

# GOLDEN TRIANGLE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.



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39759


## Director's Message


The GTPDD is now officially on all main social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Through these platforms, we are able to reach a wide audience of our district citizens to inform them of our many programs, services and ongoing projects to benefit our community. We also highlight the many staff members of the GTPDD that are behind the scenes making sure these programs and services are continued and projects are completed and implemented and so much more.

Make sure to follow us at @GTrianglePDD on all platforms and look out for all the latest GTPDD news!



*Executive Director  
Rupert L. "Rudy" Johnson*

 662-324-7860

 662-324-7328

 gtpdd@gtpdd.com

@GTrianglePDD



## **Good News from the WIOA Gateway Program!**

The GTPDD has been awarded funding to continue the Gateway job training program for in-school youth in Choctaw, Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster and Winston counties for the PY 23 program year! Area youth will have the opportunity to attend essential job skills training, be placed in a paid internship, receive individual guidance and support from a Career Counselor, and, when desired, the opportunity to earn a Career Readiness Certificate.

The PY 22 program year ends June 30th and once again has proven rewarding for the youth, as well as local businesses who took advantage of Gateway services. During the 2022-2023 school year 88 new area youth participated in the program. Eighty-three of these accepted job placements where salary and workers' compensation, totaling over \$60,000, were paid through WIOA funds. If history repeats itself, many of these will receive job offers from their current internship employers. WIOA staff continue to work with the youth as they seek employment or continue their education.

During the upcoming school year, other area youth will have this opportunity. The target population for the Gateway Program is juniors and seniors currently enrolled in high school who have a desire to learn essential job skills and enter the local workforce under the guidance, support, and funding of this program. If you know any youth who meet these criteria, tell them about this chance to develop job marketability and enrich their lives. They too can learn skills for employment success, earn money for their futures, and receive support and services to reach future goals.

For more information on the WIOA Gateway Program, call Mitzi Lawrence at 662-324-5007.

Golden Triangle Planning & Development District is an Equal Opportunity Organization. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request for individuals with disabilities.

## HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED ELDERLY AND DISABLED WAIVER PROGRAM

Through participation with the State of MS Division of Medicaid, the GTPDD provides home and community-based services to individuals who are at risk or would require the level of care found in a nursing facility called the Elderly and Disabled Medicaid Waiver Program.

To qualify for this service, the following components are required:

1. Beneficiaries must be 21 years of age or older;
2. Medicaid eligible;
3. Require the same level of care as someone applying for admission to a nursing facility.

Services under this program include case management, personal care services, in-home respite and/or institutional respite services, adult daycare, expanded home health visits, transitional care and home-delivered meals. All costs for services are reimbursable to an approved provider, and all services must be approved by the Division of Medicaid.

This program includes the GTPDD's seven-county district consisting of Choctaw, Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster and Winston. A registered nurse and a licensed social worker visit the client on a monthly basis. The nurse and social worker, working together as a professional team, must conduct the initial, then yearly assessment to assure that the client qualifies for the program.

Michelle Harris is the RN Supervisor for the Medicaid Waiver Program.

Current team members are:

**Choctaw:**

Tina Gill, RN  
Kaylee Tisdale, LSW

**Lowndes #3:**

Lindsey Livingston, RN  
Angelia Sansing, LSW

**Oktibbeha #2:**

Stacy Elkins, RN  
Jennifer Grantham, LSW

**Winston:**

Kim Mills, RN  
Lauren Smith, LSW

**Clay:**

Mitzi Phelps, RN  
Lesa Wilson, LSW

**Noxubee #1:**

Rachael Unruh, RN  
Jennifer Bridges, LSW

**Oktibbeha #3:**

Paige Winfield, RN  
Christina Bland, LSW

**Lowndes #1:**

Leah Agnew, RN  
Jessica Rodgers, LSW

**Noxubee #2:**

Tammy Castle, RN  
Kallie Hubbard, LSW

**Oktibbeha #4:**

Krystal Taylor, RN  
Megan Aucoin, LSW

**Lowndes #2:**

Cindy Reese, RN  
Tennie Simpson, LSW

**Oktibbeha #1**

Tina McWhorter, RN  
Andrea Wright, LSW

**Webster:**

Sydney Thompson, RN  
Lisa Woods, LSW

Anyone interested in this program or who would like additional information should contact the Medicaid Waiver office at 662-320-2003.

## MISSISSIPPI SENIOR FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM

Seniors, 60 years of age or older, who meet certain income qualifications, are eligible to receive a one-time voucher from the GTPDD Area Agency on Aging to buy fresh fruits and vegetables at authorized local farmers' markets.

This year, 200 vouchers with a value of \$50 each will be given. To sign-up for a voucher, visit the Golden Triangle Bingo Facility at 1522 Gardner Blvd. in Columbus on Thursday, July 13, 2023, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. with your I.D. and income verification.

### *2023 County Advisory Committee Meetings:*

COUNTY	DATE	TIME	PLACE
CHOCTAW	July 17	8:30 a.m.	BOS Boardroom Courthouse
CLAY	July 6	10:30 a.m.	Courthouse Courtroom 2nd Floor
LOWNDES	July 12	9:30 a.m.	Gardner Blvd Building
NOXUBEE	July 13	9:00 a.m.	Civic Center
OKTIBBEHA	July 6	8:30 a.m.	Courthouse Sup. Boardroom
WEBSTER	July 17	10:30 a.m.	BOS Boardroom- Courthouse
WINSTON	July 17	1:00 p.m.	2nd floor Old Crtrroom in Crthouse

*Staff Anniversaries: 5+ Years*

*April*

*May*

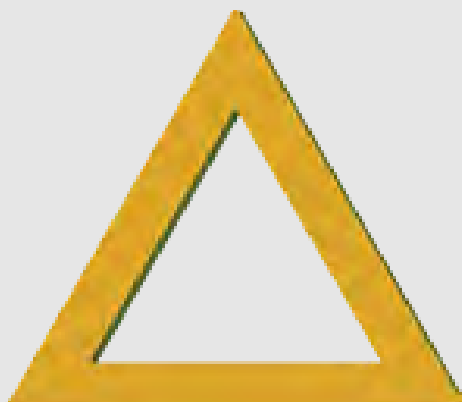
Catherine Dyson	11
Rupert L. "Rudy" Johnson	33
Janet Macon	21
Wendy Murphree	18
Gwen Stokely	05
Keisha Warren	19
Gertrude Weatherspoon	09

Katy Douglas	06
Queenzella Gibson	17
Laronda Neely	06
Toby Sanford	18
Teshia Taylor	15
Clara Tippet	13
Landen Upchurch	05
Lesa Wilson	18

*June*

Lena Davis	16
Dana Dawkins	08
Sharon Duke	16
Tina Gill	11
Keshia Hart	05
Minnie Lindsey	18
Tina McWhorter	22
Kenny Orr	20

Tennie Simpson	06
Willie Williams	06
Sheila Winters	05



**GOLDEN TRIANGLE**

**Planning and Development District, Inc.**