

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



Kay Ivey
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALABAMA

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



Kenneth W. Boswell
DIRECTOR

Foundation for the Future

It could probably go without saying, but every parent wants their children to grow up in a better world and have more opportunities than they did. That is how it has always been and, hopefully, always will be.

Governor Kay Ivey feels the same way, but on a larger scale. Although she cherishes her childhood days in Camden, she wants Alabama to be an even better place to live and grow up for future generations.

She has demonstrated this vision for a better Alabama throughout her career in statewide office. And she continues to prove it every day as governor.

At the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, we are part of that vision. While we have certainly accomplished much in the past several years, we are continuing to build on that firm foundation for an even brighter future for all Alabamians.

Through Governor Ivey’s entrustment, we have taken on several programs that are paving the way to a brighter and better Alabama. Both the expansion of broadband and the electric vehicle infrastructure improvement programs that we administer are hefty tasks, but ones that will one day lead to better lives.

Our Alabama Digital Expansion Division is working to ensure that Alabamians in every corner of the state will have access to high-speed internet service. It is a long journey that requires teamwork from numerous partners, but we will continue on to the goal that all Alabamians no matter where they live in the state will have the ability through broadband to connect to the world, operate a home-based business or rural business that competes on a global scale, and have access to distance learning opportunities and telemedicine.

Our Energy Division program involving electric vehicle infrastructure is setting the groundwork to support the automotive industry’s shift to producing more vehicles powered by electric batteries. In 2022, Gov. Ivey awarded \$2.45 million to install electric charging stations along many of the state’s major highways bringing nearer the day owners of electric vehicles will have ready access to charging options across the state. Already in the last year, there has been a 60 percent increase of electric vehicle registrations in the state, many manufactured here in Alabama, according to the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition.

There is more.

ADECA’s Energy Division helps thousands of Alabamians in need through the Weatherization Assistance and Low-Income Energy Assistance programs while Community Services Block Grants are helping people improve their lives and become productive citizens.

Our community improvement programs - the Community Development Block Grant, Appalachian Regional Commission, Delta Regional Commission and the new Southeast Crescent Regional Commission - are providing water and sewer, drainage and road improvements to neighborhoods and helping companies grow and expand to create jobs.

Our Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division is ensuring that families involved in domestic violence situations are afforded safe havens and provided the ability to start over. LETS funding also makes our communities and roads safer.

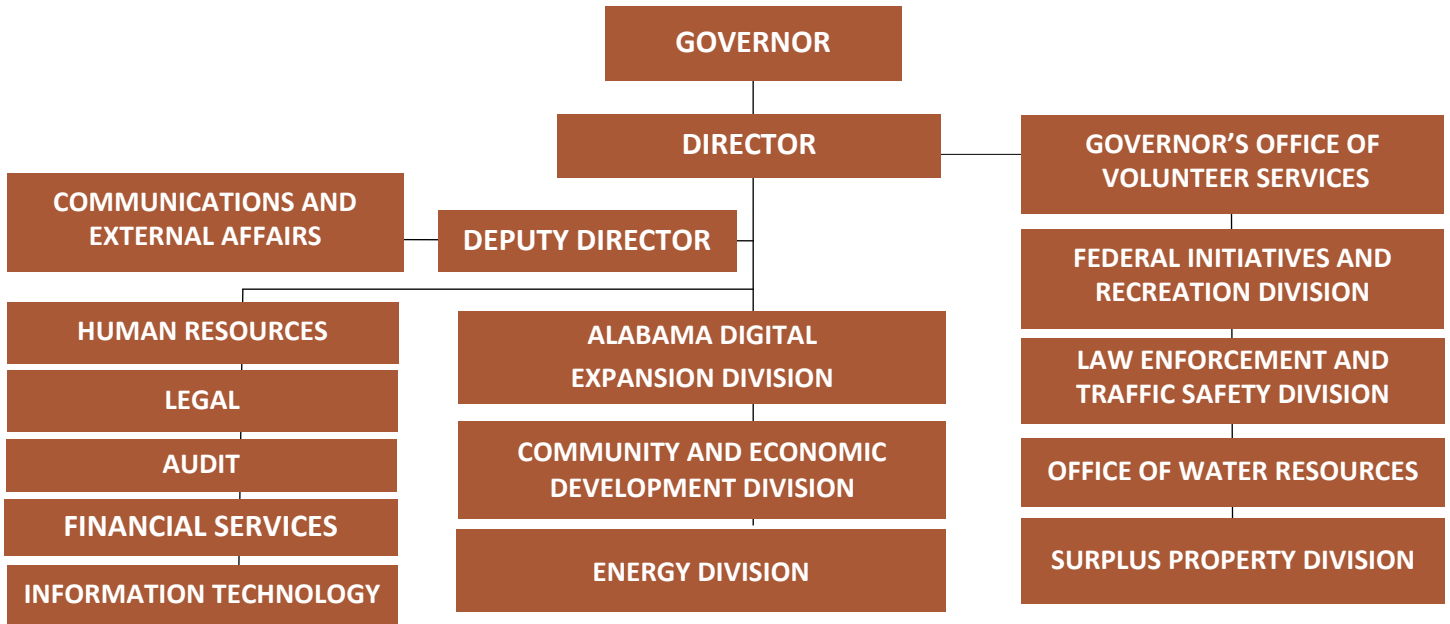
The Office of Water Resources, through its work on monitoring Alabama’s water inventory, is ensuring that this now abundant natural resource will be plentiful for future generations.

Day by day, brick by brick, I believe we at ADECA are accomplishing what Governor Ivey has set out to achieve: Laying a strong foundation for the future of our great state.

Sincerely,

Kenneth W. Boswell
Director

ADECA ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



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.



The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs is housed in the Alabama Center for Commerce building in Montgomery.

ALABAMA DIGITAL EXPANSION DIVISION

Today's need for access to high-speed internet in rural and underserved communities has been compared to the move to provide electricity in those same areas in the 1920s and 30s. And for good reason.

Broadband service has become essential in terms of running a successful business and promoting economic development, enhancing education opportunities, providing emergency services and medical assistance in remote areas and supporting many more components of modern life.

ADECA's Alabama Digital Expansion Division was established in 2021 when Gov. Kay Ivey signed the Connect Alabama Act which amended and improved upon the previously approved Alabama Broadband Accessibility Act. The 2021 act also created the Alabama Digital Expansion Authority, a group that works closely with ADECA on broadband matters. Even before the act, ADECA through its Energy Division led Alabama in its pursuit of supplying internet in unserved areas.

The Digital Expansion Division serves as the guiding force that is helping to ensure that all Alabamians have access to high-speed internet service no matter where they live.

The process has been detailed and time-consuming, but Alabama is making steady progress.

Key in the process was creating a statewide map depicting areas with and without broadband services. Working with broadband providers, the maps provide the truest to date accurate snapshot of where broadband services are needed and which areas are the most feasible to serve. The division updated the maps, which are available at broadband.alabama.gov, in December 2022.

Through a series of state and federal funding, the state has been able to expand broadband services to unserved areas throughout the state.

In September 2022, Gov. Kay Ivey announced that \$82.4 million from the American Rescue Plan Act would be dedicated to creating a statewide "middle mile" network. The "middle mile" network is an essential component in connecting the dots in the broadband infrastructure route and serves as the foundation to bring broadband to rural areas.

The Fiber Utility Network, a coalition of eight rural electric cooperatives, will connect about 3,000 miles of existing and new fiber infrastructure during the next several years. The project areas are within 10 miles of nearly 350 Alabama cities and towns with populations of less than 10,000 people.

Additionally, the Alabama Digital Expansion Division through the Alabama Community Broadband Technical Assistance Program began holding community meetings in all 67 Alabama counties to capture local voices on broadband expansion. Governor Ivey helped kick off the first meeting,

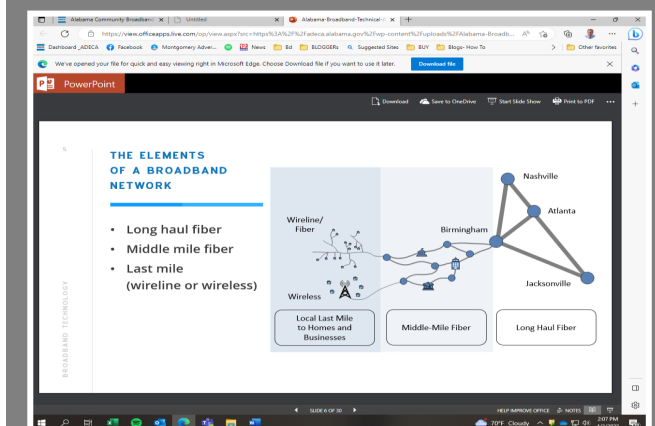
at the Montgomery County Commission, in December 2022.

All this will be instrumental for \$191 million from the federal Capital Projects Fund to supply last mile broadband service to Alabama households, businesses, churches, schools and libraries, and emergency and government offices across the state's landscape. The state's plan for the Capital Projects Fund monies was approved in early 2023.

Other landmarks in the broadband accessibility campaign include:

The *Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund*, established by the Alabama Legislature in 2018 and updated in 2019, has supplied about \$87 million to the state broadband movement since 2018 and supported more than 100 projects throughout the state as of early 2023.

Once awarded grants, broadband providers have two years to complete the projects. After all current projects are completed more than 82,000 households and businesses will have the opportunity to become a broadband customer of that provider if they choose.



Gov. Ivey announced the Middle Mile Network program in September 2022. That program put \$82.4 million into extending broadband services throughout Alabama.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

The Community and Economic Development Division is home to numerous and diverse ADECA programs all with the intent to improve Alabama communities and assist Alabamians.

Community Development Block Grant

Community Development Block Grants are flexible grants that come in many forms and purposes.

With funding supplied to Alabama from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the program's main goal is to benefit low-and moderate-income families. However, most projects benefit entire communities by improving infrastructure, creating jobs and saving local governments from expending funds that may jeopardize or minimize other valuable programs and services.

Competitive CDBG awards are distributed annually to local governments on a competitive basis. In most cases, they involve infrastructure projects or improvements including water, sewer, wastewater plant upgrades, blight removal and road paving or resurfacing.

Grants are awarded based on formulas involving the number of direct low-and moderate-income beneficiaries impacted, scope and urgency of a project and in some cases the amount of local funding or in-kind services (labor, machinery and materials) that a local government can apply toward the project. Grants are usually awarded in the last quarter of a calendar year with applications due around midsummer.

The competitive grants are awarded in several categories including **Small City** (populations of 3,000 and below), **Large City** (populations of 3,001 and above), **County** and **Community Enhancement**. Community Enhancement grant projects extend beyond usual infrastructure grants and can include senior and community centers, firehouses, recreation trails, playgrounds and storm shelters. Cities of all sizes along with counties are eligible to apply for Community Enhancement funds.

Planning Grants are also involved in the competitive process. Planning Grants, which range up to \$40,000, enable towns and cities to map long-range plans and goals and downtown revitalization strategies.

In 2022, Gov. Kay Ivey awarded nearly \$19.3 million in CDBG competitive grants for projects in 49 municipalities and counties. Among those, the town of Coosada was awarded

\$350,000 to demolish 30 dilapidated buildings and abandoned structures while the Wilcox County Commission was awarded a \$400,000 grant to improve drainage in a subdivision which during heavy rains causes flooding of houses, yards and streets.

The **CDBG Economic Development** program provides basic infrastructure improvement to help communities bring in businesses and industry and create or preserve jobs for their area. Projects may involve road and rail improvements and access, sewer extension and supplying public water.

In 2022, 12 CDBG ED awards totaling \$4.77 million were issued creating or preserving 300 jobs in Alabama.

Among those grants was a \$1 million grant to enable Alexander City to extend sewer services to enable Alabama Graphite Products to construct a graphite plant that will employ 100 people. Graphite is a key component in the manufacturing of batteries for electric vehicles. Many Alabama automobile manufacturers have begun building electric vehicles.



Community Development Block Grants improve quality of life and help provide jobs and commerce for communities through economic development projects.

In 2022 ADECA also received \$501 million in **CDBG Disaster Recovery Funds** to assist homeowners and businesses in nine counties affected by Hurricane Sally and Zeta in 2020.

Although the program is in its early stages, funds will go toward helping homeowners with recovery efforts and enabling counties and municipalities to improve infrastructure and complete economic revitalization projects. Those funds will be distributed in Baldwin, Mobile, Escambia, Clarke, Washington, Wilcox, Marengo, Dallas and Perry counties.

ADECA also continued to expend CDBG monies in the form of **Covid-19 Relief Funds**. The \$40.4 million continues to be distributed in Alabama and is intended to prevent the spread of COVID-19 or any future major illness outbreak.

Healthy Food Financing Program

Even in 2023 not everyone has access or opportunity to fresh, wholesome food. Those locations may be in extreme rural areas or within low-income neighborhoods in the state’s largest cities.

The Healthy Food Financing Program was created by the Alabama Legislature in 2015 to provide some equity in access to fresh fruit and vegetables and other wholesome foods. Through a series of grants, businesses and non-profit groups can expand or open stores and farm markets, food pantries and create mobile food trucks.

In 2022 Gov. Kay Ivey awarded nearly \$400,000 to help provide access to healthy food outlets.

Among the grants was a \$36,370 award to the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama to provide a refrigerated truck and other equipment to supply fresh foods to unserved areas of Jefferson, Blount, Calhoun, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, Etowah, Shelby, St. Clair, Talladega, Walker and Winston counties.

Lifeline Outreach Ministries in Grove Hill was awarded a \$50,000 grant to expand its food distribution program by setting up a food pantry in the nearby city of Jackson. Funds were used to purchase needed equipment and make updates on the city-owned building.

Other Programs

The **Neighborhood Stabilization Program** works to revive neighborhoods in jeopardy of falling into disrepair and losing residents. The program helps organizations renovate empty houses and selling or renting them.

The **Minority Business Enterprise** program provides certificates to minority and women-owned businesses which enable them to compete for government contracts.

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

Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids provides housing assistance and support services to low-income persons and HIV/AIDS disabled persons and their families.



The Healthy Food Financing Program has helped communities establish farmers’ markets, food pantries and create mobile food trucks to bring fresh produce to rural areas.

FEDERAL INITIATIVES AND RECREATION DIVISION

The Federal Initiatives and Recreation Division was carved out of the Community and Economic Development Division to provide more emphasis on similar type grant programs. Created in 2022, the division houses the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Delta Regional Authority, Southeast Regional Authority and the department's two recreation-based programs, the Recreational Trails Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Federal Partnerships

The **Appalachian Regional Commission** is a federal-state partnership program that provides federal funding to improve quality of life and upgrade living standards within the region. Created by Congress in 1965 to bring parity into the Appalachian Region with the rest of the nation, the ARC is made up of all or part of 13 eastern states. In Alabama, 37 counties are part of the ARC region and eligible for funds.

ARC funds are used to build or upgrade infrastructure, improve education, stimulate job growth and improve health care.

In 2022, 29 ARC grants totaling nearly \$8 million were awarded to Alabama communities.

Several ARC grants helped communities complete infrastructure improvements.

A \$200,000 grant awarded to the city of Jasper helped the city begin revitalization of one of its oldest neighborhoods. The ARC funding, combined with a Community Development Block Grant, helped replace water and sewer lines, resurface streets and remove blight in the 19th Street neighborhood.

Another \$200,000 ARC grant to Stevenson, helped pave the way for a metal fabrication plant to expand and hire 30 additional employees. ARC funds were used to reconstruct a road to improve the entrance to the plant and improve access to other nearby businesses.

The **Delta Regional Authority** is also a federal program designed to upgrade living conditions in Alabama's Black Belt region. Twenty Alabama counties stretching from the Mississippi line to the Georgia line are part of the region.

DRA was created by Congress in 2000 and takes in all or part of eight states including Alabama. The federal partnership seeks to help create jobs and business development, improve education and the health-care system, and upgrade roads and infrastructure.

In 2022 DRA invested \$4.8 million in nine Alabama projects. Among them was a grant of \$135,805 to develop the Marion Military Flight Training Career Development program at Marion Military Institute in Perry County. The three-year program provides aviation training for civilian and military pilots.

The South Bullock County Water Authority was awarded a \$458,500 grant to construct a 250,000-gallon elevated water tank to help the growing system maintain a sufficient supply of water.

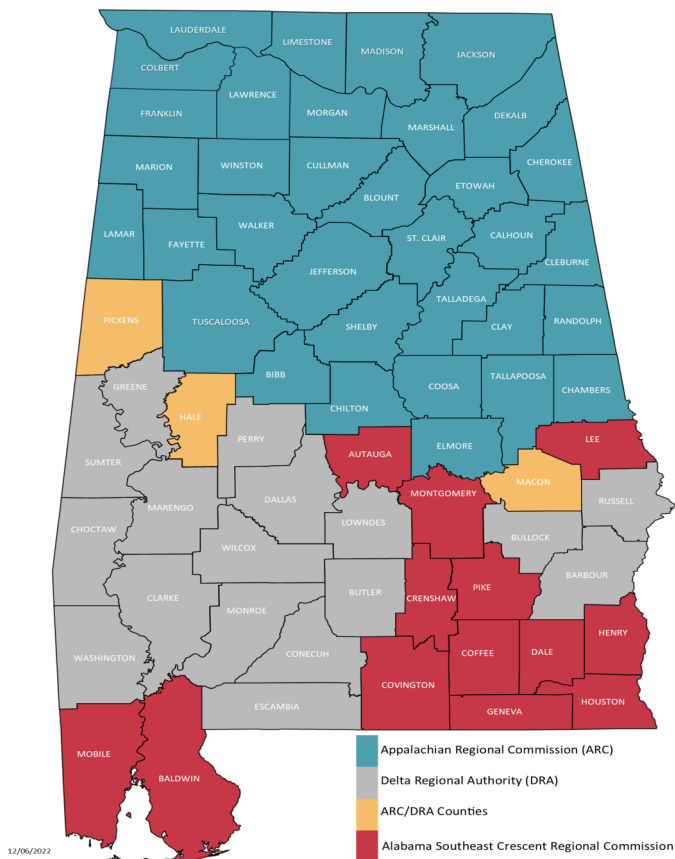
The **Southeast Crescent Regional Commission** was established by Congress with the purpose of building sustainable communities in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and Florida. Although originally established in 2008, the commission in 2022 took several organizational steps in preparation for funding to the states.

In Alabama 13 counties, including Montgomery and Mobile counties, are part of the SCRC. The other counties, mainly located in the southeastern sector of the state, include counties that are not members of the Delta Regional Authority or the Appalachian Regional Commission.



Buc-ee's has produced additional commerce for the city of Athens since it opened off Interstate 65 in late November 2022. ARC provided infrastructure funds.

**APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION
DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY
SOUTHEAST CRESCENT REGIONAL COMMISSION**



Recreational Programs

The **Recreational Trails Program** is funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Highway Administration and supports acquisition, development and improvement of trails or trail amenities for walking/running, cycling, skating, backpacking and horseback riding.

Grants can be used to fund up to 80 percent of a project’s cost while the other 20 percent can be matched locally with cash, labor and equipment, and volunteer work.

Types of projects can range from asphalt walking trails in city parks to rustic and rugged terrain trails through wooded areas. Grant amounts range from \$200,000 to \$500,000 depending on the type of project.

In 2022, Gov. Kay Ivey awarded about \$1.64 million in Recreational Trail grants to fund eight projects.

One of those grants was \$210,000 to the city of Fayette to construct a 10-foot wide, multi-use trail in downtown along the bed of an abandoned railroad track. The quarter-mile long trail is the first phase of a total plan to build at least 2.2 miles of linking trails in the city.

Another grant of \$300,000 was awarded to the Calhoun County Commission to construct a trailhead campsite with water, sewer and electric hookups at the former Fort McClellan Army base in Anniston. The site offers about 20 miles of trails for hiking and horseback riding.

The **Land and Water Conservation Fund** is used to construct or maintain ballfields, playgrounds, camping and picnic areas, swimming pools, splash pads and more.

Applicants can apply for grants up to \$500,000, but LWCF grants must be matched on a penny for penny basis. In addition, property involved where projects are awarded must be dedicated for recreational purposes in perpetuity.



Recreation Trails and the Land and Water Conservation Fund have helped encourage people to enjoy the outdoors whether it be through organized team sports or outdoor trails of all types, including water recreation.

ENERGY DIVISION

ADECA's Energy Division supports and funds energy innovations and projects while also bringing statewide awareness to the importance of conserving energy and improving its efficiency. The division supports a wide range of programs to improve lives. Programs range from encouraging innovation in energy and business to assisting low-income families with energy costs and helping to make their homes more resilient to extreme weather conditions.

One avenue of focus for the Energy Division in the last several years is the electric vehicle industry. As more automobile manufacturers, including those in Alabama, begin producing electric and hybrid vehicles, Energy is there to help ensure that the state has the charging infrastructure necessary as more Alabamians choose to drive electric vehicles.

Under Gov. Ivey, the **Drive Electric Alabama** program has been at the forefront of making it more feasible and easier to drive an electric vehicle in Alabama. The marketing and education program was unveiled in November 2021 by Gov. Kay Ivey as more Alabama vehicle manufacturers produce electric vehicles.

Drive Electric Alabama received an additional \$1 million in 2022 on top of previous funding to continue to educate the public on the benefits of electric vehicle ownership.

In 2022, \$2 million in state funds was allocated for the **Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Program**. Eighteen projects were awarded to install charging stations across the state. A statewide electric vehicle infrastructure plan, released in early 2022 and updated in the summer of 2022, continues to guide those efforts.

The plan outlines the future use of federal funds through the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure program to install electric vehicle charging stations along the state's interstates, while any future state funding will be focused to install the stations on other major highways and high population areas.

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

In 2022, the Energy Division awarded 15 retrofit grants to K-12 schools, local governments and non-profits saving those entities a combined estimate of \$110,000 in annual energy costs. Additionally, nearly 20 building operators were trained to make facilities more energy efficient.

The Energy Division also administers several grant programs to encourage innovation and creativity among entrepreneurs, researchers and inventors.

The **Alabama Research and Development Enhancement Fund**, created by state law in 2019, provides funds to re-

search institutions and state universities to develop products and innovations to improve lives and create new jobs. In 2022, \$1.34 million was awarded to five universities.

This included an \$86,314 grant awarded to the University of Alabama for research involving the development of ultra-high performance concrete using materials available in Alabama.

Energy operates four programs to assist low-income persons. The **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program** partners with 18 community action agencies to distribute funds to help with energy costs. In 2022, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services allocated approximately \$63 million to Alabama. Those funds helped serve more than 81,000 households. **Community Services Block Grants** are funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide emergency services to families and help low-income people obtain self-sufficiency. Approximately \$13.7 million is received annually to be allocated to the 18 community action agencies throughout the state.

The **Weatherization Assistance Program** helps provide modifications to homes of qualified low-income families to conserve energy. In 2022, approximately \$4 million from the U.S. Department of Energy was utilized for weatherization projects in Alabama.

The **Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program** partners with 17 community action agencies and one non-profit organization to help with residential water and sewer costs. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services created the program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, approximately \$20.7 million was allocated to Alabama for the program. Assistance has been provided to over 8,000 low-income households to maintain, restore or prevent disruption of water and wastewater services.



Organizations like Drive Electric Alabama have gone on the road to tout the advantages of electric vehicles.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND TRAFFIC SAFETY DIVISION

ADECA's Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division administers grants to make Alabama's highways and communities safer. The division has four units under two major components: the Highway Safety and Justice Programs units and the Victims of Crime and Violence Prevention units.

Highway Safety and Justice Programs

Every year ADECA participates in several nationwide traffic safety campaigns. The "Click It or Ticket" campaign ensures that motorists in Alabama are wearing seatbelts while the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign is geared to taking dangerous drivers off the road, especially those who are driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

ADECA also awards grants for highway safety campaigns that involve increasing police and trooper presence in areas where data indicates crashes are most likely to occur or driving infractions, such as speeding and dangerous driving, have been cited.

The Justice Programs Unit administers the state's Drug Task Force which was established to take drugs out of communities and arrest drug dealers and offenders. The task force, headed by a unit in the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, is made up of seven regional units.

The task force was formed in 2018 and each regional unit includes police officers and deputies from municipalities and counties within that region.

In the latest data task force agents made nearly 800 arrests and seized large amounts of illegal drugs and illegally obtained pharmaceutical drugs. Among the seizures in 2021 were 2.3 million grams of marijuana, 508,483 grams of methamphetamine and 508 grams of cocaine. Numerous firearms were confiscated, and a significant amount of currency was also seized.

Task force officers also had to take special precautions to avoid accidental exposure to fentanyl, a deadly drug that is found in some illegal pills or substances. The drug has caused numerous overdoses and deaths nationwide, including Alabama. In Jefferson County alone about 400 people died of fentanyl-related deaths in 2021.

The Justice Programs Unit also administered programs to upgrade the state's forensic sciences laboratories and provide forensic science training for law enforcement officers.

Grants also supported drug rehabilitation in the state's prisons and assistance to state inmates who enrolled in career training during their incarceration to find jobs once they were released from prison.

Numerous law enforcement agencies throughout the state were awarded grants to update or buy new equipment to upgrade their department and improve officer safety. Those grants are awarded on a rotating basis.

In total the Highway Safety and Justice Programs units

awarded 104 grants totaling about \$13.5 million in 2022.

Victims of Crime and Violence Prevention

Ensuring that victims of domestic violence and sexual assault escape volatile situations, receive medical attention and are able to rebuild their lives are the main focuses of the Victims of Crime and Violence Prevention units.

The two units provide funds, through multiple state and federal sources, to numerous domestic violence shelters throughout the state. Those agencies in return help victims of domestic violence and their non-offending family members flee possible violent situations and provide them safe haven in a shelter. Most of those non-profit agencies also offer counseling and legal assistance while some also help victims re-establish themselves through employment and housing.

Grants are awarded through several funding sources including the Victims of Crimes Act, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act and the Violence Against Women Act.

Additionally, state funds are awarded through the Alabama Domestic Violence Trust Fund. The trust fund was established by the Alabama Legislature and is funded from marriage recording fees. Fees are distributed to domestic violence agencies on a quarterly basis.

The units also administer funds for programs targeting child and elderly abuse and sex trafficking.

Additionally, funds are provided to specialized crime units to investigate and prosecute offenders in cases involving domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and related crimes.

In 2022, the Victims of Crime and Violence Prevention units awarded 191 grants totaling \$36.2 million.



Grants from the Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division help provide basic forensic and evidence gathering training for law enforcement officers across Alabama. Thorough investigations are key in helping officers and deputies make arrests in crimes and result in successful prosecutions.

OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES

Water is fundamental to life and ADECA's Office of Water Resources serves to ensure that Alabama's water supplies remain plentiful for current and future generations.

The office monitors the state's ground and surface waters and maintains an accurate record of water withdrawals by major users including water authorities and industries that require large amounts of water to run their operations.

In January 2023, OWR had made much progress on an upgrade of its Alabama Water Use Reporting Program that once completed will make it easier and more efficient for users of large amounts of water to report their water usage. The water use reporting program maintains an inventory of water users throughout the state.

The new e-Use Water Reporting system, two years in development, will enable municipalities, water authorities and other users of large amounts of water to register and report their water usage annually online.

The e-Use Water Reporting system update follows on the heels of a water assessment report conducted by OWR. The report inventoried the state's intake and outtake of all the state's lakes, rivers, reservoirs and major streams. The report is a vital component in the office maintaining a water management plan.

OWR also monitors dry periods in Alabama and when required, issues drought advisories based on severity. Those advisories involve warnings, watches and emergency situations for the nine geographic regions of Alabama. Those advisories are often used by water authorities and municipalities to take appropriate actions within their own jurisdictions.

On the opposite side of drought is too much water. OWR's Floodplain Management Unit helps identify areas prone to flooding or in the state's coastal region, areas that are susceptible to storm surges from the Gulf.

The unit works with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to produce flood maps of river basins throughout the state. Those maps are completed on a rotating basis and are required because flood areas can be altered as a result of natural flow of a stream and topography, local development and other factors.

The maps help determine if a structure on a property is eligible to be insured through FEMA. The maps also outline how often a property might be prone to flooding and are also used as a guideline to determine the cost of federal flood insurance.

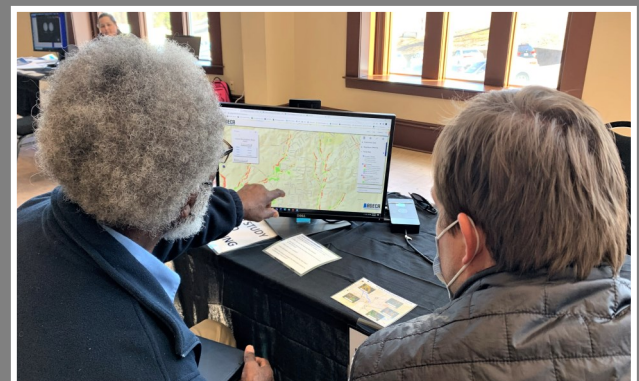
In early 2023, OWR along with representatives of FEMA held an open house at Tuskegee University to discuss new flood maps of the lower Tallapoosa River basin. Among those who attended were representatives of cities and counties and private citizens. Comments from those representatives and individuals will be taken into consideration before final flood maps are approved.

OWR also serves as the state liaison with federal agencies on major water resources related projects and studies as well as supporting environmental education and outreach programs to increase awareness of Alabama's water resources.

Additionally, OWR provides technical assistance in water-rights claims among Alabama, Georgia and Florida involving the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa and the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint river systems. Alabama and Florida maintain that excessive withdrawals from those water systems by Georgia will have negative effects on downstream flows.



OWR along with the Federal Emergency Management Agency hosted a meeting at Tuskegee University to allow people in the Lower Tallapoosa River Watershed area to review proposed flood maps for the area.



The maps, based off geographical data, outline areas prone to flood and their flooding frequency. The maps are used to determine flood insurance rates.

SURPLUS PROPERTY DIVISION

For a lot of local governments, the need to buy a large piece of equipment, particularly when it is not budgeted, can spell trouble. It could force those governments to take out an unwanted loan or make them have to cut expenses elsewhere in their budgets.

ADECA's Surplus Property Division can often spare small governments or eligible non-profits those expenses by supplying them with the needed items at drastically low prices.

Each year, Surplus Property acquires surplus items from other state agencies. Those items include computers, furniture and office equipment, vehicles, tractors, boats and more.

The division also receives goods from the federal government through the General Services Administration's Federal Surplus Personal Property Donation Program.

In addition, Surplus Property collects and sells items from several public airports in the Southeast U.S. Most of that property involves items not allowed on flights and voluntarily turned over by passengers.

Surplus Property stores and distributes most of its property to qualifying customers at its warehouses in Montgomery and Eva (Morgan County).

The division also makes property available to the public through periodic online auctions at GovDeals.com and GSA Auctions.

In addition, Surplus Property also manages the Alabama Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) program which enables law enforcement agencies in the state to obtain U.S. Department of Defense surplus equipment.

There is no charge for the equipment, but agencies vie with other law enforcement agencies across the nation. They are also required to arrange transportation for that equipment once they have been awarded it.

Law enforcement agencies that participate in the state's LESO program are required to pay an annual fee to help handle administrative costs. Those fees range from \$150 to \$250 and are based on the size of the police force.

Surplus Property is often called upon by local governments, public safety departments and emergency management agencies after disasters, like tornadoes or hurricanes, to provide resources necessary in cleanup effort or maintaining safety in stricken areas.



Surplus Property offers vehicles of all types at its auctions.



Surplus Property conducts its public auctions online, but prospective buyers have an opportunity to view merchandise before bidding.



You never can be sure what type of items will show up at an auction such as these snow globes.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Strengthening Alabama communities through volunteerism and service is the focus of the Governor's Office of Volunteer Services.

An executive order in 2017 by Gov. Kay Ivey rebranded the office and placed it under the umbrella of ADECA.

Volunteer Services oversees numerous activities statewide including those supported by AmeriCorps, a federal agency that promotes volunteerism nationwide. The office supports programs that involve improving education and health care, aiding the homeless and those with substance abuse problems and protecting the environment.

The office also conducts programs for disaster preparedness and participates in recovery efforts in the aftermath of natural disasters.

Additionally, Volunteer Services serves as the lead agency for volunteer and donations management, as written in the State's Emergency Operations Plan, and the State Voluntary Agency Liaison to faith-based and voluntary agencies. Under those obligations, the office coordinates volunteer response and recovery efforts for survivors of disasters and assists in any immediate and long-term disaster recovery efforts.

Volunteer Services serves as the State Service Commission making it eligible to receive funds from AmeriCorps which it awards as grants to organizations responding to Alabama needs. In 2022, nearly 250 AmeriCorps members aided those organizations in recruiting and managing volunteers and assisted in several service projects. Among them were projects to help veteran and active-duty military members with needs and projects to help K-12 students improve academically.

In 2022 AmeriCorps members recruited and managed 1,154 volunteers who served 5,538 volunteer hours in projects involving 24,198 Alabama youths.

During that same time, volunteers distributed more than 202,000 pounds of food to families and improved access to medical care for about 750 people. Volunteers also assisted more than 1,600 households at free tax sites in which 726 households were found eligible to receive tax credits.

Additionally, volunteers mentored 567 students enabling them to graduate from high school. They also assisted a total of 10,288 students in education and training.

Volunteer Services staff members were called into the state Emergency Operations Center in Clanton during severe weather and were instrumental in providing staffing and volunteers during tornadoes and severe winter weather events. The office also continued supporting registration

and management of emergency volunteers in Alabama ReadyOp, an emergency management system, in partnership with Alabama Department of Public Health.

Volunteer Services continued its partnership with the state-based non-profit Council on Substance Abuse to provide series of virtual mental health trainings.



Governor Ivey signs a proclamation supporting April as National Volunteer Month.



AmeriCorps volunteers contributed hundreds of hours to improve lives for Alabamians.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Even the finest machinery cannot operate efficiently if it is missing its essential nuts and bolts. ADECA Support Services offices supply those nuts and bolts for the many diverse programs at the agency.

Communications and External Affairs

The Communications and External Affairs Section works to ensure that ADECA's story is shared and that awareness is brought to its many programs and how they positively impact Alabama.

Each year CEA sends out hundreds of media releases and advisories to affected areas to keep the public up to date and knowledgeable of ADECA's activities. Just as important is CEA's close relationship with legislators and elected officials who often initiate participation in ADECA's grant programs. CEA relies heavily on many social media avenues to broadcast its message. Often, in-house video productions demonstrating programs and success stories are made public to bring even more awareness.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic CEA has made it possible that many participants in ADECA programs can participate in live or recorded workshops, program orientations and other meetings through on-line sources.

Information Technology

In this day and age, technology is imperative for any agency to operate effectively and efficiently. ADECA's Information Technology Section keeps ADECA up to speed on computer services and programs to help the department maintain optimal performance. The unit is responsible for developing and maintaining many of the unique programs required by divisions and ensuring online safety and protecting users from malicious viruses and threats that could impede performance.

The unit has several divisions to perform those tasks. They include Infrastructure Operations, Business Solutions, Governance and Compliance and Cloud and Network Engineering.

Legal

ADECA's Legal team maintains a presence in all ADECA grant programs and contracts to ensure compliance of state and federal laws. Through clearance of contracts, the Legal team helps eliminate delays in programs that later could hinder payments to grant recipients. Legal also monitors Alabama Legislative sessions to determine the impact any legislation might have on ADECA and its programs.

Audit

In each of ADECA's contracts and projects the Audit team is there every step of the way. The group is responsible for ensuring that every penny in awarded projects is spent for its intended purposes. Audit also provides advice to grant recipients for compliance of contracts and to ensure projects and future projects are not called into question or jeopardized.

Human Resources

The Human Resources unit is charged with meeting the personnel needs at ADECA. The unit not only aids in ensuring that job descriptions fit the needed job vacancy, but also ushers in new employees and helps orientate them to ADECA. Additionally, Human Resources guides ADECA employees throughout their careers and helps them plan for retirement.

Financial Services

The Financial Services section manages the everyday budgetary, purchasing, payroll and property management for ADECA. Financial transactions involving ADECA division are handled through Financial Services to ensure compliance of state and federal laws and departmental policy.

FEDERAL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS			
2021-2022 Federal Receipts and Expenditures			
For the Year Ended September 30, 2022			
Federal Grantor/Program Title	Federal CFDA Number	Receipts	Expenditures
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT			
Community Development Block Grants/State's Program	14.228	19,119,235	18,971,795
COVID 19 Community Development Block Grants/State's Program	14.228	8,924,401	8,853,918
Emergency Solutions Grant Program	14.231	3,029,947	3,029,399
COVID-19 Emergency Solutions Grant Program (CARES Act)	14.231	17,741,315	17,705,805
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS	14.241	2,246,220	2,245,965
COVID-19 Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (CARES Act)	14.241	107,451	106,935
Hurricane Sandy Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery	14.269	101,500	100,550
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR			
Outdoor Recreation Acquisition, Development and Planning	15.916	1,124,330	1,119,861
Water Use and Data Research	15.981	74,109	90,643
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE			
Sexual Assault Services Formula Program	16.017	449,751	449,248
COVID-19 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program	16.034		1,554,440
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention	16.540	511,044	522,334
Crime Victim Assistance	16.575	28,084,889	28,073,295
Crime Victim Assistance/Discretionary Grants	16.582	3,563	3,563
Violence Against Women Formula Grants	16.588	1,401,393	1,385,610
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners	16.593	376,056	374,116
Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program	16.607	5,723	13,560
Project Safe Neighborhoods	16.609	318,973	318,973
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program	16.738	3,667,107	2,344,042
Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant Program	16.742	4,808	4,690
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION			
Recreational Trails Program	20.219	1,538,448	1,536,806
Highway Safety Cluster			
State and Community Highway Safety	20.600	4,072,691	4,136,712
National Priority Safety Programs	20.616	3,180,970	3,461,254
Total Highway Safety Cluster		7,253,661	7,597,966
APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION			
Appalachian Area Development	23.002	4,326,350	4,354,286
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION			
Donation of Federal Surplus Personal Property (value of property - not cash received)	39.003	3,014,558	2,919,549
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY			
Petroleum Violation Escrow	81.Unknown		(325,784)
State Energy Program	81.041	551,624	658,702
Weatherization Assistance for Low-Income Persons	81.042	3,316,774	3,360,812
State Energy Program Special Projects	81.119	26,687	21,623
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES			
Family Violence Prevention and Services/Sexual Assault/Page Crisis Services and Supports	93.497	1,564	1,595
Low Income Household Water Assistance Program	93.499	3,133,166	3,188,078
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance	93.568	63,049,060	61,994,530
COVID -19 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (American Rescue Plan (ARP))	93.568	34,833,462	34,866,742
COVID-19 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (CARES Act)	93.568	1,606,425	1,542,377
Community Services Block Grant	93.569	11,519,104	11,457,378
COVID-19 Community Services Block Grant (CARES Act)	93.569	6,596,312	6,617,146
Family Violence Prevention and Services/Domestic Violence Shelter and Supportive Services	93.671	1,435,680	1,371,950
COVID-19 Family Violence Prevention and Services/Domestic Violence Shelter and Supportive Services (American Rescue Plan (ARP))	93.671	579,746	579,993
COVID-19 Family Violence Prevention and Services/Domestic Violence Shelter and Supportive Services (CARES Act)	93.671	113,020	113,020
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY			
Community Assistance Program State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE)	97.023	158,529	177,379
Cooperating Technical Partners	97.045	4,785,187	4,970,414
TOTAL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS		235,131,171	234,273,304

COMMUNITY VISITS 2022



Director Boswell attended the ribbon cutting for 25 RV campsites at Cathedral Caverns State Park. Cathedral Caverns is Alabama's newest state park.



Director Boswell attended the groundbreaking of the Autaugaville Senior Citizen center.



Director Boswell visited the City of Cordova in Walker County. He met with local officials to discuss economic development opportunities in the city.



Director Boswell visited with the City of Calera. He toured the city's ongoing downtown revitalization efforts and several other areas of the vibrant and growing community.



Director Boswell visited Bankhead Middle School to learn about their robotics program.



Director Boswell met with officials in Hurtsboro to discuss how ADECA helps rural municipalities with various projects.



Director Boswell joined with Delta Regional Authority Federal Co-Chair Dr. Corey Wiggins on a tour through Alabama's Black Belt region. They started at Tuskegee University and continued through Union Springs and on to Selma. They spoke to various groups and local officials about how DRA and ADECA work together to assist communities with various projects through federal grants.

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Director Boswell met with participants of Alabama Power's Expanded Leadership Development Program. He discussed ADECA's role in administering federal grant dollars across the state.

