

**BIRMINGHAM** –Congressman Spencer Bachus today kicked-off the three-day Grant and Funding Resource Conference at the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex.

He was joined by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson.

“We are excited about the overwhelming response to this event. As a public official, it is my responsibility to provide Alabamians with the information they need to gain federal support for needed local projects. It is my hope this conference will prove successful in such endeavors.

“We have more than 1,200 attendants, representing more than 50 of Alabama’s 67 counties. Elected officials, community organizations and educators make up a large majority of this group.

The presenting agencies are well-trained and knowledgeable in their field and will provide valuable insight for the participants in each session.

“It is an honor to be joined by Secretary Alphonso Jackson. Secretary Jackson has a long history of working on housing issues, and his department oversees the largest grant program – Community Development Block Grants.

His expertise will help make the grants process understandable and practical,” Bachus said.

“I am pleased to be here today with Congressman Bachus at what is proving to be a very successful event. We at HUD were delighted to partner with the Congressman in presenting a conference focused on funding resources and grant writing. Without knowing of the opportunities available to them, communities cannot have full access to the best resources for their government, schools and businesses.

This conference aims to alleviate that hurdle,” Secretary Jackson said.

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