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STATE OF ALABAMA

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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Irish delegation visits ADECA to learn about law enforcement grant programs

MONTGOMERY— A delegation of 12 men and women from Ireland visited the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs Tuesday to learn about several grant programs that help prevent and reduce crime in Alabama communities.

The group of government officials, community leaders and teachers from the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland visited ADECA as part of a program that explores the role of government and community agencies in encouraging people to express political, social and cultural identity nonviolently. ADECA administers about \$30 million in grants each year to support law enforcement and crime prevention programs.

“We are honored by the delegation’s visit and their interest in our programs,” ADECA Director Jim Byard Jr. said. “ADECA staff briefed the group on several grant programs that assist Alabama law enforcement agencies and community organizations to reduce juvenile crime and drug-related violence.”

The discussion focused on three areas: drug task forces that bring together local law enforcement agencies to more effectively fight the sale and distribution of illegal drugs; community based programs that seek to steer juveniles away from drugs and violence and teach them to resolve conflicts peacefully; and a program that treats a root cause of crime and recidivism by working to rid state prisoners of drug addictions.

The ADECA meeting is one of the first stops on the group’s visit to Montgomery. Other stops include the Southern Poverty Law Center, the Alabama Department of Homeland Security, Auburn University Montgomery and the Montgomery Police Department.

The 11-day program, split between Boston and Montgomery, is hosted by Boston College’s Irish Institute whose mission is to support the peace process in Ireland through educational seminars and meetings with counterparts in the United States.