

# Our Economic Future

[www.sos.ms.gov](http://www.sos.ms.gov)



## Past Efforts

- Reformed Business Laws
- Automation (no paper)
- Y'all Business



## Present Challenges

Unemployment Rate

Labor Force  
Participation Rate

**4.7%**

**55.5%**



## Madison County's Successes

- One of the fastest growing counties in the state
- Graduation rates/ACT scores well above state averages
- ACT Work Ready Community



## Future Solutions

### 1. Evaluate/overhaul our grants/incentives programs

- Engage in a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of our grants and incentives to maximize return
- Prioritize rewarding small- to medium-size business growth
  - Example: provide incentives for Work-Based Learning initiatives (apprenticeships/partnerships with schools) or hiring persons with non-violent felony records
- Reform state government to be customer-friendly/citizen-up



## Future Solutions

### 2. Grow our educated workforce of the future

- Make it easier for businesses to engage in Work-Based Learning initiatives like internships/apprenticeships
- Allow students to take ACT WorkKeys (or equivalency)
- Develop a statewide Work-Based Learning Policy and consolidate workforce development efforts (particularly those receiving state funds)
- Support policy which draws our educational institutions at all levels together with the goal of training our students for college or career (AP classes, dual enrollment, internship programs, etc.)
- Implement programs like "Leader in Me"



## Future Solutions

### 3. Attract/retain our young people

- Evaluate current programs aimed at attracting students to stay in the state for education/medicine
  - Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program
  - Mississippi Teacher Loan Repayment Program
- Support entities like *The Idea Shop* in Starkville/business incubators: places where students can develop a product and test it on the market
- Focus on the quality of our public education system and access to healthcare



## Future Solutions

### 4. Encourage businesses to get involved in our schools



