Drainage Improvements	\$450,000
Town of Maben	Sewer Improvements	\$450,000
Town of Mathiston	Sewer Improvements	\$450,000
City of Macon	Bridge & Drainage Improvements	\$333,300
Town of Sturgis	Wastewater Improvements	\$450,000

## Starkville Sewer Improvements Project Nearing Completion

The City of Starkville has developed a plan to address a critical sewer deficiency by installing a wastewater collection system within an area that is not currently being served, utilizing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and a Mississippi CAP Loan. The project area, known as Roundhouse Road, consists of single family dwellings whose only means of sewage treatment and disposal are onsite lagoons or onsite septic tanks followed by drain (infiltration) fields. This type of system, due to the area’s soil permeability, is failing, vastly diminishing the quality of life for the area’s residents. Specific soil characteristics and the inability of the soil to percolate are allowing raw sewage to be discharged onto the surface of the ground thus creating unsanitary conditions and posing a dire health hazard to the residents of the area and local environment. GTPDD staff prepared applications for both funding sources and administration of the project is nearing completion.



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## Without Change There Is No Progress!

Since 2000 Golden Triangle PDD has administered a variety of youth-based programs focused on the needs of the local workforce area. For the past six years GTPDD has received Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding to provide work ethics training and internships for out-of-school youth in Choctaw, Oktibbeha, Webster, and Winston counties. GTPDD is excited to announce that starting July 1, 2019, the WIOA service area will once again include Clay, Lowndes, and Noxubee counties. Guided by workforce current needs, the new Gateway In-School Program will shift its focus to high school juniors and seniors enrolled in career and technology center classes.

The goals of the program are

- \* To provide essential job skills training to teach the students what is expected in the workplace;
- \* To develop a personalized career path for each student so that they may better understand steps required to reach career goals;
- \* To provide a paid internship where salary and workers comp insurance are paid through the WIOA funds so that participants can practice the skills learned in the class room while earning a pay check;
- \* To administer the WorkKeys assessment to provide the students the opportunity to earn a Career Readiness Certificate;
- \* To support, guide, and encourage the participants to continue their education in order to obtain gainful employment.

The career center in each county will determine which students are eligible for participation and GTPDD career counselors will provide essential job skills training and WorkKeys testing prior to assigning students to an internship in a local business or industry. Business and industry supervisors, along with GTPDD staff, will mentor the youth and assist them in developing the skills needed to be successful in the work world. GTPDD career counselors will continue to work with the youth for a minimum of twelve months to assure that they receive the guidance and information needed to stay focused on the career path of their choosing.

People often avoid change, but when change involves providing for youth in the Golden Triangle area in a beneficial way, it is positive and improves the entire community. Share information about this upcoming change in WIOA program services to people in your community and encourage career center juniors and seniors to inquire about the program when classes resume in the fall.

For more information you  
GTPDD Workforce Pro-  
5007.

may contact Mitzi Lawrence,  
grams Director, at 662-324-





**New Process Steel has recently expanded.....** and invested \$7, 500, 00.00 in their current facilities that are located on the Steel Dynamic's Campus in the Golden Triangle Industrial Park in Lowndes County. The new facility expansion consisted of two parts: (1) the construction of a rail spur into the newly constructed facility, and (2) construction of a new concrete road that provides access to the project site which is just north of the current steel mill plant site and east of Airport Road. New Process Steel has hired a total of 50 new employees, bringing the total employed at the Lowndes County facility to 134 full-time jobs. The new rail spur was constructed by the Lowndes County Board of Supervisors at a cost of approximately \$700,000.00 with funding from the Mississippi Development Authority's Freight Rail Revolving Loan Program and the concrete access road was funded with a \$750,000.00 DIP grant from MDA. The Golden Triangle Planning and Development assisted Lowndes County in applying for the loan and administration of the funds for the project.



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### ***Upcoming Medicare Dates***

Medicare Part D open enrollment is just around the corner, October 15 – December 7. This is the time when all Medicare eligible individuals can make changes to Prescription Drug coverage. We do not have specific Part D plan information for 2020, but there are some general changes that will need to be noted by all beneficiaries. The yearly deductible will increase to \$435 in 2020 - up from \$415 in 2019. The donut-hole will close for generic drugs in 2020. This means individuals will pay no more than 25 percent of the cost for generic drugs until you reach the catastrophic coverage level. While these may be minor changes for some, they may have a more drastic effect on others.

Each year you should receive an Annual Notice of Change (ANOC) from your existing provider containing information on plan changes for the upcoming year. You should receive the "ANOC" no later than September 30, 2019. Carefully review this information from your provider as you begin to assess drug plan needs for the upcoming year. In addition to the "ANOC", it is important to keep your "Explanation of Benefits" provided to you each month/quarter by your drug plan provider. This information will give you details about your spending for 2019 and help you to evaluate what your needs might be for the upcoming year.

To get ready to evaluate your coverage you should begin to think how your current plan is working for you. Look at your "Explanation of Benefits" to see what your spending levels are. Have you met your deductible? Are you exceeding the coverage level of your plan and going into the coverage gap? Do you need to investigate patient assistance programs for a very costly medication or discuss an optional medication from your doctor? Try to have all questions answered before you begin your evaluation process. This allows you to know the medication coverage you are looking for.

New plan information will be available October 1. Be ready to begin your evaluation at this time. Enrollment begins October 15 – December 7<sup>th</sup>. After this date most individuals are not eligible to make changes.



## About the Medicaid Waiver Program

The Elderly and Disabled Waiver program provides home and community-based services to individuals over the age of 21 whom, but for the provision of such services, would require the level of care provided in a nursing home facility. Beneficiaries of this waiver must qualify for Medicaid as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries or meet the income and resource eligibility requirements for income level up to 300% of the SSI Federal Benefit Rate and meet medical criteria of the program, with a score of 50.

The Elderly and Disabled Waiver program is administered directly by the Home and Community Based Services Division (HCBS). Case Management services are provided by the Planning and Development Districts. The case management team is composed of a registered nurse and a licensed social worker who are responsible for identifying, screening and completing an assessment on individuals in need of at-home services. Upon approval of the HCBS, the case managers can refer qualified individuals to the following services: adult day care, home-delivered meals, personal care services, in-home respite, and expanded home health visits.

The Golden Triangle Planning and Development District's Case Management Services are provided to all counties in our district, including: Choctaw, Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster and Winston County.

Michelle Harris is the RN Supervisor for the Medicaid Waiver Program. Current Case Management team members are:

### Choctaw

Tina Gill, RN  
Rachel Embry, LSW

### Clay

Mitzi Phelps, RN  
Lesa Wilson, LSW

### Lowndes #1

Brandy Clark, RN  
Alexandra Conwill, LSW

### Lowndes #2

Cindy Reese, RN  
Tennie Simpson, LSW

### Lowndes #3

Lindsey Marsh, RN  
Angelia Sansing, LSW

### Lowndes #4

Jamie Hubbard, RN  
Megan Aucoin, LSW

### Noxubee #1

Cheney Kelly, RN  
Jennifer Bridges, LSW

### Noxubee #2

Tammy Castle, RN  
Lynn Herndon, LSW

### Oktibbeha #1

Tina McWhorter, RN

### Oktibbeha #2

Stacy Elkins, RN  
Jennifer Grantham, LSW

### Oktibbeha #3

Ella Pogue, RN  
Beverly Baker, LSW

### Oktibbeha #4

Kristy Taylor, RN  
Jessie Lewis, LSW

### Webster

Neshay Daniels, RN  
Lisa Woods, LSW

### Winston

Kim Mills, RN  
Lauren Smith, LSW

Anyone interested in this program, or simply needing additional information, should call the GTPDD Medicaid Waiver office at 662-320-2000, select **Option #3**.

2019  
County Advisory  
Meetings



COUNTY	DATE	TIME	PLACE
CHOCTAW	July 1	10:30 a.m.	Choctaw Co. Courthouse
CLAY	July 11	10:00 a.m.	Courthouse Crtroom 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
LOWNDES	July 10	9:00 a.m.	Gardner Blvd Bldg
NOXUBEE	July 10	3:00 p.m.	Civic Center
OKTIBBEHA	July 1	8:15 a.m.	Courthouse Sup. Bdroom
WEBSTER	July 15	9:00 a.m.	Justice Courtroom
WINSTON	July 1	1:00 p.m.	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor Crtroom in Courthouse

Golden Triangle  
Pharmacy

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662-320-2011



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Starkville, MS 39760

Phone: 662-324-7860  
Fax: 662-324-7328  
E-mail: gtpdd.com

**APRIL**

Catherine Dyson 07 Years  
Sherri Fowler 14 Years  
Rupert L. "Rudy" Johnson 29 Years  
Janet Macon 17 Years  
Wendy Mann 14 Years  
Keisha Warren 15 Years

**MAY**

Courtney Carr 08 Years  
Queenzella Gibson 14 Years  
Latoya Harris 07 Years  
Earnestine Robinson 18 Years  
Toby Sanford 15 Years  
Latasha Tallie 07 Years  
Teshia Taylor 12 Years  
Clara Tippet 10 Years  
Lesia Wilson 15 Years

**JUNE**

Lena Davis 13 Years  
Sharon Duke 13 Years  
Phyllis Flake 13 Years  
Tina Gill 08 Years  
Minnie Lindsay 15 Years  
Tina McWhorter 19 Years  
Kenny Orr 17 Years  
Debra Prishmont 10 Years  
Audie Strain 06 Years  
Yvonne Weaver 08 Years  
Sheila Winters 08 Years

**Staff Anniversaries**

Staff members that have served at  
least 5 years at the GTPDD.