



June 6, 2017

TO: Interested Parties

Having vibrant neighborhoods with an adequate supply of safe, decent and affordable housing is essential to any community's economic vitality. Since 2004, the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH), a collaboration of the Georgia Municipal Association, Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the University of Georgia Housing and Demographics Research Center and the Office of the Vice President for Public Service and Outreach, has been helping communities improve their quality of life and economic vitality through the development of locally-based housing and revitalization strategies. We also appreciate the financial support of Georgia Power, which is the founding sponsor of the program.

Many local leaders have a clear vision for their communities but need assistance getting started. GICH helps communities develop a clear road map for achieving their vision. This program provides a platform for thinking of creative solutions and networking ideas with housing professionals, city officials and staff, as well as community volunteers from across the state. GICH helps participating communities to foster vibrant neighborhoods, create new housing opportunities and enhance community development.

“The City of Pembroke was honored to be chosen to participate in the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing Program. This program brought citizens, nonprofit programs, businesses, churches, and government officials together to create a long term bond that will push our City into the future. Through housing assessments, we identified target areas of interest that will allow us to focus on the most critical issues in housing within our city. We have also used the resources provided by GICH to develop a code enforcement division and planning department. We have also benefited from this experience with the award of a tax credit development with 60 townhome units to focus on families in the workforce and are now working to develop senior housing units. I believe that EVERY city in Georgia should participate in the GICH Program. It's been an incredible experience and we continue to learn from it as alumni.”

– Tiffany Walraven, Councilmember, City of Pembroke

We are currently accepting applications for participation in this three-year program. Applications are available at [www.fcs.uga.edu/fhce/gich](http://www.fcs.uga.edu/fhce/gich). Additional information about GICH, including a list of participating communities and a summary of some of their accomplishments, can also be found on this website. Interested City or County governments or public housing authorities are encouraged to submit a letter of intent by July 14th. Applications are due by August 11, 2017. Five cities will be selected for participation, and these will be announced in early October.

Learn more about the GICH program by visiting the GICH booth in the Exhibit Hall at the GMA Annual Convention in Savannah on Saturday, June 24th from 4:30pm to 6:00pm or Sunday June 25th from 8:30am to 1:30pm. For questions, or to RSVP for the webinar, contact Karen Tinsley, Program Coordinator, at 706.542.4949 or [klt@uga.edu](mailto:klt@uga.edu).



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