

Updated November 7, 2022

PATHWAY TO RE-ENTRY

A Guide to Work and Self-sufficiency



Created by the Mississippi Community College Board for the Mississippi Department of Corrections

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Probation and Parole

Mississippi Probation

Probation is an alternative to incarceration. During the term of probation, a probation agent monitors the individual throughout the probation sentence.

<https://www.mdoc.ms.gov/Community-Corrections/Pages/Probation.aspx>

Mississippi Parole

Parole is the early and supervised release of a prison inmate. Mississippi statutes regulating parole is located at Mississippi Code 1972 Annotated Title 47 Chapter 7.

<https://www.mdoc.ms.gov/Community-Corrections/Pages/Parole.aspx>

Mississippi Probation and Parole Regional Contacts

The Community Corrections Division (CCD) in the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) is responsible for supervision of probationers and parolees in the community. CCD has three regions made up of numerous counties. See **Attachment A** for a map of the community corrections regions.

- Northern Region: Housed in Cleveland, MS (662) 843-0028
- Central Region: Housed in Columbus, MS (662) 494-1713
- Southern Region: Housed in Pascagoula, MS (601) 947-3479

<https://www.mdoc.ms.gov/Community-Corrections/Pages/CCD-Regions.aspx>

SB 2273 (2022)

This legislation, passed during the Mississippi 2022 Legislative Session, allows employers to submit timesheets, proof of ongoing employment, and results of required drug tests in lieu of in-person or electronic meetings for those individuals who are on community supervision and working. This legislation also allows employers to withhold and pay directly to MDOC earnings from the individual who is working to cover the monthly \$55 community supervision fee as set by statute.

<http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2022/html/SB/2200-2299/SB2273SG.htm>

Legal Aid

Mississippi Access to Justice Commission

This commission, created by the Mississippi Supreme Court to improve access to justice in civil legal proceedings for low-income Mississippians, maintains a Legal Resources page on its website. The page is for people handling their legal problems without a lawyer and includes interactive tools to help create court forms. This website does not give legal advice and is not a substitute for having a lawyer.

(601) 960-9581.

<http://msatjc.org/legal-resources>

North Mississippi Rural Legal Services

This organization provides free civil representation to low-income persons in the northern 39 counties of Mississippi. Statewide Intake Hotline (800) 498-1804.

<http://nmrls.com/>

Mississippi Center for Legal Services

This organization provides free civil legal assistance to low-income individuals in the central and southern 43 counties of Mississippi. Statewide Intake Hotline (800) 498-1804.

<https://mscenterforlegalservices.org/>



Legal problem not in Mississippi?

Find legal help in other states on LawHelp.org.

Immediate and On-going Needs for Re-entry

- Affordable Housing
- Adequate Food
- Clothing and Personal Care Items
- Child Care
- Transportation
- Proper Identification
- Medical/Mental, Dental, Psychiatric Care
- Alcohol or Substance Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation
- Income to Cover Ongoing Expenses
- Necessary Skills
- Education and Training
- Employment

Resource Assistance Program

MDOC created this program to assist those individuals still under community corrections supervision in connecting with resources necessary to reintegrate into the communities where they are returning to live and work. See **Attachment A** for a map of the community corrections regions and a staff directory for the Resource Assistance Program.

United Way 211

211 Mississippi Helpline is a statewide information and referral service that connects callers with a variety of health and human service resources specific to their needs and geographical area. Dial 2-1-1, or (866) 472-8265.

<https://www.myunitedway.com/211>

Mississippi Reentry Guide

On behalf of the Mississippi Reentry Council, The Foundation for the Mid-South produced this guide to provide essential information and resources about services to ex-offenders and those that support them. (601) 355-8167. msreentryguide@fndmidsouth.org.

www.msreentryguide.com

My Resources

The Mississippi Department of Human Services maintains a webpage on their website to list resources across the state.

<https://myresources.mdhs.ms.gov>

MARC Resources Directory

The Mississippi Association for Returning Citizens (MARC), whose mission is to create a support system for inmates preparing for reentry, maintains a directory on their website to connect returning citizens with needed resources.

<https://marcreentry.org>

findhelp

Findhelp is a national social care network that connects people with social care organizations that can serve them. Enter a zip code and browse local programs grouped by these categories: Food, Housing, Goods, Transit, Health, Money, Care, Education, Work, Legal.

<https://www.findhelp.org>

Affordable Housing

Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC)

The MDOC's Community Corrections Division contracts with transitional housing facilities to provide re-entry services to those released from custody without approved housing. (601) 359-5600.

<https://www.mdoc.ms.gov/Community-Corrections/Pages/default.aspx>

Affordable Housing typically refers to homes and apartments with reduced or subsidized rents made possible through government funding and incentives for housing providers.

Public Housing Agencies, commonly referred to as Housing Authorities, are federally funded and regulated organizations tasked with developing long-term, sustainable housing strategies for the communities they serve.

There are 56 public housing agencies in the state. Visit this website for the list of public housing agencies in Mississippi.

https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PHA_Contact_MS.pdf

Visit this website for more information about affordable housing.

<https://www.hud.gov/states/mississippi/custserv>

Visit this website for access to ***Guide on Finding Felon Friendly Apartments and Housing***.

<https://helpforfelons.org/felon-friendly-apartments-housing-1/>

SHELTERLIST.COM

Visit this website for local homeless resources in the United States, including Mississippi.

<https://www.shelterlist.com/state/mississippi>

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

The Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Community Services provides funds to local Community Action Agencies and Human Resource Agencies to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities. Funds may be used to lessen poverty in communities; address the needs of low-income individuals including the *homeless* and elderly; provide services and activities addressing employment, education, *housing*, nutrition, and health services. (601) 359-4768 or 1-800-421-0762. <https://www.mdhs.ms.gov/community-services/csbg/>

Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP helps keep families safe and healthy through initiatives that assist families with energy costs. Access this website to apply for Energy Assistance for your home. (601) 359-4768 or 1-800-421-0762. <https://www.mdhs.ms.gov/community-services/liheap/>

Adequate Food

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Formerly known as the food stamp program, SNAP provides monthly benefits that help low-income households buy the food they need for good health. SNAP is a federal program administered on the local level by the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS). There is an MDHS office in every county in the state. (601) 359-4500 or 800-948-3050. ea.customerservice@mdhs.ms.gov. <https://www.mdhs.ms.gov/economic-assistance/snap/>

Mississippi Food Network

If you or someone you know is in need of emergency food assistance, please call (601) 353-7286 or email info@msfoodnet.org. <https://www.msfoodnet.org/help/>

Mississippi Free Food Banks and Pantries

Search this national website for information on food pantries and food banks located across Mississippi. https://www.needhelppayingbills.com/html/mississippi_food_banks.html

FoodFinder

FoodFinder is a website and mobile app that helps connect those in need to free food resources nearby. FoodFinder is frequently updated and completely free. More than 50,000 food pantries and free meal programs across all 50 states are on the FoodFinder assistance map.

<https://foodfinder.us>



Or Find ***FoodFinder – Fighting Hunger*** for **FREE**
on Google Play and the App Store!

Clothing and Personal Care Items

Please visit your local ministries and thrift stores.

Child Care

Mississippi Low-Income Child Care Initiative (MLICCI)

MLICCI works to improve women’s economic security in Mississippi by making childcare affordable for low-income working mothers, achieving gender and racial equity in the workforce, and making the safety net work for women. (228) 669-4827. info@mschildcare.org

<https://www.mschildcare.org/projects/>

MDHS/Early Childhood Care & Development

The statewide Child Care Certificate Program provides parents with assistance with childcare tuition. Parents may choose any type of childcare and make a co-payment. (601) 359-4500 or 1-800-877-7882.

<https://www.mdhs.provider.webapps.ms.gov/ccsearch.aspx>

Transportation

Mississippi Department of Transportation/Connect MS

Six regional transportation groups coordinate public transportation through a network of 60+ providers. (601) 359-7800 or 1-866-813-3616.

<https://mdot.ms.gov/connectms/>



See **Attachment B** for Regional Coordination Transportation Groups.

Proper Identification

SB 2263 (2022)

This legislation, passed during the Mississippi 2022 Legislative Session, prohibits physically incarcerated offenders from requesting a name change. A name change may only occur if one of the following individuals files a change of name petition on behalf of an offender: a district attorney, a sheriff of a county in which a person is incarcerated, the Commissioner of MDOC (or designee), an MDOC Chaplain.

<http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2022/pdf/SB/2200-2299/SB2263SG.pdf>

Social Security Administration

The Social Security Administration assigns Social Security numbers, and administers the Social Security retirement, survivors, and disability insurance programs. They also administer the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program for the aged, blind, and disabled. 1-800-772-1213. <https://www.ssa.gov/onlineservices/> or <https://www.ssa.gov/reentry/benefits.htm> for Benefits after Incarceration.

Mississippi Department of Public Safety

Visit this website for information about how to obtain a Mississippi Driver's License or Identification Card. (601) 987-1212. <https://www.driverservicebureau.dps.ms.gov/>

Now you may also have your identification on your phone via Mobile ID. Mobile ID is a highly secure, digitized version of your driver license or state-issued ID, carried in an app on your smartphone.

<https://www.driverservicebureau.dps.ms.gov/mobile-id/>

Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH)

The Vital Records Division at MSDH maintains birth and death records from November 1912 to the present. Birth certificates, death certificates, and marriage records may be ordered online, by mail, phone, or in person. 222 Marketridge Drive, Ridgeland, MS 39157. (601) 206-8200.

https://www.msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/31,0,109.html

Medical/Mental, Dental, Psychiatric Care

COVID-19

The website listed below is the dedicated site for all COVID-related information in Mississippi including location sites providing free COVID-19 testing, vaccination guidance, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updates and resources. 1-877-978-6453.

<https://www.coronavirus.ms.gov>

Mississippi State Department of Health

MSDH provides health protection, health promotion, and health planning through a network of health care facilities. These facilities, or county health departments, are located in all 82 counties in Mississippi. Visit this website to locate your county health department. (601) 576-7400 or 1-866-458-4948.

<https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/index.cfm/19,0,166,html>

FreeClinics.com

FreeClinics.com is the largest online directory of free and affordable health clinics. There are 177 clinics in Mississippi. FreeClinics.com is updated and maintained by users.

<https://www.freeclinics.com/sta/mississippi>

Mississippi Division of Medicaid

The Mississippi Division of Medicaid provides health coverage for eligible low-income populations in Mississippi including children, low-income families, pregnant women, family planning benefits, the aged, and disabled. It is always best to check with the regional office that serves the county in which you reside to obtain information about applying for Medicaid. (601) 359-6050 or 1-800-421-2408.

<https://medicaid.ms.gov/about/office-locations/>

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

The Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Community Services provides funds to local Community Action Agencies and Human Resource Agencies to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities. Funds may be used to lessen poverty in communities; address the needs of low-income individuals including the homeless and elderly; provide services and activities addressing employment, education, housing, **nutrition**, and **health services**. (601) 359-4768 or 1-800-421-0762.

<https://www.mdhs.ms.gov/community-services/csbg/>

Mental Health Mississippi

The Mississippi Department of Mental Health (DMH) developed Mental Health Mississippi to simplify the process to access services to help with mental health problems such as depression or anxiety. The site also serves as a hub of information for all mental health resources available in the state. The DMH Helpline number is 1-877-210-8513.

<https://www.mentalhealthms.com>

HB 732 (2022)

This legislation, passed during the Mississippi 2022 Legislative Session, ensures that all Mississippians receive a consistent level of behavioral health services no matter where they live, work, or travel in the state by authorizing DMH to designate a 9-8-8 crisis hotline center.

<http://www.dmh.ms.gov/>



See **Attachment C** for a flyer on 9-8-8. Dial 9-8-8 or 1-800-273-8255.

Hinds Behavioral Health Services

The Reduce Recidivism Program at Hinds Behavioral Health Services provides recidivism services to individuals recently released or paroled from an MDOC facility and living with mental illness. By participating in the program, eligible participants are able to continue to report to a parole agent and work while receiving treatment for a mental health disorder and/or substance use problem. (601) 985-5165. <https://hbhs9.com/recidivism/>

Mississippi Dental Association

The Mississippi Dental Association provides on their website resource information to assist those in need of free or reduced cost dental care.

<https://www.msdenal.org/for-the-public/free-and-low-cost-dental-care>

Alcohol or Substance Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation

Mississippi Department of Mental Health

Visit the DMH website for information related to alcohol and drug services. (601) 359-1288 or 1-877-210-8513.

www.dmh.ms.gov/alcohol-and-drug-services/



See **Attachment C** for a map of Mental Health Resources.

Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services

Visit this website to apply for vocational rehabilitation services related to alcohol and drug rehabilitation. (601) 853-5100 or 1-800-443-1000.

<https://www.mdrs.ms.gov/Pages/Request-Services.aspx>

Income to Cover On-going Expenses

Local churches may be able to provide assistance.

Social Security Administration

The Social Security Administration assigns Social Security numbers, and administers the Social Security retirement, survivors, and disability insurance programs. They also administer the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program for the aged, blind, and disabled. 1-800-772-1213. <https://www.ssa.gov/onlineservices/> or <https://www.ssa.gov/reentry/benefits.htm> for Benefits after Incarceration.

Hope Credit Union

This financial institution, located in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee, offers financial banking opportunities in areas where banking is limited and provides affordable, responsible deposit accounts and loans to help people save money and keep more of what they make. <https://hopecu.org/>



Visit the website below to find help paying bills or debts, secure free items such as food or clothes and more.

<https://www.needhelppayingbills.com>


Necessary Skills

Skill UP Mississippi

Skill UP Mississippi is an initiative of the Office of Adult Education within the Mississippi Community College Board. Some of the programs within the initiative include: 1) High School Equivalency; 2) **Smart Start**; 3) English as a Second Language.

Smart Start

Smart Start is designed to help students gain the skills they need to be successful in today's economy. The program prepares students for middle-skill jobs such as machinists, registered nurses, computer technicians, medical assistants and a host of other opportunities by helping them learn and practice good work habits and the effective communications skills needed to secure meaningful employment.

 *Continued next page*

Smart Start students are prepared to take the ACT WorkKeys test (including Applied Math, Graphic Literacy, and Workplace Documents) that qualifies students for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). Employers seek candidates with an NCRC regardless of the candidate’s educational background. The certificate signals to employers that students have the skills necessary to be effective in a job. (601) 432-6518 or skillup@mccb.edu.
<https://skillupmississippi.com>

Education and Training

Affordable Connectivity Program

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a U.S. government program run by the Federal Communications Commission to help low-income households pay for internet service and connected devices like a laptop or tablet. You are likely eligible if you or someone you live with currently receives a government benefit like SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, Pell Grant, or Free and Reduced-Price Lunch.

<https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov>

HB 1313 (2022)

This legislation, passed during the Mississippi 2022 Legislative Session, created the “State Representative Bill Kinkade Fostering Access and Inspiring True Hope (FAITH) Scholarship Program. Commencing with the 2023-2024 Academic Year, scholarships are available to eligible foster youth to pay up to the cost of attendance at any approved postsecondary educational institution for any certificate or degree program.

<http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2022/pdf/HB/1300-1399/HB1313SG.pdf>

Mississippi Fresh Start Act of 2019

The intent of this act is to expand work opportunities for people who were formerly incarcerated by revising the restrictions on occupational licensing based on criminal records. It also provides that an individual with a criminal record can petition a licensing authority before entering a program of study to determine if the individual’s criminal record will disqualify them from obtaining a license. Example of a pre-determination form is provided in the link below.

[https://www.msmt.ms.gov/sites/msmt/files/MT.06%20Request%20for%20Determination%204.1.2020\(Yvonne%20collision%20\).pdf](https://www.msmt.ms.gov/sites/msmt/files/MT.06%20Request%20for%20Determination%204.1.2020(Yvonne%20collision%20).pdf)

My Way Mississippi

My Way Mississippi is a college access initiative of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, Mississippi Department of Education, Mississippi Community College Board, and the Woodward Hinds Education Foundation. Find out how to **plan your way** to college, **pay your way** to college, explore degrees and colleges on your **way to college**, then how your **way works**. <https://www.mywayms.org>

Mississippi Community Colleges

Mississippi's network of 15 community colleges offers three different education and training tracks: **1) Academics**; **2) Career & Technical Education**; and **3) Workforce Training**. Within each one of these tracks, various courses and training options are available which are too numerous to list here and may be different at each college.



See **Attachment D** to find the community college that serves the county where you live and contact the college using the contact information provided below.

- **Coahoma Community College** www.coahomacc.edu
3240 Friars Point Road, Clarksdale, MS 38614
(662) 627-2571
- **Copiah-Lincoln Community College** <https://www.colin.edu>
1028 JC Redd Drive, Wesson, MS 39191

Academics: Dr. Stephanie Duguid, (601) 643-8341.
Career & Technical Education: Brent Duguid, (601) 643-8323
Workforce Training: Luke Laird, (601) 643-8715
- **East Central Community College** go2ec@eccc.edu
15738 Highway 15 South, Decatur, MS 39327
Sherrell Brown, (601) 635-6356
- **East Mississippi Community College** www.eastms.edu
1512 Kemper Street, Scooba, MS 39358
(662) 476-5000

- **Hinds Community College** <https://www.hindscc.edu>
 501 East Main Street, Raymond, MS 39154
 1-800-HINDSCC
 Shane Brown, Adult Recruiter, sbrown@hindscc.edu
- **Holmes Community College** <https://www.holmescc.edu>
 1 Hill Street, Goodman, MS 39079

Academics: Mallory Weeks, (662) 472-9034
Career & Technical Education: Wyndy Peeples, (662) 472-9098
Workforce Training: Earline Smith, (332) 472-9105
- **Itawamba Community College** www.iccms.edu
 602 West Hill Street, Fulton, MS 38843
 (662) 862-8000
- **Jones College** <https://www.jcjc.edu>
 900 South Court Street, Ellisville, MS 39437
 (601) 477-4000
- **Meridian Community College** <https://www.meridiancc.edu>
 910 Highway 19 North, Meridian, MS 39307

Academics: Chad Graham, (601) 484-8698
Career & Technical Education: Lori Smith, (601) 484-8771
Workforce Training: Lucy Lamberth, (601) 484-8776
- **Mississippi Delta Community College** <https://www.msdelta.edu>
 Highway 3 & Cherry Street, Moorhead, MS 38761

Academics: (662) 246-6317
Career & Technical Education: (662) 246-6516
Workforce Training: (662) 887-2876
- **Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College** <https://mgccc.edu>
 51 Main Street, Perkinston, MS 39573
 (228) 896-2536

- **Northeast Mississippi Community College** www.nemcc.edu
101 Cunningham Boulevard, Booneville, MS 38829
(662) 728-7751

- **Northwest Mississippi Community College** <https://www.northwestms.edu>
4975 Highway 51 North, Senatobia, MS 38668

Academics: Carolyn Wiley, (662) 562-3927, cwiley@northwestms.edu

Career & Technical Education: Dwayne Casey, (662) 562-3486, dcasey@northwestms.edu

Workforce Training: Doug Freeze, (662) 562-3402, dfreeze@northwestms.edu

- **Pearl River Community College** www.prcc.edu
101 Highway 11 North, Poplarville, MS 39470
(601) 403-1000

- **Southwest Mississippi Community College** <https://www.smcc.edu>
1156 College Drive, Summit, MS 39666
(601) 276-3836, Workforce Receptionist

Other Training Providers

Goodwill Industries of Mississippi. Visit this website for Digital/Computer Training Classes in the Central Mississippi area. (601) 708-1188.

<http://goodwillms.org/digital-career-accelerator-program/>



See **Attachment E** for the program flyer.

Goodwill also offers a national certification in customer service and sales through their workforce-training center located at 863 Centre Street, Ridgeland, MS. (601) 853-8110.

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

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<https://www.mdhs.ms.gov/community-services/csbg/>

Employment

HB 770 (2022)

This legislation, passed during the Mississippi 2022 Legislative Session, created the Mississippi Equal Pay for Equal Work Act. Through this act, Mississippi employers are prohibited from paying people of the opposite sex different pay for the same work.

<http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2022/pdf/HB/0700-0799/HB0770SG.pdf>

HB 971 (2022)

This legislation, passed during the Mississippi 2022 Legislative Session, prohibits any person from driving a commercial motor vehicle if convicted of a crime that falls under the Mississippi Human Trafficking Act (Section 97-3-54) or any felony involving sex trafficking under federal law (22 USC 7102(11)).

<http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2022/pdf/HB/0900-0999/HB0971SG.pdf>

Employment - Mississippi Department of Employment Security

WIN Job Centers

Mississippi's network of WIN Job Centers provide easy access to employment-related services provided by multiple workforce partners. (888) 844-3577. <https://mdes.ms.gov/win-job-centers>



See **Attachment F** for a map of WIN Job Center locations and contact numbers.

For e-WIN Access Points Statewide visit the following site:

<https://mdes.ms.gov/i-need-a-job/job-searching-resources/e-win-access-points/e-win-access-point-locations/>

e-WIN Access Points are also available at all county offices of the Mississippi Department of Human Services.

Workforce Call Center

provides remote assistance to job seekers that may not have transportation to a WIN Job Center or that may not have internet access at home. Here are the steps a job seeker should follow when trying to reach the Workforce Intake Unit for assistance: **1)** dial **1-601-493-9427**, **2)** press 1 for English, **3)** press 1 for Employer, **4)** press 3 for All Other Employer Related Questions.



MS Works

Online jobs system for providing labor exchange services to job seekers and employers. Creating a free profile allows job seekers to search for job openings, find out which jobs are hot, and even see a real-time comparison between a job seeker's skills and a job's requirements. There is a mobile app for Android and iOS. Employers can post job openings for free or invite potential candidates to apply for a job opening. <https://mdes.ms.gov/i-need-a-job/>

Governor's Job Fair Network

Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) operates the Governor's Job Fair Network. The Job Fair Network is a series of community-sponsored, one-day events that bring together a diverse group of employers that are actively looking for employees. MDES works in partnership with other agencies and organizations to host each event.

Adam Todd, (662) 360-1243. <https://www.jobfairs.ms.gov>

Wagner Peyser

Job placement services including resume preparation, interview skills, job search assistance, and referrals to job openings. These services are available at local WIN Job Centers.

Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA)

Assists individuals receiving unemployment insurance (UI) benefits by connecting participants with in-person assessments and reemployment services through the WIN Job Centers.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Services

Career and Training Services for Adults, Dislocated Workers, and Youth to enter the workforce. Business services for employers to find qualified workers through On-the-Job Training, Internships, Externships, and Apprenticeships. *For more information, contact the local WIN Job Center.*

WIOA On-the-Job Training

Helps businesses hire and train workers by reimbursing a portion of expenses incurred during the initial training process. *For more information, contact the local WIN Job Center.*

WIOA Individual Training Account

Workforce grants that provide funding for educational/occupational skill training for eligible job seekers. *For more information, contact the local WIN Job Center.*

Rapid Response

An early intervention service that assists both employers and employees affected by layoffs or plant closures. It provides access to user-friendly resources and information to help transition affected workers into reemployment. *For more information, contact the local WIN Job Center.*

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)

A federal program that helps U.S. workers who have lost or may lose their jobs as a result of foreign trade. This program provides workers with opportunities to obtain the skills, credentials, resources, and support necessary to become re-employed. *For more information, contact the local WIN Job Center.*

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

An employment and training program for Mississippians aged 55 years and older. The program provides subsidized, part-time work experience for a limited time through community service, enabling seniors to obtain the skills necessary for permanent employment. Participants in the program learn new skills and talents or enhance existing ones to become competitive in today's workforce. *For more information, contact the local WIN Job Center.*

Registered Apprenticeship

An industry-driven, high-quality career pathway where employers can develop and prepare their future workforce, and individuals can obtain paid work experience, classroom instruction, and a nationally recognized, portable credential. The five key components of the program include the following: **1)** a paid job; **2)** work-based learning; **3)** mentorship; **4)** classroom learning; and, **5)** credentials. *For more information, contact the local WIN Job Center.*

Opioid National Dislocated Worker Grant

Provides dislocated workers and long-term unemployed individuals with career and supportive services, training, and disaster relief employment in careers that will mitigate the effects of the opioid crisis. *For more information, contact the local WIN Job Center.*

COVID-19 National Dislocated Worker Grant

Disaster -relief employment for humanitarian assistance to vulnerable and underserved populations; distribution of essential supplies; and assisting law enforcement, public health, workforce, and social service agencies with humanitarian assistance. *For more information, contact the local WIN Job Center.*

Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC)

A federal income tax credit for employers who hire individuals who face obstacles to employment. [The tax credit may range from \\$1,200 up to \\$9,600, depending upon the target group and other factors of the employee.](#) Target groups include Ex-Felons, Long Term Unemployed, SNAP Recipients, SSI recipients, Veterans, Vocation Rehabilitation referrals, SSI Recipients, Summer Youth, and others. *For more information, contact the local WIN Job Center.*

Fidelity Bonding Program

A free insurance bond designed to help reduce the risks of hiring individuals whose criminal backgrounds pose barriers to securing employment. Individuals with criminal records, including individuals recovering from opioid and other drug addictions, are eligible for coverage under the bonds. The bond insurance issued to an employer ranges from \$5,000 to \$25,000 coverage for a 6-month period with no deductible amount.



See **Attachment G** for more information OR contact the local WIN Job Center.

Referrals

Based on the needs of each customer, MDES makes referrals to partner agencies for programs like Adult Education, TANF, SNAP, and Vocational Rehabilitation. *For more information, contact the local WIN Job Center.*

Employment – Local Workforce Development Areas

Career STEP Program

Career Skills Training Education Pathways (Career STEP) is an innovative workforce program offered at no cost to the participant. The program includes paid internships and work experience, short-term training, books and training materials as well as testing and license fees. Support services (such as housing or transportation assistance) may also be available while participating in the program. Effective October 1, 2022, all eligible participants must be either a custodial parent, or a non-custodial parent with a support obligation, for at least one dependent child.



See **Attachment H** for a sample program flyer.

Career STEP is offered in two of the four local workforce development areas: **1)** Delta, and **2)** Twin Districts. **Delta:** (662) 378-3831; **Twin Districts:** 1-800-444-8014



See **Attachment I** for a map of the local workforce development areas to determine if the program is available in your county of residence.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Services

For more information, contact the local WIN Job Center.

Employment – Mississippi Community College Board

MIBEST

The **Mississippi Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training** (MIBEST) program allows individuals to build skills and earn workforce and career credentials/certifications at the same time. The program prioritizes individuals who did not complete a traditional high school degree, those in low-wage jobs, and other nontraditional students. MIBEST seeks to increase the number of these students who are able to secure jobs with a livable wage and scale the integrated career pathways available to Mississippians through the state's community colleges. (601) 432-6518. <https://skillupmississippi.com/>
<https://mibest.skillupmississippi.com>

Employment – Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services

Vocational Rehabilitation/Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind Programs

These programs are offered through the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS). MDRS is the largest state agency committed solely to helping people with disabilities achieve independence through employment. Services are designed to improve economic opportunities for individuals with physical and mental disabilities through employment. In addition to general vocational rehabilitation services, programs include specialization in working with individuals with blindness and low vision, Supported Employment, Transition Services, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, and a network of 15 community rehabilitation centers throughout the state named AbilityWorks that provide vocational assessment, job training and work experience for individuals with disabilities. (601) 853-5100 or 1-800-443-1000. <https://www.mdrs.ms.gov/Pages/Request-Services.aspx>

Employment – Mississippi Department of Human Services

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Work Program

The **TANF** Program provides benefits for families with needy children under age 18. The TANF Program is designed to help needy families achieve self-sufficiency through employment and training activities provided by the TANF Work Program (TWP). TANF supportive services such as assistance with childcare and transportation expenses are available to help the adults in the family prepare for employment and to promote self-sufficiency. The goal of TANF is to end the dependence on public assistance by preparing you for a job by helping you with job readiness training, job skills training, vocational training, other educational training programs and assisting you in finding and keeping a job. (601) 359-4500 or 1-800-948-3050.
<https://www.mdhs.ms.gov/economic-assistance/tanf/>

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment & Training (E&T)

SNAP E&T is a program for SNAP recipients operated by the Mississippi Department of Human Services consisting of one or more work, training, education or job search components.

(601) 359-4500 or 1-800-948-3050. <https://www.mdhs.ms.gov/economic-assistance/snap/>

Employment – Other

Employment Equity for Single Moms (EESM)

EESM is a statewide workforce project targeting single moms, connecting them to education, job training, employment, higher wages, childcare and much more. (228) 669-4827.

<https://www.mschildcare.org/eesm/>

Moore Community House Women in Construction

This program prepares low-income women (age range 18 to 59) for careers in apprenticeship and nontraditional career pathways that meet the needs of families, as well as the demands of the advanced manufacturing industry and skilled craft trades. Service area includes Jackson, Hancock, and Harrison Counties. Comprehensive supportive services may be available while participating in this program. (228) 207-5265.

<https://www.moorecommunityhouse.org/winc>

My Way Mississippi/My Way Works

Find out about different programs that help a job seeker get to work.

<https://www.mywayms.org>

Paroled2Pride (P2P)

P2P assists individuals formerly incarcerated by identifying their needs while providing moral support, job training, and job placement. (662) 570-3432.

<https://www.paroled2pride.org>

Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated School District, Discovery Center

The Discovery Center's Project PEACE (Parents Equipped and Children Encouraged) helps unemployed and underemployed adults in Oktibbeha County improve their job skills and increase their career opportunities. Services include career counseling, high school equivalency preparation, WorkKeys certification, and acquiring/upgrading job skills. Qualified individuals receive financial assistance for testing fees, community college workforce classes, and work-based learning experience. (662) 615-0033.

<https://www.starkvillesd.com/discoverycenter/project-peace>

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

The Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Community Services provides funds to local Community Action Agencies and Human Resource Agencies to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities. Funds may be used to lessen poverty in communities; address the needs of low-income individuals including the homeless and elderly; provide services and activities addressing **employment**, education, housing, nutrition, and health services. (601) 359-4768 or 1-800-421-0762.

<https://www.mdhs.ms.gov/community-services/csbg/>

CareerOneStop

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, CareerOneStop is a source for free career exploration tools resources targeted for a career changer, laid-off worker, worker with a criminal conviction, entry-level worker, older worker, young adult, workers with disabilities, business, career advisor, and credential seeker.

<https://www.careeronestop.org/>

CareerOneStop houses over 800 captioned videos for career exploration. Organized by career cluster, Spanish language videos, skill and ability videos, industry videos, and work option videos, they include career details such as tasks, work settings, education needed, and more.

<https://www.careeronestop.org/Videos/CareerVideos/career-videos.aspx>

CareerOneStop's Job Search help for Ex-offenders website offers information, tips, and resources to help people with criminal convictions overcome barriers they might face in their job search. Topics include: 1) how to get your record sealed, 2) how to talk about a conviction during a job interview, 3) how to find out about companies that might hire people with records, and 4) work restrictions for some criminal records.

<https://www.careeronestop.org/ExOffender/default.aspx>

CareerOneStop now has a ReEntry Program Finder tool. It lists programs in every state that specialize in helping people overcome the barriers caused by having a criminal record.

Users can search by City, State, or ZIP code, and will find program contact information, location, map, directions, and website links. The programs listed offer a variety of services including employment and training help, housing assistance, chemical dependency treatment referrals, mental health services, and other related services.

<https://www.careeronestop.org/ReEntryProgramFinder>

Voter Registration

Every U.S. citizen who possesses the following qualifications is eligible to register to vote in Mississippi:

- A resident of Mississippi and the county, city, or town for 30 days prior to the election;
- At least 18 years old (or will be 18 by the date of the next General Election);
- Not declared mentally incompetent by a court; and
- Not convicted of a **disenfranchising crime** as defined by Section 241 of the Mississippi Constitution or by Attorney General Opinion, unless pardoned, rights of citizenship restored by the Governor, or suffrage rights restored by the Legislature.

The Mississippi Secretary of State provides a list of **disenfranchising crimes** (i.e., crimes that restrict voting after completion of sentence) on its website:

<https://www.sos.ms.gov/content/documents/elections/SummaryofAttorneyGeneralOpiniononElectionIssues2.pdf>

To vote, you must register either in person at the Circuit Clerk's Office, Municipal Clerk's Office, or a Public Service Agency, or by mail-in registration. The website for the Mississippi Secretary of State provides more information on registering to vote.

<https://www.sos.ms.gov/index.php/elections-voting/voter-registration-information>

If you still have questions after reviewing the website, please call the Elections Answer Line at 1-800-829-6786.

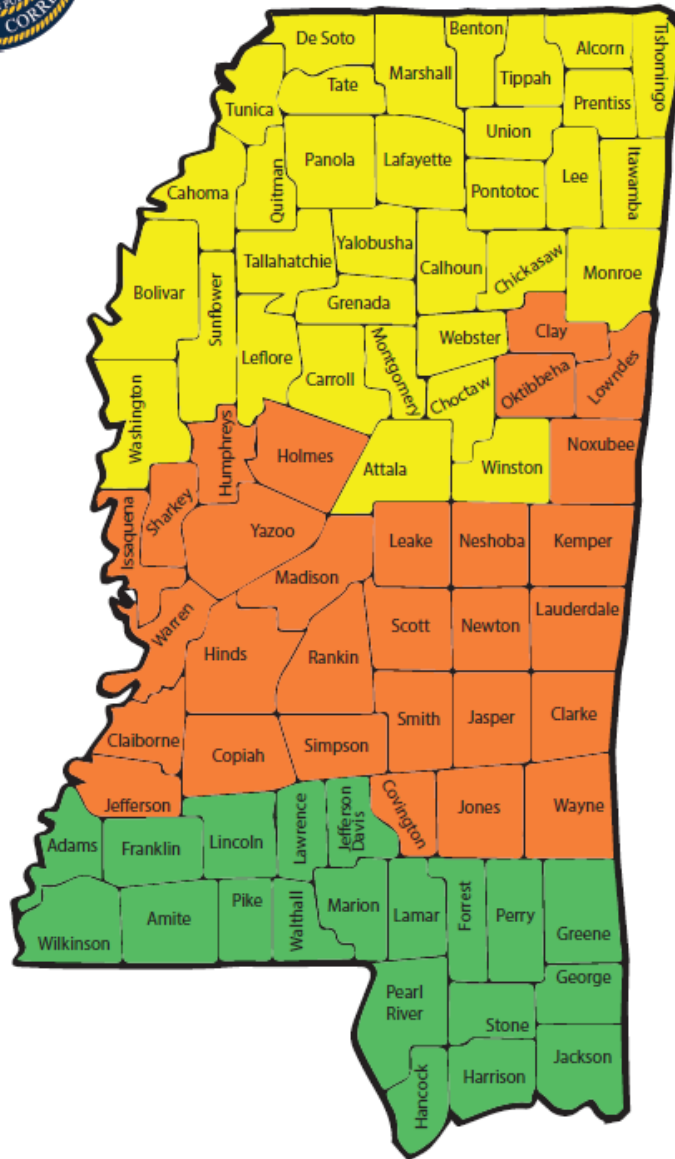
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ATTACHMENT A



Community Corrections





ATTACHMENT A

Region 1 (North MS)

Tony P. Harris, Community Corrections Director

P.O. Box 778; 401 Chrisman Ave., Suite A, Cleveland, MS 38732

662-843-0028 (O); 662-588-0141 (M); 662-843-0137 (F)

Resource Assistance Program:

Michel'le McDowell, Workforce Development

3800 Baldwin County Road 540, Greenwood, MS 38930

662-455-2095 (O); 662-459-9796 (F)

Aldora Anderson, Program Coordinator

Attala, Carroll, Choctaw, Grenada, Leflore, Montgomery, Sunflower, Washington, Webster, and Winston Counties

3800 Baldwin County Road 540, Greenwood, MS 38930

662-455-2095 (O); 662-459-9796 (F)

Jill Contreras, Program Coordinator 1-B

2627 W. Oxford Loop/ Suite G, Oxford, MS 38655

662-234-9555 (O); 662-234-7435 (F)

Vacant, Program Coordinator

Benton, Tippah, and Union Counties

P.O. Box 901; 233 Starlyn Ave., New Albany, MS 38652-0901

662-534-3139 (O); 662-534-7902 (F)

Kawanna Buchanan, Program Coordinator

Calhoun County

111 East Main St., Pittsboro, MS 38961

662-412-2314 (O); 662-412-2322 (F)

Tyshonda Akon, Program Coordinator

Bolivar, Coahoma, Quitman, and Tunica Counties

P. O. Box 778; 401 North Chrisman Ave., Suite A, Cleveland, MS 38732

662-843-0028 (O); 662-843-0137 (F)

Sharon Terry, Program Coordinator

Alcorn, Itawamba, Monroe, Lee Pontotoc, Prentiss, and Tishomingo Counties

P.O. Box 2424; 904 South Cass St., Corinth, MS 38834

662-286-3431 (O); 662-286-6528 (F)



ATTACHMENT A

Region 2 (Central MS)

Tereda Hairston, Community Corrections Director
P.O. Box 9250; 1207 B Highway 45 North, Columbus, MS 39705
662-241-4051 (O); 662-241-4053 (F)

Resource Assistance Program:

Ada Spencer, Branch Director II
110 North Lafayette St. Starkville, Ms.39759
662-323-6250(O) 662-312-8435(M)

Hillery Atkins, Program Coordinator; **Neshoba, Newton, Leake and Scott Counties**
1120 East Main St., Suite 15 Philadelphia, Ms. 39350
601-656-8871 (O); 601-656-0168 (F)

Vacant, Program Coordinator
P.O. Box 1009; 3390 N. Liberty St., Canton, MS 39046
601-859-7106 (O); 601-936-5188 (F)

Vacant, Program Coordinator **Yazoo, Holmes and Humphrey Co.**
333 North Main St. Suite F & G
Yazoo City, Ms. 39194

Lisa Grayson, Program Coordinator; **Covington, Jasper, Simpson, and Smith Counties**
230 Magnolia Dr., Raleigh, MS 39153
601-782-9512 or 4104 (O); 601-782-4471 (F)

Gwendolyn Norwood, Program Coordinator
421 W. Pascagoula St., Jackson, MS 39203
601-933-2887 Ext. 6171 (O); 601-354-6316 (F)



ATTACHMENT A

Vacant, Program Coordinator; Clay, Noxubee, and Oktibbeha Counties

110 N Lafayette St, Starkville, MS 39759
662-323-9887 (O); 662-324-9633 (F)

Daetreeona Johnson, Program Coordinator

1920 6th St, Meridian, MS 39301
601-693-4713 (O); 601-482-1156 (F)

Yumaiko McMillain , Program Coordinator; Clay and Lowndes Counties

P.O. Box 265; 7299 Hwy 45 North, West Point, MS 39773
662-494-1713 (O); 662-494-1138 (F)

Katina Thompson, Program Coordinator

421 W. Pascagoula St., Jackson, MS 39203
601-933-2887 Ext. 6103 (O); 601-354-6316 (F)

Jacqueline Wright, Program Coordinator; Rankin & Madison Counties

3350 Highway 468 W., Pearl, MS 39208
601-936-5180 Ext. 104 (O); 601-936-5188 (F)

Jessica Cox, Program Coordinator

421 W. Pascagoula St., Jackson, MS 39203
601-933-2887 Ext. 6190 (O); 601-354-6316 (F)



ATTACHMENT A

Region 3 (South MS)

Terri Maranoci, Community Corrections Director
P.O. Box 1816, 1725 Kenneth Ave., Pascagoula, MS 39567
228-762-1166 or 4600 (O); 228-990-8247 (M); 228-769-7292 (F)

Resource Assistance Program:

Shirley Wooten, Branch Director II
17 J.M. Tatum Industrial Drive, Suite 100, Hattiesburg, MS 39401
601-582-3514 (O); 601-545-4403 (F)

Angnetta Garner, Program Coordinator; **Jefferson-Davis, Marion, Lawrence**
P.O. Box 828; 346 2nd St., Columbia, MS 39429
601-736-8033 or 601-736-4094 (O); 601-736-9133 (F)

Kimberly Taylor, Program Coordinator; **Jackson, George, Greene, and Stone Counties**
38 London St. Suite A, Lucedale, MS 39452
601-947-3479 (O); 601-947-6415 (F)

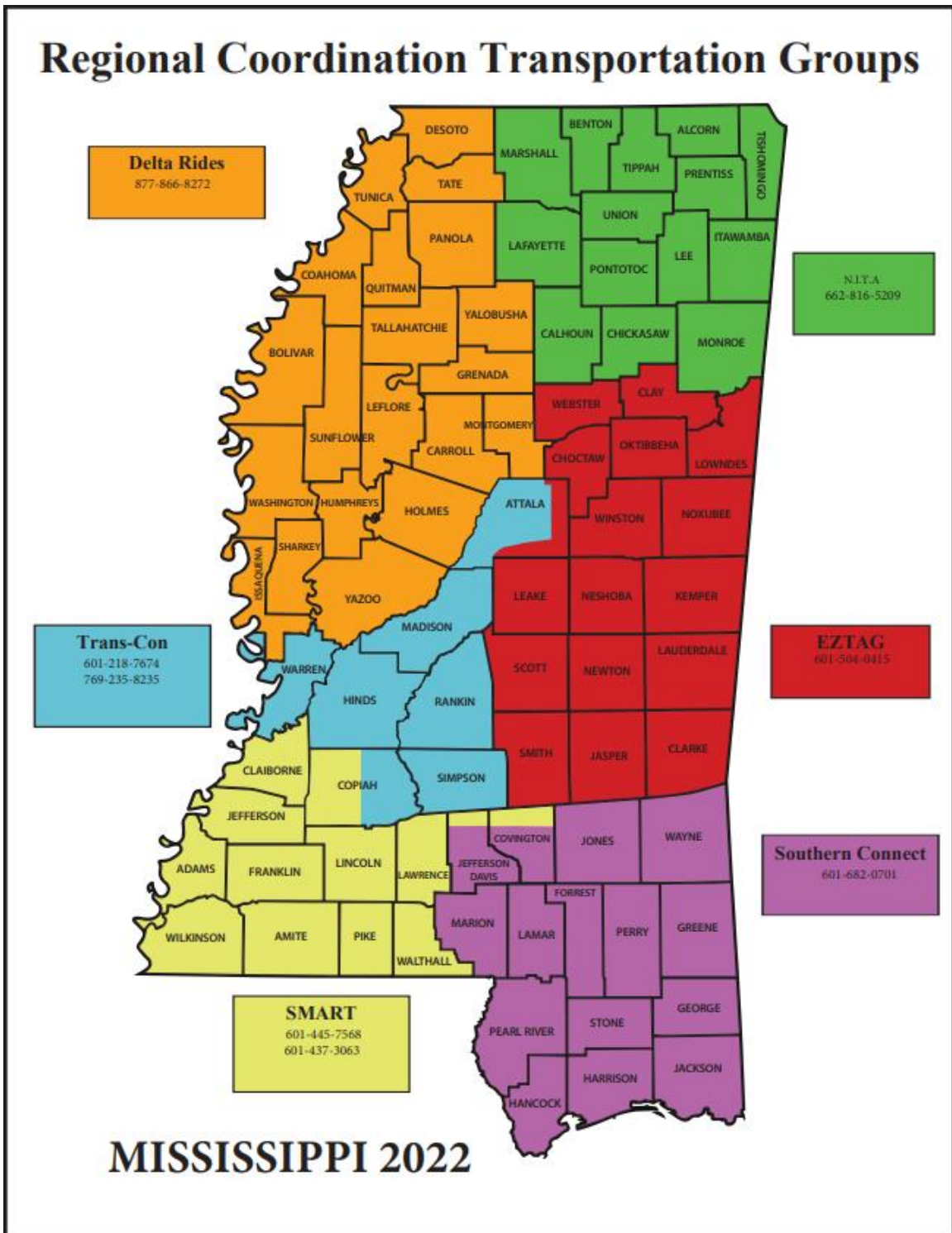
Steven Gill, Program Coordinator; **Stone, Hancock, Harrison/Gulfport, and Harrison/Biloxi Counties**
P.O. Box 1861, Gulfport, MS 39502, 2600 24th Ave., Gulfport, MS 39501
228-863-0222 (O); 228-868-0768 (F)

Vacant, Program Coordinator; **Forrest, Lamar, Pearl River, and Perry Counties**
17 J.M. Tatum Industrial Drive Suite 100, Hattiesburg, MS 39401
601-582-3514 (O); 601-545-4403 (F)

Cherry, Lillian, Program Coordinator; **Jackson**
P.O. Box 1816; 1725 Kenneth Ave., Pascagoula, MS 39567
228-762-1166 (O); 228-868-0768 (F)

Vacant, Program Coordinator; **Adams/Amite/Franklin/Lincoln/Pike/Walthall/Wikinson**
223 S. Railroad Ave., Brookhaven, MS 39601
601-833-3965 (O); 601-835-4364 (F)

ATTACHMENT B



ATTACHMENT C

Mental Health Resources

Resources available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week

Mississippi Department of Mental Health Helpline

1-877-210-8513

www.dmh.ms.gov

Mental Health Mississippi

www.mentalhealthms.com

Crisis Text Line

Text HOME to 741-741

Shatter the Silence Suicide Prevention App

Search "Shatter the Silence" in the
Google Play and Apple stores

The Trevor Project

Text 'Start' to 678-678

Chat: thetrevorproject.org/get-help

Call 1-866-488-7386

Trans Lifeline

1-877-565-8860

www.translifeline.org

In 2020, Congress designated the new 988 dialing code to operate through the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's (1-800-273-8255) network. 988 is more than just an easy-to-remember number—it's a direct connection to compassionate, accessible care and support for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress such as thoughts of suicide, mental health or substance use crisis. People can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

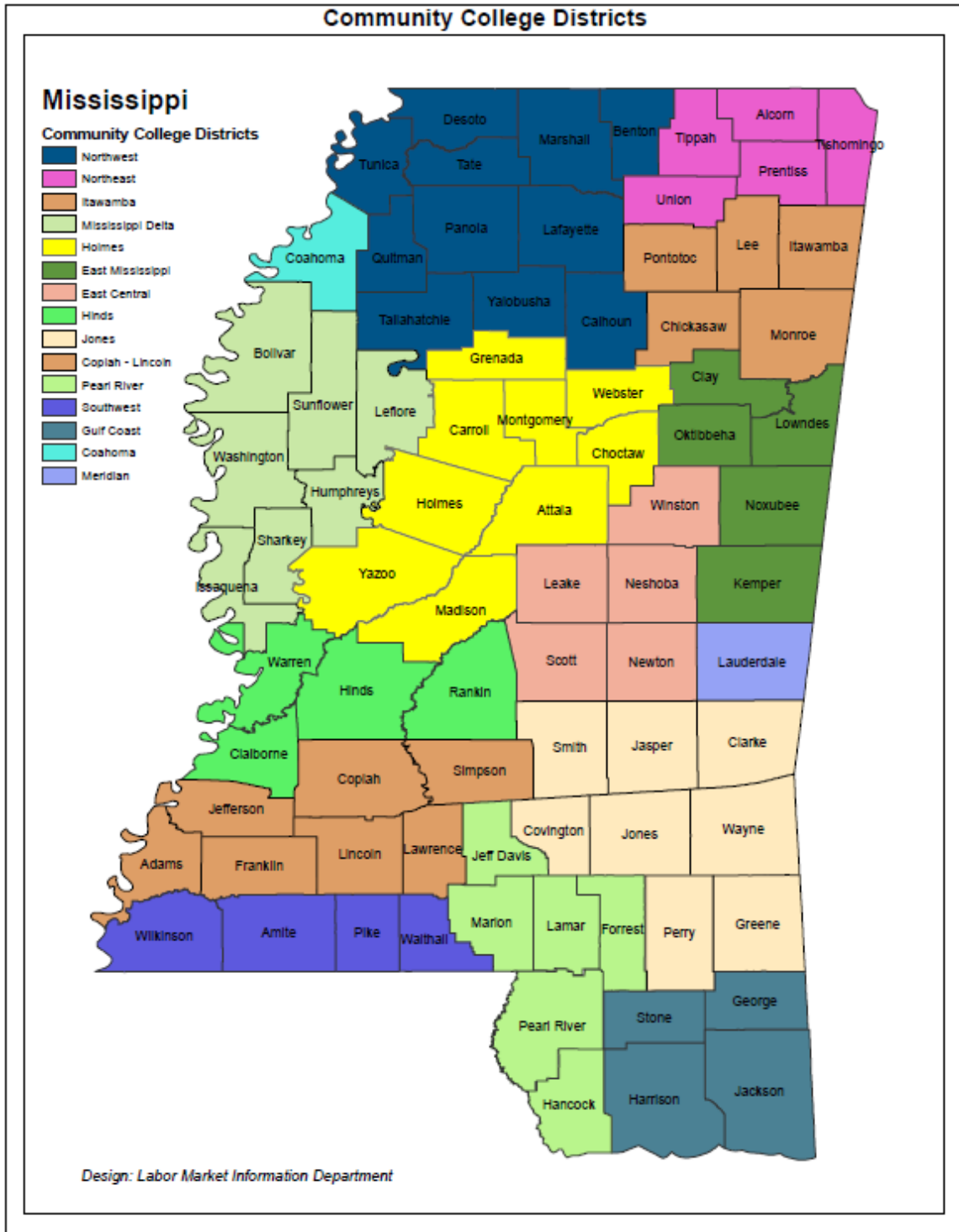
Dial 988 for free and confidential help!



There is hope.



ATTACHMENT D



ATTACHMENT E



**Learn At Your Own Pace
On Your Own Time
At Your Home (Virtual) or
At A Training Location**

**Ask About “FREE”
Digital/Computer
Training Classes**

Offered by



**Grow Your Skills—Expand Your Knowledge
Be Prepared!**

Goodwill of MS Digital/Computer Program

For More Information Or To Sign Up - Call (601)708-1188

Or Visit goodwillms.org Click on Digital Training

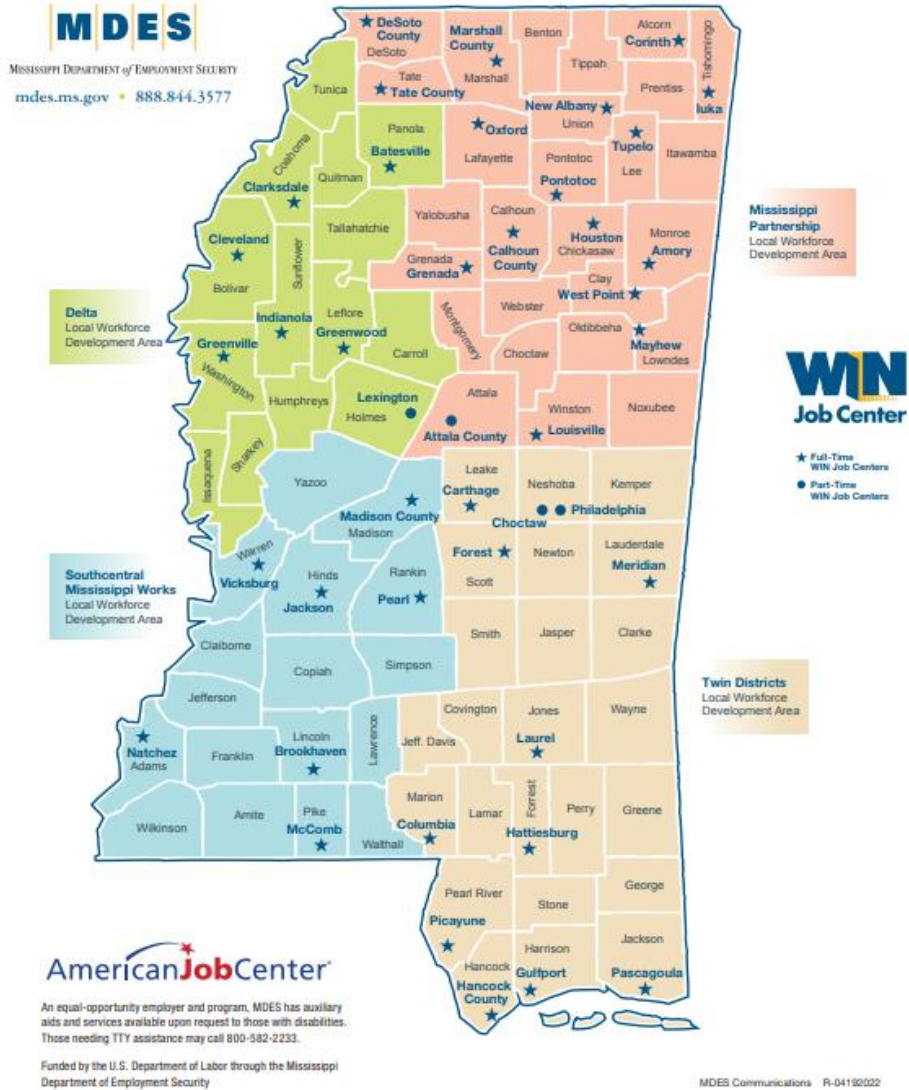
Basic to Intermediate Level Classes Offered

*Basic Computer *Internet Basis *Using Email *Social Media *Window 10 *Microsoft Word
*Information Literacy *Excel *PowerPoint *Career Search *MAC-OS

ATTACHMENT F

WIN Job Center Locations

Helping Mississippians Get Jobs




ATTACHMENT F

WIN Job Center Locations

Amory 662-256-2618 and 662-256-5617 1619 Highland Drive P.O. Box 415 Amory, MS 38821-0415	Desoto County 662-280-6218 NWCC Desoto Campus WIN Job Center Room # 300-L 5197 W. E. Ross Parkway Southaven, MS 38671	Jackson 601-321-7931 5959 I-55 N, Frontage Road, Suite C Jackson, MS 39213	Oxford 662-236-7201 1310 Belk Blvd. Oxford, MS 38655
Attala County 662-289-2535 254 Hwy 12 West Kosciusko, MS 39090	Forest 601-469-2851 536 Deer Field Drive Forest, MS 39074-6005	Laurel 601-399-4000 2139 Hwy 15 N, Suite D Laurel, MS 39440	Pascagoula 228-762-4713 1604 Denny Ave. P.O. Box 1058 Pascagoula, MS 39568-1058
Batesville 662-360-1236 325 Lakewood Drive Batesville, MS 38606	Greenville 662-332-8101 Delta Plaza Shopping Center 800 Martin Luther King Blvd., Suite C54 P.O. Box 5279 Greenville, MS 38704-5279	Lexington 662-834-2426 303 Yazoo Street Lexington, MS 39095	Pearl 601-936-1903 3805 Highway 80 East Pearl, MS 39208-4295
Brookhaven 601-833-3511 545 Brookway Blvd. P.O. Box 790 Brookhaven, MS 39602-0790	Greenwood 662-459-4600 812 W. Park Ave. P.O. Box 554 Greenwood, MS 38935-0554	Louisville 662-773-5051 790 N. Court Ave. Louisville, MS 39339-2059	Philadelphia 601-389-3431 1016 Saxon Airport Road Philadelphia, MS 39350
Calhoun County 662-412-3170 237 S. Murphree Street Pittsboro, MS 38951	Grenada 662-226-2911 1229-A Sunset Drive Grenada, MS 38901	Madison County 601-407-2457 167 Orchard Lane North, Madison, MS 39110	Picayune 601-798-3472 2005 Wildwood Road Picayune, MS 39466
Carthage 601-267-9282 202 C.O. Brooks St. Carthage, MS 39051-4262	Gulfport 228-897-6900 10162 Southpark Drive P.O. Box 2849 Gulfport, MS 39505-2849	Marshall County Workforce Training Center 662-851-4190, 662-851-4191, & 662-851-4192 4700 Cayce Road Byhalia, MS 38611	Pontotoc 662-407-1226 316 Coffee Street Pontotoc, MS 38863
Choctaw, MS 601-663-7722 266 Industrial Road Choctaw, MS 39350	Hancock County 228-466-5425 856 Hwy 90 Suite D Bay St Louis, MS 39520	Mayhew 662-243-1751 8731 South Frontage Rd Mayhew, MS 39753	Tate County 662-562-3351 NW Community College 4975 Highway 51 N Senatobia, MS 38668
Clarksdale 662-624-9001 236 Sharkey Ave., 3rd floor Federal Building P.O. Box 640 Clarksdale, MS 38614-0640	Hattiesburg 601-584-1202 1911 Arcadia Street Hattiesburg, MS 39401-5428	McComb 601-684-4421 1400-A Harrison Avenue P.O. Box 1306 McComb, MS 39648	Tupelo 662-842-4371 and 662-407-1213 3200 Adams Farm Road, Suite 4 Belden, MS 38826
Cleveland 662-843-2704 119 N. Commerce Ave. P.O. Box 1750 Cleveland, MS 38732-1750	Houston 662-407-1219 210 S. Monroe St. Houston, MS 38851	Meridian 601-553-9511 2000 Highway 19 N Meridian, MS 39307-4906	Vicksburg 601-619-2841 755 Hwy 27 S. Vicksburg, MS 39180
Columbia 601-736-2628 1111 US Hwy 98 Columbia, MS 39429-3701	Indianola 662-887-2502 226 N. Martin Luther King Drive P.O. Box 963 Indianola, MS 38751-0963	Natchez 601-442-0243 107 Colonel John Pitchford Parkway P.O. Box 810 Natchez, MS 39121-0810	West Point 662-243-2647 1899 East TVA Rd West Point, MS 39773
Corinth 662-696-2336 2759 S. Harper Road Corinth, MS 38834-2050	Iuka 662-423-9231 1107 Maria Lane Iuka, MS 38852-1120	New Albany 662-692-1502 301 North St. New Albany, MS 38652	

WIN Job Center locations are subject to change.
Some locations are part-time offices. A complete listing of
offices and their hours can be found online at mdes.ms.gov

ATTACHMENT G



The Fidelity Bonding Program is a Free Service That Helps Connect Workers with Employers


- A unique job hunting tool
- Open to all workers, except self-employed
- Targets employment barriers
- Increases ability to obtain and keep a job
- Incentive to hire at-risk job candidates
- No paperwork
- Insures against dishonest acts such as theft, forgery, larceny, or embezzlement
- Immediate bond issuance
- No federal or state regulations covering bonds issued

For more information visit us online at mdes.ms.gov/fidelitybond

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT of EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
1235 Echelon Parkway
P.O. BOX 1699
Jackson, MS 39213

Fidelity Bonding Program

MDES
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT of EMPLOYMENT SECURITY



ATTACHMENT G



The Fidelity Bonding Program Benefits Employers and Job Candidates

Ex-offenders with a record of arrest, conviction or imprisonment; anyone who has been on parole or probation or has a police record. For more information visit us online at: mdes.ms.gov/fidelitybond

For job candidates ✓ The Federal Bonding Program is a special workforce initiative that helps an individual obtain and keep a job.

For employers ✓ It serves as an insurance policy that protects the business in the case of any loss of money or property due to employee dishonesty.

TO BE COMPLETED BY EMPLOYER

The Job Candidate named below has been determined eligible for a free fidelity bond to be issued by Chubb Insurance. If you have decided to hire this individual and would like to receive a free bond for six months and insurance coverage up to \$5,000, please complete the information below and return to:

Fidelitybond@mdes.ms.gov
PHONE: 601-493-9427

Job Candidate's Name _____

Start Date: _____

Business Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Employer Representative: _____

Date: _____

YOUR FREE BOND WILL BE MAILED TO YOU WITHIN SEVEN TO 10 DAYS.



THE FIDELITY BONDING PROGRAM is sponsored by the United States Department of Labor and administered by the Mississippi Department of Employment Security.

An equal opportunity employer and program, MDES has auxiliary aids and services available upon request to those with disabilities. Those needing TTY assistance may call 800-582-2233. Funded by the U.S. Department of Labor through the Mississippi Department of Employment Security. MDES Communications 03052022

ATTACHMENT H

Career STEP Program

Your Future
is bright.



Interested in the Career STEP Program?
Contact your Career Coach today!

Career Coach - Kacie Brown

10441 Corporate Drive • Gulfport, MS
39503 228-868-2311 • Cell: 228-236-8927
cassandrabrown@smpdd.com

Reg. Navigator/Prog. Admin. - Sherrell Lizana

10441 Corporate Drive • Gulfport, MS
39503 228-868-2311 • Cell: 228-990-3568
slizana@smpdd.com



Southern Mississippi Planning & Development District

BUILDING A STRONGER MISSISSIPPI

SMPDD is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. TTY: 800-552-2233.

What is the Career STEP Program?

The Career Skills Training Education Pathways (STEP) Program is a workforce program that covers the cost of short-term (less than one year) training, such as workforce and career-technical education courses. The program partners with local community colleges to connect participants to training opportunities and ultimately to career pathways.

What are the eligibility requirements?

Participants must be between ages 18-59 with a household income not exceeding 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Participants may not be in high school. Career STEP staff members, including Regional Career Navigators and Career Coaches, can assist potential participants in calculating household income.

What are some of the training opportunities?

Each community college offers a number of short-term training courses. For example, a college may offer a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training course, a welding course, or the training necessary to become a Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) or Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). Participants are encouraged to explore the options offered by each college to find their preferred pathway. Participants may also speak with a Career STEP staff member to arrange a screening to determine a program that would be a good fit for the participant.

Does the program assist with other expenses?

Yes. In addition to tuition costs, the Career STEP Program can pay for support services such as books, tests, lab supplies, or the cost of any certifications or licenses necessary for the participant to gain employment.

What else is offered through the Career STEP Program?

Career STEP staff members can help participants with resume writing, job search endeavors, career counseling, assessments, workforce preparation skills and assisting in the successful completion of the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC), an evidence-based credential that certifies the essential skills for workplace success.

How will the Career STEP Program assist participants once training is complete?

Career STEP staff members work closely with industry partners to build internship programs that further develop knowledge and career readiness. Paid internships, which are funded through the program, are available for many of the programs of study.

How is the program funded, and what is its service area?

The program is funded through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) federal funds awarded to the Mississippi Department of Human Services. Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District acts as the fiscal agent for the Twin Districts Workforce Development Area, the 24-county service area served by the program. The colleges inside of the area include East Central Community College, Meridian Community College, Jones College, Pearl River Community College and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

ATTACHMENT I

