



News Release

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DED, Mo. Development Finance Board, and Mo. Housing Development Commission announce opening of 2010 DREAM Initiative

JEFFERSON CITY– Three partnering agencies, including the Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED), Missouri Development Finance Board (MDFB), and Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC) today announced the opening of the 2010 Downtown Revitalization and Economic Assistance for Missouri (DREAM) initiative.

The DREAM Initiative was launched to help small and mid-sized Missouri communities navigate through the various downtown revitalization, business development and residential resources available through state government to further help those communities with downtown revitalization and job creation efforts. Only a limited number of communities will achieve DREAM designation.

Applications will be due to the MDFB offices by 5 p.m. on August 2 and may be obtained through the DREAM Internet site, www.modream.org. The 2010 DREAM communities will be announced in the fall.

“The top priority of Gov. Nixon’s administration is to boost economic development and create jobs,” DED Director David Kerr said. “The DREAM Initiative is a key instrument in the DED toolbox to aid in the economic development and downtown revitalization of the communities that have been selected as DREAM communities. I strongly encourage Missouri community leaders to consider submitting an application to this program to revitalize their downtown regions, create jobs and enhance opportunities for their citizens.”

Since the first communities were established, DREAM communities have received more than \$179 million in public investment for housing, construction and renovation projects and infrastructure improvements. Public funding secured through the initiative has created an unprecedented \$600 million in private investment to benefit the DREAM communities.

The inaugural DREAM designees were: Cape Girardeau, Excelsior Springs, Hannibal, Hermann, Kennett, Neosho, Sedalia, St. Joseph, Washington and West Plains. Since then, additional DREAM community designees have been awarded to Aurora, Boonville, Brookfield, California, Caruthersville, Chillicothe, Clinton, Farmington, Fulton, Farmington, Kirksville, Lamar, Lebanon, Louisiana, Maryville, Mexico, New Haven, Poplar Bluff, Rolla, Savannah, Sikeston, Strafford, Trenton, Warrensburg and Webb City.

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