

### Upcoming Events

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Meeting

**DATE:** Sept. 14 at 10 a.m.

**LOCATION:** NARCOG Board Room - Decatur, AL

NARCOG Board Meeting

**DATES:** Sept. 22 at 10 a.m.;

Oct. 27 at 10 a.m.;

November and December TBD

**LOCATION:** NARCOG Board Room - Decatur, AL

### RPA Calendar

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant applications are due Oct. 15

Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant applications are due Oct. 12

### RPA Contacts

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### Information ON THE WEB

[www.narco.org](http://www.narco.org)

### SOCIAL MEDIA

[facebook.com/narcoal](https://facebook.com/narcoal)

## Region receives \$1.96 million in funds

### Four grants funded in 2021, six pending

The North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments (NARCOG) Regional Planning Agency has helped bring almost \$2 million in grant funds to the region during 2021, with another \$3.3 million pending for the previous two fiscal years.

So far this year, the Regional Planning Agency has submitted 10 grant applications for communities in Cullman, Lawrence, and Morgan counties. At this



time, four of those have been funded for a total of \$1,963,725.

Since 2019, NARCOG has helped secure \$5,147,190 in

grant funds for assistance with projects in the Region.

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## Moulton receives ARC grant for sewer project

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) awarded a grant to the City of Moulton to assist the municipality with a project that will provide improvements to its sewer system.

The ARC grant, which was prepared and submitted by the North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments (NARCOG) Regional Planning Agency, awards

Moulton \$200,000 in funds for a \$319,978 sewer project.

The city will provide \$119,978 in local match funds.

The project will provide improvements to the wastewater collection system near Gordon Drive and Alabama Highway 157, which includes replacing deteriorated and leaking collection pipes and increasing

the conveyance capacity of the Moulton Industrial Park Lift Station, to reduce the frequency and likelihood of issues for the residential and commercial customers serviced in the project area.

The project will have a direct impact on seven businesses and 45 households in the City of Moulton.

## Falkville receives ARC grant for drainage project

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) has awarded a grant to the Town of Falkville to assist the municipality with improvements to its drainage system.

The ARC grant, which was prepared and submitted by the North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments (NARCOG) Regional Planning Agency,

awards Falkville \$98,541 in funds for a \$197,082 drainage improvement project.

The Town of Falkville will provide \$98,541 in local match funds.

The project will provide improvements to the drainage system at McArthur Street and Douglas Road, providing 470 linear feet of concrete ditch along

Douglas Road and approximately 350 linear feet of new concrete drainage pipe that will replace dilapidated corrugated metal piping along the center of McArthur Street.

The project represents Phase 2 in the Town of Falkville's plan for comprehensive stormwater drainage improvements.

**Robby Cantrell | Executive Director**

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## Hanceville Rebuild Alabama Act resurfacing project completed

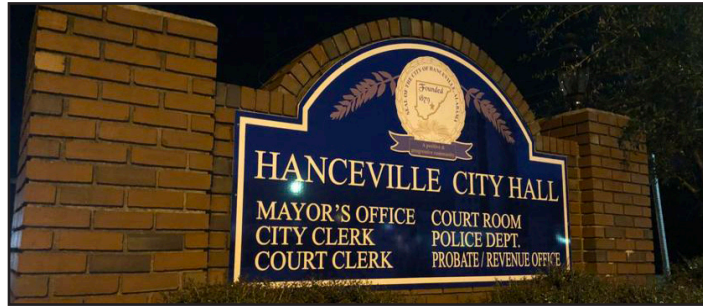
A Hanceville project funded by the Rebuild Alabama Act has been completed.

A stretch of Commercial Street from downtown Hanceville to the school has been resurfaced along with curb ramps and crosswalks.

The Rebuild Alabama Act (RAA) grant, which was prepared and submitted by the North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments (NARCOG) as part of its Rural Planning Organization (RPO) work program, awarded Hanceville \$250,000 for the \$275,000 project.

The Hanceville City Council committed \$25,000 in local match funds.

"We really appreciate the dil-



igent work of Senator Garlan Gudger and Representative Randall Shedd for assisting us in getting this money," Hanceville Mayor Kenneth Nail said.

"Honestly, without them, we probably would not have gotten the funding for this project. And honestly, it really has paid off, be-

cause Commercial Street is really nice now. People notice that it's made a big difference."

The project had a minimum of two inches of the existing layer of wearing surface along Commercial Street in Hanceville milled out and replaced with new wearing surface beginning at Church

Street and moving eastward to the school.

Intermediate points along the street include Hanceville First Baptist Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, First United Methodist Church and the Hanceville School Complex.

Due to issues with puddling and stormwater drainage, the project removed the existing asphalt from the roadway gutters and restored the original gutters and asphalt interface to improve drainage.

This project is another piece in the ongoing implementation of the Hanceville Downtown Improvement Plan and Comprehensive Plan Update.

## Falkville sidewalk project underway

A sidewalk improvements project in downtown Falkville, funded by a grant from the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), is now underway.

Falkville was awarded \$523,397 in funds through the ALDOT Transportation Alternatives Program to cover the project.

Through this project, new sidewalks are being constructed in downtown Falkville, beginning at the old U.S. Highway 31 service road between 3rd Street West and 1st Street West, and continuing along both sides of 2nd Street through a residential neighborhood, past Jack McCaig Park and to Falkville Schools. The final portion of the project will run along the north side of 1st Street West from U.S. Highway 31 to the schools.

Also as part of the project, pedestrian push buttons and walk/don't walk signals are being added at U.S. Highway 31 and 2nd Street.

This project is the first phase of a proposed two-part Downtown Streetscape and Sidewalk Improvements project for downtown Falkville.

## CDBG grants submitted for four communities

The NARCOG Regional Planning Agency submitted Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications in August for four municipalities located in Cullman, Lawrence and Morgan counties.

CDBG applications for sewer improvements were submitted for Moulton and Garden City, while grant applications for drainage system improvements were submitted for Hillsboro and Falkville.

A CDBG application was sub-

mitted for Hillsboro seeking \$350,000 in grant funds for stormwater drainage improvements. The CDBG application for Falkville seeks \$350,000 in grant funds for a \$493,868 project for stormwater drainage improvements.

The CDBG application for Moulton seeks \$500,000 in grant funds for a \$621,100 sewer improvement project, while the application for Garden City seeks \$346,900 in grant funds for a sewer improvement project.



## Accelerate program continues to help local businesses

The North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments (NARCOG) Accelerate Business Growth Fund continues to help boost the region's economy by providing financial assistance to local businesses.

Through the Accelerate Business Growth Fund program, NARCOG has provided local businesses with loan funds totaling \$1.7 million since January 2020, leveraging an additional



\$4.4 million, creating or retaining approximately 180 jobs across the region.

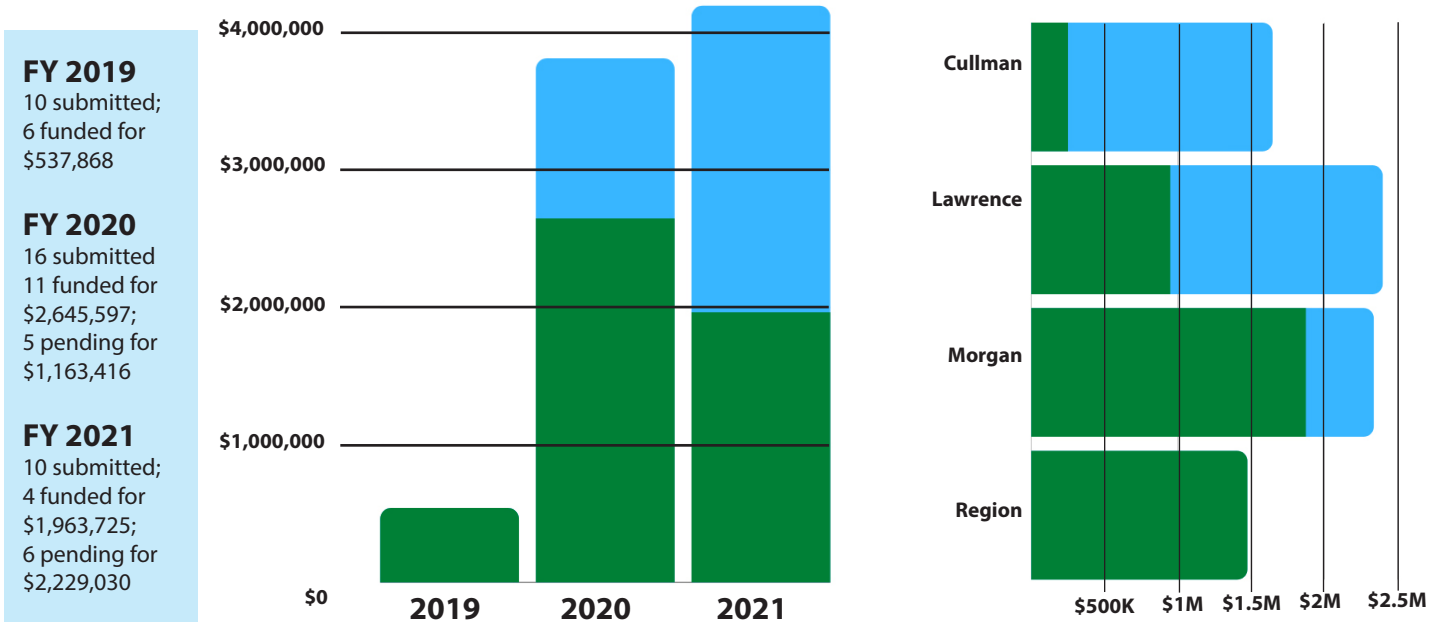
Loan funds are secured through the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA), Appalachian Regional Commis-

sion (ARC) U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Alabama State Bonds.

NARCOG also helped 10 local businesses secure more than \$600,000 in loans from the EDA Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES).

The EDA CARES Loan Fund was established in 2020 for existing businesses and is available through June 2022, or until funds are exhausted.

# PROJECT STATUS REPORT



## FROM PAGE 1: GRANT FUNDING

In 2021, the Regional Planning Agency helped the Decatur-Morgan County Port Authority secure \$1 million in grant funds from the Appalachian Regional Commission for a \$2,185,854 project to expand an existing 40,000-square foot port warehouse that can handle automotive materials.

The Regional Planning Agency helped the Decatur-Morgan County Entrepreneurial Center, Inc. (E-Center) secure \$86,880 in assistance from the USDA Rural Business Development Grant (RDBG) program for the E-Center's Project Rebound initiative, which benefits Morgan and Cullman counties through a variety of entrepreneurial and business development training.

Project Rebound will also connect small businesses with rural communities through a Pop-Up Shop Circuit.

The E-Center will coordinate with rural communities in the region to provide special small busi-



ness events intended to promote tourism and economic development in rural downtowns.

The Regional Planning Agency also helped Lawrence and Morgan counties receive COVID relief funds through Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).

Lawrence County was award-

ed \$400,000 in CDBG-CV grant funds, and Morgan County was awarded \$489,475 for automatic chest compression devices for fire departments, and funds were also awarded to help supplement the staffing costs for the County Health Departments in vaccination efforts.

With the CDBG-CV funds, the Lawrence County Emergency Management Agency will also purchase a mobile vaccination unit, which includes a truck and trailer.

The NARCOG Regional Planning Agency currently has 11 grants pending approval for \$3,305,566.