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STATE OF ALABAMA

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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ADECA program to help Downtown Rescue Mission cut energy costs

MONTGOMERY—A Huntsville nonprofit organization that gives a helping hand to the homeless is receiving aid to finance major energy-efficiency improvements from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs.

The Downtown Rescue Mission is receiving a \$576,000 loan to make energy-saving upgrades to its facilities. The mission is the first nonprofit group to participate in AlabamaSAVES, an ADECA program to help businesses and organizations install energy-saving upgrades, reduce operating expenses and boost employment. The energy cost savings generated by the improvements will be greater than loan payments, making more money available for the food and other assistance offered by the mission to the homeless in north Alabama.

“The energy-saving measures made possible by this loan will enable the Downtown Rescue Mission to reduce utility costs and apply the savings to services that help people during a vulnerable time in their lives,” ADECA Director Jim Byard Jr. said.

The loan will pay the cost of installing automatic thermostat controls, seals around windows and doors to prevent air leaks, new energy-efficient windows in the gym and lighting system upgrades. The Mission will have five years to repay the 1-percent-interest-rate loan. Local contractor H.C. Blake Co. is installing the upgrades.

“In this economy, our customers do not have a lot of capital to make energy-saving improvements even though the upgrades will save them money down the road,” said Jim Batson, president of H.C. Blake. “AlabamaSAVES has changed that by providing the financial assistance that is helping businesses and organizations reap the financial benefits of energy efficiency.”

ADECA established AlabamaSAVES with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds made available to the state through the U.S. Department of Energy’s State Energy Program. Loans of \$50,000 to \$4 million are available to help existing commercial and industrial businesses and organizations finance energy-

saving improvements. Projects are evaluated on potential for job creation and retention, sustainable energy savings, cost savings, renewable energy generation and emissions reductions.

Abundant Power, a firm that works with states and municipalities to design, administer and finance energy-efficiency and renewable energy programs, is helping ADECA administer AlabamaSAVES.

For more information about the program, go to www.alabamasaves.com.