



A moment to focus on the good our team is doing every day



UCDD, REGIONAL PARTNERS ANNOUNCE \$1M GRANT AWARD

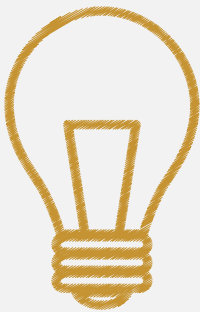
White House officials, state and local elected officials, community partners, and officials with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration gathered at the Baxter Welcome Center/Depot Monday to celebrate the announcement a \$1 million grant award that will provide funding for the extension of a sewer line and water line upgrades to the future site of Portobello America, Inc.

In December 2018, state officials announced the Brazilian ceramic tile manufacturer would locate its U.S. headquarters and first U.S. production facility in Baxter; creating 220 jobs and investing approximately \$150 million in Putnam County.

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Out in the Field

UTILITY AID AVAILABLE FOR UC RESIDENTS



From News Talk 94.1, Aug. 10: As the heat returns this week, the Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency has funds to help you pay your utility bill. The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program provides an one time yearly payment averaging \$325. UCHRA Putnam County Coordinator Judy Sanchez said a person can make up to \$1,900 a month and still qualify.

"Do not think it is there for somebody else," Sanchez said. "Everybody needs a little help especially during this time with Covid, and everything going on. Definitely give us a chance. Give us a call, and we can see if you are within income guidelines."

Sanchez said if approved, the money is sent straight to your electric company. Residents interested can call their local UCHRA office for more information.

CREVAA CLIENT SETTLED IN THANKS TO INNER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

Thanks to programs within the Development District, a domestic violence victim was able to secure housing and a new life. CREVAA (Collaborative Response to Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse) received a referral regarding an elderly abuse victim and was able to relocate them into new housing along with donated furniture and household goods.

CREVAA is a program within the AAAD that provides emergency services and supports for older and vulnerable adult victims of crimes. Through collaboration with other programs both within and outside of the Development District, the program can provide much needed



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Pictured, from left: Dana Gartzke, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development (EDA); Mark Farley, UCDD Executive Director, John Martin, Mayor of Baxter, and, Scott Turner, Executive Director of the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council.

CONTINUED: UCDD, REGIONAL PARTNERS ANNOUNCE \$1M GRANT AWARD

The Upper Cumberland Development District (UCDD) worked with the City of Baxter and submitted the grant on behalf of the city. In addition to the \$1 million grant award from EDA, the City of Baxter will also receive an additional \$500,000 in federal funds and another \$600,000 in local funds.

“One of the goals of the Development District is to provide sustainable economic and community development support within our region,” said Mark Farley, UCDD Executive Director. “The strong partnerships UCDD has with local, state, and federal agencies play a significant role in assisting the communities we serve. We believe that the Upper Cumberland region is made stronger through regional cooperation and shared resources. We are honored to work with agencies that operate with that same intent as ours, to improve the quality of life for all of our citizens.”

With this funding provided by the Economic Development Administration and the Appalachian Regional Commission, a new 12-inch waterline will be extended to the Portobello site from the existing 12-inch line on the high-pressure side of the Baxter system control valve. This upgrade will replace the existing 8-inch waterline that feeds the proposed manufacturing site which is currently incapable of meeting TDEC regulations under industrial and fire flow conditions by Portobello.

The existing gravity flow sewer will be extended from the Olan Maxwell Road pump station to the Portobello America site, located on Ditty Road. System improvements will also be made at Olan Maxwell Road, Love’s Truck Stop, and Speedway pump stations.

“The funding provided by the Economic Development Administration and the Appalachian Regional Commission will ensure that Portobello America will have sufficient infrastructure to operate at maximum capacity for years to come,” said Tommy Lee, UCDD’s Economic Development Director. “This is a big win for not only Baxter and Putnam County, but for the Upper Cumberland Region as a whole.”

This project location falls within an identified opportunity zone. There are 176 census tracts in Tennessee identified as opportunity zones, nominated by Tennessee and certified by the Secretary of the Treasury.

In total, three Tennessee cities — the City of Baxter, the Town of Mountain City, and the City of South Pittsburg — were awarded a combined \$4.4 million in grant funds by EDA.

Construction of Portobello’s new facility, located at the former Tennessee Motor Speedway site, is anticipated to be complete by 2021.



CONTINUED: CREVAA CLIENT SETTLED IN

services such as housing, groceries, counseling, household goods and other items that are connected to a crime. Programs such as Relative Caregiver, CRDC Housing, and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) made this success possible.

In addition, many employees of UCDD have donated furniture, clothes, household goods and electronics that helped this client as well as others start a new life in safe, secure housing.

If you have good, clean items or furniture to donate please contact Lisha Wiley or Makenzie Fowler at (931) 432-4111.

Lisha and Makenzie are CREVAA Advocates and work hard to ensure clients are not victimized going forward. Thank you for all that you do!



UCDD representatives recently traveled to Clay County for the county’s annual Summer Strategy Session. We always enjoy meeting with local and regional partners to discuss opportunities within our region and the communities we serve.