



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
GOVERNOR PHIL BRYANT

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
LAURA D. JACKSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

September 5, 2018

Mississippi Association of Supervisors
Derrick Surrette, Executive Director
793 North President Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39202

Dear Derrick:

With the passage of Senate Bill 2002, the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) became the agency responsible for the distribution of the funds outlined in Section 13 of the bill. When state funds are distributed to entities outside of state government, it is our practice to implement accountability measures to ensure the funds are spent for the intended purpose. DFA intends to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with each intended recipient with requirements outlined for quarterly reporting and procurement. We are currently working on a template for that MOU and will have it ready for distribution soon.

It is important to note that not all of the funds appropriated by the Mississippi Legislature are immediately available for distribution. While the legislature appropriated almost \$103 million for projects, the money to fund those projects comes from two sources. First, \$52,893,000 will be distributed from the BP Settlement Fund, which is currently available. The remaining \$50,000,000 will be distributed from the proceeds of revenue bonds that were authorized to be issued in House Bill 1 of the 2018 First Extraordinary Session. The state expects to issue those bonds and have the remaining funds available sometime before the end of the calendar year. Because of this, not all projects will receive funding immediately and DFA will work to determine the most equitable distribution based on project readiness.

The point person for DFA (at least in the interim) will be our Bond Advisory Director, Steven McDevitt. This may change over the next month, but for now, if one of your member counties has a question regarding the process, please have them contact him at steven.mcdevitt@dfa.ms.gov. We intend to post additional information on our website to include the template for the MOU and further instructions.

We ask for patience as we work through this process. We are always willing to help and we appreciate the Legislature's confidence in us, but unfortunately, we were given no advance warning that we would have responsibility for the distribution of these funds. In the end, our goal is to distribute the funds as quickly as reasonably possible, but more importantly, to ensure these public funds are ultimately spent in accordance with the legislation.

We look forward to working with the Mississippi Association of Supervisors and your member counties on these worthwhile projects.

Sincerely,


Laura Jackson
Executive Director