

SODA

**Serving 10 counties in Southern Oklahoma
Atoka, Bryan, Carter, Coal, Garvin, Johnst-
on, Love, Marshall, Murray and Pontotoc**

SODA serves 62 towns and cities within our 10-county region and a population of over 209,000. SODA is one of 11 state-wide Councils of Government (COG) or Sub-State Districts. It was organized in 1957 to enable governmental entities in south-central Oklahoma to provide improved services and economic development for their citizens.

Website address: <http://soda-ok.org/>

DEPARTMENTS

Area Agency on Aging
Community & Economic Development
Rural Economic Action Plan
Rural Fire Defense Program

Mark Ellis, Area Agency on Aging Director
mellis@soda-ok.org

Information, Referral and Assistance

Nutrition

Legal Services

Transportation Services

Family Caregiver Support Program

Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

Our Mission:

The SODA Area Agency on Aging is the visible Advocate and leader in the designated Planning and Service Area which includes counties of:

Atoka, Bryan, Carter, Coal, Garvin,
Johnston, Love, Marshall, Murray and
Pontotoc

By providing a comprehensive and coordinated continuum of services and opportunities so that older people can live dignified, productive and independent lives.

The SODA Area Agency on Aging receives its major funding through the Older Americans Act, through the Department of Human Services and local sources. Funding is used to provide information and assistance to those age 60 and older through the SODA service area.

**Dottie DeMeulenaere, Community & Economic
Development Director**
dottie@soda-ok.org

A **Hazard Mitigation** plan is a prerequisite for receiving federally funded grants. The plan consist of every conceivable and unforeseen hazard which could happen within the county, i.e. tornadoes, wind damage, lightning strikes, down burst, wildfires, hazardous spills, winter weather safety, flood mitigation, earthquake mitigation, dams which all located on most of the lakes in our 10 county area must be looked into in order to mitigate a possible break, floodplain protection. It takes about 2 years to create an emergency plan with an update to the plan due **every 5 years.**

A **CIP (Capital Improvement Plan)** is also a prerequisite to grant funding as well. SODA collects the points in the various areas which is brought back to the office using a special software. SODA can map all water lines, manholes, waste water lines, as well as all streets within the city/county limits and then gets a list of their inventory and compiles a CIP with the assistance of the council or board.

SODA works with all our entities submitting **grants** on their behalf for infrastructure such as water, waste water, road repairs, building such as senior centers, fire departments, health centers, ambulances, fire trucks, to name a few.

U. S. Department of Commerce/Economic Development Administration's (EDA) foundation builds upon two key economic drivers-innovation and regional collaboration. Innovation is key to global competitiveness, new and better jobs, a resilient economy, and the attainment of national economic goals. EDA encourages its partners around the country to develop initiatives that advance new ideas and creative approaches to address rapidly evolving economic conditions. To this end Southern Oklahoma Development Association (SODA) administers grants for our ten county area thru EDA. The **Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC)** allows for Economic Development Infrastructure Financing (EDIF) grants which SODA administers as well. It is designed to provide infrastructure financing to eligible units of local government for the benefit of new of expanding industries. Eligible units of local government sponsor applications for public infrastructure financing on behalf of private businesses that will create new jobs resulting from the improvements.