

NEWS RELEASE

Office of Commissioner Brandon Presley
MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NORTHERN DISTRICT

Presley Announces \$5.9 Million in Second Round of Broadband Grants for 13 North MS Electric Co-ops

Jackson, Mississippi (August 10, 2020) - Today, Public Service Commissioner Brandon Presley announced that thirteen North Mississippi electric cooperatives have received more than \$5.9 Million in a second round of funding from the MS Electric Cooperatives Broadband COVID-19 grant program. The program was established by the Mississippi Legislature to increase expansion of high-speed internet service to areas which lack service.

The grant program will enable awardees to begin construction in some of Mississippi's most isolated and disconnected areas. Areas that received funding are certain census blocks not covered with broadband service as defined by the FCC (25 mbps download, 3 mbps upload). To be awarded the grant, the electric cooperatives must first agree to spend the monies in areas that lack service, match every dollar of grant funds with private funds and provide symmetrical speeds of 100 mbps upload and download to locations in the area. The portion of each project funded by the grant program must be operational by December 30th.

"The last round of grants completes the package to accelerate broadband expansion in some of our most disconnected communities," said Commissioner Presley. "Many of the electric co-ops are already off and running on broadband expansion and these additional funds will help their mission of getting to the last house on the most rural road. Again, I want to thank Lt. Governor Hosemann, Speaker Gunn, Sen. Joel Carter, Rep. Scott Bounds and the members of the Legislature that fought so hard for this funding."

The amount of each second round award is listed below.

Provider Name	Award Amount
Alcorn County Electric Power Association	\$519,799.59
Delta Electric Power Association	\$468,994.00
East Mississippi Electric Power Association	\$574,174.00
4-County Electric Power Association	\$574,174.00
Monroe County Electric Power Association	\$402,559.00
Natchez Trace Electric Power Association	\$417,209.00
North East Mississippi Electric Power Association	\$392,217.78
Northcentral Electric Power Association	\$263,163.00
Prentiss County Electric Power Association	\$478,478.00
Tallahatchie Valley Electric Power Association	\$431,851.00
Tippah Electric Power Association	\$574,174.00
Tishomingo County Electric Power Association	\$453,835.00
Tombigbee Electric Power Association	\$401,825.00
Total	\$5,952,453.37



for more information contact:

Commissioner Brandon Presley ~ P.O. Box 1174 ~ Jackson, MS 39215-1174
1-800-356-6428 or 1-800-637-7722 ~ brandon.presley@psc.ms.gov ~ www.psc.ms.gov