

**Accounting Administration/Reap
Coordinator: Brenda McCarty
acct@soda-ok.org**

REAP Grants

The **Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP)** grant was designed to assist small communities, towns, and counties that have little or no funding capabilities. REAP funds may be applied for and used on various projects including street repairs, infrastructure improvements, economic development, rural fire departments, and other projects that improve the quality of life in Rural Oklahoma. It was designed solely for counties, small towns, and communities who are able to set their own priorities in applying for funds. With the simplified application the participants fill out the paperwork themselves thus avoiding outside costs. In many instances this is the only program that some small communities can qualify for. The application opens each year on July 1st and entities can apply at <http://reap.soda-ok.org/>

SODA is also used as a pass thru agency for the **wireless 911 service fees**.

**Rural Fire Coordinator: Cecil Mackey
fddirector@soda-ok.org**

SODA'S RURAL FIRE PROGRAM

SODA has 123 fire departments in its 10 county area. The Rural Fire Coordinator works with each of these departments to meet various needs. These needs range from funding, equipment acquisition and training, to daily operations and any other areas fire departments need assistance.

ISO

One key thing that the coordinator does is to work with departments to help them reduce their ISO (Insurance Service Office Inc.) Rating which in turn reduces insurance rates in their area for homeowners and businesses.

OPERATIONAL GRANTS

The rural fire coordinator works to ensure that the departments within these 10 counties that serve a population of 10,000 or less are certified each year to make them eligible for an Operational grant from the state of Oklahoma

FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT

Federal excess equipment is assigned to departments by the rural fire coordinator to be used in firefighting operations.

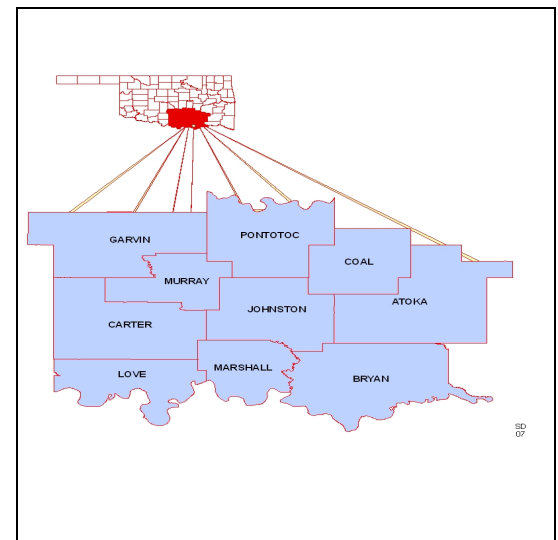
80/20 GRANTS

80/20 grants are administered to assist fire departments in construction of fire stations or purchase of equipment.

SOUTHERN OKLAHOMA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (SODA)

**2704 N. 1st Street
Durant, Ok. 74701**

**Phone: 580-920-1388
Fax: 580-920-1391**



**Executive Director
Tommy Shepard
tsheward@soda-ok.org**

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.