2025 Annual Report

STATE FISCAL YEAR 2025

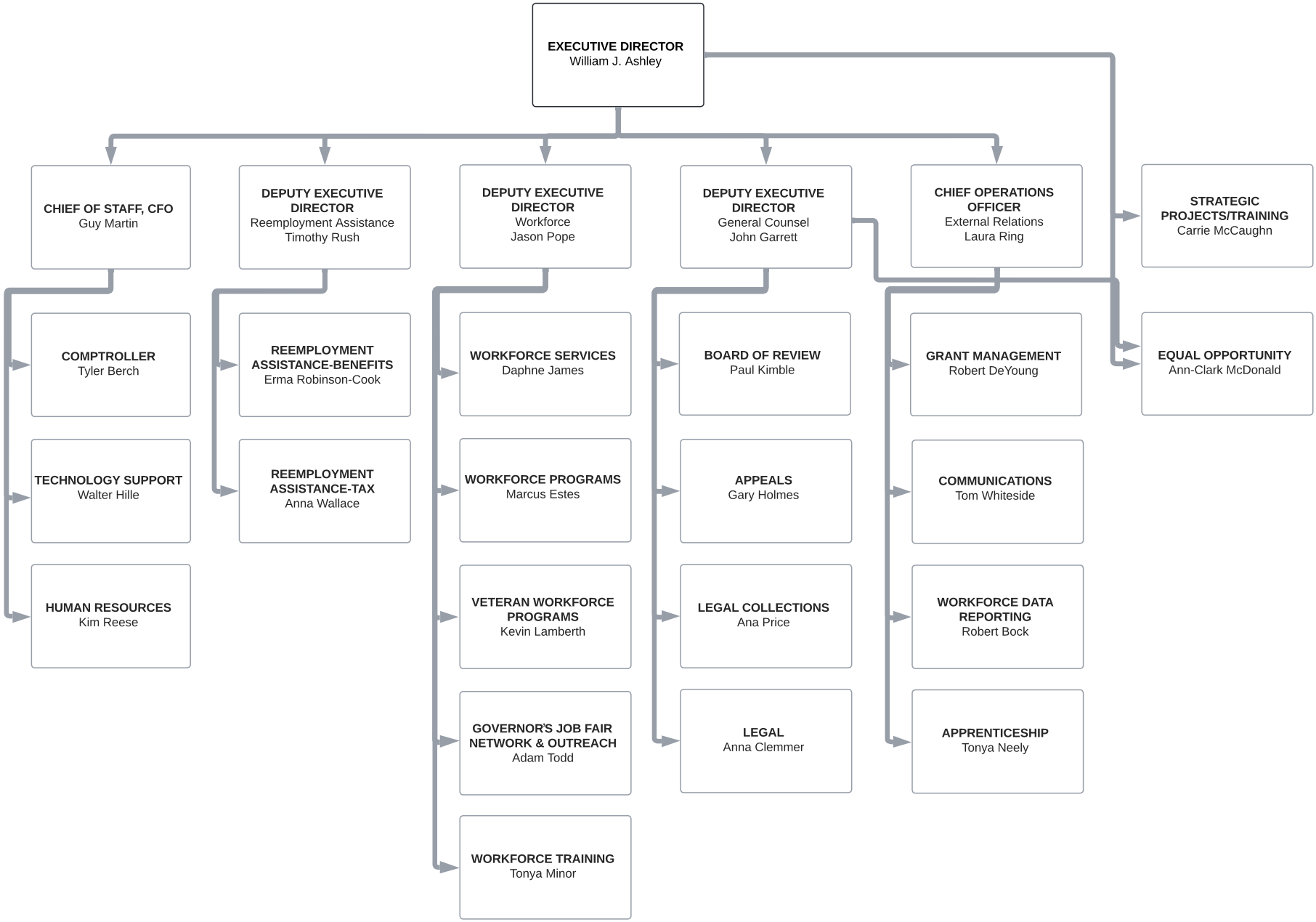
JULY 1, 2024 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025

Mississippi Department of Employment Security

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

LEFT TO RIGHT: Timothy Rush, Deputy Executive Director, Reemployment Assistance; Laura Ring, Chief Operations Officer, External Relations; Guy Martin, Chief of Staff, Chief Financial Officer; Bill Ashley, Ph.D., MDES Executive Director; John Garrett, Deputy Executive Director, General Counsel; and Jason Pope, Deputy Executive Director, Workforce Programs and Services

Executive and Senior Leadership



Mississippi Department *of* Employment Security

Office of the Governor

As we reflect on Fiscal Year 2025, I am proud of the Mississippi Department of Employment Security's (MDES) commitment to helping Mississippians find jobs and strengthening our economy. This year, we facilitated thousands of job placements, supported employers through tax credit programs, assisted veterans, and swiftly responded to layoffs. We also modernized our technology, enhanced staff development, and earned national recognition for our timely reemployment assistance.

Our focus on individuals facing barriers to employment remains strong. Initiatives like the Jobs for Veterans State Grant connected over 300 veterans to career opportunities, while our Office of Reemployment Assistance supported over 57,000 individuals and garnered national accolades for our prompt services.

Looking ahead, MDES is embracing innovation to improve service delivery. Our new mobile WIN Job Center will expand access in rural areas, and we are deploying Navigators for real-time assistance through live video connections, demonstrating our commitment to meeting the evolving needs of our workforce.

Partnerships with local businesses, educational institutions, and community organizations are vital to our workforce strategy. The Mississippi Apprenticeship Program has supported nearly 24,000 apprentices from diverse backgrounds, enhancing our skilled workforce and promoting economic growth.

As we move forward, MDES remains dedicated to our mission of "Helping Mississippians Get Jobs." With your support, we will develop a strong workforce that meets today's economic demands and prepares for future challenges. Thank you for being an integral part of our journey.

Sincerely,

William J. Ashley, Ph.D.
Executive Director

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Executive Summary

The fiscal year (FY) 2025 annual report highlights the Mississippi Department of Employment Security's (MDES) comprehensive efforts to strengthen the state's workforce, connect job seekers with employers, and advance economic opportunities for Mississippians.

Bill Ashley, Ph.D.
MDES Executive Director

MDES, through its Office of Workforce Programs and Services and the **WIN Job Centers**, delivered vital employment assistance statewide. From July 2024 to June 2025, the agency facilitated over 13,000 E-Verify services for employer compliance, processed more than 157,000 job orders and 233,000 job openings via the **Wagner-Peyser** program, and hosted a robust job fair network.

The **Governor's Job Fair Network** and local WIN Job Centers together held nearly 400 job fairs, serving hundreds of employers and requiring participation from Reemployment Assistance claimants to encourage workforce reintegration.

MDES issued eight **Fidelity Bonds** and processed over 32,000 **Workforce Opportunity Tax Credit** applications—yielding $82 million in tax credits for Mississippi employers.

The **Jobs for Veterans State Grant** provided targeted career services to over 300 veterans with significant barriers, fostering successful workforce reentry, including veterans from treatment courts.

The **Office of Reemployment Assistance** (ORA) provided benefits to over 57,000 Mississippians, processed claims for federal workers and ex-service members, and achieved national recognition for timely payments and appeals quality. ORA also recovered over $6 million in fraudulent payments and continues to modernize its services as it marks 90 years of support for Mississippi's workforce.

The **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act** Hub—a Mississippi-built data system—connected nearly 149,000 individuals to over 498,000 services in 2024, ranging from job placement to career counseling, training, and support services.

The **Mississippi Apprenticeship Program** (MAP), a key MDES initiative, collaborates with employers, workforce partners, and educators to expand registered apprenticeship opportunities in high-demand industries. Since 2016, MAP has supported nearly 24,000 apprentices, including over 8,000 women, more than 15,000 people of color, and over 1,200 veterans, underscoring its impact on developing a skilled and diverse workforce.

Rapid Response, MDES's early-intervention program, supported nearly 2,000 employees from 24 businesses facing layoffs or closures in the past year, offering job placement, resume workshops, unemployment guidance, and alternatives to layoffs to minimize disruption and ease transitions.

Internally, MDES invested in **professional development** through new training programs and employee engagement initiatives, including the rollout of a modern learning management system and ongoing engagement surveys.

The **Office of Technology Support and Innovation** (OTSI) advanced operational security and efficiency with major IT upgrades, such as virtual desktop infrastructure, secure email archiving, and new project management tools. These projects reflect OTSI's ongoing commitment to service excellence, innovation, and data protection.

Finally, the **Labor Market Information** (LMI) Department responded to over 27,000 requests for workforce and economic data, providing critical insights for job seekers, employers, and policy makers across Mississippi.

Overview

FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

Guy Martin

Chief Financial Officer

The financial operations of the Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) are essential for supporting the people of Mississippi. They ensure the efficient and effective delivery of services through strong accounting, human resources, and information technology functions.

Maintaining accurate accounting practices upholds the integrity and transparency of financial transactions, which is crucial for fostering trust and ensuring that resources are directed to the areas of greatest need. Effective human resources management ensures that the department has a skilled and motivated workforce, prepared to provide high-quality support and guidance to individuals seeking employment assistance. Additionally, advanced information technology systems optimize operations, improve data management, and promote smooth interactions between the department and the public. Collectively, these financial operations empower MDES to deliver timely and dependable services, ultimately enhancing the economic stability and well-being of Mississippians.

REEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Timothy Rush

Deputy Executive Director, ORA

The Office of Reemployment Assistance (ORA) manages the Unemployment Insurance program, collecting contributions and training taxes from employers while providing temporary financial aid to individuals who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

Reemployment Assistance (RA) plays a crucial role in stabilizing the local economy during economic downturns and connects unemployed individuals with job opportunities and training programs. Operating as a joint initiative between state and federal governments under the U.S. Department of Labor, RA includes specialized programs like the Self-Employment Assistance Program, which supports entrepreneurship and fosters small business development. By focusing on workforce stability and promoting economic growth, the program emphasizes timely, accurate, and equitable service delivery in line with federal performance standards. Additionally, by aligning with services funded by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, MDES ensures comprehensive support for individuals facing job loss.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Laura Ring

Chief Operations Officer

The External Relations division at MDES consists of four main areas: Communications, Grant Management, Registered Apprenticeship, and Workforce Data Reporting.

The Communications division focuses on public relations and effectively disseminating information. This division manages both external communications, ensuring that the public and stakeholders are kept informed about important updates and initiatives, as well as internal communications to promote a cohesive and informed environment within the organization. Additionally, it oversees the department's social media presence, engaging with the community and sharing valuable resources and information. Grant Management oversees various programs funded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA), including initiatives under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), and additional discretionary grants. The Registered Apprenticeship division supports businesses of all sizes in creating tailored Registered Apprenticeship

programs that address specific occupational and skill needs, guiding them from concept to implementation through the Mississippi Apprenticeship Program (MAP). Finally, the Workforce Data Reporting division collaborates with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and ETA to manage statistical programs that gather and share essential economic and labor market data for the state. Together, the divisions within External Relations strive to boost Mississippi's economy and enhance workforce development efforts across the state.

WORKFORCE PROGRAMS

Jason Pope, Ph.D., MBA

Deputy Executive Director, Workforce Programs

The Employment Services division at the Mississippi Department of Employment Security is dedicated to Helping Mississippians Get Jobs.

The Employment Services division focuses on addressing the economic and employment needs of the state's residents by offering job placement, training opportunities for workers, and personnel services for businesses. Much of this is achieved through the WIN Job Center network, which provides streamlined access to a variety of employment programs and services across Mississippi. These offerings include Wagner-Peyser Employment Services, Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA), the Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG), the Governor's Job Fair Network, the Fidelity Bonding Program, the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), along with other initiatives aimed at enhancing job opportunities. Primarily funded by federal programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the Wagner-Peyser Act through the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), these successful programs play a vital role in bolstering workforce development and fostering economic growth in Mississippi.

GENERAL COUNSEL

John W. Garrett, Jr.

Deputy Executive Director, General Counsel

The Office of Legal Affairs consists of six integral departments: Legal, Appeals, Board of Review, Legal Action, Legal Collections, and Equal Opportunity.

The Legal Department manages all legal affairs for the Agency, including the interpretation of state and federal laws and regulations, preparation of documents for administrative and executive actions, and representation of the agency in court and other administrative proceedings. The Appeals Department organizes and conducts telephonic hearings with Administrative Law Judges to address issues such as claimant benefit eligibility and employer chargeability. If these decisions are appealed, they are escalated to the Board of Review. Meanwhile, the Legal Action Department focuses on recovering overpayments and past-due contributions through garnishments. The Legal Collections Department works to collect past-due taxes and fees from employers, utilizing injunctions as necessary. Lastly, the Equal Opportunity Department acts as the liaison between MDES and the Civil Rights Center, ensuring compliance with nondiscrimination and equal opportunity requirements under WIOA Title I, and overseeing the development and implementation of MDES's Nondiscrimination Plan.

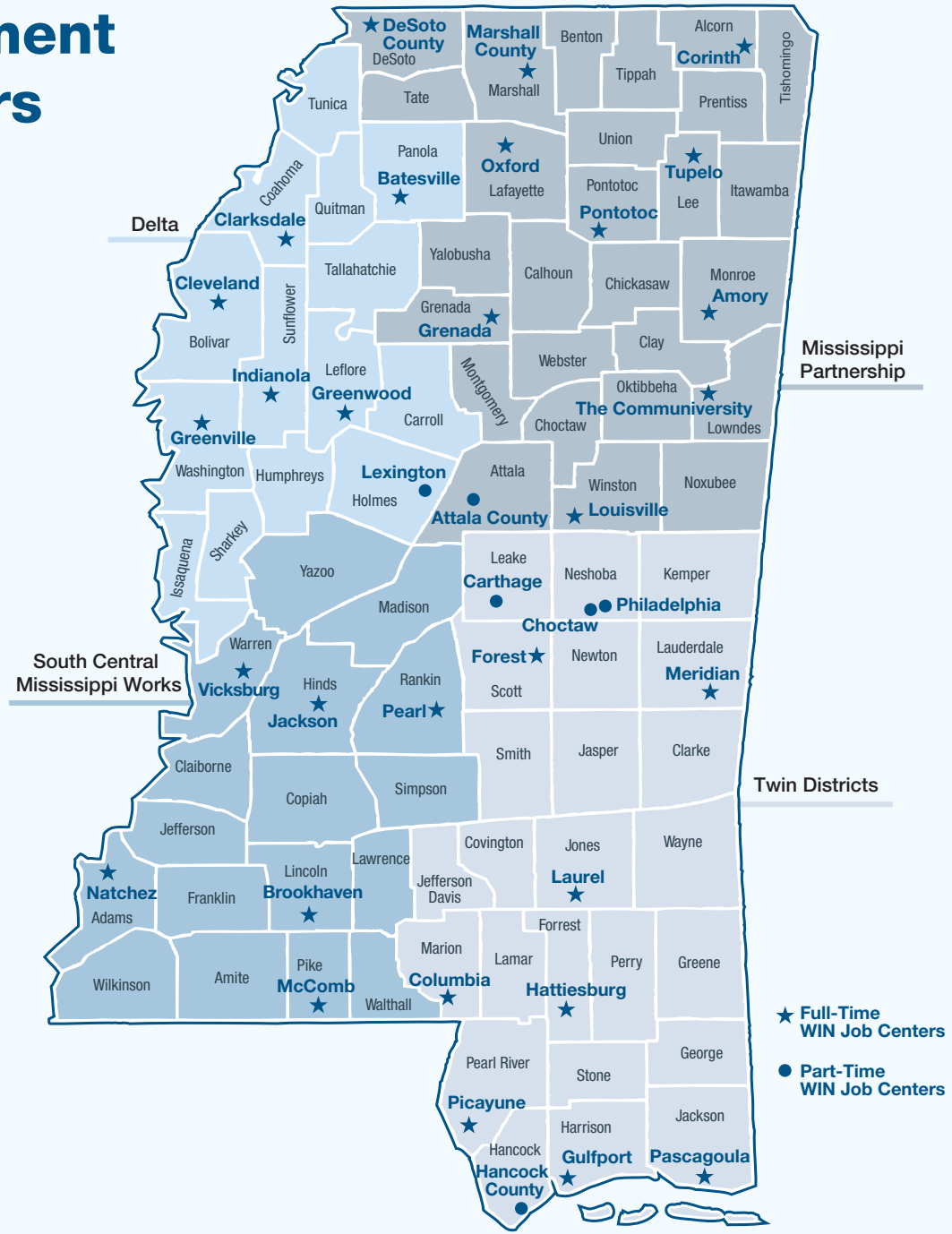
Local Workforce Development Areas and WIN Job Centers

WIN JOB CENTER

Combining federal, state, and community workforce programs and services, the Workforce Investment Network (WIN) in Mississippi creates a system that is both convenient and user-friendly. A comprehensive network of **WIN Job Centers** is located throughout the state.

The centers offer a variety of employment services to ensure all job seekers have the resources and tools needed to secure gainful employment. The services include job placement assistance, referral to training, priority of service for veterans, career counseling, and referrals to many other workforce partner programs. WIN Job Centers reach out to the business community to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.

AmericanJobCenter



WIN Job Center Locations

Amory
662-407-1235
Highland Drive
P.O. Box 415
Amory, MS 38821-0415

Attala County
662-289-2535
254 Hwy. 12 West
Kosciusko, MS 39090

Batesville
662-360-1236
325 Lakewood Drive
P.O. Box 1511
Batesville, MS 38606

Brookhaven
601-643-8730
1377 Johnny Johnson Dr.
Brookhaven, MS 39602-0790

Carthage
601-267-9282
202 C.O. Brooks St.
Carthage, MS 39051-4262

Choctaw, MS
601-663-7722
266 Industrial Rd.
Choctaw, MS 39350

Clarksdale
662-624-9001
236 Sharkey Ave., 3rd floor
Federal Building
P.O. Box 640
Clarksdale, MS 38614-0640

Cleveland
662-843-2704
119 N. Commerce Ave.
P.O. Box 1750
Cleveland, MS 38732-1750

Columbia
601-736-2628
1111 US Hwy. 98, Suite A
Columbia, MS 39429-3701

The Communiversity
662-243-1751
7003 South Frontage Road
Columbus MS 39701

Corinth
662-696-2336
2759 S. Harper Road
Corinth, MS 38834-2050

DeSoto County
662-280-6218
NWCC Desoto Campus
WIN Job Center Room # 300-L
5197 W. E. Ross Parkway
Southaven, MS 38671

Forest
601-469-2851
536 Deer Field Dr.
Forest, MS 39074-6005

Greenville
662-332-8101
1746 Highway 1, Suite C
P.O. Box 5279
Greenville, MS 38701

Greenwood
662-459-4600
812 W. Park Ave.
P.O. Box 554
Greenwood, MS 38935-0554

Grenada
662-226-2911
1229-A Sunset Drive
Grenada, MS 38901

Gulfport
228-897-6900
10162 Southpark Dr.
Gulfport, MS 39503-6254

Hancock County
228-466-5425
856 Hwy. 90 Suite D
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520-2737

Hattiesburg
601-584-1202
1911 Arcadia St.
Hattiesburg, MS 39401-6311

Indianola
662-887-2502
226 N. Martin Luther King Drive
P.O. Box 963
Indianola, MS 38751-0963

Jackson
601-414-7796
Hinds Community College
Academic and Technical Center
3925 Sunset Drive
Jackson, MS 39213

Laurel
601-399-4000
2139 Hwy. 15 N, Suite D
Laurel, MS 39440-1830

Lexington
662-459-4600
Appointment Only:
303 Yazoo Street
Lexington, MS 39095

Louisville
662-773-5051
790 N. Court Ave.
Louisville, MS 39339-2059

Marshall County Workforce Training Center
662-851-4190
4700 Cayce Road
Byhalia, MS 38611

McComb
601-684-4421
1400-A Harrison Ave.
P.O. Box 1306
McComb, MS 39648

Meridian
601-553-9511
2000 Highway 19 N
Meridian, MS 39307-4906

Natchez
601-446-1130
Howell C. Garner
Instructional Center
33 Campus Drive
Natchez, MS 39120

Oxford
662-236-7201
1310 Belk Blvd.
Oxford, MS 38655

Pascagoula
228-762-4713
1604 Denny Ave.
Pascagoula, MS 39567-3301

Pearl
601-936-1903
3805 Highway 80 East
Pearl, MS 39208-4295

Philadelphia
601-656-1764
1016 Saxon Airport Rd.
Philadelphia, MS 39350

Picayune
601-798-3472
2005 Wildwood Rd.
Picayune, MS 39466

Pontotoc
662-407-1226
316 Coffee Street
Pontotoc, MS 38863

Tupelo/Belden
662-842-4371 and
662-407-1213
3200 Adams Farm Road, Suite 4
Belden, MS 38826

Vicksburg
601-619-2841
755 Hwy 27 S.
Vicksburg, MS 39180

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

MOBILE WIN JOB CENTER

For over 20 years, MDES has operated mobile service units, which have proven invaluable during times of disaster when power, phone, and internet access are unavailable. These mobile service units have also been used to support job seekers and employers at the Governor's Job Fairs and other agency-related events.

In FY 2025 MDES deployed a state-of-the-art mobile WIN Job Center, designed to maintain a high level of service in areas where brick-and-mortar WIN Job Centers are not available. The Mobile WIN Job Center offers on-location staff to assist visitors, seven workstations, and a 32" flat screen video screen for employment-related training of small groups.

Compared to its 20-year-old predecessor, the new mobile unit features upgraded technology, contemporary safety and accessibility enhancements, and a more streamlined design, making it easier to operate and deploy.

"This mobile unit is more than just a vehicle—it's a mission on wheels. It represents our steadfast commitment to delivering real solutions for real people and ensuring that no Mississippian is left behind—no matter their zip code or how rural their community may be," said Dr. Bill Ashley, MDES Executive Director.

Mobile WIN Job Center Interior

Financial Operations

Funding and Expenditures

FY 2025 Activities

The financial operations of MDES play a crucial role in supporting Mississippians by ensuring efficient and effective delivery of services through robust accounting, human resources, and information technology functions. Accurate accounting practices maintain the integrity and transparency of financial transactions, which is vital for sustaining trust and ensuring that resources are allocated where they are most needed.

Human resources management ensures that the department has a skilled and motivated workforce, capable of delivering high-quality support and guidance to those seeking employment assistance. Meanwhile, advanced information technology systems streamline operations, enhance data management, and facilitate seamless interactions between the department and the public. Together, these financial operations ensure MDES's ability to provide timely and reliable services, ultimately contributing to the economic well-being and stability of Mississippians.

Source of Funding by Program for FY 2025

Program	Federal	State	Other
Employment Service	$53,772,572	$1,800,000	$0
Labor Market Information	$822,405	$0	$0
Unemployment Insurance	$27,761,712	$0	$7,214,838
Total	**$82,356,689**	**$1,800,000**	**$7,214,838**

Tyler Berch,CPA
Comptroller

Total Expenditures by Program for FY 2025

Program	Personal Service	Travel	Contractual Service	Commodities	Capital Outlay other than equipment	Capital Outlay Equipment	Vehicles	Subsidies, Loans, and Grants	Total
Employment Service	$11,592,762	$319,042	$9,944,501	$243,468	$0	$87,292	$0	$33,385,507	**$55,572,572**
Labor Market Information	$618,376	$902	$192,840	$5,622	$0	$3,252	$0	$1,413	**$822,405**
Unemployment Insurance	$13,862,273	$165,826	$19,657,268	$176,571	$0	$120,692	$379,707	$614,213	**$34,976,550**
Total	**$26,073,411**	**$485,770**	**$29,794,609**	**$425,661**	**$0**	**$211,236**	**$379,707**	**$34,001,133**	**$91,371,527**

WIOA Performance Information

The following table shows attainment rates on each performance measure for the state as a whole for the Federal 2024 WIOA Program Year, July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. Each year, Mississippi negotiates attainment rates on each common performance measure with the U.S. Department of Labor. All of the data in Mississippi's WIOA performance reports is uniformly reported and validated in accordance with federal requirements.

Mississippi Statewide Performance

Statewide Reported Information	Negotiated Performance Level	Actual Performance Level
Adult Employment Rate 2nd Quarter After Exit	90.0%	87.4%
Adult Employment Rate 4th Quarter After Exit	89.4%	88.2%
Adult Median Earnings 2nd Quarter After Exit	$7,699	$8,358
Adult Credential Attainment Rate 4th Quarter After Exit	67.1%	77.1%
Adult Measurable Skill Gain	67.0%	78.2%
Dislocated Worker Employment Rate 2nd Quarter After Exit	78.8%	81.3%
Dislocated Worker Employment Rate 4th Quarter After Exit	79.3%	80.9%
Dislocated Median Earnings 2nd Quarter After Exit	$6,868	$7,546
Dislocated Worker Credential Attainment Rate 4th Quarter After Exit	70.0%	80.2%
Dislocated Worker Measurable Skill Gain	66.8%	78.5%
Youth Employment Rate 2nd Quarter After Exit	86.8%	84.9%
Youth Employment Rate 4th Quarter Exit	85.7%	86.3%
Youth Median Earnings 2nd Quarter After Exit	$3,390	$3,744
Youth Credential Attainment Rate 4th Quarter After Exit	71.6%	76.6%
Youth Measurable Skill Gain	74.7%	67.6%
Wagner Peyser Employment Rate 2nd Quarter After Exit	79.5%	77.2%
Wagner Peyser Employment Rate 4th Quarter After Exit	78.8%	77.2%
Wagner Peyser Median Earnings 2nd Quarter After Exit	$5,981	$6,042

Workforce Programs and Services

Ways We Serve

Meeting Communities Where They Are

MDES offers a multi-faceted approach to service delivery by incorporating walk-up Statewide WIN Job centers, an online platform, a mobile unit, a mobile app, and digital access tools with live video will soon be available.

WIN Job Centers serve communities by providing free employment assistance to job seekers through workshops, training referrals, and career counseling, while also offering businesses recruitment help, information on workforce development programs, benefit information and access to qualified workers, interns and apprentices. MDES and its network of job centers throughout the State create partnerships with local businesses and community organizations through outreach initiatives to support diverse groups, such as veterans, youths, and individuals with barriers to ultimately foster economic growth and stability by “Helping Mississippians Get Jobs”.

Each center offers free access to computers, internet and phones to assist the jobseeker as well as providing office space for hiring events, on-site screening, and interviews to connect businesses with potential hires. Businesses are also made aware of potential financial incentives and hiring programs to encourage the employment of specific groups.

Mississippi has one of the most innovative online job matching platforms in the country, MS Works. The platform is managed by MDES which serves both job seekers and businesses. Both job seekers and registered businesses are afforded the opportunity to create profiles, search for jobs, post job openings, and connect with employment services and resources. The platform can be accessed by visiting the Mississippi Works website or by downloading the MS Works mobile app from Google Play or the App Store.

Additionally, the Mississippi Department of Employment Security utilizes a mobile unit (nicknamed MDES WINnie) to provide employment services, job search assistance,

Daphne James

Director, Workforce Services

Daphne James, MBA, oversees the Mississippi Department of Employment Security’s initiatives to create workforce services that foster collaboration among partnering agencies, businesses, job seekers, and other stakeholders. Along with two regional directors, she is responsible for the operations of WIN Job Centers, ensuring they align with statewide strategic goals and connect businesses with essential resources. This work supports economic development, promotes career readiness, and continually adapts to the evolving needs of the workforce.

and workforce training referrals to residents across the State, including those in rural communities. This especially equipped mobile unit has the technology to ensure accessibility for all job seekers and brings employment services directly to communities that may not have a physical WIN Job Center location in the area. The unit features workstations, laptops,WWW and accommodations for wheelchair accessibility. The MDES WINnie expands MDES's ability to connect individuals with jobs and supports business efforts to promote economic growth.

Marcus Estes

Director, Workforce Programs

Marcus oversees the Mississippi Department of Employment Security's workforce programs, which include Wagner-Peyser, Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA), TANF Workforce, Fidelity Bonding, E-Verify, Foreign Labor, Migrant Seasonal Farm Workers, Work Opportunity Tax Credit, and the MDES Workforce Call Center. These programs are delivered to Mississippians through our network of WIN Job Centers, enabling individuals to achieve self-sufficiency through various workforce resources.

MDES will soon deploy new digital access tools or access stations (called Navigators) to further help individuals find jobs and access employment services in rural areas where physical locals may not be available. With the push of a button, individuals can connect via live video with trained employment service staff. Plans are to strategically place Navigators in high-visibility location with heavy foot traffic. In mid-2025, MDES will start a pilot or test phase of five Navigators across the State to gather user feedback.

Wagner-Peyser

The Wagner-Peyser Employment Service program focuses on providing a variety of services, including job search assistance, help getting a job referral, and placement assistance for job seekers.

FROM JULY 1, 2024, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025
MDES received **157,163 Job Orders**
With a Total of **233,237 Job Openings**

Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment

The Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) initiative in Mississippi is to provide intensive career services to reconnect Unemployment Insurance beneficiaries with work as quickly as possible. RESEA participants receive a minimum of three one-on-one assessments and career counseling sessions. Each session assists the participant by providing labor market information, conducting job matches and skills gap analyses, and offering soft skills training. RESEA participants are also contacted by staff and encouraged to receive practical job search tips, targeted work search assistance, and job referrals.

FROM JULY 1, 2024, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025
MDES completed **13,161 counseling sessions**

E-Verify

In 2008, the Mississippi Legislature passed the **Mississippi Employment Protection Act**. This act requires employers to participate in the Department of Homeland Security E-Verify program. Part of the legislation provides a mechanism to make the verification process easier for employers by using the services offered by MDES.

FROM JULY 1, 2024, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025
A total of **13,183 E-Verify services** were provided

Temporary Agricultural Worker Programs

The Mississippi Department of Employment Security manages the Migrant Seasonal Farmworker (MSFW) and H-2A Temporary Agricultural Labor Certification Program. The MSFW program offers outreach and basic labor exchange services to individuals identified as migrant or seasonal farmworkers. The H-2A program helps employers recruit temporary visa workers when qualified U.S. workers are unavailable.

MDES supports the H-2A program by referring U.S. farmworkers to farmers when they advertise farmwork jobs in the state.

FROM JULY 1, 2024, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025
1,565 H-2A Job Listings Posted
2,577 Referrals Sent
37 New Employers Added
770 Foreign Labor Housing Inspections Conducted

This expansion is a significant step towards enhancing workforce participation in the agricultural sector and ensuring that employers have access to the labor needed for successful operations.

Governor's Job Fair Network

The Governor's Job Fair Network, operated by MDES, is a series of community-sponsored, one-day events that bring together a diverse group of employers actively looking for employees. MDES works in partnership with other agencies and organizations to host each event.

FROM JULY 1, 2024, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025
27 Governor's Job Fair Events Held
470 Employers & Organizations Served

In addition to the Governor's Job Fair Network events, **358 job fairs** were held statewide at the **WIN Job Centers** for **91 employers** during the same time frame.

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT *of* EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
GOVERNOR'S JOB FAIR
NETWORK OF MISSISSIPPI

The Mississippi Department of Employment Security continues to require claimants currently receiving Reemployment Assistance benefits, who reside within a commutable distance of a Governor's Job Fair Network event, to attend as part of their work search requirement. This initiative has successfully ensured that claimants utilize every available resource to return to the workforce.

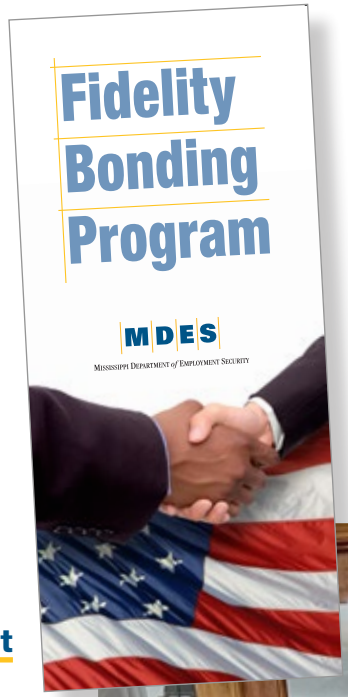
Adam Todd
Director, Business Outreach and Quality Assurance

Adam oversees Business Outreach and the Governor's Job Fair Network. Business Outreach is responsible for increasing participation from both businesses and job seekers for Mississippi Works. The Governor's Job Fair Network is a unique and proactive employment assistance resource for unemployed individuals, employers, and communities in Mississippi.

Fidelity Bonding Program

The Fidelity Bonding Program serves as an **incentive for employers** to hire applicants involved in the criminal justice system, including ex-offenders recovering from opioid and other drug addictions, to obtain employment in family-sustaining jobs; better informs employers about the knowledge, skills, and abilities of this population; and advances strategies to address the barriers to reemployment.

The Fidelity Bonding Program issued **eight bonds** to **four employers** that hired **four people** in the state, totaling **$40,000**, from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.



Tonya Minor

Workforce Programs and Services Training Coordinator

In this role, Tonya develops, coordinates, and tracks specialized training tailored to the specific needs of programs and staff within the Workforce Programs and Services Department, including the WIN Job Centers. The department now offers various training programs, including a new hire orientation that provides staff with insights into leadership, departmental functions, technology, and the inner workings of the agency.

Work Opportunity Tax Credit

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) is a federal tax credit to employers for hiring individuals from certain targeted groups who have consistently faced significant barriers to employment. **32,441 WOTC Applications** were certified from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

Veterans Standdown event in Lincoln County. *Pictured: Michelle Lombas, Manager of the McComb WIN Job Center, and Onré Talbert, Benefit Specialist (LVER).*

Services to Veterans

The Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG) Program is a vital part of the WIN Job Center network. From July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, the program served **376 veterans**, an **increase of 10%** over the previous year, providing career planning and job placement assistance. It supports veterans transitioning to civilian employment and those facing barriers such as homelessness, low income, disabilities, and justice involvement. Many justice-involved veterans work with Mississippi Veterans Treatment Courts to pursue successful employment outcomes.

This service is delivered against the backdrop of record-low unemployment rates and consecutive quarters of strong economic performance in Mississippi. The state's thriving economy underscores the importance of programs like JVSG, **which equip veterans with the tools to contribute meaningfully** to the workforce while overcoming challenges to employment.

MDES delivers veteran-focused employment services through the JVSG program, a federally funded initiative administered by the U.S. Department of Labor. JVSG supports veterans and eligible spouses by providing individualized career services through trained staff within MDES's statewide network of WIN Job Centers.

Veterans often face unique barriers when transitioning to the civilian workforce. MDES addresses these challenges through targeted assistance that includes skills assessments, resume development, labor market information, job referrals, and support connecting with veteran-ready employers.

In 2025, the JVSG program in Mississippi began a significant restructuring to better serve the evolving needs of the veteran community. The agency will consolidate the roles of Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) specialists and Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERs) into a unified position known as the **Veteran Employment Coordinator** (VEC). This streamlined model ensures a more holistic, end-to-end service approach, especially critical in rural and underserved communities where resources are limited.

The JVSG team includes VEC's strategically located across the state based on veteran population density and employer presence.

Kevin Lamberth

Director of Veteran Services

As the Director of the Mississippi Department of Employment Security's veteran services, Kevin Lamberth provides strategic direction and oversight for the Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG) program. This federally funded program plays a critical role in ensuring that Mississippi's veterans receive individual career services and connections to employers, helping them to succeed in today's workforce.

They are supported by a State Veteran Coordinator, who provides statewide oversight, and a JVSG Director, who sets the program's strategic direction.

MDES prioritizes support for transitioning service members and veterans facing significant employment barriers, including those aged 18–24, receiving VA care, experiencing homelessness, or justice-involved. Certain **eligible spouses may also receive services.** Through comprehensive case management, employer engagement, and individualized employment plans, the program helps veterans achieve sustainable careers and long-term stability.

In addition to direct services, MDES works with employers to promote veteran hiring and increase awareness of federal incentives such as the **Work Opportunity Tax Credit** (WOTC), the **Hire Vets Medallion Program**, and **Fidelity Bonding**. These efforts not only reduce hiring risks but also reinforce Mississippi's commitment to supporting those who have served.

JVSG continues to play a vital role in Mississippi's workforce system, ensuring that veterans are not only connected to jobs, but to careers that reflect their skills, experiences, and value to our communities.

Workforce Programs and Services Success

Veteran Overcomes Obstacles to Secure Employment with help from MDES and JVSG

In September 2024, U.S. Army Veteran **La Tasha Powell** engaged with the MDES through a referral from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Veteran Readiness and Employment program. After establishing eligibility at the **Pascagoula WIN Job Center**, she was referred to Veteran Employment Coordinator, Christopher Kaster, for individualized career support.

Despite personal challenges, including health issues, a recent divorce, and reentering the workforce after time as a stay-at-home parent, La Tasha demonstrated strong determination. The VEC conducted a comprehensive skills assessment and developed an aggressive Individual Employment Plan focused on bookkeeping and related fields. Services included resume assistance, labor market guidance, and job referrals to flexible employers such as Intuit and H&R Block.

With guidance and resources provided through MDES, La Tasha conducted an extensive job search and secured employment with Intuit in November 2024. The position offers paid training, a sign-on bonus, and performance incentives.

Building on her experience and training, La Tasha has since launched her own veteran-owned business specializing in tax preparation and notary services. Her journey from overcoming personal challenges to becoming a successful entrepreneur is a testament to her resilience and the impact of coordinated workforce services.

She continues to inspire others by demonstrating how veterans can thrive with the right support and determination.

WIOA Hub

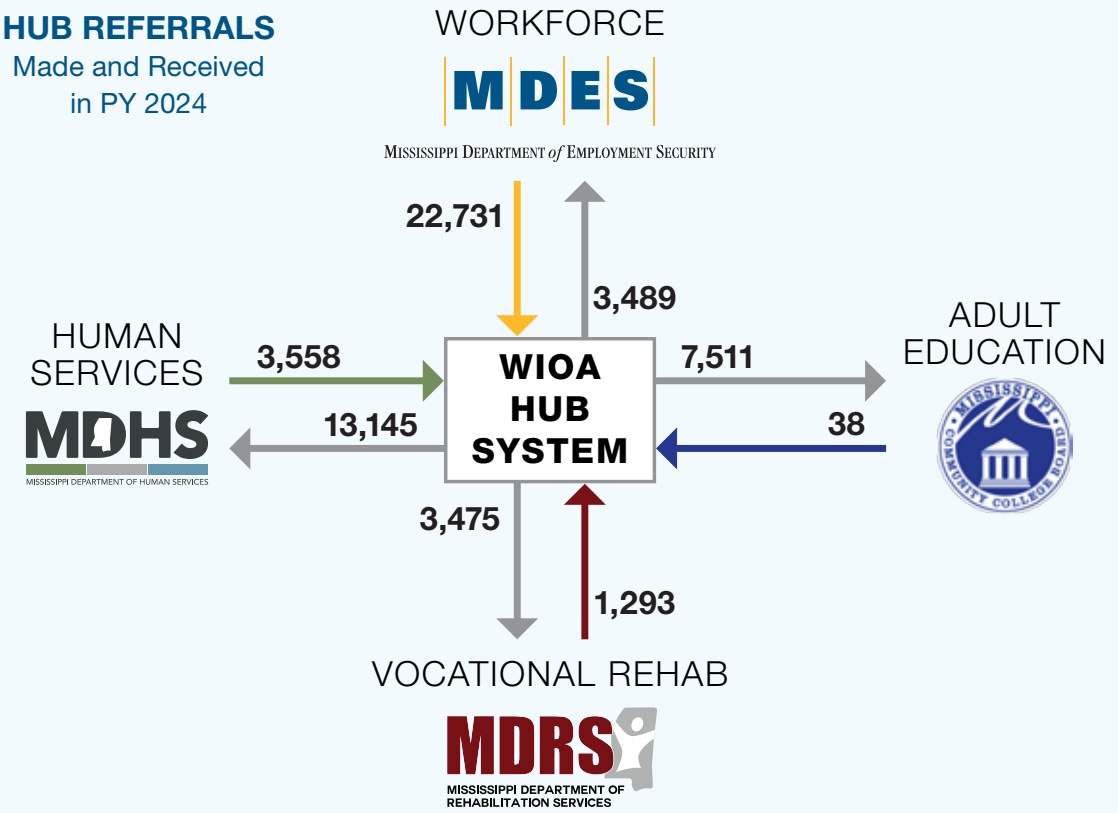
Mississippi designed and developed a data system called the WIOA Hub to assist individuals across the WIOA partner agencies. A key goal of the Hub is to ensure that a Mississippian is connected to all services they need to connect to a job. Services from Mississippi's WIOA partners help remove barriers to work such as childcare needs, lack of transportation, lack of a high-school diploma, help searching for a job, or help to overcome a disability. The Hub allows agencies to work together to ensure that customers get connected to the variety of services they need to succeed. A key activity of WIOA implementation in Mississippi was creating a comprehensive dictionary of all the services provided by WIOA partners.

Services Provided for program year 2024 (7/1/2024 to 6/30/2025):

148,643 individuals served by WIOA partners through the interagency WIOA Hub received over **498,233**, encompassing **244** distinct kinds of services.

These services include transportation services, job placement assistance, career planning and counseling, on-the-job training, work experiences, household cash assistance, and the purchase of assistive technologies for those individuals with disabilities.

HUB REFERRALS
Made and Received in PY 2024



The most common service provided by MDES was reaching out to WIOA participants by email, phone, or a mailed letter with information about a good job opportunity—MDES did this roughly 215,000 times.

The Hub plays a key role in allowing agencies to electronically refer customers, with the goal that no one falls through procedural cracks. The Hub is like a post office and every participating WIOA partner agency can use their own systems (mailboxes) to send and receive referrals to each other.

Mississippi Apprenticeship Program

The Mississippi Apprenticeship Program (MAP), an initiative of the Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES), promotes the creation and expansion of **registered apprenticeship programs**. MAP assists businesses of all sizes in designing, registering, and implementing apprenticeship programs tailored to their workforce needs. It plays a strategic role in workforce systems by collaborating with local workforce development areas, industry partners, community colleges, and other education systems to align and **expand apprenticeship pathways in high-demand sectors across Mississippi**.

MAP is committed to accelerating the growth of registered apprenticeships, particularly in high-wage, high-demand fields. In partnership with AccelerateMS, MAP launched the **Mississippi Apprenticeship Accelerator** (MAA) to fund and scale apprenticeship programs where they are most needed. The initiative aims to close critical skill gaps by incentivizing the creation and expansion of apprenticeships in priority occupations. It also **supports training, support services, and program infrastructure**, encouraging pre-apprenticeship pipelines through collaboration with local workforce areas, secondary schools, community colleges, noncredit training providers, and other stakeholders.

AccelerateMS has **dedicated $2 million in MS WORKS funds for MAA**, with a goal of supporting **600 new apprentices** in priority fields over the **next three years**. MAA demonstrates how state-level workforce funding can strategically target apprenticeship expansion efforts, complementing federal grant opportunities to help Mississippi businesses develop a highly trained workforce in priority occupations. MAA will support training efforts in industries such as advanced manufacturing, transportation and logistics, healthcare, energy/utilities, IT, and others that meet employer demand and provide career pathways for Mississippians.

Tonya Neely, Ph.D.

Director, Office of Apprenticeship

Dr. Tonya Neely leads statewide efforts to expand and strengthen registered apprenticeship opportunities. The Office of Apprenticeship provides grant management, program oversight, and compliance support while fostering collaboration among local workforce areas, community colleges, universities, economic development organizations, chambers of commerce, associations and various industry partners. Through these partnerships, this office ensures that registered apprenticeship remains a key strategy in developing Mississippi's skilled workforce.

MISSISSIPPI APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM | An ApprenticeshipUSA™ Initiative

OUR IMPACT

Supported by MAP since 2016

23,678
TOTAL APPRENTICES
AS OF JUNE 30, 2025

8,129
FEMALE APPRENTICES
AS OF JUNE 30, 2025

15,592
PEOPLE OF COLOR
AS OF JUNE 30, 2025

1,234
VETERAN APPRENTICES
AS OF JUNE 30, 2025

To learn more about MAP and the MAA funding, visit **www.msapprenticeship.works**.

Office of Technology Support and Innovation

Walter Hille
OTSI Director

In the past year, the Office of Technology Support and Innovation (OTSI) team has made significant strides in enhancing operational efficiency and security through a series of impactful projects. Notable achievements include the completion of the Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) upgrade, which allows staff and contractors to access their work securely from any location. OTSI has also implemented an email archiving system to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements and introduced advanced tools for email data loss prevention and encryption. Furthermore, they actively monitor for insider threats to protect MDES data integrity.

OTSI's ongoing projects, such as the secure API integration with the Department of Medicaid and migration from the IBM Jazz ticketing system to Atlassian Jira and Bitbucket, aim to streamline processes and foster collaboration. These initiatives reflect OTSI's commitment to innovation and excellence in serving our community.

OTSI PROJECTS

FROM FY2025 SHOWN BELOW

VDI Environment Upgrade

Replacement of old computers with a new Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI).

WHY THIS IS GREAT

Staff, vendors, and contractors can securely access their work from any computer, regardless of location.

BENEFITS

- Working from anywhere and providing greater flexibility for users
- Improving security and safety of data
- Ensuring uninterrupted service, maintaining smooth operation

STATUS: Completed

Barracuda Email Archiving

Implementation of a new system for archiving email

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

This helps MDES keep all emails for at least seven years to comply with retention rules and requirements.

BENEFITS

- Keeping emails easily accessible, simplifying audits
- Helping the agency locate and access important emails quickly when needed

STATUS: Completed

Proofpoint Email DLP and Encryption

Introduction of email Data Loss Prevention (DLP) tools

WHY THIS MATTERS

This helps protect sensitive information from bad actors and compromise, whether on purpose or by mistake.

BENEFITS

- Protecting privacy and keeping our email conversations secure.
- Ensuring we can communicate safely with partners and clients.

STATUS: Completed

Governor Tate Reeves speaks with Dr. Bill Ashley, about the technology upgrades within the Mobile WIN Job Center following the ribbon cutting event on May 8, 2025

Proofpoint Insider Threat Management

Addition of tools to monitor for insider threats.

WHY THIS HELPS

These tools help us catch any potential risks to our data from within.

BENEFITS

- Keeping our organization and agency operations safer with stronger security
- Early detection of problems helps to identify risks and threats before they become serious or damaging

STATUS: Completed

Application Programming Interface (API) Integration with Medicaid

Building a secure API to improve sharing information with the Division of Medicaid.

WHY THIS IS KEY

This improves exchange of data and reduces the need for manual work.

BENEFITS

- More efficient and better client service
- Faster checking and verification for service eligibility of clients
- Improved agency collaboration

STATUS: **IN PROGRESS**

Jazz to Jira Migration

Moving from the IBM Jazz ticketing system to Atlassian Jira and Bitbucket for better project management.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

This helps the OTSI Department work more like modern tech teams

BENEFITS

- Encourages collaboration among staff
- Better, more effective project tracking
- Easier project workflows that make getting things done easier

STATUS: **IN PROGRESS**

Office of Training and Strategic Projects

The MDES Training Department remains dedicated to providing valuable resources and opportunities for growth and engagement.

On October 30, 2024, MDES launched an **employee engagement survey with Culture Amp.** The agency selected Culture Amp for its strong commitment to confidentiality and its user-friendly platform, which will help us gain valuable insights into how we can improve our work environment.

Our objectives for this effort were to measure employee engagement, foster a learning environment, assess performance, and to foster a culture of increased employee engagement across all levels.

The Training Department is pleased to report an 86% participation rate in our recent survey, which reflects strong engagement across the agency. Our primary goals include boosting employee morale, establishing clear lines of communication at all organizational levels, and fostering greater workplace engagement through events. We are also committed to identifying barriers to employee retention, evaluating the effectiveness of our organizational policies, and enhancing the quality of feedback we receive from staff. The feedback collected has been invaluable, offering numerous ideas and suggestions, such as organizing food drives and repeating the successful Christmas event from last year.

Carrie McCaughn
Director, Training and Strategic Projects

Throughout the year, the Training Department has maintained a strong commitment to employee development through a series of successful **lunch and learn sessions.** These informal, engaging workshops have covered a variety of relevant topics, enabling employees to broaden their knowledge and skills in a collaborative environment. These sessions have seen high attendance, covering a variety of topics that cater to diverse interests.

We have also continued to provide **comprehensive training for our Contact Center staff**, ensuring ongoing professional development and support, as well as **monthly security awareness training**, which is required for all MDES staff.

Rapid Response

Imagine a company facing a tough decision—a major layoff or plant closure. It's a difficult time for both management and employees. That's when the Mississippi Department of Employment Security steps in with **Rapid Response**, a free early-intervention program designed to ease the transition.

It starts with an **MDES Rapid Response Coordinator** contacting the company. Instead of leaving the business and workers to navigate the crisis alone, MDES offers support to build a transition plan that reduces disruption.

A **Rapid Response Team** is then assembled: experts from WIN Job Centers, community colleges, unemployment offices, and Local Workforce Areas. They collaborate with the company to assess the needs of affected workers.

Robert DeYoung
Director of Grant Management

The team hosts Rapid Response **sessions for employees**, sharing available services like resume workshops, job placement help, and unemployment benefit guidance. Workers also learn about veteran resources, career assessments, and even entrepreneurship support.

Meanwhile, the team works with management to **explore layoff alternatives**. They may recommend incumbent worker training to boost skills or work-sharing programs that reduce hours instead of jobs, allowing employees to receive partial unemployment benefits.

1,920
EMPLOYEES FACING LAYOFFS RECEIVED RAPID RESPONSE SERVICES

THE IMPACT IS CLEAR:
Rapid Response assisted **1,920 employees** from **24 businesses** facing closures or downsizing. It's a story of turning crisis into opportunity—with support, planning, and dignity.

RAPIDRESPONSE
Helping Workers and Businesses When Jobs are Lost

At a Rapid Response event, displaced workers will learn about services and benefits designed to help get them back on their feet, including:

- ***Surviving a Layoff* book—to help in preparing for a job interview;**
- **Job search assistance;**
- **Resume preparation and interviewing skills workshops;**
- **Education and training opportunities;**
- **Unemployment Insurance;**
- **Services that may be available include:**
  - Financial planning and stress management workshops;
  - Financial support for training;
  - Income support if job loss was due to foreign trade; and
  - Special services for veterans and adults with disabilities.

Office of Reemployment Assistance

The Office of Reemployment Assistance (ORA) provides temporary financial support to eligible individuals who are unemployed through no fault of their own. Funded entirely by employer payroll taxes, ORA helps job seekers focus on reemployment while reducing the economic impact of job loss.

Erma Robinson-Cook
ORA Director, Benefits

Anna Wallace
ORA Director, Tax

What ORA Does

- **Pays Benefits** – Provides temporary financial assistance from the state trust fund.
- **Supports Job Seekers** – Ensures claimants meet work search requirements while seeking new employment.
- **Protects Program Integrity** – Prevents, detects, and recovers fraud or overpayments.
- **Partners with Employers** – Collects and audits payroll taxes that fund unemployment insurance.

Key ORA Departments at a Glance

Benefits & Federal Programs

- Determines eligibility and processes payments
- Handles military, federal, disaster, and multi-state claims
- Supports small business creation through SEAP

Benefit Payment Control & Integrity

- Detects and recovers overpayments
- Investigates and prevents fraud, including identity theft

Contact Center

- Main hub for filing claims, weekly certifications, and account support
- Available online 24/7 and by phone during business hours

Tax & Audit

- Manages employer tax accounts and rates
- Audits wage reports to ensure compliance with state and federal law

Compliance & Policy

- Ensures ORA meets U.S. Department of Labor performance standards

Celebrating 90 Years
of the Unemployment Insurance Program

In 2025, we proudly celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Program—an enduring safeguard that has provided stability and hope to American workers during times of economic uncertainty.

The UI Program traces its roots to the Great Depression, one of the most challenging periods in U.S. history. In response to widespread unemployment and financial hardship, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act on August 14, 1935. This landmark legislation laid the foundation for a national unemployment insurance system designed to offer temporary financial assistance to individuals who lost their jobs through no fault of their own, while helping stimulate economic recovery by maintaining consumer purchasing power.

From its inception, the UI Program has operated as a joint federal-state partnership. Federal and state taxes are collected to support the system. The U.S. Department of Labor oversees the federal share, ensuring compliance and program integrity, while states collect UI taxes from employers to fund their individual trust funds, which directly finance unemployment benefits.

In Mississippi, the Mississippi Department of Employment Security serves as the administrator of the UI Program. Guided by state statutes, MDES manages the UI Trust Fund to ensure benefits are available to qualified workers when they need them most. This system not only provides immediate financial relief to individuals and families but also helps stabilize local economies by supporting businesses and communities during economic downturns.

Modernizing to Meet Customer Needs

Over the past nine decades, the Unemployment Insurance Program has not only endured—it has evolved. Across the nation, states have embraced innovation to modernize their UI systems, investing in technology to deliver faster, more efficient, and more secure services.

Where once claimants relied on in-person visits and paper-based processes, today's systems feature online portals and mobile access, enabling individuals to file claims, submit documentation, and track benefits anytime, from anywhere. Enhanced identity verification tools and advanced fraud prevention technologies safeguard program integrity, while digital communication channels provide real-time updates to both claimants and employers.

MDES is proud to be part of this nationwide modernization movement. In recent years, we have implemented a range of innovative projects designed to streamline operations, enhance service delivery, and improve overall program efficiency.

Key Innovation Projects

BYE Wage Audit Program–We've introduced a proactive, data-driven audit initiative that randomly selects claimants who report earnings for early review. By scheduling audits at the beginning of the claims process and requesting timely proof of earnings, this approach helps detect and prevent overpayments before they escalate.

Claimant Communication Reminders–This modern communication system ensures claimants receive timely, clear, and actionable messages throughout their claims journey. Automated reminders help guide individuals through key steps such as weekly certifications, document submissions, and appeal deadlines—reducing confusion and missed actions.

Wage Calculator Functionality–To eliminate guesswork in reporting earnings, we've launched a user-friendly wage calculator within our online portal. This tool provides clear guidance on how to calculate and report wages accurately, reducing errors and improving processing times for benefit determinations.

Beyond these initiatives, MDES has:

- Integrated secure online filing for claimants
- Developed an advanced, user-centric claimant portal
- Implemented a fully electronic process for employers
- Leveraged real-time data analytics to improve decision-making, performance, and accountability

These efforts ensure that our UI system remains responsive and resilient—especially during times of crisis, such as natural disasters or economic downturns, when demand for services increases dramatically. We recognize that continued modernization and scalability are essential for meeting future challenges.

Unemployment Insurance (UI) Initial Claims Filed

Month	Federal Employees (UCFE)	Ex-Service Members (UCX)	Regular UI Claims Filed
July 2024	11	7	5,721
August 2024	9	7	4,387
September 2024	7	6	3,751
October 2024	6	4	4,383
November 2024	8	5	4,364
December 2024	13	5	5,588
January 2025	18	5	4,710
February 2025	33	3	3,340
March 2025	16	6	5,447
April 2025	27	6	4,207
May 2025	23	7	6,013
June 2025	10	5	5,201
Total	**181**	**66**	**57,112**

Source ETA 5159 - Claims and Payment Activities, Section A: Claims Activities

Looking Ahead

Over the past 90 years, the Unemployment Insurance Program has proven to be a cornerstone of economic security and workforce resilience. From the struggles of the Great Depression to the complexities of today's economy, it has remained a lifeline for millions of people and has continued to stay grounded in the principles of fairness, dignity, and opportunity that shaped its creation in 1935.

As we honor this milestone anniversary, we look forward with purpose. The Unemployment Insurance Program will continue to evolve, leveraging innovation and technology to ensure that workers, families, and communities are supported during times of transition and uncertainty.

Unemployment Insurance

Performance Information

Unemployment Insurance (UI) Core Measures

UI Core Measures	DOL Acceptable Level of Performance	MDES Performance Quarter Ending 9/30/2024	MDES Performance Quarter Ending 12/31/2024	MDES Performance Quarter Ending 3/31/2025	MDES Performance Quarter Ending 6/30/2025	MDES Ranking in the Nation as of 6/30/2025
First Payment Promptness Percentage of all 1st payments made within 14/21 days after the week ending date of the first compensable week in the benefit year (excludes Workshare, episodic claims such as DUA, and retroactive payments for a compensable waiting period.)	≥87%	78.4%	84.2%	84.5%	89.0%	**11th in the nation**
Nonmonetary Determinations Timeliness Percentage of Nonmonetary Determinations (Separations and Nonseparations) made within 21 days of the date of detection of any nonmonetary issue that had the potential to affect the claimant's benefit rights.	≥80%	79.0%	96.3%	94.5%	95.9%	**4th in the nation**
Nonmonetary Separation Quality Percentage of Separation Determinations with Quality Scores equal to or greater than 95 points, based on the evaluation results of quarterly samples selected from the universe of separation determinations.	≥75%	57.1%	66.7%	77.8%	70.0%	**34th in the nation**
Nonmonetary Nonseparation Quality Percentage of Nonseparation Determinations with Quality Scores equal to or greater than 95 points, based on the evaluation results of quarterly samples selected from the universe of nonseparation determinations.	≥75%	100.0%	86.7%	96.7%	96.7%	**7th in the nation**

Unemployment Insurance (UI) Core Measures

UI Core Measures	DOL Acceptable Level of Performance	MDES Performance Quarter Ending 9/30/2024	MDES Performance Quarter Ending 12/31/2024	MDES Performance Quarter Ending 3/31/2025	MDES Performance Quarter Ending 6/30/2025	MDES Ranking in the Nation as of 6/30/2025
Lower Authority Appeals Quality Percent of Lower Authority Appeals with Quality Scores equal to or greater than 85% of potential points, based on the evaluation results of quarterly samples selected from the universe of lower authority benefit appeal hearings.	≥80%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	**Tied for 1st**
Average Age of Pending Lower Authority Appeals The sum of the ages, in days from filing, of all pending Lower Authority Appeals divided by the number of Lower Authority Appeals.	≤30 days	8 days	7.7 days	5.8 days	9.1 days	**1st in the nation**
Average Age of Pending Higher Authority Appeals The sum of the ages, in days from filing, of all pending Higher Authority Appeals divided by the number of Higher Authority Appeals.	≤40 days	5 days	7.7 days	5.8 days	5.3 days	**1st in the nation**
New Employer Status Determination Timeliness Percentage of New Employer Status Determinations made within 90 days of the last day in the quarter in which the business became liable.	≥70%	78.8%	78.6%	79.0%	86.1%	**33rd in the nation**

Fraud Recovery

UI Fraud Recovery — July 2024 through June 2025 per Regular ETA Report 227

Recovered	9/30/2024	12/31/2024	3/31/2025	6/30/2025	Total
Regular UI	$448,427	$365,119	$1,111,264	$725,199	$2,650,009
Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) Regular UI	$22,440	$19,083	$29,584	$20,492	$91,599
Federal Unemployment Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) Regular UI	$697,578	$514,989	$948,860	$763,334	$2,924,761
UI Claims Filed for Federal Employees (UCFE) and UI Claims Filed for Ex-Service Members (UCX)	$3,069	$2,225	$5,820	$1,661	$12,775
FPUC UCFE/UCX	$0	$1,144	$1,914	$3,012	$6,070
Extended Benefits	$533	$315	$1,147	$583	$2,578
FPUC PEUC	$57,537	$39,751	$80,195	$69,103	$246,586
FPUC Pandemic Unemployment Assistance	$34,271	$22,735	$50,803	$35,205	$143,014
				Total Amount of Fraud Recovered in FY 2025	**$6,077,392**

Fraud Prevention

UI Fraud Prevention — July 2024 through June 2025 per Regular ETA Report 227

Regular UI	9/30/2024		12/31/2024		3/31/2025		6/30/2025		Total	
	Cases	Overpayment Detected	Cases	Overpayment Detected	Cases	Overpayment Detected	Cases	Overpayment Detected	Cases	Overpayment Detected
Wage Crossmatch	264	$192,684	246	$190,832	254	$141,596	234	$143,184	**998**	**$668,296**
Interstate Benefits Crossmatch	32	$31,145	13	$10,039	13	$10,039	4	$2,350	**62**	**$53,573**
National & State Directory of New Hire	399	$171,088	410	$179,484	281	$114,402	113	$44,651	**1,203**	**$509,625**
							Total UI Fraud Prevented in FY 2025		**2,263**	**$1,231,494**

Labor Market Information

Labor Market Information (LMI) at MDES is the department that reports information on the number of people employed or unemployed, unemployment rates, average wages, population, income, occupational projections, and other economic variables for Mississippi. The LMI Department, through federal grants from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Employment and Training Administration, operates statistical programs to capture and report economic information.

The purpose of LMI and its publications is to aid our customers in identifying the workforce information available and to direct them to the data source that most appropriately meets their needs. A brief description follows of LMI programs, along with some of the publications produced.

27,163

LMI REQUESTS - INCLUDING WEBSITE DOWNLOADS

Robert W. Bock, Jr., CPA

Director of Workforce Data Reporting

Workforce Data Reporting is responsible for the submittal and presentation of data regarding agency performance for multiple federal and state programs. These programs include the Labor Market Information, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and multiple other programs that utilize data from internal systems combined with external data from sources such as the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Members of the Workforce Data Reporting team regularly provide individuals, businesses, and government leaders with valuable insights into Mississippi's economic and workforce statistics.

One of the social media posts in FY 2024 highlighting record breaking statistics from Labor Market Information and Workforce Data Reporting departments at MDES.

Current Employment Statistics (CES) provides monthly estimates of employment, hours, and earnings by industry for the state and metropolitan statistical areas. Estimates were published each month in *State & Metro Trends*.

48
CES ESTIMATES DISSEMINATED EACH YEAR

Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) provides monthly estimates of civilian labor force, employed people, unemployed people, and unemployment rates for the state, counties, metropolitan statistical areas, workforce development areas, planning and development districts, community college districts, and select cities. Estimates were published each month in *Labor Market Data*.

4,233
LAUS DOCUMENTS GENERATED PER YEAR

Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) provides occupational employment and wage estimates for wage and salary workers annually for the state, metropolitan statistical areas, and workforce development areas. The annual estimates were published in *Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates*.

4,076
OEWS EMPLOYERS SURVEYED PER YEAR

Mississippi Unemployment Rate (Seasonally Adjusted)	
July 2024	3.1
August 2024	3.3
September 2024	3.4
October 2024	3.6
November 2024	3.6
December 2024	3.6
January 2025	3.6
February 2025	3.8
March 2025	3.9
April 2025	4.0
May 2025	4.0
June 2025	4.0

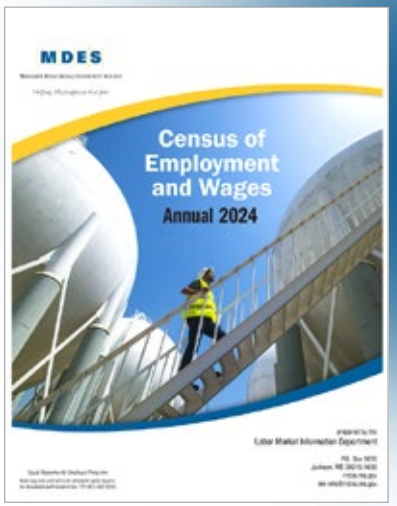
89,322

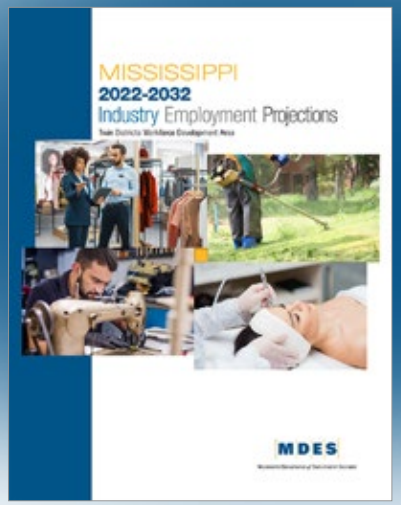
QCEW AVERAGE UNITS EDITED EACH QUARTER

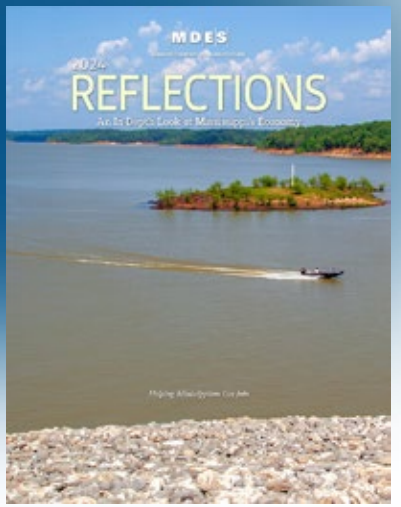
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) provides data of employment and wages by industry for the state and counties. The Enhanced Quarterly Unemployment Insurance file was submitted each quarter before the deadline. Estimates of annual average employment and annual average wages by industry for the state, counties, metropolitan statistical areas, and workforce development areas were published in *Census of Employment and Wages*.

Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) provides a count of all fatal work injuries for the state. Data was gathered to identify, verify and describe fatal work injuries in the state. Counts of fatal work injuries were produced by gender, age, race, occupation, and industry.

Industry and Occupational Projections forecast employment by industry or occupation. Long-term industry and occupational projections for the period 2022 to 2032 were created for workforce development areas and metropolitan statistical areas.







The **Annual Economic Analysis report** was published in *Reflections*. The report provided data for the state, counties, metropolitan statistical areas, and workforce development areas on population, labor force, employment by industry, per capita income, and sales tax revenues. An Index of Economic Stability was generated by area.

Descriptions of statistical programs operated by the LMI Department, and monthly state and local area employment and unemployment data can be found online at **www.mdes.ms.gov/lmi**.

AccelerateMS Horizons 2024: *L-R Tonya Neely, Brian Johnson, Bill Ashley, Cicely Dent, Mary Willoughby, and Clayton Smith*

MDES employees celebrate the launch of the new Mobile WIN Job Center during the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 8, 2025, for its new Mobile WIN Job Center, designed to provide vital employment services across the state. Equipped with modern technology and resources, the mobile unit will assist job seekers and businesses, including support for Unemployment Insurance benefits. This initiative emphasizes MDES's commitment to helping Mississippians Get Jobs and enhancing the state's economy.

MDES

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT *of* EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

Helping Mississippians Get Jobs

601-493-9427 | mdes.ms.gov

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.
For Stevens Amendment information visit mdes.ms.gov/stevens.

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