



opportunityreturns

Creating more jobs for today and tomorrow

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Rod R. Blagojevich – Governor

news

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GOVERNOR BLAGOJEVICH ANNOUNCES NEARLY \$4 MILLION IN OPPORTUNITY RETURNS FUNDING FOR CRUCIAL SOUTHEAST REGION INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

SPRINGFIELD – Governor Rod Blagojevich today announced nearly **\$4 million** in funding for new sanitation and water drainage improvement projects in the Southeast region. These key initiatives will improve the health and quality of life of Southeast region residents, as well as provide the necessary infrastructure for economic growth. This aggressive effort to improve the quality of infrastructure and public facilities will be a major theme of the Governor's *Opportunity Returns* initiative for the Southeast region, his comprehensive, pro-active plan for restoring economic opportunity to the area, which will be announced shortly.

"If we're going to bring jobs and new opportunity to the Southeast region, we need to do everything we can to create an attractive business climate," said Governor Blagojevich. "Any business needs good water and sanitation in order to relocate or expand, and these projects are a very important step in the right direction. They will help us get the economy going one community, one company, one job and one person at a time."

The funds for this initiative are part of the Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP), a federally-funded grant program that assists Illinois communities by providing grants to local governments to assist them in financing economic development, public facilities and housing rehabilitation projects. The program is targeted to assist low-to-moderate income people by creating job opportunities and improving the quality of their living environment. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity administers the program.

These CDAP grants address a crucial need for the region. Communities with established infrastructure are under constant pressure to upgrade and rehabilitate their systems to keep up with changing Environmental Protection Agency regulations, changing populations and changing needs. As more rural water wells are becoming undrinkable, rural water providers assume even greater importance.

Adequate sewer and water service is also vital to community and economic development. Without basic infrastructure, communities cannot compete for company relocation and expansion, but with a healthy infrastructure in place, communities can create jobs and prosper.

The Southeast region's public facilities improvements are as follows:

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LOCATION	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	COST
Martinsville, City of Clark	Design Engineering	Construct water treatment plant	66,440
Westfield, Village of Clark	Design Engineering	Design elevated water storage tank	25,914
Iola, Village of Clay	Public Facilities	Construct sewage collection and treatment system	350,000
Pixley Township Clay	Design Engineering	Design rural water extension EJ Water Corporation	73,035
Hutton Township Coles	Public Facilities	Construct portion of a water distribution system 'Phase III'	350,000 Embaras Area Water District
North Okaw Township Coles	Design Engineering	Design water line extension and system improvements Cooks Mills Water Association	47,700
Neoga, City of Cumberland	Public Facilities	Construct wastewater treatment plant improvements	350,000
Stratton Township Edgar	Design Engineering	Design water line extension Clark Edgar Rural Water District	47,140
Moccasin Township Effingham	Public Facilities	Construct rural water system extension EJ Water Corporation	350,000
West Township Effingham	Public Facilities	Construct rural water system extension EJ Water Corporation	350,000
Shumway, Village of Effingham	Public Facilities	Construct sewer system	350,000
Effingham, City of Effingham	Design Engineering	Design rural water extension	46,098
Fayette County Fayette	Public Facilities	Extend rural water system Fayette Water Company	350,000
Wilberton Township Fayette	Public Facilities	Construct rural water system extension Fayette Water Company	350,000
Laclede Township Fayette	Design Engineering	Design rural potable water system Northeast Marion County Water Company	205,620
Crooked Creek Township Jasper	Design Engineering	Design rural water extension EJ Water Corporation	75,859
Hunt City Township Jasper	Design Engineering	Design rural water system EJ Water Corporation	80,754
Lovington, Village of Moultrie	Public Facilities	Construct water tower	350,000

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Noble Township Richland	Design Engineering	Design rural water system expansion RE Water Corporation	84,360
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Total: \$3,902,914

“The goal of *Opportunity Returns* is simple,” said Jack Lavin, Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. “By working with people on the local level, who know their communities best, we can respond to and assist with the unique challenges and opportunities of each part of our state. Our goal is creating and retaining jobs, and these kind of infrastructure improvements are an important part of this effort.”

The *Opportunity Returns* regional economic development plan is the most aggressive, comprehensive approach to creating jobs in Illinois’ history. Since a one-size-fits-all approach to economic development just doesn’t work, the Governor has divided the state into 10 regions – finding areas with common economic strengths and needs, and developing a plan with specific actions for each region. This grassroots effort is a product of significant outreach over several months with business, civic and labor leaders, and elected officials. *Opportunity Returns* contains tangible actions to make each region more accessible, more marketable, more entrepreneurial and more attractive to business.

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