

# PERSISTENCE DURING THE PANDEMIC



## ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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**Kay Ivey**  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALABAMA



**Kenneth W. Boswell**  
DIRECTOR

### *What a Year!*

As you are aware, in the early stages of 2020, the coronavirus pandemic changed much of our routines and our interactions and redefined the word “normal.”

It is no stretch to say the life of every Alabamian in some way was altered. Many fell prey to the virus. Others lost their jobs and struggled to pay bills. Some were separated from families for extended periods. Nearly everyone had to rearrange their lives.

State agencies were no exemption, and almost overnight the way we conducted business and daily affairs was turned upside-down.

Yet - and I am proud to say this - while COVID-19 changed our lives, we at the Alabama Department of Economic and Affairs, after a short period of adjustment, never skipped a beat.

Our staff was the first state agency to report back in its entirety at the office, yet still very mindful of practicing safe COVID-19 protocol. Our grant programs continued on schedule, and many new programs created as a result of the pandemic have been or are in the process of being dutifully achieved.

The Alabama Broadband Connectivity for Students program has and continues to be highly successful. Created as a result of the pandemic, the program is designed to provide free broadband services for students forced by the pandemic to attend classes through virtual learning through the end of the school year. It has provided internet access to 200,000 students, and Alabama had the highest implementation success rate of such a program in the country.

Alabama’s participation in the 2020 U.S. Census finished strong. The Alabama Counts! committee established in pre-COVID-19 times by Governor Kay Ivey and led by ADECA maintained its mission even while making many adjustments during the pandemic. Working alongside the U.S. Census Bureau, Alabama Counts! was able to help this state achieve a higher self-response rate than in the 2010 Census. I must also commend Alabama residents who, realizing the importance and the impact of the census, responded like champions.

The Alabama Research and Development Enhancement Fund in our Energy Division was able to fund projects to help businesses withstand economic downturns like the COVID pandemic while another funded project focused on redesigning medical masks to fortify their ability to prevent the spread of contagious diseases.

Our other programs involving law enforcement and traffic safety, energy and technology solutions, water resources, economic development and community improvement projects while subject to pandemic precautions have been carried out as normal.

I am thankful for the confidence that Governor Ivey has shown in our agency and our employees not only to fulfill our normal obligations, but also to capably handle any other responsibilities we are assigned.

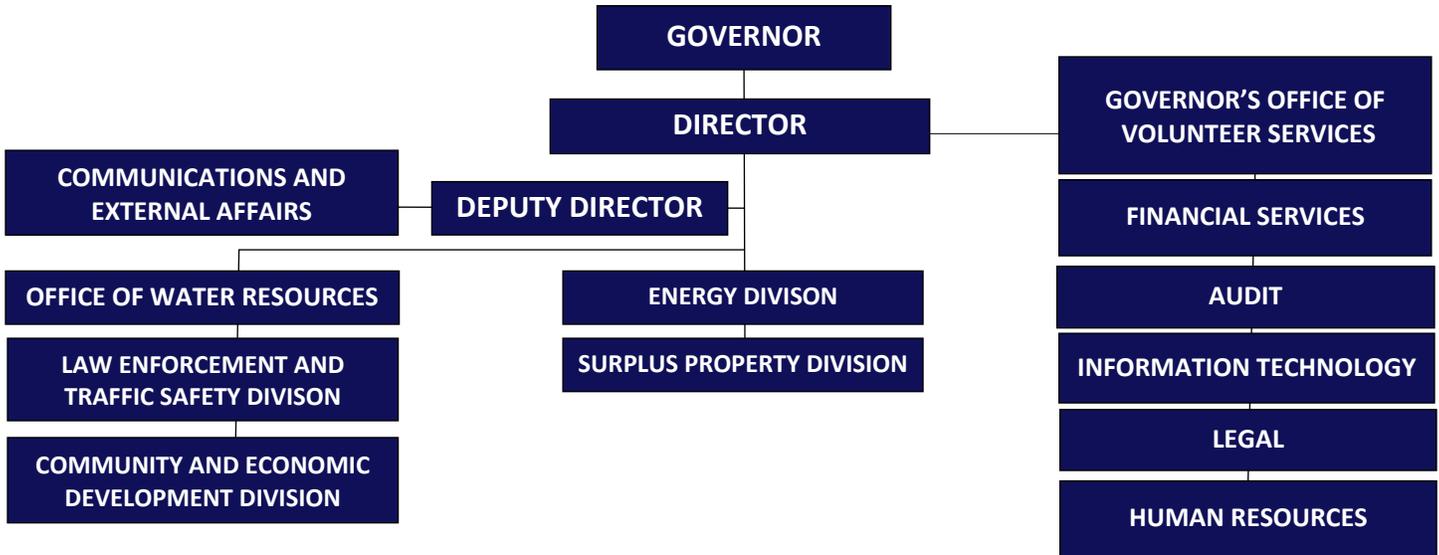
Finally, I must commend the ADECA staff and our many partners for their dedication to their jobs and duties during these difficult times. They have truly shown persistence during the pandemic.

Sincerely,

Kenneth W. Boswell  
Director

# ADECA ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

## ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



### Mission Statement

*The mission of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs is to improve and strengthen communities and the quality of life in Alabama through a wide range of diverse and comprehensive programs involving economic development, infrastructure, law enforcement, education, energy conservation and technology upgrades, and responsible management of water resources.*

## COPING DURING COVID



*ADECA was the first agency to report back in its entirety to the office environment during the COVID-19 outbreak. Many precautions were still taken to protect employees from getting the virus.*

# 2020 CENSUS

Despite the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Alabama's efforts in the U.S. Census finished strong with 99.9 percent of households accounted for through a combination of self-response and follow up by U.S. Census Bureau field workers, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

ADECA, serving as the state's lead agency for the census, along with the Governor's Office was able in pre-Covid days to organize and plan the Alabama Counts! 2020 Census Committee, an across-the-board group of hundreds of individuals and organizations dedicated to a successful 2020 Census in Alabama.

Gov. Ivey formed Alabama Counts! to ensure that every faction of people living in Alabama were aware of the census and understood its importance.

Alabama Counts, the U.S. Census Bureau along with an extensive media campaign were able to work despite being hindered by COVID restrictions and deliver the message that Alabama's census participation was as important as ever. A low response could result in potential loss of federal funds relating to highways, schools and health care, loss of representation in Congress and other detriments involving state grant programs and individual benefits.

## ALABAMA COUNTS! 2020 CENSUS



ADECA Director Kenneth Boswell joined Congressman Bradley Byrne and Baldwin County leaders in Foley for a news conference to stress the importance of participating in the 2020 Census.



Gov. Kay Ivey was a tremendous supporter of the state obtaining maximum participation in the 2020 Census.

The 99.9 percent household response, according to the Census Bureau, was a combination of self-response through electronic means, mail and telephone along with door-to-door and follow-up visits. The percentage only refers to the number of households, and not the number of people living in those structures.

While the actual results were still being awaited at publication time, Alabama's efforts in obtaining census responses was indeed successful. The state recorded a self-response rate higher than the rate recorded in the last census, which was taken in 2010.



# BROADBAND

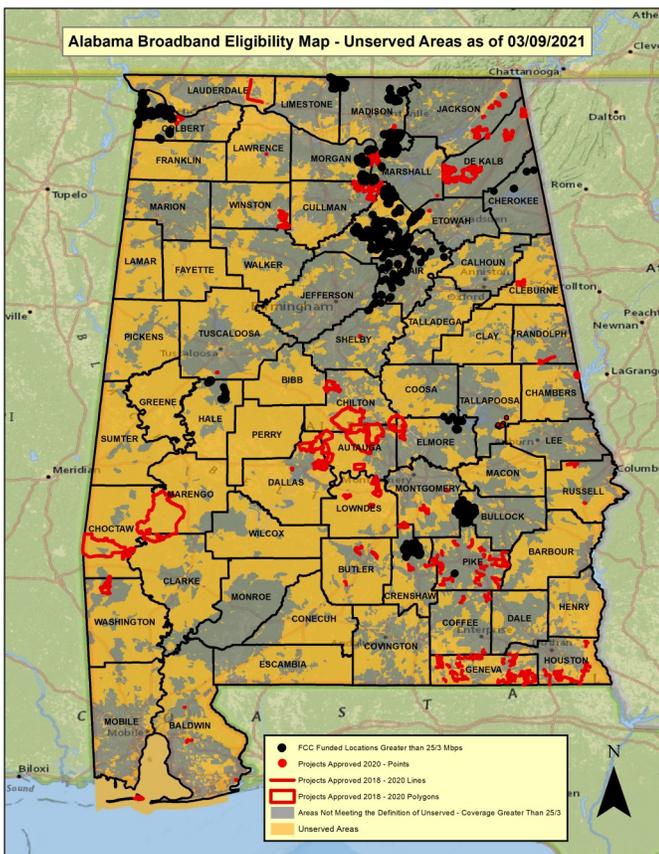
Broadband, or high-speed internet service as it is often called, not only holds the key to Alabama's future, it is the vehicle to helping the state move forward.

The ability to communicate and exchange information at a rapid pace will help the state advance in many areas involving education, health care and medicine, economic development and government.

The Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund was created in 2018 to help Alabama meet its broadband challenges, particularly in rural and under-served areas of the state.

A grant program developed out of the fund to encourage and assist companies and cooperatives to extend broadband service to unincorporated areas or municipalities with populations of 25,000 people or less. The grant program is administered through ADECA's Energy Division.

Since 2018, nearly \$20 million in funds have been awarded to provide service to more than 25,000 households along with numerous businesses, schools, churches and public buildings. Most of that funding was accomplished in 2020 with a new round of grants to be awarded for projects in 2021.



Many school systems were able to equip school buses with routers and then strategically park the vehicles so students had access to internet services and distance learning.

## Alabama Broadband Connectivity for Students

Along the route of providing broadband services, COVID-19 happened. The infectious virus created a more urgent need to supply internet services for Alabama students who were forced to remain home during the school year and take classes by way of virtual learning.

In late summer 2020, Governor Kay Ivey committed funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to create the Alabama Broadband Connectivity for Students Program.

ADECA, which was given the reigns of the program, teamed up with the state Department of Education, the state Finance Department, internet providers and other key players to devise a plan to reach the greatest number of students in a short time span. The program provided vouchers to cover the costs of broadband access for families with children who qualified for the National School Lunch program.

By the end of 2020, approximately 200,000 Alabama students had access to internet services from their homes. In December 2020, Governor Ivey extended the program until June 2021 to ensure the students participating in the program would continue to have access throughout the school year.

Alabama  
Broadband  
Connectivity  
for students

# COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

As ADECA's largest division, the Community and Economic Development Division houses a number of diverse programs all with the goal of improving lives and communities.

CED programs enhance the quality of life in Alabama through many long-standing and well-known programs along with several newer programs.

Many programs are geared toward helping communities improve infrastructure, assist in job opportunities, and improve economies. Other programs help individuals and businesses achieve success.

## Community Development Block Grant

Community Development Block Grants are available to Alabama cities and counties in many forms and many with the common denominator of improving lives.

Funds are provided to the state by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and awarded under several categories and guidelines to achieve parity and help communities reach goals and solve problems. CDBG underlying goals are to benefit low and moderate-income families, eliminate slum and blighted areas and address urgent community needs.

## COVID-19 Funds

In 2020 Alabama was awarded more than \$40 million in COVID-19 related CDBG funds. Those funds are aimed at helping Alabama cities and counties prevent, prepare for, or respond to any problems and projects relating to COVID-19 or any future infectious disease pandemics. ADECA expects to award these funds in 2021.



ADECA devised a way to accept CDBG applications in a safe and timely manner.



CDBG funding to the city of Cullman helped provide infrastructure to pave the way for Reliance World Corp. to expand and hire 30 new workers to its existing 280-person workforce. Photo Courtesy of Governor's Press Office.

## Competitive CDBG Awards

Competitive CDBG awards are issued annually to Alabama towns, cities and counties on a competitive basis to help local governments address urgent needs and enhance communities and neighborhoods.

Grants are awarded in several categories including **Small City** (populations of 3,000 and below); **Large City** (populations of 3001 or greater); and **County** (65 Alabama counties eligible). Also awarded during that grant cycle is **Community Enhancement**, which applies to cities and counties and involves projects that improve quality of life.

These projects may include the construction or renovation of a community center, senior center, recreation venue or similar project. **Planning** grants, which come in much lower amounts, are also awarded at that time to help communities plan for future developments. The planning grants often serve as stepping stones to obtaining larger grants.

In 2020 ADECA awarded a total of \$19.4 million for improvements in 61 Alabama communities through its competitive CDBG program. These funds are allowing communities to extend public water and sewer service, improve roads and drainage, remove blight, rehabilitate housing and reconstruct existing public buildings for alternate use.

## CDBG Economic Development

Also in 2020, \$5.5 million in CDBG economic development funds were awarded to help create or retain more than 500 jobs in Alabama. CDBG economic development funds are mainly used to pave the way for industry or business to locate or expand in an area. Grants are generally used to supply water or sewage or improve road or rail access to a company.

## Recreation and Conservation

Recreation plays a major role in the lives of people and their communities.

From a healthy living perspective, recreation offers opportunities for people to improve physical fitness, improve blood flow and strengthen heart, lung and muscle functions.

From a community perspective, well-kept and well-used parks and recreational outlets are evidence of the vitality and pride of a community.

ADECA's Recreation and Conservation Unit administers two federal programs that have helped create new parks, playgrounds and trails or enhance existing ones.

The **Land and Water Conservation Fund** is a program of the National Park Service that provides grants of up to \$350,000 to cities, counties, state agencies and other public groups to acquire or develop lands into parks, playgrounds and other recreational venues or improve existing facilities.

The annual program requires recipients to provide a match identical to the grant amount. That match can be made in cash or in in-kind services.

The **Recreational Trails** program provides funds for the development or improvement of trails for walking, hiking, cycling, horseback riding, motorized vehicles and water navigation.

Usually funded annually by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration, applicants applying for non-motorized, multi-use trails are eligible for grants of up to \$400,000 while the maximum grant amount for a single-purpose project is \$200,000. Approved grants for motorized trails can be up to \$550,000. Recipients of all Recreational Trail grants must provide a 20 percent match.



*Weathington Park in the Town of Section is one of the most popular municipal parks in Alabama because of its view of the Tennessee River. Grants through ADECA helped build a walking trail, restrooms and a parking area at the park.*



*Governor Kay Ivey along with other local and state officials attended the groundbreaking for Reliance World Corp.'s distribution facility. The expansion will create 130 new jobs for Reliance, which is a worldwide distributor of water control systems and plumbing products.*

Pending final approval in 2020 were 17 LWCF grants totaling \$3.3 million. Those grants are expected to be announced in early 2021.

Recreational Trail grants for 2020 are also expected to be awarded in 2021.

### **Appalachian Regional Commission**

The Appalachian Regional Commission is a federal economic development partnership established in 1965 to improve the economy in parts of 13 states, including 37 Alabama counties.

ARC funds help add or upgrade infrastructure to improve living conditions and pave the way for new businesses and industry. Funds are also used for education improvements, advancing health care and upgrading technology.

Created as a federal-state-local partnership, ARC projects are identified on the local level. Member counties are also classified for funding priority based on economic conditions. That means poorer ARC counties - labelled as distressed - are more likely to have funds awarded to them if it is deemed that their projects and programs qualify and in some manner, will reduce the distressed level.

In 2020, ARC funded a total of 23 projects amounting to a \$5.27 million investment in Alabama communities.

An \$89,188 grant was awarded to the city of Lanett to reinvigorate a downtown district that began a slump with the disappearance of the textile industry in that city. ARC grants were also used to capitalize on another economic boost with a \$150,000 grant to the city of Oxford to provide infrastructure for a commercial development off Interstate 20.

An additional \$2.23 million was invested in Alabama under the ARC Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative. That program is geared toward helping ARC communities impacted by the

loss of jobs relating to coal mining, coal power plant operations and other coal related businesses.

A \$1.5 million POWER Initiative grant was awarded to Beville State Community College in Hamilton to upgrade a training facility to help that region of Alabama meet labor needs in several high-demand occupations.

### Delta Regional Authority

The Delta Regional Authority operates in similar fashion in Alabama’s Black Belt and southern regions as ARC does in north and central Alabama.

Created by the U.S. Congress in 2000, the DRA program provides funds to attract industry and businesses and create jobs, improve education and health care and assist cities and counties in improving infrastructure and transportation needs.

Twenty Alabama counties are part of the DRA district and three - Macon, Hale and Pickens counties - overlap in both the ARC and DRA regions and are eligible for funds from both authorities.

In 2020, DRA invested a total of \$2.27 million in Alabama projects.

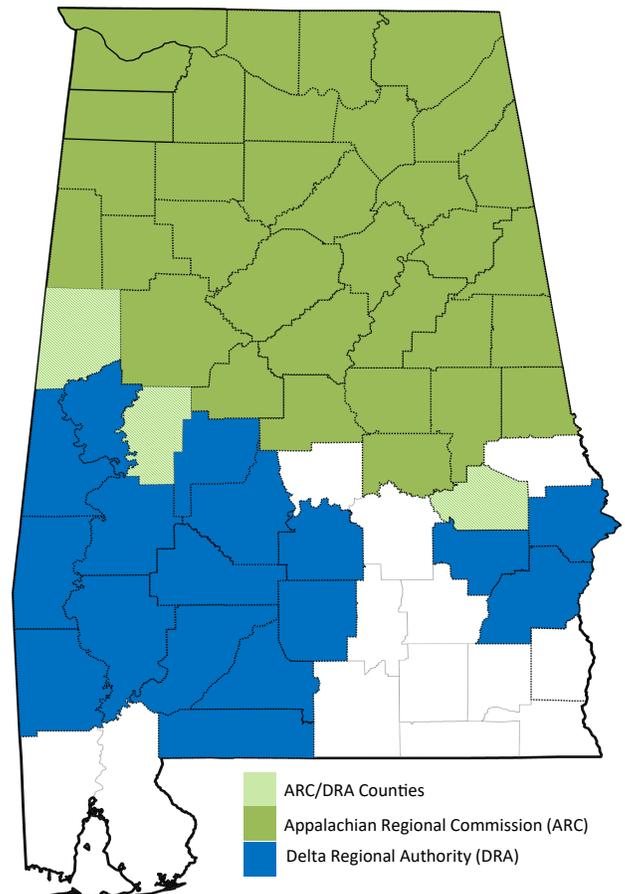


A \$150,000 ARC grant combined with identical CDBG funding helped provide infrastructure for a new 32,000 square-foot medical center in Wetumpka creating new jobs and improving healthcare in Alabama’s River Region.

Of those investments \$307,071 was awarded to the city of Atmore under Project Nautilus to provide a rail spur for a peanut processing plant that means new jobs for 100 workers and help retains the jobs of 70 other people.

DRA also allocated \$418,100 to the University of West Alabama in Livingston to renovate a workforce testing and training center to prepare more Alabamians for high-demand, high-paying jobs.

### ARC-DRA Counties



Chris Caldwell, chairman of Delta Regional Authority, visited the University of West Alabama for the launching of the Skills on Wheels, a mobile training program to ready Alabamians in the state’s Black Belt region for the workforce.

## Other CED Programs

The **Alabama Healthy Foods Financing Act** was created by the Alabama Legislature in 2015 to ensure underserved communities and low-income areas had access to healthy foods.

The program, administered by ADECA and funded by the state, increased its value in 2020 with the outbreak of COVID-19 which forced people to stay home and kept children out of school for extended periods.

In 2020, ADECA awarded three grants totaling \$220,000. Grants of \$100,000 each were awarded to Project Hopewell of Birmingham and the Montgomery Area Food Bank.

Project Hopewell used their grant to purchase equipment to improve its nutrition program which serves senior citizens and children in Jefferson County.

The Montgomery Area Food Bank used funds to renovate its warehouses in Montgomery and Selma enabling it to better serve residents in its 35-county coverage area.

The **Emergency Solutions Grant Program** provides temporary and permanent shelter and related services for people at risk of becoming homeless. The program also provides funding for centers that assist victims of domestic violence by offering them shelter.



*The Healthy Foods Financing Act program has helped provide nutritional foods in underserved communities and low-income areas throughout Alabama.*

Emergency Solutions grants are issued to 14 regional agencies which provide localized needs. In 2020 \$2.6 million was distributed to those agencies.

The **Neighborhood Stabilization Program** revitalizes neighborhoods that are falling into disrepair and bringing down property values. Under the program, abandoned and empty houses are renovated and sold or rented to keep neighborhoods occupied.

**Housing for Persons with Aids** is a program that provides housing assistance and related support for low-income persons and their families disabled by HIV/AIDS.

The **Minority Business Enterprise** is a certification program to boost economic opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses. Obtaining certifications enables participating companies to compete for government contracts and other business owner benefits.

The **Alabama Enterprise Zone Act** provides tax incentives for businesses that locate within designated enterprise zones which are specified low-income or economically depressed areas.

The **Alabama High Speed Passenger Rail** program is designed to examine the possibility of passenger train service linking Birmingham, Montgomery and Mobile. A feasibility study, financed by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration, of the Mobile-to-Montgomery leg of the service was completed and submitted to federal officials in 2020. A study of the Birmingham-to-Montgomery leg was submitted several years earlier.

The **Opportunity Zones** program is a recent tool in Alabama's efforts to recruit new industry and business. The program used U.S. Census tracts to pinpoint areas in each of the state's 67 counties that have high unemployment and poverty rates. Industries locating within any of the 158 Opportunity Zones are eligible for tax cuts and other incentives.

# ENERGY

ADECA's Energy Division carries the load of many diverse programs that involve conserving energy, advancing science and research, expanding broadband services, nurturing small business and creating jobs, and improving the lives of individuals.

Serving as the state's Energy Office, the division houses programs that promote energy-efficient products and technology. In recent years, several existing social-service programs have also found a home in the division.

The **State Energy Program** awards grants to lower energy costs in schools, government buildings and non-profit facilities by upgrading lighting, heating and air-conditioning systems, roof coating and other projects.

In 2020 the Energy Division awarded 24 retrofit grants for K-12 schools, local governments and non-profit facilities saving recipients an estimated \$99,825 in energy costs. Energy also trained 19 building operators in techniques to make their facilities more energy efficient.

The **AlabamaSAVES** program provided low-interest loans for business-related energy efficient projects. One ongoing project involves the renovation of the 88,728-square-foot Stonewall building in downtown Birmingham. Located in an Opportunity Zone, which is an area that provides incentives for attracting business, the Stonewall building will provide 140 affordable-housing apartments and encourage growth in the downtown area.

In 2020, the Energy Division awarded \$5.8 million in **Volkswagen Settlement** funds to several local governments, public agencies and businesses. The funds arose out of a nationwide settlement agreement with Volkswagen Group of America and are intended to reduce diesel pollution with cleaner burning machinery and vehicles.

**Alabama Inland Port Infrastructure** program strives to maintain Alabama's inland waterways as a major force in transportation commerce. In 2020, Gov. Kay Ivey awarded a total of \$5 million for improvements at six Alabama inland ports.

The **Alabama Research and Development Enhancement Fund** was created in 2019 under the Alabama Innovation Act to encourage research and development, help develop ideas and innovations, and increase employment opportunities, products and services for Alabamians. In 2020 ADECA awarded \$2.57 million for 10 projects to four state universities and a research institution.



*Brian Via and Beatriz Erramuspe of Auburn University's School of Forestry and Wildlife Services will use a \$247,142 Alabama Research and Development Enhancement Fund grant to help develop an effective method to detect dangerous emissions in wood products.*

The **Alabama Research Alliance** program encourages educational, agricultural, maricultural and industry activities involving basic and applied research in Alabama. The program promotes those activities by supporting and advancing entrepreneurship. In fiscal 2019-20, ADECA awarded two grants totaling \$660,000, which includes the Alabama Launchpad program that encourages innovation and entrepreneurship.

The **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** assists eligible households with home energy costs. Partnering with about 20 community action agencies and one non-profit organization, Energy is able to provide services to individuals on a county level. In 2020 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services allocated \$61.1 million to administer the program. The federal agency issued an additional \$16.4 million to Alabama in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds to help people whose lives were affected directly or indirectly from the virus.

**Community Services Block Grants** assists low-income residents in obtaining self-sufficiency. The program is funded on the local level to include all 67 Alabama counties. ADECA distributed \$12.8 million to community action agencies for the program and another \$18.3 million was acquired from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in CARES Act funding.

The **Weatherization Assistance Program** helps make modifications in the homes of qualified low-income families to make them safer and more energy efficient. In fiscal 2019-20 about \$4.5 million was spent for weatherization projects in Alabama.

# LAW ENFORCEMENT AND TRAFFIC SAFETY

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Alabama's law enforcement officers often did not have the luxury of determining if someone had or was a carrier of the virus before assisting them.

To that end, ADECA's Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division through a special federal appropriation was able in October and November 2020 to purchase and distribute personal protection kits to nearly 400 state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies.

The \$3 million appropriation from the U.S. Department of Justice's Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding was used to buy kits that included protective masks and gloves, hand sanitizers, disinfectants, decontaminant foggers and pressure washers.

LETS' **Public Safety Unit** teamed up with ADECA's Surplus Property division to store and distribute the kits from the Surplus Property warehouse in Montgomery. Supplying law enforcement with the equipment spared local agencies of having to spend money from often strapped local budgets to protect police, deputies and investigators and decontaminate jails and holding facilities.

Despite the pandemic, the Public Safety Unit was able to continue its two main traffic safety campaigns. While the "Click It or Ticket" campaign to enforce seatbelt laws was delayed by a month and held in June, the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" program continued around Labor Day. Both programs are funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The Alabama Drug Enforcement Task Force is another effort by LETS and affiliates to curtail illegal activity. The task force is made up of the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency and



*LETS was able to provide more than 400 law enforcement agencies throughout the state with protective masks, gloves and other products to ward off and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.*

seven regional agencies. Gov. Ivey also awarded \$196,533 to large and mid-sized cities under Project Safe Neighborhoods in an effort to clean up criminal areas in those cities.

Funds were also awarded to improve prosecutions, update equipment for the state forensic laboratories, reduce juvenile crime and improve prison safety and security.

LETS' **Human Services Unit** focuses on curtailing domestic violence and sexual assault crimes, assisting victims and holding offenders accountable for their actions.

Through federal funding from the Victims of Crime Act, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act and the Violence Against Women Act, the Human Services Unit works with about 90 agencies throughout Alabama. The funding is used to provide safe shelter for victims, medical assistance, counseling, legal advocacy, and to assist with the prosecution of offenders.

Special funding was provided to domestic violence service agencies through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. According to social service agencies, incidences of domestic violence escalated during the pandemic when many people were forced to stay home, and some people lost their jobs creating extra tensions in households.

Additional grants provided assistance to abused children and elderly victims and ensured that offenders were brought to justice.

Also in 2020, Gov. Ivey awarded \$1.17 million to continue and expand a facility dog program. The program through the Alabama Office of Prosecution Services uses specifically trained dogs to calm traumatized victims when they are being interviewed or called to testify about crimes committed against them.

# OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES

ADECA's Office of Water Resources monitors the state's ground and surface water resources to ensure supplies stay plentiful now and in the future.

OWR recommends policies and legislation, conducts studies, implements programs and takes other measures to benefit Alabama's water supply and its users.

Working with local water systems and major water users, OWR can keep track of the state's water usage. The division also closely monitors drought situations when they occur in the state and advisory boards help make recommendations on water mitigation measures.

In recent years, the division completed a water assessment report which inventoried the state's intake and outtake of water on all the state's lakes, rivers, reservoirs and major streams. The report is part of an ongoing study clarifying the state's future water needs and is a vital component of an ongoing statewide water management plan.

Additionally, OWR works on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Flood Insurance Program to update flood maps and assess flood risks in all areas of Alabama.

The maps point out areas that are most prone to flooding and how often within increments of years. That information is used by FEMA to determine if flood insurance should be issued to certain properties or if alterations need to be made to structures to make them eligible for insurance.

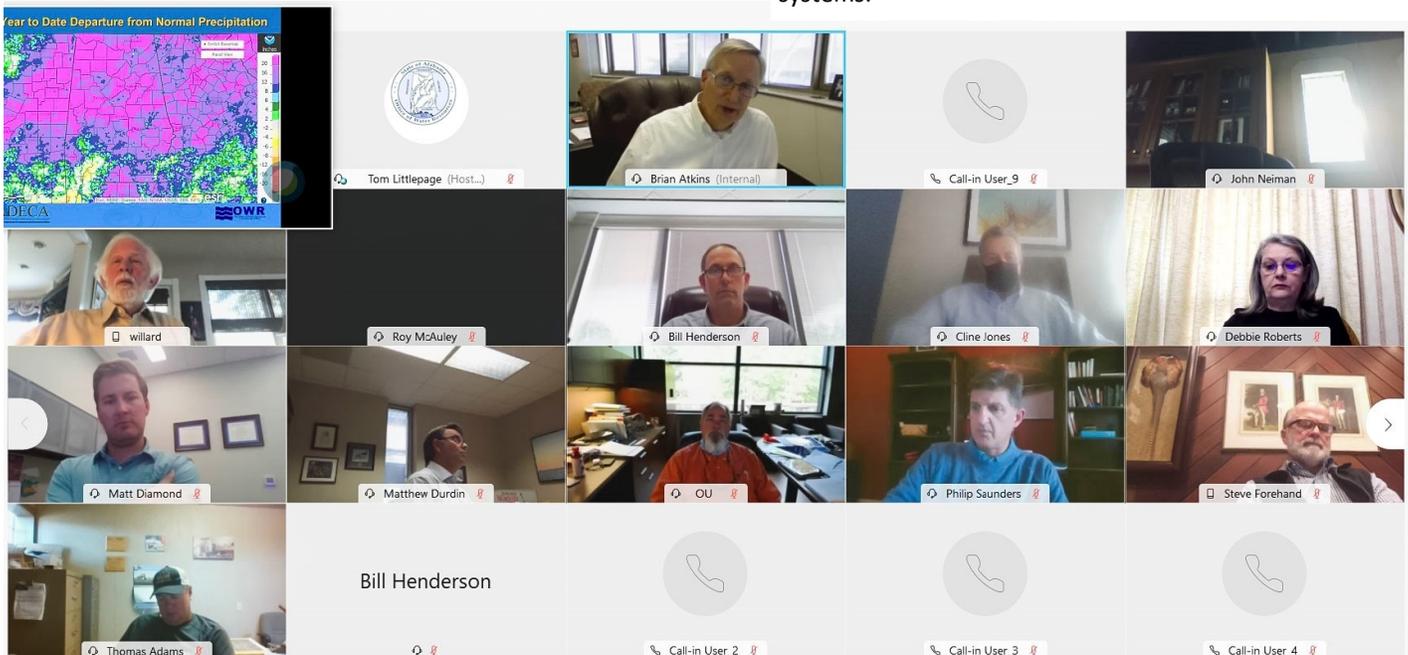


In 2020 because of COVID-19, OWR like other ADECA divisions had to make the needed transformations to continue to manage its business. OWR was able to conduct its duties from March with the outbreak of COVID-19 through December by teleconferencing and electronically exchanging information and posting and receiving documents.

The availability to teleconference with communities, FEMA and the Alabama Emergency Management Agency became crucial after Hurricane Sally struck the Alabama Gulf Coast. OWR was able to see that floodplain administrators had the technical support and guidance they needed to help property owners proceed with repairs and recovery.

That means of communication not only proved invaluable at the time but established a valuable communications resource that will be used now and in the future.

OWR has for years provided technical assistance to Alabama regarding interstate water issues among Alabama, Georgia and Florida involving the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa and Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint river systems.



*During COVID-19, ADECA's Office of Water Resources, like many other state offices, maintained its regularly scheduled meetings through online conferencing methods.*

# SURPLUS PROPERTY DIVISION

During the early outbreak of COVID-19, ADECA's Surplus Property Division teamed up with the Alabama Emergency Management Agency, the Alabama Forestry Commission and the Alabama National Guard to store and distribute personal protection gear to many of those serving on the front lines of the pandemic.

Surplus Property in March and April 2020 stored masks, gloves, hand sanitizers and other protective items at its Montgomery warehouse then helped to load them for distribution to hospitals, medical clinics and other front-line locations across Alabama.

Later, Surplus Property joined with ADECA's Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division to store and distribute similar gear and equipment to law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

In both instances the items were necessary to protect people who were most likely to be exposed to the Covid-19 virus.

That wasn't the only beyond-the-call-of-duty task for the division. After Hurricane Sally struck the Alabama coast in September 2020, Surplus Property responded by providing generators to coastal and inland areas that lost power or experienced other difficulties, including Orange Beach, Bay Minette and farther inland in Camden.



*Although Surplus Property has gone to an online auction for selling its surplus property to the public, the Montgomery warehouse is still open to prospective buyers in the days prior to the auctions.*

While responding to crisis has proven to be the norm for the division in 2020, Surplus Property daily meets the needs of numerous Alabama towns, cities, counties and non-profit organizations. Often those entities, which are on limited budgets, turn to Surplus Property to obtain needed machinery, vehicles, office equipment and more.

The division collects its property from state and federal agencies and is able to provide those to qualified buyers at the acquired costs, which are far below the costs of the items if new.

Unsold property is made available to the public at online auctions conducted several times a year through GovDeals.com. Like previous on-site auctions, potential buyers can visit the Montgomery warehouse and view the items to be auctioned.

Surplus Property also manages the Law Enforcement Support Office program which provides the opportunity for qualified law enforcement agencies in Alabama to obtain Department of Defense surplus equipment. There is no charge for the equipment, but agencies awarded the materials must pay for any transportation costs involved.



**GovDeals**<sup>®</sup>  
Online Government Surplus Auctions

# GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES

In the early days of what would become the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor's Office of Volunteer Services partnered with the Alabama Department of Public Health to recruit retired health-care professionals or students to assist the medical community in meeting the need for workers during the crisis.

The response, created by Gov. Kay Ivey, was one of many efforts that the office, also known as Serve Alabama, provided in 2020 to help Alabamians through disasters.

The office's social media presence served as a road map to those needing help or wanting to help during the Covid-19 pandemic and other life disrupting events in 2020.

Created by Executive Order by Governor Ivey in 2017 and placed under the umbrella of ADECA, GOVS has sought to help Alabamians with several outreach and volunteer programs.

In addition to natural disasters, the office seeks to improve lives in the areas of health care, education, homelessness prevention and environmental issues.

The office oversees the operation of the AmeriCorps programs in the state which respond to local needs.

In 2020 as part of its Covid-19 response, AmeriCorps programs in the state assisted more than 17,000 Alabama families. More than 124,000 pounds of food was collected and distributed, and 101,208 meals were handed out in a 10-county area targeted by the program.



Numerous Alabama AmeriCorps members were recognized for helping to make their communities stronger during National Recognition Day.

In addition, the office administers ReadyAlabama.gov, a program and website, designed to keep Alabamians on alert and prepared for natural disasters that may disrupt their lives.

GOVS also trains volunteers for service during the disasters and other emergency situations. Additionally, the office regularly joins with other state agencies to provide educational training programs designed to prepare Alabamians for potential disasters, and avert injuries or worse.



The AmeriCorps Instructional Support Team in Butler County made preschool graduation gowns for students.



AmeriCorps members from Jefferson County continued to perform their tasks while working at home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

# ADECA SUPPORT SERVICES

As with any efficient piece of machinery, the unseen cogs and wheels often make it operate at top performance. Such is the case with the support services offices at ADECA. From inspecting documents to ensuring that every penny is accounted for, the agency's support service offices are essential in helping ADECA carry out its mission of improving lives in Alabama.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Communications and External Affairs Unit ensures that the ADECA story gets out to the public. Through social media, electronic and print media, the unit each year shares important news and information about ADECA programs, services and events, grant awards and other materials. For the past two years the unit has played a leading role in spearheading Alabama's participation in the 2020 U.S. Census.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, technology is fundamental to the success of any organization. That was even truer in 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in distance working for much of the nation's workforce. Thanks to ADECA's Information Technology Section, the department's staff was able to operate not only remotely, but efficiently and effectively shortly after the pandemic struck the state.

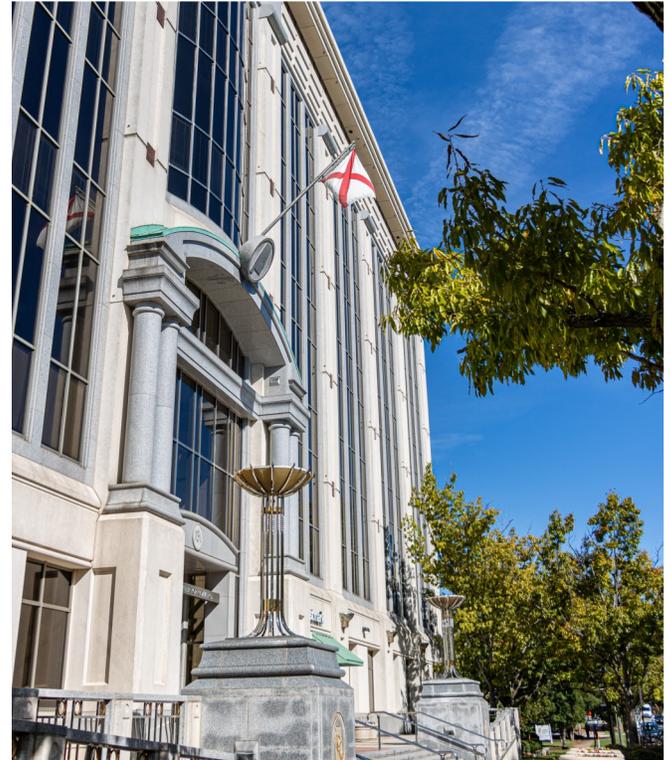
On a day-to-day basis, Information Technology ensures that ADECA's technology is flowing smoothly, its programs are up to date and that outside threats are kept at bay. In that capacity, ADECA staff are readily able to communicate and serve the public and stakeholders.

## LEGAL

The Legal Section ensures that every contract, partnership and agreement adheres to state and federal laws and policies whether it involves the disbursement of funds or the compliance with legislation. The section also monitors state legislation to determine how pending bills will affect the agency and its programs.

## AUDIT

Ensuring that every dollar flowing into ADECA is spent wisely and as intended is the job of ADECA's Audit Section. The section provides guidance to grant recipients during the course of a grant cycle to ensure proper spending procedures are followed and that eligibility for future grants is not compromised.



*The Alabama Center for Commerce building in Montgomery is home to all ADECA offices except the Surplus Property Division.*

## HUMAN RESOURCES

ADECA relies strongly on capable and knowledgeable employees, and the Human Resources Section is at the forefront of ensuring the department's human resource needs are met. Every route into ADECA employment flows through Human Resources. The section ensures that applicants for ADECA jobs meet the required standards enabling each office to operate effectively and efficiently. In addition to hiring new staff, the section also coordinates other human resource transactions, and ADECA employees also rely heavily on Human Resources at the end of their careers to ensure retirement issues are in order.

## FINANCIAL SERVICES

The Financial Services Section manages everyday budgeting, purchasing, payroll and property management for ADECA. The section also monitors financial transactions and maintains records to ensure compliance with department, state and federal procedures.



# ADECA 2019 - 2020

## FEDERAL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

### 2019-2020 Federal Receipts and Expenditures For the Year Ended September 30, 2020

Federal Granter/Program Title	Federal CFDA Number	Receipts	Expenditures
<b>DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Community Development Block Grants/State's Program	14.228	24,142,557	24,094,220
Emergency Solutions Grant Program	14.231	2,505,606	2,527,804
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS	14.241	1,513,958	1,513,882
Hurricane Sandy CDBG Disaster Recovery	14.269	736,066	723,168
<b>DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR</b>			
Outdoor Recreation Acquisition, Development and Planning	15.916	1,325,656	1,326,747
Water Use and Data Research	15.981	56,563	56,563
<b>DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE</b>			
Sexual Assault Services Formula Program	16.017	377,253	377,245
Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program	16.034	9,645,679	1,712,555
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention	16.540	362,254	370,401
Crime Victim Assistance	16.575	40,352,965	37,988,096
Crime Victim Assistance/Discretionary Grants	16.582	28,356	28,339
Violence Against Women Formula Grants	16.588	2,296,600	2,196,705
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners	16.593	485,699	484,500
Project Safe Neighborhoods	16.609	262,084	262,547
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program	16.738	3,371,048	2,992,089
Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant Program	16.742	272,305	272,357
Emergency Law Enforcement Assistance Grant	16.824	696,073	696,073
<b>DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION</b>			
Recreational Trails Program	20.219	3,103,678	3,060,817
Capital Assistance to States - Intercity Passenger Rail Service	20.317	38,671	38,671
<b>HIGHWAY SAFETY CLUSTER</b>			
State and Community Highway Safety	20.600	4,088,343	4,100,883
National Priority Safety Programs	20.616	3,303,093	3,304,093
<b>Total Highway Safety Cluster</b>		<b>7,392,436</b>	<b>7,404,976</b>
<b>APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION</b>			
Appalachian Area Development	23.002	5,486,637	5,560,368
<b>GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION</b>			
Donation of Federal Surplus Personal Property (value of property - not cash received)	39.003	4,192,311	7,337,713
<b>DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY</b>			
Petroleum Violation Escrow	81.Unknown	1,218	-287,915
State Energy Program	81.041	729,992	740,029
Weatherization Assistance for Low-Income Persons	81.042	2,359,319	2,361,191
State Energy Program Special Projects	81.119	94,815	87,096
<b>DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES</b>			
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance	93.568	50,783,366	50,836,497
Community Services Block Grant	93.569	13,745,114	15,734,692
Family Violence Prevention & Services/Domestic Violence Shelter/Supportive Services	93.671	1,583,747	1,606,924
<b>DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY</b>			
Community Assistance Program State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE)	97.023	318,376	305,940
Cooperating Technical Partners	97.045	5,362,750	5,356,530
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS</b>		<b>185,559,344</b>	<b>177,766,820</b>

# COMMUNITY VISITS 2020



Director Kenneth Boswell visited Pickens County and met local officials including Mayors Mickey Walker of Carrollton, Donald Sherrod of Pickensville and Terrence Windham of Aliceville.



Director Kenneth Boswell and Community Services Unit Chief Crystal Talley met with Mayor Gary Davenport and local officials in Eclectic to discuss and review the town's plans for various projects and how ADECA helps local communities in their efforts.



Director Kenneth Boswell toured sites in Lawrence and Morgan counties during a community visit.



Director Kenneth Boswell and Community and Economic Development Division Chief Shabbir Olia met with Brewton Mayor Yancey Lovelace and other elected officials in Brewton for a community



Director Kenneth Boswell and ARC Federal Co-Chair Tim Thomas visited several economic development sites in Morgan, Madison and Limestone counties.



Director Kenneth Boswell and Energy Division Chief Maureen Neighbors met with Hanceville Mayor Kenneth Nail and the City Council about a possible community enhancement project



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