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REACH Mississippi to provide \$2 million in scholarships to public sector, others

Recognizing that some employers, like city and county governments, may be unable to take part in the REACH Mississippi program, the Gulf Coast Renaissance Corporation has established a \$2 million scholarship fund from private contributions to help these employers help their employees in need.

"A major goal of the REACH Mississippi program has always been to help provide housing for the people we depend upon most," said Renaissance Chairman Anthony Topazi. "The Renaissance Corporation wants to help teachers, firemen, police officers and others who have made it their profession to give all of the residents of South Mississippi a better life."

Renaissance is initially offering 50 scholarships of up to \$10,000 to public sector and nonprofit employers for their qualified employees. A three-to-one match will then be provided through the REACH Mississippi program to give these working families up to \$40,000 for down payment and closing cost assistance.

Once the initial \$500,000 in scholarship funds is allocated, additional rounds of funding will be considered.

The administrators of municipalities, counties, educational institutions and local nonprofit organizations should first contact Renaissance to verify their eligibility and willingness to participate. Once the public sector employer is approved, their qualified employees may pick up scholarship applications from their human resources departments or other employer-designated areas.

Interested employers can call REACH Coordinator Heather Sanders at (228) 896-3386 or visit www.reachmississippi.com for more detailed information.

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