



STATE OF ALABAMA

ANNUAL STRATEGY STATEMENT

FISCAL YEAR 2010

Bob Riley
Governor

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

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Introduction

Vision: Appalachia will achieve socio-economic parity with the nation.

Mission statement of ARC: ARC's mission is to be a strategic partner and an advocate for sustainable community and economic development in Appalachia.

Each year, the thirteen member-states of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) publish strategy statements outlining their plans for the use of ARC funds in the designated ARC service areas of their respective states. Programs and activities benefiting the residents of those areas are eligible to receive consideration for funding from the funds designated by Congress for that purpose. Thirty-seven counties in northern Alabama are included in the service area of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). These counties are listed on the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) web site: <http://adeca.state.al.us/> as well as the ARC web site at <http://www.arc.gov/counties>.

This strategy statement is submitted annually to the Commission and outlines the State's commitment for the use of ARC funds. It was written with the assistance of the eight Local Development Districts serving Appalachian Alabama: West Alabama Regional Commission, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments, Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments, North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments, South Central Alabama Development Commission, Central Alabama Regional Planning Commission, and East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission and David Hughes of the Appalachian Regional Commission staff in Washington.

Overview of the ARC Alabama Program

Organization

The Appalachian Regional Commission is a regional economic development agency, representing a partnership of federal, state, and local governments, designed to address local needs. The Commission was established by Congress as part of the Appalachian Regional Development Act (ARDA) of 1965. In October of 2008, ARC was granted a five-year reauthorization by the 110th Congress, authorizing the agency's operation through fiscal year 2012.

ARC is comprised of the governors of 13 Appalachian states and a federal co-chair, who is appointed by the president. Grassroots participation is provided through state support and multi-county development organizations called local development districts (LDDs). Each year Congress appropriates funds, which ARC allocates among its member states. The Appalachian governors prepare annual Appalachian strategy statements (such as this one), solicit and receive proposals, and select projects for ARC approval. The LDDs are an essential partner and provide local input in the development of the annual strategy statement.

The development organization for ARC Alabama functions within the Governor's Office. Administration responsibilities for the development programs of the ARC were assigned by the Governor to the Director of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA). As such, the Director serves as the Alternate State Member of the Commission. Local support and technical assistance is provided by eight LDDs which serve the entire Appalachian Alabama region. The LDDs are governed by boards comprised of elected officials, business people, and other local leaders. (See Appendix 1 for a complete listing of LDDs).

Service Area

Thirty-seven of Alabama's sixty-seven counties are located within the Appalachian Region. These counties are: Bibb, Blount, Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee, Chilton, Clay, Cleburne, Colbert, Coosa, Cullman, DeKalb, Elmore, Etowah, Fayette, Franklin, Hale, Jackson, Jefferson, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Macon, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Morgan, Pickens, Randolph, St. Clair, Shelby, Talladega, Tallapoosa, Tuscaloosa, Walker, and Winston.

Appalachian Development Highway System

The completion of the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS) will offer an important contribution to economic growth in Appalachian Alabama. ADHS Corridors X and V will provide major new connections to Memphis, Tennessee in the west and Atlanta, Georgia to the east. Corridor X runs between Birmingham and Itawamba County, Mississippi and will provide an important alternative to U.S. 78, currently the only major east-west highway corridor in the area. U.S. 78 is presently a two-lane highway that travels through the heart of a number of small communities and is subject to heavy auto and truck traffic levels. Corridor X, being constructed to Interstate standards, will have a minimum of four lanes and feature full access control. Corridor V in Alabama links the Mississippi State Line to the Tennessee State Line and is now nearly complete with approximately 135 miles open to traffic. Corridor V having been constructed in stages still requires more work - primarily the addition of travel lanes.

While the ADHS provides important highway access, improving connections between the highway network and important rail lines, inland waterways, and airports will assure the global reach necessary for area businesses to compete and succeed in the global economy of the 21st century. Building on the success of the International Intermodal Center at Huntsville International Airport and capitalizing on the new containerized shipping capabilities now being developed at the Port of Mobile, improved coordination and integration of highway, rail, inland navigation, and aviation services will provide Appalachian Alabama with a powerful new link to the global supply chain, improving the competitiveness of existing businesses and attracting important new enterprise into the region.

Economic and Social Status of ARC Alabama

Distressed Counties

ARC's primary objective is to help "distressed" counties generate sufficient economic development to stabilize their respective economies. The ARC uses an index-based

economic classification system for Appalachian counties. The index compares the economic vitality of the region’s counties with all counties across the United States. ARC has traditionally used three economic indicators—unemployment, the poverty rate and per capita market income—as criteria for its designations of the economic classification of its counties. Economic status designations have been based on a set of thresholds for national averages of each indicator that are evaluated independently for each county. In recent years, the Commission has developed an alternative classification method using these same indicators in an index-based system that allows a comparison of the region’s counties to the rest of the nation and establishes the different county designations by means of this comparison. This method of designation provides a composite measure of economic vitality for each ARC county, while allowing a comparison of the region’s vitality to that of the nation.

The following economic indicators shall be used to designate the economic classification status of Appalachian counties—per capita market income, the poverty rate, and the three-year unemployment rate. The index-based approach to the economic classification of ARC counties provides that ARC Distressed counties shall be those in the lowest 10% of all counties in the nation. Appalachian counties whose composite index value ranks above the lowest 10%, but not greater than the lowest 25%, of all the counties in the nation shall be designated At-risk counties. Appalachian counties whose composite index value ranks in the highest 25%, but less than the highest 10% of all counties in the nation shall be designated Competitive counties. Appalachian counties that have a composite index value in the highest 10% of all the counties in the nation shall be designated Attainment counties. All other ARC counties shall be designated Transitional counties. For FY-2010, Alabama has two Attainment Counties (Madison and Shelby) and three Competitive Counties (Elmore, Jefferson, and Morgan).

The following table denotes which Appalachian Alabama counties have received a *distressed* classification since FY2005:

FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010
Bibb Franklin Hale Macon Pickens	Bibb Franklin Hale Macon Pickens	Franklin Hale Macon Pickens	Hale Macon	Hale Macon	Hale Macon

At-Risk Counties

Under the index system, counties between the lowest 10% and 25% of the nation are designated At-Risk. Under the index-based economic designations, there are two (2) At-Risk counties in Appalachian Alabama for FY-2010. In index value descending, these are Bibb and Pickens Counties.

Economic Summary

Appalachian Alabama's population in 2000 was over 2,837,224 with nearly 1,565,000 employed in full or part-time work, or self-employed. These counties account for 64 percent of total employment in the state, which is slightly higher than the Appalachian portion's population share of 63 percent. Manufacturing sectors lost nearly 6 percent of their employment over the 1996-2000 period, although manufacturing still accounts for 20 percent of all private employment. Nonetheless, job losses have been pronounced in the furniture and fixtures industries, lumber and wood products industries, and apparel and textiles. Job growth in the finance, insurance, and real estate sectors increased by 22.4 percent over the 1996-2000 period--a slightly faster pace than in the state as a whole. Overall, the service sector also posted higher job growth than the statewide average. Farm and mining employment registered declines as these sectors continued to retrench. Meanwhile, Appalachian Alabama has borne a disproportionate share of reductions in civilian and military federal employment in the state over the last several years.

The downturn in the current economy has had a tremendous negative impact on Appalachian Alabama. There have been numerous closing of companies and cutbacks and layoffs have increased tremendously due to the uncertainty of the economy. All sectors of employment have been affected. Unemployment rates have skyrocketed and have more than tripled in many of Alabama's Appalachian counties. (See Appendix II)

Program Initiatives Review

Summary of LDD Activities

Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments: The Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments serves District 1, which includes Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Marion and Winston counties. NACOLG participates in the workforce development program (Region 1-Workforce Council) which offers skills training to individuals in an effort to have a reliable and well trained workforce available for any industry desiring to locate in the region. With some counties in our region having unemployment figures as high as 16%, it is even more a priority to assist in the training or as it may be needed retraining of individuals to gain employment in career fields that individuals have perhaps not considered before. In particular, individuals in counties such as Franklin, Marion and Winston with very high unemployment figures were asked to participate in a financial seminar on April 29, 2009 to inform local elected officials, business owners and bank officials of some of the resources that could potentially assist them during this extremely difficult economic period. NACOLG, in connection with the University of North Alabama, Beville State Community College, Northwest Shoals Community College, the Southern Development Council, USDA Rural Development and SBA, gathered at this seminar to seek solutions to problems being experienced with businesses and municipalities.

The NACOLG revolving loan fund program remains an asset to businesses that we inform the public about continuously with programs such as the one mentioned above and with the aid of our representative informing banks of its value.

NACOLG continuously assists member governments and other organizations within its five-county region, in the planning and preparation of applications for ARC assistance. ARC funds are a vital resource for several local governments which have limited funds available to provide the much needed infrastructure as well as technological improvements to help their communities thrive in today's economy. In accordance with this members of the NACOLG staff attend ARC workshops to stay abreast of the application process.

The LDD sought funds from sources such as the Community Development Block Program, Economic Development Administration, USDA Rural Development, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Transportation and Special Appropriation and Federal Emergency Management Agency as well as any other sources that were available to provide local governments with their economic needs. NACOLG continues to assist these member governments in applying for grants to provide physical infrastructure such as water lines/water storage, sewer and road improvements. NACOLG resources were also used to assist local governments in applying for Land and Water Conservation Funds necessary to improve recreational programs for citizens in their communities. NACOLG also assisted local governmental entities in procuring grants which enabled them to assist local firms in the creation and retention of jobs. NACOLG continues to provide Technical Assistance to fire and rescue departments in the region applying for grants through the FEMA Fire Grant program.

By partnering with the Alabama Department of Transportation, NACOLG continues to facilitate meetings between local elected officials and citizens within the region in further developing the Northwest Alabama Rural Planning Organization.

As part of its planning process, NACOLG assisted its local governmental entities in completing master plans, comprehensive plans, tourism development plans, downtown revitalization plans, redistricting plans, hazard mitigation plans and homeland security plans. NACOLG proactively continues to provide assistance to local governments in seeking these funds.

West Alabama Regional Commission covers the Appalachian counties of Bibb, Fayette, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, and Tuscaloosa. The region also includes Greene County, a non-ARC county. In FY 2010 Hale County is the only distressed county in the region. Bibb and Pickens counties are at-risk; and Fayette and Tuscaloosa are transitional counties. Two of the ARC counties—Hale and Pickens—are also part of the Delta Regional Authority program.

Upgrading and expanding water and sewer infrastructure throughout the West Alabama region remains a top priority for the LDD. Providing these services in remote rural areas with sparse populations is a challenge for local governments and water and sewer authorities. Some water systems serve populations outside their political jurisdictions. In other instances, incorporated areas frequently annex areas, adding to the need for expansion of their systems. Repair of old, worn-out facilities with limited resources is a

major challenge for many parts of the region. Water and sewer projects during 2009 include Akron and Moundville in Hale County, Gordo and Carrollton in Pickens County, and Millport in Lamar County.

To assist local governments and their water authorities, the LDD began the second phase of a significant water system mapping project using Global Positioning System technology in Fayette and Lamar counties. WARC is contracting with the University of Alabama Cartographic Lab. WARC personnel are overseeing the project and conducting some of the field work as well. The project will cover five water systems in Fayette and six systems in Lamar County. The phase 1 project in Bibb, Hale and Pickens counties is being used as a model for the other regional councils in the state.

Rural transportation planning is another major on-going initiative for the LDD in 2009. WARC completed a Rural Planning Organization (RPO) pilot project for the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT). The pilot project resulted in a rural transportation planning program for West Alabama's six nonmetropolitan counties. The project is being used as a model for a rural transportation consultation process throughout the state.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires each county to develop a Hazard Mitigation Plan that identifies all natural hazards and strategies to lessen the impact that disasters have on people and property. The staff is working with officials in each county in the region to compile the necessary data and update existing plans.

An ARC-funded asset-based project is getting attention. WARC partnered with the Tuscaloosa Convention and Visitors Bureau to develop the project, i.e., a tourism DVD and website showcasing West Alabama's heritage tourism attractions. Copies of the DVD were distributed across the region and state. The website makes it possible for anyone with Internet access to take a virtual tour of West Alabama. The project is garnering very positive comments from people who have accessed the site.

Since the wrap-up of the ARC's Western Loop Tourism initiative local personnel have taken up the charge to develop a final product. Each of the counties in the project—Bibb, Hale and Tuscaloosa—has a point person to take the lead in following through on the previous work sponsored by ARC to strengthen local heritage trails and corridors for local economic benefit and develop a sustainable tourism product that will drive travelers and economic support into Bibb, Hale and Tuscaloosa counties.

The City of Fayette has been sponsoring an ARC-funded countywide leadership project for both youth and adults with plans to continue the project through corporate sponsorships. Participation has been very good throughout the multi-year project that has included a range of activities and programs.

Other priorities in 2009 include Governor Bob Riley's Alabama Rural Action Commission and the Black Belt Action Commission. The Alabama Rural Action Commission (ARAC) focuses on measurably improving health care, education, economic

development and workforce development in rural areas. The West Alabama region makes up one of the eight ARAC regions.

The West Alabama Regional Commission's involvement in the Black Belt Action Commission is focused on managing the communications, families, education, and small business development committees. The families and small business development committees are beginning to seek joint committee projects as are the communications and education committees. Black Belt counties in the West Alabama ARC region are Hale and Pickens. The committees extend beyond regional lines with members representing counties across the Black Belt area of the state.

Early education is a major focus around the state. The Hale County Board of Education has applied for ARC and state funding for a second HIPPIY program (Home Instruction for Parents of Pre-school Youngsters) while winding up a very successful first effort. Studies indicate that the high school drop-out rate is significantly reduced when children start their formal education prior to kindergarten. Individuals trained as home visitors are working with parents in over 50 homes, teaching them how to be their children's first teacher.

The most recent telecommunication effort in West Alabama is sponsored by the Fayette County Board of Education. They are developing a project to increase accessibility to resources outside of Fayette County to enhance learning experiences through the use of Wi-Max technologies.

Inquiries regarding the various stimulus funds have started to come in to the WARC staff. As guidelines are published and procedures for making application become available, the staff provides this new information upon request.

Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham: (Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, St. Clair, Shelby and Walker Counties) are served by the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham. This LDD continues to assist its local governments with planning, technical assistance, and implementation.

There are two funding programs that serve the RPCGB member communities as subsidies for planning and technical services. First, the Community Planning Assistance Grant Program provides up to fifty percent of total project cost to make planning projects more affordable. This program is primarily geared towards the smaller and rural municipalities in the region. The goals of the program are to (1) provide local governments in the RPCGB region with affordable, comprehensive community planning services; (2) increase the number of community planning projects in non-urban RPCGB counties, and (3) identify candidate projects for implementation assistance through RPCGB's economic development program.

The second program is the Building Communities Program. Primarily funded by transportation dollars, this program provides affordable planning and technical solutions for the intelligent design and adaptation of community infrastructure in order to best serve residents. Programmatic goals are:

Goal 1: Economic Development

To achieve a growing and balanced economy.

Goal 2: Land Use, Transportation and Community Facilities and Services

To ensure the coordination of land use planning and transportation planning as well as the provision of community facilities and services throughout the region in support of efficient growth and development patterns.

Goal 3: Housing

To ensure that all residents of the Greater Birmingham region have access to adequate and affordable housing

Goal 4: Natural and Cultural Resources

To conserve and protect the environmental, natural and cultural resources of the Greater Birmingham region's communities consistent with or above the efforts of the State of Alabama

Goal 5: Intergovernmental Coordination

To ensure the coordination of local planning efforts with other local service providers and authorities, with neighboring communities and with state and regional plans and programs.

With the support of these funding programs and community contracts, the planning staff continues to help communities with downtown revitalization planning, strategic planning, master plans, neighborhood plans, and implementation tools like zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations.

The economic development staff continues to support communities with its revolving loan fund program, small business assistance, grant assistance and management, and the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), and supporting the regional development goals, which are:

- To foster regional cooperation.
- To develop and maintain a strong, competitive workforce.
- To promote relationships among the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.
- To establish a well-connected, accessible, multi-modal highway, freight and public transportation network.
- To provide optimal infrastructure in order to support current industries as well as attract new industries.
- To market and improve regional assets.
- To cultivate a competitive, attractive quality of life.

The revolving loan fund has been cycled through twice with a total of over \$2,000,000 having been loaned out. The staff provides small business assistance by linking businesses with banks and taking on the role of liaison to the Small Business Administration (SBA) because the local Small Business Development Center (SBDC) was terminated in September 2008. The staff continues to provide its member governments with assistance in matching funding needs with sources and managing reporting during and after project completion.

The economic development staff has also taken the initiative to move its CEDS to an interactive document by making the data and projects required available on the new RPCGB Economic Development web site.

RPCGB provides outreach to its rural communities through the Heart of Alabama Rural Planning Organization (HARPO). This organization helps to facilitate the identification and prioritization of rural needs throughout the region through quarterly meetings held in each of the four rural counties, which are Blount, Chilton, St. Clair, and Walker Counties.

RPCGB also provides comprehensive data and mapping services. RPCGB provides traffic modeling, data forecasting, demographics and demographic estimates, redistricting, zoning, and fulfills various mapping needs.

East Alabama Regional Planning & Development Commission: (Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, Coosa, Etowah, Randolph, Talladega, and Tallapoosa Counties) are served by the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission (EARPDC). EARPDC continued to increase leadership and administrative capabilities of local government officials through training seminars held periodically in association with the monthly meetings of the EAC Board of Directors. EARPDC also encouraged local officials, staff, and boards to participate in statewide conferences and training sessions by mailing brochures to its mailing list. EARPDC also maintains a website with similar information.

EARPDC has pursued every opportunity to offset the cost of improving the water, sewer and road systems in the region. ARC, CDBG and EDA grants were awarded to local governments to provide infrastructure improvements; EARPDC will continue to pursue grant opportunities in the future. The LDD is scheduled to begin a water system inventory of the region on a county-by-county basis, producing GIS maps showing each system's water lines, sources, and storage facilities. This is part of a state initiative to map all of Alabama's water systems. At least two counties in the LDD will be mapped each year. In Region 4, a grant application has been submitted to the ARC for mapping projects in Cherokee and Randolph Counties.

The LDD continued to pursue grant opportunities to improve infrastructure to brownfield areas as well as greenfield areas. Two closed military installations within the region have been turned over to their respective local communities within the last few years, and intensive efforts are underway to create as many jobs as possible through the redevelopment of these properties. Both installations will be redeveloped using mixed land uses including industrial, a wildlife preservation, recreational, residential, and commercial uses. At the installation in Calhoun County, McClellan Properties, grants were acquired to improve the wastewater treatment plant to support future development on the Properties. 950 acres have been designated at McClellan as an industrial park. Currently, a state grant has been obtained to aid in constructing an industrial access road from the Eastern Parkway to Bain's Gap Road, but additional funding is still required before this project's northern stage can be completed, linking it to State Route 21 and

providing full circulation. In addition, the Eastern Parkway (connection from McClellan to Interstate 20) must be completed before full development of the industrial park will become feasible. \$35 million has been pledged for this project from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, but another \$10 million will be required to fully complete it.

In preparation for the closing of Fort McClellan, grants were obtained to aid in the establishment of a small business incubator, which opened in 1998. The incubator, as of January 2009, has been in operation for 11 years. Twelve companies have successfully graduated from the facility; ten start-ups now occupy the facility. As of the end of 2005, over 285 direct jobs and 350 indirect jobs had been created by the incubator businesses. Annual wages amounted to over \$7.5 million in 2005; annual revenues were calculated at \$23 million. In 2004, nearly \$1 million in city sales taxes and another \$1 million in state taxes were generated by the incubator's businesses.

In Childersburg, the redevelopment of a closed army base is proceeding. The Childersburg Industrial Park consists of 2,100 acres on property once used as a munitions factory. The site has been environmentally cleaned up, and development is slowly progressing. Previously, only 1 company had located here, but in the summer of 2005, Nippon Oil, LTD announced it would build a new lubricants production facility in the Park. This is Nippon Oil's first manufacturing facility in the U.S. Both ARC and CDBG grants were obtained for this project, in order to deliver sewer infrastructure to the site.. This project has created 28 highly paid new jobs, and projects more jobs for the future. As an added bonus, the infrastructure brought to the industrial park because of this project will serve to promote the development of the entire 2,100 acre park.

With three major automotive manufacturers and the new Kia plant to be built just across the Georgia border, Alabama has become an attractive place for automotive suppliers to locate. New supplier plants have located recently in Talladega, Coosa, Tallapoosa and Chambers counties.

At William Thweet Industrial Park near Dadeville (Tallapoosa County), KwangSung America constructed a 70,000 sq. ft. facility employing 150 workers. The facility is an automotive supplier to Hyundai near Montgomery, and well as to the new Kia plant being built in near-by Georgia.

The Cusseta Industrial Park in Chambers County was able to expand in 2007 with the aid of federal grants, so that it could accommodate automotive suppliers predicted to move to the area in support of Georgia's new Kia plant. To date, four companies have built new facilities there, investing \$137 million and creating 883 jobs. This is an important boon to an area that suffered great losses when its textile industries moved offshore.

The Randolph County Industrial Development Board has recently acquired 70 acres for use as an industrial park. The Board is currently seeking funding to prepare the acreage in anticipation of more automotive suppliers moving into the area.

The largest and most far-reaching activity within the East Alabama region is the infrastructure expansion in the City of Lincoln (Talladega County) in response to Honda’s decision to locate its new plant nearby. A package of federal and state grants was assembled to upgrade the roads, water, and wastewater treatment facilities. These facilities will not only benefit the Honda plant, but will also accommodate the expected growth within Lincoln itself. The plant began operation in late 2001 with a projection of 1,500 workers. Since then, several expansions have been implemented. Current employment stands at 4,500, with a cumulative investment from Honda of \$1.3 billion. Gulf Shores Assembly (wheel assembler) opened a plant on the Honda campus in 2008, employing 48. In response to the location of a new Honda plant in Alabama, many Honda suppliers have elected to locate throughout the state, creating hundreds of additional new jobs. Honda has had a significant impact on the area. In Talladega County, the per capita income has risen from \$19,014 in 1999 to \$28,102 in 2006.

In Etowah County, Gadsden has acquired funding to improve the infrastructure serving the industrial area near the airport. This project was spurred by the decisions made by Keystone Foods and Southern Cold Storage, both food industry companies, to locate in this area. Together these two companies will invest \$127 million, creating 170 new jobs, and retaining 520.

South Central Alabama Development Commission: (Bullock, Butler, Crenshaw, Lowndes, Macon, Montgomery, and Pike Counties). Served by the South Central Alabama Development Commission, Macon County is the only Appalachian county in Local Development District 5. This county of 22,810 (2005 est.) persons is also an ARC designated “distressed” county. Plagued by higher than average unemployment, high family poverty, and low per capita income rates, Macon County has undergone and is experiencing efforts to remedy these troubling figures. During FY 2009, many projects received and continued to receive ARC support and funding. Each of these projects came about as a result of implementing the goals and objectives identified in the State’s Annual Strategy Statement, as well as other local plans and strategies. Specific projects for Macon County included the following:

Community	Project Description	Estimated Budget	Project Status
Macon County	Provide coordination between utility systems to implement the Macon County Utility Plan.	SCADC	ongoing
Macon County	Prepare an updated Hazard Mitigation Plan Phase II.	\$26,955	pending FEMA approval
Macon County	Survey & digitize county water system infrastructure for statewide GIS database.	\$87,500	survey coordination
Notasulga	Water Upgrades/Street & Drainage	\$446,800	Request for Proposals (engineering)
Notasulga	Extend town’s water line to Wire Rd interstate 85 Exit for economic	\$250,000	pending approval

	development.		
Shorter	Sewer extension to serve residential and commercial customers.	\$1,200,000	administration
Tuskegee	Conduct study to document national historic value of the Tuskegee VA Hospital.	SCADC	project development
Tuskegee	Survey & digitize water & sewer infrastructure for a GIS database.	\$119,863	administration

In addition to the above projects, SCADC continued to provide quarterly and annual reports and plan updates on behalf of Macon County for technical assistance funding received by the Alabama Department of economic & Community Affairs, Appalachian Regional Commission and the Economic Development Commission. Furthermore, SCADC's statewide planning initiatives and ongoing regional programs also benefit Macon County as a whole. Some of these programs and activities are listed below:

Community	Project/Program	Estimated Budget	Project/Program Status
STATEWIDE	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Plan (SCORP) update	\$50,000	plan development
STATEWIDE	Consolidated Economic Development Strategy & Marketing Brochure	\$12,500	plan development
STATEWIDE	State of Alabama Trails Plan	\$63,000	plan development
SCADC REGION	Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)	\$1 Mill	ongoing
SCADC REGION	Synchronist Program	SCADC	ongoing
SCADC REGION	AL Black Belt Commission	\$35,000	ongoing
SCADC REGION	RPO Consultation 08-09	\$62,500	plan development
SCADC REGION	Census PSAP Program	SCADC	mapping development
SCADC REGION	Alabama State Data Center Affiliate	SCADC	ongoing
SCADC REGION	Retail Trade and Development Initiative	SCADC	plan development

Central Alabama Regional Planning & Development Commission: (Autauga, Elmore and Montgomery Counties). Of the three counties served by CARPDC, Elmore is the only county classified as Appalachian. CARPDC has preformed the following services for Elmore County and its seven municipalities.

- ◆ **Coosada**- Planning services and technical assistance with zoning and sub-division issues, written new Nuisance and Pool Ordinances, and established Tree Commission.
- ◆ **Deatsville** – Planning services and technical assistance with land use and grant programs
- ◆ **Eclectic** – CDBG implementation for a Senior Center, services and technical assistance with zoning issues, and assisted with ordinance interpretations.
- ◆ **Elmore (Town of)** –Assisted with annexation process, Planning services and technical assistance with zoning and sub-division issues, grant assistance, and assisted with ordinance interpretations.
- ◆ **Elmore County** –Completed Comprehensive Planning process, technical assistance to the County EMA and Economic Development Authority, and grant assistance.
- ◆ **Millbrook** – Subdivision Regulations assist with annexation process, Zoning Ordinance, assisted with the development of a Tree Ordinance and Commission and provided training and technical assistance.
- ◆ **Tallassee** – Updated Base Maps, developed subdivision regulations and zoning ordinances, administered two (2) Industrial Access Grants and two (2) Economic Development CDGBs, assisted in re-establishing Tree commission, two (2) Tree Grants and provided technical assistance and training.
- ◆ **Wetumpka** – Update base maps, updated Zoning Map, implemented Transportation Enhancement Project Wetumpka River-walk and provided technical assistance and training.

North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments: (Cullman, Lawrence, and Morgan Counties) are served by the North-Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments (NACOLG). NACOLG continues to serve governmental entities of District 1 by working to improve the economic quality of life in the region. NACOLG participates in the workforce development program which offers skills training to individuals in an effort to have a reliable and well trained workforce available for any industry desiring to locate in the region. NACOLG is partnering with Haleyville Technology Center and Beville State Community College to offer the training. Additionally, NACOLG continues to work with the Small Business Development Center in promoting the Revolving Loan Fund Program. A representative markets the NACOLG RLF program to financial institutions within the five-county area to increase knowledge of the program and its availability to companies desiring to create or retain jobs in the region. The LDD has made 40 loans totaling \$3,180,804 and leveraged private dollars of \$1,839,839. These loans have been instrumental in retaining or creating over 700 jobs in the area.

NACOLG assists member governments and other organizations within its five-county region, in the planning and preparation of applications for ARC assistance. In accordance with this members of the NACOLG staff attend ARC workshops to stay abreast of the application process.

The LDD continues to seek funds from sources such as the Community Development Block Program, Economic Development Administration, USDA Rural Development, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Transportation and Special Appropriation and Federal Emergency Management Agency as well as any other source that may come available to assist local governments. NACOLG continues to assist these member governments in applying for grants to provide physical infrastructure such as water lines/water storage, sewer and road improvements. NACOLG also assists local governments in applying for Land and Water Conservation Funds to secure funding necessary to improve recreational programs for citizens in their communities. NACOLG also assisted local governmental entities in procuring grants which enabled them to assist local firms in the creation and retention of jobs. NACOLG will again provide Grant and Technical Assistance to fire and rescue departments in the region applying for grants through the FEMA Fire Grant program.

NACOLG in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Transportation has begun the Northwest Alabama Rural Planning Organization to help facilitate meetings between local elected officials and the citizens within the region.

As part of its planning process, NACOLG assisted its local governmental entities in completing master plans, comprehensive plans, tourism development plans, downtown revitalization plans, redistricting plans, hazard mitigation plans and homeland security plans. NACOLG continues to provide assistance to local governments in seeking these funds.

Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments: (DeKalb, Jackson, Limestone, Madison, and Marshall Counties) are served by the Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments (TARCOG). During FY2009, a variety of major impact/opportunity issues dominated the regional economic potential.

On the negative side: 1) Ongoing imports and foreign trade imbalances in textiles and apparel markets continued to create unemployment issues that threaten final dislocation in these traditional mainstay entry-level job markets in DeKalb and Jackson County; and 2) the national economic and credit market slump, fueled by the housing, banking and automotive crisis', spilled over locally in the form of significant job losses; and, 3) in the second quarter of the year, a series of tornados cut a swath through DeKalb, Jackson and Marshall counties, leaving over \$10M in documented utility damages and scores of, still to be quantified, commercial and residential losses.

On the positive side, military consolidation programs under BRAC and the ongoing expansion of biomedical research in Huntsville/Madison County continue. These efforts have an estimated potential area employment of over 10,000 direct and spin-off jobs over the five year period from 2008-2013. The economic impact of this influx is expected to flow from the local area, following area transportation arterials, and impact Jackson, Limestone and Marshall Counties significantly. Additionally, the national reaffirmation of a nuclear alternative energy policy contains two reactor (authorized, but as yet unfunded) projects that target the mothballed TVA Bellefonte facility in Jackson County.

This project, when funded, also represents a high immediate construction job potential for residents of bordering DeKalb County.

During the 2009 program year, the LDD pursued the following efforts/actions to address these threats and help capitalize on opportunities, and to utilize the District's resources to increase the job attractive assets of quality of life for the area's citizens.

The LDD also responded to State and Federal calls to help assemble, categorize and prioritize local "fast-track/shovel ready" infrastructure/construction projects designed to provide anti-recession economic and employment stimulation. In addition, TARCOG served as the interactive catalyst in updating and revising the Region's CEDS projects listing and goals to include the projects generated from the 2009 economic stimulus project call. TARCOG initiated first elements (DeKalb & Jackson County) of the State's water system mapping project as well as provided TA assistance to local governments for the 2010 Census.

TARCOG continued the Rural Transportation Planning Program (RPO) for the District, developing into the second year of a full, ongoing multi-year coordinated Program effort. By creating an environment where efficient transportation linkages promote industrial growth cluster patterns that help to manage rising fuel/energy costs, this initiative has a high potential for insuring the District will gain an additional vital marketing advantage, and induce future economic growth.

Supported economic infrastructure projects - with continued emphasis on:

- 1) DeKalb County/Fort Payne's need for wastewater and related infrastructure upgrades to promote jobs development to replace those impacted in the textile sector;
- 2) Jackson County/Scottsboro, with spec industrial park development; and the ongoing development of their recreational/tourism economic assets; and plans to develop a medical and area hospital complex at Bridgeport.
- 3) Performed assessments of the town centers of six small communities within the region; completed major planning efforts for Valley Head, Owens Cross Roads, and Gurley; and, provided zoning assistance to the City of Guntersville.
- 4) Continued to support projects designed to capitalize on the "Growth Center" jobs creation and retention potential in the Huntsville/Madison County area - with emphasis on support to BRAC and biomedical research activities.
- 5) Continued Agency RLF program/portfolio expansion efforts, and considered proposals for the expansion of the program to extend pilot programs into nontraditional economic stimulation activities such as downtown redevelopment. Additionally, guidelines were developed for the Board to add a microloan element.
- 6) Maintained support of USDA Community Facilities Loan Program applications.

Acting in consort with, and through the Alabama Association of Regional Councils and the Economic Development Association, TARCOG provided the coordination, and regional input to incorporate the twelve (12) state planning district's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies into an updated 2009-2010 unified State Strategic Plan. In 2009, TARCOG, through ADEM, undertook additional Sub-Watershed & Water

Quality Monitoring study project in DeKalb County. The Agency continued this program through 2009, and added additional tributary/watershed study areas.

Ongoing staff efforts carried forward from 2008 included: technical assistance and grant administration support for the vital T-21/T, EDA, LWCF, RTP, CDBG, LETS/COPS, FEMA/FIRE, and other Grant Programs.

Strategies for Appalachian Alabama

Strategic Goals

One of the key differences between ARC and other federal institutions is in the discretion given to the 13 states in determining how their allocated funds will be spent. Funds must be spent in accordance with ARC guidelines, on projects benefiting those counties designated as a part of the Appalachian Regional Commission's service area, and must meet at least one of ARC's four strategic goals and Alabama's state objectives. Specific strategies the State of Alabama may pursue to achieve our development goals are set forth below:

ARC Goal One: Increase job opportunities and per capita income in Appalachia to reach parity with the nation.

Strategic Objective 1.1: Foster Civic Entrepreneurship

State Strategy 1.1.1: Support training programs to increase the proficiency of business development practitioners, economic development officials, and international trade professionals.

State Strategy 1.1.2: Encourage local and regional initiatives that assist communities in developing plans for more efficient and sustainable use of energy.

State Strategy 1.1.3: Support local efforts to form partnerships, both short-term and long-term, between local governments, nonprofit community-based groups, and private businesses for economic and community improvement.

Strategic Objective 1.2: Diversify the Economic Base

State Strategy 1.2.1: Provide capital funding for the development and expansion of small business incubators.

State Strategy 1.2.2: Encourage and support revolving loan fund capitalization efforts for Local Development Districts.

State Strategy 1.2.3: Support efforts to improve access to capital for small and medium-sized businesses.

State Strategy 1.2.4: Promote job creation through investment in the development of renewable energy resources throughout Appalachian Alabama.

Strategic Objective 1.3: Enhance Entrepreneurial Activity in the Region

State Strategy 1.3.1: Provide support from programs that seek to establish an entrepreneurial climate throughout Appalachian Alabama.

State Strategy 1.3.2: Support programs and initiatives that provide training, assistance, and other resources to entrepreneurs for the creation and expansion of local businesses.

State Strategy 1.3.3: Support programs that encourage and teach youth entrepreneurship.

Strategic Objective 1.4: Develop and Strengthen Strategic Assets for Local Economies

State Strategy 1.4.1: Support local efforts to develop and enhance the assets of Appalachian Alabama to increase the level of domestic and international visitation.

State Strategy 1.4.2: Support infrastructure development to increase tourism, based on the economic impact of the development.

State Strategy 1.4.3: Support training programs and workshops on tourism development for local areas.

State Strategy 1.4.4: Support the development, production, and use of local assets for the energy needs of Appalachian Alabama.

Strategic Objective 1.5: Increase the Domestic and Global Competitiveness of the Existing Economic Base

State Strategy 1.5.1: Support programs that will increase goods and services exported from Appalachian Alabama.

State Strategy 1.5.2: Encourage the use of e-commerce applications by small and medium-sized enterprises to improve their supply, manufacturing, and distribution chains

State Strategy 1.5.3: Support initiatives that promote increased foreign direct investment in Appalachian Alabama.

State Strategy 1.5.4: Support technical assistance to businesses and organizations for achievement of operational efficiencies through energy conservation.

ARC Goal Two: Strengthen the capacity of the people of Appalachia to compete in the global economy.

Strategic Objective 2.1: Foster Civic Entrepreneurship

State Strategy 2.1.1: Support youth leadership development efforts through leadership training, experience-based education programs, apprenticeships, youth-operated enterprises, and cooperative education activities.

State Strategy 2.1.2: Support efforts to establish ongoing local leadership training programs.

Strategic Objective 2.2: Enhance Workforce Skills through Training

State Strategy 2.2.1: Strengthen programs that provide basic skills and workforce training to increase employee capabilities, improve job skills, and upgrade marketable skills.

State Strategy 2.2.2: Support workforce readiness programs that provide skills necessary to acquire jobs.

State Strategy 2.2.3: Strengthen basic skills programs in the public school system and establish specific competency requirements.

State Strategy 2.2.4: Support programs and mobilize resources to increase adult literacy.

State Strategy 2.2.5: Support programs and initiatives that provide for career planning and placement.

State Strategy 2.2.6: Strengthen programs that provide or enhance science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workforce training to increase employee capabilities, improve job skills, and upgrade marketable skills.

State Strategy 2.2.7: Support the planning and development of Regional Skills Alliances (RSAs) that provide workforce training for established industry clusters.

Strategic Objective 2.3: Increase Access to Quality Child Care and Early Childhood Education

State Strategy 2.3.1: Support initiatives that provide opportunities for a quality preschool experience through parent support programs, quality childcare and preschool programs.

State Strategy 2.3.2: Assist communities in developing programs and services for families and caregivers of young children that will ensure that all children are healthy and prepared to succeed in school.

State Strategy 2.3.3: Support educational programs in K-12 that will expand and improve current programs.

State Strategy 2.3.4: Support programs that improve teacher quality by increasing professional development programs.

State Strategy 2.3.5: Support programs that will expand the use of telecommunications in education, especially K-12.

State Strategy 2.3.6: Support initiatives that will provide technical assistance to communities on long-term financing, and resource identification for the continuation of exceptional programs.

State Strategy 2.3.7: Support initiatives that will help parents and caregivers learn positive skills to help them meet the physical, intellectual, social, and emotional needs of all children.

Strategic Objective 2.4: Increase Educational Attainment and Achievement

State Strategy 2.4.1: Support initiatives that promote lifelong learning.

State Strategy 2.4.2: Support programs that reduce the school dropout rate in our Appalachian counties to equal or better than the national average.

State Strategy 2.4.3: Utilize telecommunications, computers, and other technological capabilities to deliver education and training programs.

State Strategy 2.4.4: Strengthen programs that provide or enhance science, technology, engineering and mathematics training to increase employee capabilities, improve job skills, and upgrade marketable skills.

State Strategy 2.4.5: Continue to improve public education through the implementation of statewide reforms.

Strategic Objective 2.5: Provide Access to Health-Care Professionals

State Strategy 2.5.1: Support educational programs that train health-care professionals who will locate in Appalachian Alabama.

State Strategy 2.5.2: Support programs to provide primary health care to Appalachian citizens.

Strategic Objective 2.6: Promote Health through Wellness and Prevention

State Strategy 2.6.1: Bring the infant mortality rate into parity with the nation.

State Strategy 2.6.2: Support programs to strengthen prenatal and neonatal health care and to provide education programs to reduce the infant mortality rates.

State Strategy 2.6.3: Support programs to prevent teen pregnancy.

State Strategy 2.6.4: Support projects that expand access to health services through telemedicine applications.

ARC Goal Three: Develop and improve Appalachia's infrastructure to make the Region economically competitive.

Strategic Objective 3.1: Foster Civic Entrepreneurship

State Strategy 3.1.1: Encourage local leaders to explore innovative, cost-effective arrangements for delivery of services, including service consolidations.

State Strategy 3.1.2: Provide training, consultation, and financial support for local leaders and organizations to build capacity to address infrastructure challenges.

State Strategy 3.1.3: Leverage partnerships and regional efforts to enhance the energy efficiency of the Region's infrastructure investments.

State Strategy 3.1.4: Support the utilization of high-quality geospatial data for use in planning infrastructure improvements in Appalachian Alabama.

State Strategy 3.1.5: Promote the coordination of geospatial data gathering and sharing activities among public agencies across Appalachian Alabama.

State Strategy 3.1.6: Encourage adherence to National Spatial Data Infrastructure standards when developing geographic information systems.

State Strategy 3.1.7: Support strategic planning initiatives for local organizations and agencies to capitalize on economic development opportunities created by the Appalachian Development Highway System.

Strategic Objective 3.2: Build and Enhance Basic Infrastructure

State Strategy 3.2.1: Support job creation and retention by investing in water, sewer, site development, industrial access roads, and other physical infrastructure to serve new and expanding industrial and commercial development.

State Strategy 3.2.2: Pursuant to ARC's residential service policy, ensure public health, regulatory compliance, and economic opportunity by providing new and existing customers with safe drinking water. The State will give priority to water projects that serve areas with documented health hazards.

State Strategy 3.2.3: Pursuant to ARC's residential service policy, ensure public health, regulatory compliance, and economic development by providing new and existing customers with wastewater disposal and treatment services. The State will give priority to wastewater projects that serve areas with documented health hazards.

State Strategy 3.2.4: Support the development and construction of strategic community facilities that will enhance opportunities for job creation and retention.

State Strategy 3.2.5: Encourage and support the design and construction of energy-efficient public facilities.

Strategic Objective 3.3: Increase the Accessibility and Use of Telecommunications Technology

State Strategy 3.3.1: Support initiatives that implement Alabama's Strategic Plan for Telecommunications in Appalachia.

State Strategy 3.3.2: Support efforts to link new and existing telecommunication networks.

State Strategy 3.3.3: Support training in the public, private, and non-profit sectors in Appalachian Alabama in the use of new technologies and applications.

State Strategy 3.3.4: Support projects that will evaluate existing architecture, infrastructure and equipment or facilitate the development of new applications and networks.

State Strategy 3.3.5: Support projects that will assist in the development of architecture infrastructure and equipment for new networks.

State Strategy 3.3.6: Support promising and innovative telecommunications applications and programs.

State Strategy 3.3.7: Encourage strategic investment in telecommunications infrastructure, including the use of conduit for fiber optic cable in basic infrastructure projects, that increases local, regional, and global connectivity.

State Strategy 3.3.8: Develop "smart parks" with telecommunications infrastructure, which will meet the needs of information industries.

Strategic Objective 3.4: Build and Enhance Environmental Assets

State Strategy 3.4.1: Support programs to raise awareness and leverage support for the reclamation and reuse of brownfields properties in industrial areas and mine-impacted communities.

State Strategy 3.4.2: Encourage eco-industrial development that can responsibly take advantage of the Region's natural-resource assets.

State Strategy 3.4.3: Support regional planning and economic development policies and programs that promote good stewardship of the Region's natural resources.

State Strategy 3.4.4: Support programs that encourage planning for, and development of, healthy and livable communities.

Strategic Objective 3.5: Promote the Development of an Intermodal Transportation Network

State Strategy 3.5.1: Work with state and local partners to identify and develop intermodal transportation facilities.

State Strategy 3.5.2: Support programs to encourage the expanded use of existing intermodal facilities.

State Strategy 3.5.3: Extend rail spurs into industrial areas, with a priority on those that serve multiple sites.

ARC Goal Four: Build the Appalachian Development Highway System to reduce Appalachia's isolation.

Strategic Objective 4.1: Foster Civic Entrepreneurship

State Strategy 4.1.1: Encourage long-term strategic planning by local and regional leadership to take full advantage of the economic and community-building opportunities of the Appalachian Corridor Development.

State Strategy 4.1.2: Support local and multi-jurisdictional forums to promote communication and mutual understanding, and resolution of barriers to completion of the remaining ADHS miles.

Strategic Objective 4.2: Promote On-Schedule Completion of ADHS Corridors X and V

State Strategy 4.2.1: Support efforts to complete Corridor X.

State Strategy 4.2.2: Support efforts to complete Corridor V

State Strategy 4.2.3: Encourage the use of conduit for deployment of telecommunications technology.

Strategic Objective 4.3: Coordinate Work on ADHS State-Line Crossings

State Strategy 4.3.1: Encourage the coordination of technical information, funding disbursements, and construction scheduling between adjoining states to facilitate completion of state-line crossings of ADHS corridors.

Future Program Initiatives for FY2010

Available Funds

It is anticipated that ARC Alabama in FY10 will receive an amount similar to that of FY09. At this time, spending is expected to follow the historical trend from prior years, with spending allocated across all of ARC's goal areas.

Special Initiatives (Asset-Based Economic Development)

ARC's Federal Co-chair periodically singles out a special opportunity or strategy to complement the Commission's proven methods of increasing the economic attainment of the Region. These regional initiatives have historically focused on areas such as telecommunications, leadership development, international trade and entrepreneurship. A special initiative introduced during the fiscal 2005 funding cycle is specifically focusing on development of the Region's assets in a way that leverages what is unique to each local area, with the overall goal being the development of an environment where the creation of jobs and local wealth can occur alongside the preservation of the local character of the community.

In identifying the advantages of the Region as a whole, four broad opportunities for development become apparent. These opportunities involve the leveraging of cultural,

natural, community-based, and structural assets. Examples of development strategies based on these assets are given below.

- **Cultural** - Building *creative* economies by capitalizing on traditional arts, cultural heritage, and new and existing programs for attraction of visitors, both domestic and international, has paid off for a number of regions across Alabama and the Appalachian Region. These strategies have included creation of heritage trails, development of apprenticeship programs, use of traditional retail venues and electronic commerce to market indigenous products, and highlighting the Region's music and narrative traditions.
- **Natural** – Appalachian Alabama has long been known for its natural assets, and the gateway communities leading to them stand to benefit greatly from increased visitation and spending. A sustainable, asset-based development strategy for these natural resources maintains their character while allowing for greater enjoyment of outdoor activities such as fishing, camping, white-water rafting, and rock climbing. Specialized agricultural development, including the processing of specialty food items, fish farming, and organic farming adds value to an activity that has traditionally been a primary economic pursuit. Getting the most from the Region's productive hardwood forests by maximizing sustainable timber harvesting and value-added processing can create jobs and local wealth.
- **Leadership/Community** – It is often said that a community's greatest assets are its organizations and its residents, especially those that take leadership roles in helping the community thrive and prosper. A comprehensive asset-based strategy builds community capacity, encourages citizen involvement, and fosters collaboration among business, government, nonprofit, and philanthropic organizations to act as catalysts for community and economic development. Successful leadership/civic capacity projects allow a community to rise up to meet the increasing demands of growth and change.
- **Structural** - Appalachian communities can turn local liabilities into opportunities by focusing on strategies such as brownfield redevelopment, adaptive reuse of real estate, and downtown revitalization. Converting overlooked and underused facilities into industrial parks, business incubators, or educational facilities has shown positive results across Appalachia. Throughout the Region, communities and businesses are integrating development and management practices to leverage what they have—historic buildings, abandoned railroads, and old mines—to build and enhance economic vitality.

In short, asset-based development leverages what is unique to an area, playing to community strengths. By contrast, support for the strengthening of generic weaknesses in a region's economy does not fit well into an asset-based development framework.

Proposals for funding asset-based economic development projects must demonstrate that they will contribute to the achievement of the initiative's goal.

Special Initiatives (Telecommunications)

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) will seek to increase the use of technology, distance learning, telemedicine, video arraignment,

economic development, and other telecommunications within Appalachian Alabama. ARC funds will be used to develop a fiber optic backbone, where fiber is available at a reasonable cost, and will use other systems that are reasonable and available when fiber is not obtainable. Each system or network funded will include the necessary equipment to connect with other networks or systems.

ADECA will provide assistance in the design of the system and assist in writing open specifications, so that applicants will not have to rely on a particular vendor to both design and bid on a system. Technology training will be provided to teachers and technology coordinators whenever a system is installed. A list of vendors will be maintained in the Science, Technology and Energy Division of ADECA and will be provided to each applicant, with a disclaimer that no particular vendor is recommended and that all projects must be bid.

Special Initiatives (Energy Blueprint)

The Appalachian Regional Commission is currently developing an Energy Blueprint for the Region, which will provide a strategic framework for the Commission to promote new energy-related job opportunities by stimulating sustainable energy production efficiency and conservation efforts throughout the region. The blueprint will assess the current energy landscape and examine both non-renewable and renewable energy opportunities based on the competitive potential of Appalachia's energy resources and current and emerging energy technologies. The blueprint will identify the Appalachian Region's energy assets and the potential for developing energy-related job opportunities in the Region based on the competitive potential of these assets.

The ARC Energy Advisory Council, consisting of one Governor-appointed energy expert from each of the 13 Appalachian states will bring their expertise, ideas and experience and use this and other information gathered to develop regional energy strategies and identify opportunities to address the changing energy market environment. Four areas to be addressed will be: non-renewables, renewables, jobs and energy, and energy efficiency and conservation.

The energy sectors are:

I. Non-Renewables

A. Coal

1. coal gasification and liquefaction
2. carbon capture and sequestration research and development
3. mine-tailing clean-up and energy production

B. Oil

1. enhanced oil recovery methods
2. oil shale resources

C. Natural Gas (and natural gas recovery)

D. Hydrogen production from non-renewable sources

E. Market Dynamics and Environment Costs

II. Renewables

- A. Wind
- B. Solar
- C. Hydro
- D. Biomass/Biofuels
- E. Geothermal
- F. Waste to energy
- G. Hydrogen/Fuel cells
- H. Market Dynamics and Environmental Costs

III. Energy Efficiency

- A. Industry
- B. Residential
- C. Commercial
- D. Transportation
- E. Institutions

Special Initiatives (Other)

The State of Alabama will continue to participate in the ARC Export Trade Advisory Council (ETAC) and will support efforts to increase international trade and export development in Appalachian Alabama. The State will also assist in recruiting industries for trade expeditions and trade shows related to ETAC.

ARC Alabama will participate in the Flex-E-Grant Program for FY-2010 and through this program will continue to address technical assistance, leadership and civic capacity needs in Alabama's distressed counties.

Outreach

The ARC Program Manager conducts an open ARC Applications Workshop in July or August of each year. This workshop is an opportunity to distribute information about the Appalachian Regional Commission program, and to provide technical assistance in the submission of pre-applications and full applications. Pre-applications for ARC funding are taken the entire month of August.

Key LDD Initiatives (FY2010)

Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments: (Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Marion and Winston Counties) is served by the Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments (NACOLG). NACOLG, with the understanding of the competitiveness among limited federal sources, continues to sponsor activities that assist underserved, unemployed groups within the region with information to improve their economic quality of life. NACOLG will continue to publicize its State assisted and EDA RLF program in an effort to create jobs and reduce unemployment in the region. Adult education, family literacy, entrepreneurial development, asset based development and the promotion of heritage tourism sites will continue to be a major priority in District 1. The importance of broadband capabilities is paramount to our communities being able to communicate and compete in the global economy.

As the nation looks to efficient energy alternatives NACOLG is assisting several communities within our region with energy applications in an effort to assist them in solving challenges with more economic ways to harness resources and remain economically viable.

The MPO is currently finishing the Highway 72 Corridor Study with Gresham Smith and Partners. Staff will then began working with the municipalities along Highway 72 to implement the strategies and recommendations from the study.

The MPO is currently working on the 2035 Shoals Long Range Transportation Plan. The plan's objective is to identify, to the maximum extend feasible, the multi-modal transportation improvements which will be needed in the Shoals urban area over a 30 year planning horizon in order to maintain an acceptable level of mobility.

Specific projects planned for 2010 include: 1) The LDD will assist the City of Muscle Shoals, recipient of the EDA Performance Award from the Atlanta Region, with an application to further develop infrastructure at the Muscle Shoals Research Development Park which will assist in the possibility of more industry being able to locate in the park thus creating more jobs (2) The LDD will continue to assist other local municipalities with providing needed infrastructure and mapping necessary to promote their industrial parks within the region. These industrial parks are in close proximity to the Toyota plant in Tupelo, Mississippi which potentially will help these communities obtain Tier 1 and Tier 2 automotive industries who although the automotive sector is experiencing extreme difficulties continues to be a potential source of jobs in the future; (3) The LDD is in the process of updated Hazard Mitigation Plans for the counties of Colbert, Franklin, Winston and Marion (4) The LDD continues as workforce development advisory chair for this area in determining available workforce for businesses and industries. (5) The program for preventive health maintenance for Seniors in cooperation with Beville State Community College and UNA School of Nursing will continue this period; and (6) The LDD will prepare planning applications and Community Development applications for several municipalities during this next year and help all the municipalities with any possible projects that may develop from funds through the federal government's stimulus funds.

West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC): Appalachian counties of Bibb, Fayette, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, and Tuscaloosa and non-ARC Greene County. In FY 2010 Hale County will remain the only distressed county in West Alabama. Bibb and Pickens counties will remain at risk. Lamar will move from at risk to transitional. Fayette and Tuscaloosa counties remain transitional.

Many of the priorities in 2009 will continue to be among WARC's initiatives in 2010 including infrastructure, leadership programs, tourism development, education and telecommunication. The LDD will also seek opportunities for development of energy conservation projects.

Priorities for 2010 include continuation of the use of the Global Positioning System (GPS) to map water systems in Fayette and Lamar counties.

Work on the Alabama Rural Action Commission and the Black Belt Action Commission will continue as the region addresses the mission of both organizations, that of improving the quality of life for the citizens of Alabama.

The LDD will continue to be a partner with the Tuscaloosa Convention and Visitors Bureau and representatives in Bibb and Hale counties to develop a tourism product to attract visitors to Bibb, Hale and Tuscaloosa counties.

Small, rural communities are more frequently desiring to provide amenities for their citizens that mirror those in larger, more metropolitan areas such as community-based organizations, youth activities, community centers, etc. The LDD will assist any West Alabama community that is capable of sustaining not only basic infrastructure but also facilities and activities focused on perpetuating desirable, small town lifestyles.

A major new development is taking place in Pickens County with the groundbreaking for a medium security federal prison for women near Aliceville. As opportunities develop for infrastructure and for commercial operations that will serve the prison, the LDD is ready to partner with the city and county in developing funding proposals.

Rural transportation planning will remain a priority. This process has engendered a better relationship between rural local governments and the Alabama Department of Transportation.

The LDD plans to continue efforts to help develop telecommunications and Internet access in rural areas. The need is great as are the physical impediments such as hilly terrain and forest lands. The greatest impediment is the cost of bringing these facilities to rural residents.

The LDD continues its interest in education although on a limited scale because other agencies such as boards of education and the State Department of Education are tasked solely with improving education throughout the state. Addressing the problem of school drop-outs years before it becomes an issue, such as through the aforementioned HIPPI program for three- and four-year-olds, is a very plausible means to reducing the drop-out rates.

WARC's attention will also be focused on recreation facilities, walking trails, streetscapes and community facilities throughout the region. Other initiatives will address firefighting facilities and equipment for local fire departments and emergency preparedness activities in West Alabama's communities.

Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (RPCGB): (Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, St. Clair, Shelby and Walker Counties) are served by the Regional Planning

Commission of Greater Birmingham. The RPCGB will continue to pursue many of the priorities from the past years. However, in 2009 there are many new initiatives:

- RPCGB will push to promote the success of local incubators and the potential for new incubators.
- RPCGB will assist the Fairfield Culinary Incubator in attaining funding for its completion. Staff will also kick off a Regional Incubator Study in order to identify ideal situations throughout the region in which an incubator could flourish.
- RPCGB will continue assist its communities in the pursuit of providing adequate and up-to-date infrastructure for growth.
- RPCGB will assist a new round of communities with Community Planning Assistance and Building Communities Grants.
- RPCGB will assist those who are previous recipients of Community Planning Assistance and Building Communities Grants in implementing projects deemed important and necessary to each community in the planning process.
- RPCGB will continue to act as the administrative agency for Governor Riley's Region 4 Workforce Development Council in order to cultivate a strong and prepared workforce for the region.
- RPCGB will remain active in the Alabama Rural Action Commission and assist in transportation and economic development related needs.
- RPCGB will continue to provide optimal small business assistance by taking on the role of host to the Senior Corp of Retired Executives (SCORE) and acting as a liaison to the Small Business Administration (SBA).
- RPCGB will promote its region and its potential as an economic development hub for the Southeast by conducting an Intermodal Study with the assistance of the University of Alabama at Huntsville and Alabama State Representative Roderick Scott of the 55th District.

East Alabama Regional Planning & Development Commission: (Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, Coosa, Etowah, Randolph, Talladega, and Tallapoosa Counties) are served by the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission (EARPDC). The following are the key initiatives for FY2010:

- EARPDC continues to support the development of infrastructure at its communities' industrial parks. In particular, with the announcement of a Kia automotive plant locating in western Georgia, development has been spurred in Chambers, Randolph, and Tallapoosa Counties.
- EARPDC will continue to work closely with the Governor's Office of Workforce Development to facilitate the workforce development effort in East Alabama.
- EARPDC will continue to facilitate the Alabama Rural Action Commission's effort in East Alabama, as a tool to enhance the region's assets in health, education, tourism and culture, and economic development.

- The City of Childersburg has been selected as a participant in the Alabama Communities of Excellence. EARPDC will support Childersburg throughout this process.
- Community Development, planning, transportation and emergency management will continue to be priorities with EARPDC.

South Central Alabama Development Commission: (Bullock, Butler, Crenshaw, Lowndes, Macon, and Pike Counties). With the assistance of SCADC, Macon County and its municipalities will continue to implement the projects referenced in FY 2009. The county and the towns will also continue to identify and develop projects for future consideration that will meet or exceed the State’s ARC goals and objectives. Broad goals have been recognized at the county and municipal levels that complement the ARC goals, which will assist in driving project identification and development. Priority objectives for FY 2010 include the specific projects and ongoing regional and statewide initiatives identified in the aforementioned section.

1. Provide coordination between utility systems to implement the Macon County Utility Plan.
2. Prepare an updated Hazard Mitigation Plan Phase II.
3. Survey & digitize county water system infrastructure for statewide GIS database.
4. Implement water upgrades and street and drainage improvements.
5. Provide water service to Interstate 85 for economic development.
6. Sewer extension to serve residential and commercial customers.
7. Conduct study to document national historic value of the Tuskegee VA Hospital.
8. Survey & digitize water & sewer infrastructure for a GIS database.
9. Develop Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Plan (SCORP) update
10. Prepare a Consolidated Economic Development Strategy & Marketing Brochure.
11. Complete the State of Alabama Trails Plan.
12. Continue to administer Revolving Loan Fund (RLF).
13. Continue to provide support for the Synchronist Program.
14. Continue to provide technical assistance to the AL Black Belt Commission.
15. Develop the RPO Consultation for 2009.
16. Assist communities with the Census PSAP Program.
17. Continue activities as the regional Alabama State Data Center Affiliate.
18. Develop and promote a Retail Trade and Development Initiative for each county within the region.

Central Alabama Regional Planning & Development Commission: (Autauga, Elmore and Montgomery Counties). The Central Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission (CARPDC) FY2010 activities for Elmore County will consist of the following:

- ◆ *Coosada*- Planning services and technical assistance with zoning and subdivision issues, and Land and Water Conservation Grant Application.

- ◆ *Deatsville* – Planning services and technical assistance with land use and Hazard Mitigation project.
- ◆ *Eclectic* – Planning services and technical assistance with zoning issues, and assisted with ordinance interpretations.
- ◆ *Elmore (Town of)* –Assisted with annexation process, grant assistance (Land and Water Conservation Grant Application and Transportation Enhancement), planning services and technical assistance with zoning and sub-division issues and assisted with ordinance interpretations.
- ◆ *Elmore County* –Completed Comprehensive Planning process, technical assistance to the County Emergency Management Administration and Economic Development Authority, Water Infrastructure Study, Land Use Patterns verse Water Quality Central Elmore County, Transportation Planning (Rural Transportation Organization (RPO)*) and grant assistance.
- ◆ *Millbrook* – Planning services and technical assistance with zoning and sub-division issues, grant assistance (Land and Water Conservation Grant Application and Transportation Enhancement), and provided training and technical assistance.
- ◆ *Tallassee* – Comprehensive Plan, planning services and technical assistance with zoning and sub-division issues, grant assistance (Land and Water Conservation Grant Application and Transportation Enhancement), technical assistance with Economic Development (Industrial Development Authority), and provided technical assistance and training.
- ◆ *Wetumpka* – Update base maps, planning services and technical assistance with zoning and sub-division issues, grant assistance (Land and Water Conservation Grant Application and Transportation Enhancement), Economic Development (New Industrial Park) and provided technical assistance and training.

North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments: (Cullman, Lawrence, and Morgan Counties) are served by the North-Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments (NARCOG). Priorities for 2010 include: Seeking funding to conduct a Water System Survey and Infrastructure Study for each of the three counties in the Region, beginning with the City of Decatur; supporting recreational facilities, walking trails and community facilities throughout the Region; assisting the Town of North Courtland in seeking funding for two grants: a planning grant for the Town of North Courtland and a grant to construct a multi-purpose building, which will house the town hall and the police department; assisting the City of Hanceville with its’ sewer expansion and improvements. In addition, NARCOG staff will be mailing ARC grant information for FY 2010 to all member governments and communities within the Region. NARCOG will continue seeking funding to increase the Revolving Loan Fund asset base in the Region, and will also seek opportunities for conducting seminars providing information on financing needs and will attend workshops and conferences focusing on the financing needs of small businesses.

Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments: DeKalb, Jackson, Limestone, Madison, and Marshall Counties are served by the Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments (TARCOG). During 2010, the District expects to continue with the following efforts to increase the economic opportunity and quality of life for the area's citizens:

- Continue technical assistance of application and administrative support for grants under programs such as the T-21/SAFTEA-LU, EDA, LWCF, RTP, CDBG, LETS, FEMA/FIRE and other grant programs.
- Support economic “targets of opportunity” development projects (i.e. potential BRAC, Biomedical Research, and follow-up support to evaluate the long term potential of 2008's identified “Mega Site” industrial park location in east central Limestone County.
- Work to secure funding for road and access upgrades to the Huntsville/Madison County Jetplex industrial park complex. This relates to both BRAC projections, and area high-tech avionics cluster growth.
- Continue to work closely with Huntsville to provide needed infrastructure for the rapidly developing bio-medical Park, and the establishment of a related high-tech medical research cluster in the area.
- Continuing the development of Agency GIS capability;
- Continue support of economic development infrastructure projects – i.e.
 - 1) City of Fort Payne wastewater upgrade and potential industrial access support project(s).
 - 2) City of Bridgeport/Jackson County: Medical Clinic: water, gas & sewer.
 - 3) City of Albertville/Marshall County: continued expansion of water and sewer access for additional industrial expansion.
 - 4) City of Guntersville: port facility support through possible BIG Grant efforts.
 - 5) Respond to any local “crisis” actions (i.e. infrastructure fires, tornado's/flooding.)
- Continue Rural Transportation Planning Program (RPO,) generate prioritized District projects listing and develop a strong local official's participation in ALDOT's allocation and prioritization planning process.
- Continue ADEM Sub-Watershed water quality monitoring studies in DeKalb County;
- Continue/finish initial (DeKalb & Jackson County) element of 2009 State water system mapping project.
- Continue and broaden RLF program with the initiation of a microloan program; and, initiate at least one trial downtown economic inducement construction/rehab project.
- Continued support of area USDA Community Facilities Loan Program applications (goal: assist 3-5 communities with USDA projects during FY 2010).
- Promote and provide planning and application support for area Hazard Mitigation and other FEMA related planning/grant applications.
- Provide TA assistance to local governments for the 2010 Census.

Staff participation will continue in vital information streaming on BRAC developments; RPO project and funding planning; job retention training and workforce development coordination and advocacy; and, critical environmental issues. In addition, the District

will continue to monitor economic stimulus/recovery issues and efforts, and keep the counties advised on potential impacts.

State ARC Program Policies

The State of Alabama's Appalachian Regional Commission Program will focus primarily on areas of highest need, areas suffering from economic depression, areas with existing health hazards, areas where projects will have the most significant impact, and areas that are not able to help themselves. Each project for which ARC funding is requested will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and must contain performance measures consistent with those set by the Commission in their Performance Plan for FY2010. ARC funds will not be used for workforce development projects if it is a duplication of funding through the Workforce Development program. An ARC workshop, which is an open workshop, is held annually and preapplications are taken for an entire month. The workshop notice and agenda are also posted on ADECA's web site at least two months prior to the workshop in order to give as much notice as possible for solicitation of preapplications. The Local Development Districts (LDDs) are encouraged to solicit as many proposals as possible within their service area so that the needs of the Appalachian people can be identified. The ARC program manager works closely with the LDDs and local government officials as well as nonprofit organizations to address the needs of Alabama's Appalachian citizens.

The State's maximum threshold for counties designated by the ARC as "distressed" will be 80 percent with a maximum of \$200,000 in ARC funds per project. The maximum threshold for counties designated by the ARC as "transitional" will be 50 percent with a maximum of \$200,000 in ARC funds per project. The maximum threshold for counties designated as "at-risk" may be up to 70 percent with a maximum of \$200,000 in ARC funds per project. The maximum threshold for counties designated as "competitive" will be 30 percent with a maximum of \$200,000 in ARC funds per project. ARC funds are ineligible for activities occurring in counties designated as "attainment," except in the case of multi-county projects, which provide clearly defined benefits in one or more "distressed" counties. A waiver of the restriction for "attainment" counties may be requested in accordance with Section 7-6.6 of the ARC Code. Funding for Revolving Loan (RLF) programs will be considered with respect to established Commission-approved RLF Guidelines.

State thresholds for Administrative Grants for Local Development Districts (LDDs) will be 50 percent, except for those LDDs with "distressed" counties: the threshold will be 75 percent with a 25 percent match. The State's Consolidated Technical Assistance program will be funded at a maximum of 50 percent. Projects are considered on a year-to-year basis with a maximum of three years' funding unless there are extenuating circumstances. The State will not fund projects to construct or renovate school buildings, except in emergencies. Project overruns will not generally be considered for additional ARC funding. When there are project underruns, ARC funds will generally be deobligated, returned, and made available for other eligible projects. A request for proportional

reduction will be given consideration in projects with underruns. Under certain circumstances, the state may waive the state policy maximum of \$200,000 per project. The State will target areas of greatest need, and will respond with ARC funding in emergency situations and whenever special development opportunities arise. The maximum threshold for emergency relief projects and projects considered as special development opportunities will be 80/20.

The state will work closely with the Alabama Development Office in efforts to increase trade in Appalachian Alabama, and will participate in trade events as well as events sponsored by the ARC Export Trade Advisory Council. The State of Alabama will support programs that increase export sales of small and medium-sized firms (SMEs) from Appalachian Alabama as well as programs that increase the number of SMEs engaged in international trade.

The State of Alabama will work closely with national and local partners to foster public and private partnerships to achieve these goals and objectives.

All project applications submitted will be required to include performance measures as a part of the application process. All projects submitted to the state for ARC funding must have output and outcome measures included in an evaluation plan from the grantee.

Appendix I *LDD Directory*

NORTHWEST – Region 1

Executive Director: Keith Jones
Address: Northwest Alabama Council
of Local Governments
PO Box 2603
Muscle Shoals, AL 35662
Telephone: 256-389-0500
E-mail: kjones@nwscclg.org
Counties Included: Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Marion, Winston

WEST ALABAMA – Region 2

Executive Director: Robert B. Lake
West Alabama Regional
Commission
4200 Highway 69, North, Suite 1
P. O. Box 509
Northport, AL 35476
Telephone: 205-333-2990
E-mail: warc@adss.alabama.gov
Counties Included: Bibb, Fayette, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, Tuscaloosa, (Greene)

Greater BIRMINGHAM-Region 3

Executive Director: Charles Ball
Address: Regional Planning Commission
Of Greater Birmingham
Suite 200
1731 First Avenue, North
Birmingham, AL 35203
Telephone: 205-251-8139
E-mail: CBall@rpcgb.org
Counties Included: Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, Cherokee, St. Clair, Shelby, Walker

EAST ALABAMA – Region 4

Executive Director: James W. (Bill) Curtis, AICP
Address: East Alabama Regional Planning
& Development Commission
(1130 Quintard Ave., Suite 300)
P.O. Box 2186
Anniston, AL 36202
E-mail: www.earpdc.org
Telephone: 256-237-6741
Counties Included: Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, Coosa, Etowah, Randolph, Talladega,
Tallapoosa

SOUTH CENTRAL ALABAMA – Region 5

Executive Director: Tyson Howard
Address: South Central Alabama
Development Commission
5900 Carmichael Place
Montgomery, AL 36117-2345
Website: www.scadc@adss.alabama.gov

Telephone: 334-244-6903
E-mail mdeberry@adss.alabama.gov
Counties Included: Macon (Bullock, Butler, Crenshaw, Lowndes, Montgomery, Pike)

CENTRAL ALABAMA – Region 9

Executive Director: Bill Tucker
Address: Central Alabama Regional
Planning & Dev. Commission
430 South Court Street
Montgomery, AL 36104
Telephone: 334-262-4300
E-mail director@carpdc.com
Counties Included: Elmore (Autauga, Montgomery)

NORTH CENTRAL – Region 11

Executive Director: C. Ronald Matthews
Address: North Central Alabama Regional
Council of Governments
216 Jackson Street, SE
Decatur, AL 35602
Telephone: 256-355-4515
E-mail pwhite@adss.alabama.gov
Counties Included: Cullman, Lawrence, Morgan

TOP OF ALABAMA –Region 12

Executive Director: Robert B. Culver
Top of Alabama Regional Council
of Governments
5075 Research Drive, N.W.
Huntsville, AL 35805
Telephone: 256-830-0818
E-mail tarcoq.12@adss.alabama.gov
Counties Included: DeKalb, Jackson, Limestone, Madison, Marshall

Appalachian Region Economic Indicators	Average annual labor force change			Average annual employment change			Unemployment rate (unemployed/civilian labor force)				Population Estimate	Population change	Employment population
	2001q1-2002q1 recession	2002q1-2008q1 expansion	2008q1-2009q1 recession	2001q1-2002q1 recession	2002q1-2008q1 expansion	2008q1-2009q1 recession	2001 peak	2007 peak	2008	2009 Q1	2008	2000-2008	2008 ratio
Northern= NY, PA, MD Central= OH, KY, VA, WV Southern= TN, NC.													
United States	0.5	1.0	0.5	-1.2	1.2	-3.2	4.7	4.6	5.8	8.8	304,059,724	8.0	47.8
Appalachian Region	-0.4	0.6	0.5	-1.9	0.8	-3.6	5.0	4.7	5.9	9.5	24,831,844	5.0	45.8
Northern Appalachia	0.5	0.1	1.2	-0.9	0.3	-1.9	5.1	4.6	5.7	8.7	7,030,492	-1.4	47.9
Central Appalachia	-0.1	0.3	0.7	-1.3	0.5	-3.3	5.6	5.5	6.1	10.0	5,781,407	0.2	43.1
Southern Appalachia	-1.2	1.1	0.0	-2.8	1.3	-4.8	4.7	4.4	6.0	9.8	12,019,945	11.9	45.9
Alabama	-2.6	0.5	-1.2	-3.8	0.7	-5.8	4.7	3.5	5.0	8.7	4,661,900	4.8	44.0
Appalachian Alabama	-2.5	0.4	-1.5	-3.8	0.7	-6.2	4.5	3.3	4.8	8.6	2,991,150	5.4	45.1
Bibb County, AL	-1.5	-0.6	1.1	-4.0	0.0	-6.1	6.1	3.6	5.2	11.3	21,629	8.7	38.2
Blount County, AL	-0.4	0.4	-1.6	-2.3	0.7	-6.1	3.3	2.8	4.1	7.9	57,441	12.6	44.0
Calhoun County, AL	-2.0	0.8	-1.2	-3.1	1.1	-5.7	5.0	3.5	5.1	8.5	113,419	1.0	45.4
Chambers County, AL	-3.5	-2.2	-2.1	-6.1	-2.7	-11.5	4.9	5.7	13.2	18.3	34,424	-5.9	37.5
Cherokee County, AL	0.0	0.9	-2.4	-0.5	1.0	-8.4	4.1	3.7	5.2	10.2	24,545	2.3	46.1
Chilton County, AL	-1.7	0.1	-1.2	-2.8	0.3	-6.1	4.4	3.0	4.5	8.6	42,444	7.2	44.0
Clay County, AL	-6.4	-1.0	-1.7	-6.3	-1.1	-10.2	5.5	4.9	7.2	14.2	13,809	-3.1	38.3
Cleburne County, AL	-4.2	-1.0	-0.9	-4.7	-0.8	-4.8	4.8	3.2	4.5	7.7	14,799	4.8	41.9
Colbert County, AL	-5.0	-0.1	0.3	-7.3	0.5	-4.7	6.3	4.1	5.8	9.7	54,663	-0.6	43.2
Coosa County, AL	-4.2	-1.8	3.1	-8.9	-1.1	-5.5	6.2	5.1	7.4	13.9	10,814	-8.9	39.8
Cullman County, AL	-2.9	0.4	-0.9	-4.0	0.7	-5.4	4.2	2.9	4.3	8.1	81,324	5.0	45.7
DeKalb County, AL	-3.2	-0.7	-1.3	-4.4	-0.5	-8.2	4.4	3.8	5.2	11.2	68,515	6.3	42.3
Elmore County, AL	-0.9	2.2	-1.6	-2.0	2.3	-5.7	3.9	2.9	4.6	7.8	78,106	18.6	43.8

Etowah County, AL	-2.9	-0.4	-0.1	-2.3	-0.1	-5.1	6.0	3.9	5.3	9.4	103,303	-0.2	41.7
Fayette County, AL	-3.3	-1.7	-3.2	-5.1	-1.5	-9.2	5.8	4.2	6.5	11.3	17,691	-4.3	37.3
Franklin County, AL	-4.0	-0.4	-1.4	-6.7	0.5	-8.7	7.0	4.1	6.7	11.8	30,801	-1.4	40.3
Hale County, AL	-0.8	-0.3	0.5	-3.3	0.1	-5.9	6.6	4.7	6.6	11.5	18,145	-0.6	35.8
Jackson County, AL	-4.7	0.3	-2.1	-7.1	0.8	-8.8	6.0	4.0	5.5	10.9	53,134	-1.5	47.5
Jefferson County, AL	-3.0	-0.6	-1.9	-4.2	-0.4	-6.1	3.9	3.4	4.8	8.2	659,503	-0.4	45.0
Lamar County, AL	-6.8	-3.0	-0.6	-8.6	-2.7	-8.2	7.4	5.5	7.3	13.4	14,295	-10.1	36.4
Lauderdale County, AL	-4.1	0.1	-0.3	-7.4	0.8	-4.7	6.0	3.8	5.1	8.7	89,128	1.3	45.3
Lawrence County, AL	-3.8	-0.3	-1.2	-5.7	0.0	-6.9	5.4	3.6	5.8	10.6	34,166	-1.8	43.9
Limestone County, AL	-2.3	2.0	-0.8	-4.0	2.4	-5.1	4.0	2.9	4.2	7.8	76,135	16.0	46.4
Macon County, AL	-4.2	0.1	1.2	-5.1	0.0	-3.0	5.3	4.8	6.7	10.1	22,290	-7.5	37.7
Marion County, AL	-5.2	0.1	0.1	-5.4	0.7	-8.7	7.9	4.6	7.2	13.9	29,465	-5.6	40.0
Marshall County, AL	-1.2	0.6	-2.0	-2.2	1.0	-6.5	5.0	3.0	4.2	8.0	88,484	7.6	44.9
Morgan County, AL	-3.2	0.4	-2.7	-5.2	0.7	-6.9	4.7	3.1	4.7	8.3	115,959	4.4	46.6
Pickens County, AL	-4.1	-1.1	0.4	-4.4	-0.7	-5.5	7.7	4.4	6.4	11.0	19,524	-6.8	37.5
Randolph County, AL	-2.7	-0.8	2.7	-4.4	-0.6	-4.4	5.8	4.5	6.5	11.5	22,620	1.1	39.4
St. Clair County, AL	-1.0	2.0	-1.3	-2.3	2.1	-6.1	3.8	3.0	4.5	8.5	79,837	23.3	42.7
Shelby County, AL	-0.1	2.5	-3.0	-1.0	2.6	-6.1	2.7	2.3	3.3	6.0	187,784	31.1	50.7
Talladega County, AL	1.6	0.7	-0.9	-0.6	1.1	-7.5	6.0	4.6	6.5	11.6	80,279	-0.1	44.4
Tallapoosa County, AL	-4.0	-0.7	-0.1	-8.1	-0.2	-5.5	5.4	4.7	6.4	10.7	40,773	-2.5	41.5
Tuscaloosa County, AL	-1.8	1.4	-1.2	-2.8	1.5	-5.9	3.8	2.9	4.2	8.2	179,448	8.8	47.2
Walker County, AL	-3.7	-1.1	-2.2	-4.2	-0.8	-6.1	5.5	3.8	5.1	8.3	68,970	-2.5	39.5
Winston County, AL	-5.1	-0.7	-2.9	-3.9	-0.2	-12.2	8.6	4.9	7.8	15.0	23,974	-3.5	38.5

