

		PROJECT ID	PROPOSAL DATE	PROJECT NAME	DESCRIPTION	LOC COUNTY	WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT	ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION	INFRASTRUCTURE	INFRASTRUCTURE BUDGET PCT	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	RESEARCH and EDUCATION	SEAFOOD	SMALL BUSINESS	TOURISM	ESTIMATED COST	FUNDING AVAILABLE
New Additions	Workforce Development	5995	8/20/2021	Gulfport-Biloxi Airport Project Ready Site Mitigation & Preparation	<p>The Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport owns a 241 acre economic development site that is contiguous with the runway and taxiway system ideally located in close proximity to Interstate 10 and the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport. The location is adjacent to the airfield and the airport's 9,002 ft main runway. Few economic development sites in Mississippi have access to this caliber of airfield infrastructure. (Attachment #1)</p> <p>Due to the proximity to the airfield environment, the ultimate planned use for the property is the implementation of an aerospace development for unmanned or piloted aircraft. Example facilities are aircraft manufacturing, aircraft fabrication, maintenance repair overhaul facility, flight training and flight testing.</p> <p>The 241 acres has been certified as a large industrial site through Mississippi Power's Project Ready program. This designation certifies that the Gulfport-Biloxi Regional Airport Authority has performed due diligence demonstrating that the airport has met the guidelines that the site is ready for development. The Gulfport-Biloxi Regional Airport Authority continues to enhance and improve the Project Ready site to entice and increase the attractiveness to potential developers.</p> <p>The last critical step in moving beyond a Project Ready site is for the site to be shovel ready. Working with interested developers, the Airport Authority has identified a 130-acre area of the Project Ready site for a prospective aerospace company that requires mitigation. (Attachment #2)</p> <p>On August 19, 2020, the Airport obtained the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) Section 404 permit (Attachment #4) to purchase wetland mitigation credits and prepare the property by clearing, grubbing and filling. (130.27 acres will be cleared and 85.4 acres will be filled of the 130.27 acre site) The Airport has five years to mitigate the site or a new permit application is required to be submitted to USACE. Not mitigating the 130 acres will present a time consuming, additional obstacle to bring a project to fruition thus reducing the competitiveness of South Mississippi for development. If the Gulfport-Biloxi Airport site is mitigated and shovel ready, it presents a variety of competitive advantages to other similar sites, such as speed, attractiveness and versatility. The site provides potential for one large industrial project or several smaller opportunities.</p> <p>Per discussions with prospective developers, site selection consultants and the Mississippi Development Authority it is constantly reiterated that the Airport Authority should continue to do its due diligence to further shorten the time for an industry to break ground for development. Ultimately, leveraging Restore Fund to mitigate the Gulfport-Biloxi Regional Airport Authority Project Ready site will boost the property to shovel ready.</p>	Harrison	Yes	No	Yes	100	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	\$ 3,896,264.00	\$ -
New Additions	Workforce Development	5996	8/20/2021	Gulfport-Biloxi Airport Project Ready Site Expansion/Facility Relocation	<p>The Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport owns a 241 acre economic development site that is contiguous with the runway and taxiway system ideally located in close proximity to Interstate 10 and the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport. (Attachment #1)</p> <p>The 241 acres has been certified as a large industrial site through Mississippi Power's Project Ready program. This designation certifies that the Gulfport-Biloxi Regional Airport Authority (GBRAA) has performed initial due diligence demonstrating that the airport has met the guidelines that the site is ready for development. The Gulfport-Biloxi Regional Airport Authority continues to enhance and improve the Project Ready site to entice and increase the attractiveness to potential developers.</p> <p>Due to the proximity to the airfield environment, the planned industrial use for the property is aerospace. Currently, there are approximately 5 acres north and contiguous to the Project Ready site in which an airport owned vehicle fleet maintenance facility is located. (Attachment #2) With the planned aeronautical industrial use of the 241 acre site, the Airport desires to incorporate and add this 5 acres to the Project Ready area. This will provide a desirable, and additional option to aerospace developers as it enables additional access options to connect aviation industrial developments to the airport's 9002 ft runway. To incorporate this additional 5 acres GBRAA needs to relocate and demolish the aged vehicle fleet maintenance facility. Per discussions with prospective developers, site selection consultants and the Mississippi Development Authority it is constantly reiterated that the Airport Authority should continue to do its due diligence to further shorten the time for an industry to break ground for development. The following Restore Fund request aids in achieving this objective.</p>	Harrison	Yes	No	Yes	100	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	\$ 2,379,856.00	#####
New Additions	Workforce Development	5997	8/24/2021	Gulf Coast Workforce Connect	<p>Galloping technological change, combined with the COVID-19 pandemic, is transforming the global economy and posing a tremendous opportunity for Mississippians. Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) seeks to offer a lifeline to citizens at risk of being stranded permanently on the wrong side of the educational divide as new ways to acquire skills and pick up the habits of lifelong learning necessary to succeed in the 21st century. As a primary provider of job-focused education and training, Gulf Coast Workforce Connect seeks to provide a facility that would serve as the connection for colleges and universities to serve the citizens of the Gulf Coast in Jackson County and offer courses for workforce training at bridging industry, high school, community college, and universities. This facility and the Gulf Coast Workforce Connect project would be located on MGCCC's Jackson County (JC) Campus; the project is an investment of \$24,500,000.</p> <p>The Gulf Coast's economic recovery is dependent, in part, on expanding opportunities to obtain bachelor's degrees in critical fields, which will also help to future-proof the region. The postsecondary freshman and sophomore years are covered by MGCCC. However, expanding new opportunities at the junior and senior level will offer greater depth, breadth, and choice to local citizens. For example, future engineers living in the Gulf Coast now have an affordable option for earning a world-renowned education close to home. Mississippi State University (MSU) Bagley College of Engineering is now offering three Bachelor of Science degrees through a collaboration with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. Students can complete a two-year Associate of Science degree from MGCCC before enrolling in electrical, mechanical, or industrial engineering classes that result in bachelor's degrees from MSU. These classes are currently offered on MGCCC's JC Campus by Bagley College facility or through synchronous online delivery from MSU's Starkville campus. However, the popularity of the engineering programs has quickly outgrown the usable space on the JC Campus. These three engineering programs would represent the first three university degrees located in the Gulf Coast Workforce Connect facility, and this will lead the way to incorporate other college and/or university offerings in Jackson County. The research area in the new structure will help faculty continue to stay on the leading edge of new technologies and support economic development on the Gulf Coast, while training future leaders in key fields. This will make an immediate impact on the region and represents graduates who will help create and maintain systems that raise the standard of living for all Gulf Coast residents.</p> <p>In addition to universities, the Gulf Coast Workforce Connect facility will bring together business/industry, community college, universities, and high schools in a single physical location at an ecosystem that does not currently exist. As a state-of-the-art, interactive learning facility, the building will span 70,000 square feet, featuring approximately eight unique labs equipped to prepare students for the most in-demand manufacturing careers. The facility and equipment will be central to showcasing robotics and automation principles that underpin 4.0 manufacturing (i.e., Industry 4.0), while exposing students to fields such as materials science, metrology, and maker spaces for hands-on fabrication. The building will feature the latest models of industry-standard equipment at no miniaturized equipment or out-of-date models. Students will learn on the same equipment they will encounter in the workplace, reducing employers' needs to provide additional training on the job. The facility will host educational programming that evolves from industry partners working with MGCCC and universities. The programming will range from manufacturing exposure to training for the most in-demand technician-level positions (e.g., advanced manufacturing) taught by experienced professionals with extensive industry experience.</p> <p>Among the many lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, a primary lesson is that social distancing and shutdowns make teaching classes and training very difficult, almost impossible for some hard skills (e.g., welding). However, MGCCC identified solutions to teach classes, train workers, and ensure skill attainment remotely. The wealth of experience in teaching students and training highly skilled workers positioned MGCCC to shift to remote training while ensuring rigor throughout the pandemic. In order to facilitate remote training in response to COVID-19, the learning spaces in the Gulf Coast Workforce Connect building will also feature technology enhanced (aka, HyFlex) classrooms that allow for seamless synchronous communication with students, incumbent workers, and business/industry remotely. That is, the HyFlex classrooms will allow stakeholders to remotely engage in the class activities.</p>	Jackson	Yes	No	Yes	100	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	#####	\$ -
New Additions	Workforce Development	6003	8/26/2021	Mississippi Cyber and Technology Center	<p>Senate Bill 2951 of the 2021 Mississippi Legislative Session through the MS Gulf Coast Restoration Fund appropriated \$13,500,000 to assist Mississippi State University with the continuation of the Mississippi Cyber Center Initiative which is a total of a \$34.2 million project.</p> <p>Initial funding of \$3,500,000 was established in Senate Bill 2977 of the 2020 Mississippi Legislative Session through the MS Gulf Coast Recovery Fund. The initial phase consists of establishing/purchasing of equipment and software for a secure Cyber Range in collaboration with the MS Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) to assist Keesler AFB with training and educating approximately 8,700 of the Air Force and Department of Defense cyber professionals each year. The initial phase will also establish, by purchasing equipment and software, a Cyber Forensics Center as part of the MS Cyber Center which is a vital component to address cyber capabilities and capacity for state agencies. Another part of this initiative is a Systems Operations Lab that will be established by MGCCC through a GEER Grant that will also support Keesler. The establishment of the Cyber Range, cyber forensics center and the systems operation lab will allow for the teaching of new classes at the MGCCC facility. This initial phase sets the foundation for the Mississippi Cyber Initiative (MCI) to be executed at the Mississippi Cyber center and other areas across the state. This initial phase will advance the goals of the MCI which include promoting economic development for the Gulf Coast region and the State, providing cyber workforce training and education, addressing complex cyber issues for the State and increasing public awareness through outreach. The initial phase has been started by defining specs for equipment and initiating the procurement process. The execution of the initial funding of \$3.5 million which is part of the larger initiative should be completed by 03/31/2022.</p> <p>The \$13.5 million appropriation will be used as partial funding for the construction of the \$30 million cyber center. A portion of this funding will be used for initial architectural, design and engineering costs to position this project as shovel ready and will be able to proceed once the remaining funds are secured. The remaining portion of the funds will be used to fully establish, design, construct, equip, build out and operate the Mississippi Cyber and Technology Center (MCTC) by leveraging local, state and federal resources. This four-story facility will be approximately 100,000 sq. feet and will be located adjacent to Keesler AFB. It will have a secure controlled space, a secure cyber range, a forensics lab, classrooms, collaboration areas, incubator space, conference areas, and lease space for both industry and government entities. At completion, the MCTC will be a collaboration of industry, academia and governmental entities performing education and certificate training, workforce training, research and development, security, testing and business services related to cyber security. This project has the support of local, state and federal leaders and will serve as a Center of Excellence for not only the MS Gulf Coast but for the State of MS. This collaboration of multiple local, state, military, education institutions, research facilities, and industry will enhance research and innovative technologies related to cyber in the region, state and nationally and secure it as a long term financially sustainable entity. The MCTC will be a long-term economic driver that will create jobs, have a positive impact on the tax base and create a positive return on investment. The creation of the MS Cyber center will put MS and the Gulf Coast region at the forefront of attacking cybersecurity issues thus attracting high-tech industries, companies and startups and creating high employment opportunities for the region and MS. It will be a catalyst for private sector investment and job creation in high-tech sectors. This initiative will help enhance Keesler AFB as one of the premier training centers for the Air Force which trains 28,000 airmen and leadership per year in over 30 different career fields. It will also establish the Gulf Coast region as the hub for cyber job opportunities for personnel separating from the military which will generate an experienced workforce, address critical cyber needs, and help keep tax dollars in the region.</p>	Harrison	Yes	No	Yes	100	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	34.2	17.7
New Additions	Workforce Development	6004	8/26/2021	MCCC - Parking Lot Safety & Security Improvements	<p>Safety and security are now an important criterion for meeting planners, promoters, show managers and attendees for events that are held where large quantities of people can become targets. The purpose of this project would be to add to and convert all existing parking lot lighting to high efficiency and high intensity security lighting. In addition, we will incorporate a security camera system that will monitor all activity in our parking lots and on the extension of the Coliseum and Convention Center. We also will increase our inventory of walk-through metal detectors and wands for event security use. This will enable us to scan all guests entering the Coliseum & Convention Center when hosting multiple events at a time. The additional lighting, improved lighting, and security cameras will be another way to meet the criteria we now have to meet to host certain events. Since the portal first opened, security and safety have escalated as an absolute requirement for event planners. This will enable us to attract more Coliseum and Convention Center events that welcome more guests to the MS Gulf Coast driving economic growth, creating more jobs, and facilitating additional business for our region.</p>	Harrison	Yes	No	Yes	100	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	\$ 1,400,000.00	#####

New Additions	Workforce Development	6005	8/27/2021	Mississippi Aquarium's Turtle Rescue & Education Center	<p>Mississippi Aquarium's goal is to build and open a state-of-the-art turtle rescue, rehabilitation, and education center that serves as an epicenter for the Gulf Coast turtle education, rescue, and rehabilitation efforts. The Center will be modeled after the successful Georgia Sea Turtle Center (https://gsc.jckyllisland.com) located on Jekyll Island, Georgia, Loggerhead MarineLife Center (https://mrlmrlife.org) in Juno Beach, Florida, and The Turtle Hospital (https://www.turtlehospital.org/) located in Manatee, Florida.</p> <p>Each of these is a stand-alone facility supported through a variety of revenue sources including a strong tourism effort. These centers are based in tourism sectors within their communities and have stimulated economic development in and around the area.</p> <p>The Turtle Rescue Center (TRC) will be a support facility for the Aquarium to provide regional and national rehabilitation for turtles â€” a need that NOAA and US Fish & Wildlife have identified. The TRC will complement the Aquarium and the Aquarium's Aquatic Research Center (ARC) in developing a first-class attraction, science and research center, as well as a comprehensive educational facility. The educational opportunities will include K-12 programming, outreach, and field trip opportunities. In addition, the Aquarium's staff of professionals will be used to train future aquatic educationalists in collaboration with state institutions and provide veterinary intern and extern rotations.</p> <p>The Center will capitalize on the visitor attendance that comes to the Aquarium. First year attendance for the Aquarium is expected to surpass 350,000 visitors and we will take advantage of creating combined experiences, educational and field trip opportunities, and combined ticketing options.</p> <p>Establishing the Turtle Rescue Center adjacent to the Aquarium's main campus will allow guests to experience daily rescue and rehabilitation operations first-hand, including intake, triage, and advanced medical procedures. Once turtles are rehabilitated, community-focused events will be established to engage the public in re-introductions of turtles to the Gulf Coast.</p> <p>Objective 1: Create infrastructure for a preeminent turtle rescue, rehabilitation, and education center on the Gulf Coast.</p> <p>Provide a foundation for a scalable rehabilitation and rescue operation with dedicated and expert staff to care for stranded or injured turtles with space to rehabilitate a minimum of 30 turtles of all sizes.</p> <p>Increase regional and nationwide capacity to receive and rehabilitate turtles from AZA partners and/or established rescue and rehabilitation facilities.</p> <p>The Turtle Rescue Center can serve as an epicenter during emergency scenarios - environmental disasters, unusual mortality events, or mass stranding events and the Aquarium's Animal Research Center (ARC) can provide additional capacity and holding space.</p> <p>Establish educational opportunities for aquarium guests, school groups, students, and community members, tourists, and visitors to the coast.</p> <p>Objective 2: Utilize TRC as ground zero for enhanced mortality investigations and provide early detection and response to anthropogenic threats and emergency events in Mississippi.</p> <p>Increase capacity for local stranding response and allow for mortality investigations, addressing restorations outlined for turtles in collaboration with local, state and federal authorities.</p> <p>Provide world-class veterinary care to Mississippi's stranded turtles to reduce injuries and mortalities. MSAQ's veterinarians are both trained by turtle experts in medicine, biology, stranding, and rehabilitation. Both have worked at world-renowned facilities across the country and are experts in advanced medical capabilities. Advanced treatment can be provided in a dedicated hospital including radiology, endoscopy, CT scanner, a surgical suite, in addition to access to a mobile necropsy unit, field and in-house laboratory, and infectious disease diagnostic capacity.</p> <p>As Education, Conservation and Community are the pillars of the Aquarium, a priority will be on publishing scientific findings with a comprehensive collaboration with local and national stakeholders.</p> <p>Objective 3: Create economic development â€” create approximately 10 full-time, 10-20 part-time jobs including a veterinarian, vet tech, advanced life support, retail, and education staff.</p> <p>Create new revenue and tax stream that will support the local economy and community.</p> <p>Preliminary plans for a facility of this nature are already available via contacts around the country.</p> <p>Additional fundraising through the Aquatic Research Foundation will happen in coordination with this proposal.</p> <p>Approximate budget: \$5.5M</p>	Harrison	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	\$ 5,500,000.00	\$ -
New Additions	Workforce Development	6007	8/27/2021	MH&LA Annual Convention & Expo	<p>MH&LA â€” Mississippi Hotel & Lodging Association, headquartered in Biloxi, MS is a Non-Profit chartered in the State of Mississippi in 1930 to promote the common goals of the Lodging Industry throughout the State. MH&LA has been unable to hold its Annual Convention & Expo to the degree theretofore practiced due to the economic damages suffered by the Lodgings & Tourism businesses, and, consequently to MH&LA itself. With the adequate funding being requested, MH&LA proposes to once again host its Annual Convention & Expo on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in late Spring 2022 to the level and degree, serving to Educate, Train and Certification of the Lodgings and Tourism related businesses through the Educational Seminars (at the Convention and continuing throughout the Year). The Seminars would include but not be limited to (a) Presentations by the MS DOR (Department of Revenue) and Tax Experts to update the attendees on the ever-changing requirements such as all applicable Taxes, Tax-Exempt guidelines, etc. (b) Presentations by the MS DES (Department of Employment Security) and Labor & Employment Experts to apprise the Industry of the latest in Employment Laws. The knowledge and Certifications achieved by the Lodging & Tourism partners will certainly raise the level of expertise, proficiency and professionalism of the Lodgings and their Owners & Operators, benefiting the entire State and its Tax Base. Without the funding requested, MH&LA is unable to proceed with its MH&LA Annual Convention & Expo to the extent needed to the advantage of all involved.</p>	Harrison	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -
New Additions	Workforce Development	6008	8/27/2021	MH&LA Lodging Package Program	<p>MH&LA â€” Mississippi Hotel & Lodging Association, headquartered in Biloxi, MS is a Non-Profit Association chartered in the State of Mississippi in 1930 to promote the common goals of the Lodging Industry throughout the State. MH&LA proposes to re-introduce its MH&LA Lodging Package Program, including Charter Boats, Attractions, Museums, Events and Golf Courses whereby the Lodgings would form and promote Packages generating business to these Tourism entities on the Coast, many of which were significantly negatively impacted by the Environmental and Economic Damages as a result of the BP Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill and subsequent incidents. MH&LA has documented expertise and proficiency in operating the Package Program, based upon the success of its Golf Package Program which generated over \$3.5 million each year in Green & Cart Fees to the 30 participating Golf Courses, not including F&B, Retail Sales, as well as Lodging Revenue and Taxes (over 65,000 Room Nights annually). Similar results could be produced using the same model and template, adding the other Tourism segments listed hereinabove. The requested funds would facilitate the operations, marketing, advertising and other components of the Program. ï</p>	Hancock,Mobile,Jackson,Pearl River,Harrison	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ 250,000.00	\$ -
New Additions	Workforce Development	6009	8/27/2021	Jackson County Workforce Project	<p>The Jackson County Economic Development Foundation is a private 501(c)(3) development corporation whose primary purpose is to address the economic development needs of Jackson County and its municipalities. Toward that end, the Foundation has identified workforce development as the number one issue facing not only the county, but also the state of Mississippi and the nation as a whole. Through comprehensive data analysis and field interviews, the Foundation has recognized the need to address workforce gaps within the county, to increase labor force participation rates, to provide clear career pathways for students and adult learners, and to increase the skills training of the county's labor shed.</p> <p>The JCEDF proposes to meet these goals by developing a comprehensive workforce program of work, which will serve as the umbrella initiative for several components of a workforce strategy:</p> <p>â€¢ CAREER PATHWAYS: â€¢Passion. Purpose. Paycheck.â€¢This ongoing program provides career coaching in each of Jackson County's seven high schools along with a dynamic mobile application through Merit which features a resume component and TikTok-style videos that introduce high school students to real-time employees of local employers such as Chevron, Ingalls, and others. While funding for this program has been secured for one year, the JCEDF is requesting additional funding to continue this program beyond its first year. Proposed budget: \$750,000.</p> <p>â€¢ WORKFORCE GAPS & LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES: The JCEDF proposes to shore up gaps in the current workforce pipeline by targeting specific populations and Census tracts where labor force participation rates are lowest. These populations include TANF-eligible individuals, those with a minor criminal record, high school dropouts, minorities such as non-native English speakers and women, and others. The JCEDF will partner with organizations such as community action agencies, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, and other nonprofits to identify candidates for this program. Funding will be used to provide wrap-around services that alleviate barriers to workforce training, such as childcare and transportation, as well as to pay for soft and technical skills training with local training partners such as MGCCC. Proposed budget: \$1,500,000.</p> <p>â€¢ INCREASE SKILLS TRAINING CAPACITY: Jackson County is the only area in the state of Mississippi with three U.S. Department of Labor-recognized apprenticeship programs, in addition to other programs (such as those available through Ingalls, Halter Marine, Rotts Royce, Singing River Health Systems, etc.). The JCEDF proposes to expand these apprenticeship programs by providing additional funding to increase capacity. By increasing funding streams, these programs will be able to expand and target non-traditional populations, such as the under- and unemployed and women, by offering training at night and weekends via additional instructors and mentors. Proposed budget: \$1,000,000.</p>	Jackson	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	\$ 3,250,000.00	\$ -