Vibrant neighborhoods with safe, affordable housing are the bedrock of every thriving community. Since 2004, the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) has been helping communities across our state achieve this goal by improving quality of life and economic vitality through the development of locally-driven housing and revitalization strategies. The GICH program is a collaboration between the Georgia Municipal Association, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and The University of Georgia’s Housing and Demographics Research Center and Office of the Vice President for Public Service and Outreach. We are also grateful for the financial support of Georgia Power, founding sponsor of the program.

Local leaders often have a clear vision, but need help getting started. GICH helps communities develop a road map to achieve their vision. The program offers a platform for developing creative solutions, brainstorming ideas and networking with housing professionals, city officials and staff, and community volunteers from across the state.

We are now accepting applications for participation in this three-year program at www.fcs.uga.edu/fhce/gich. Additional information, including a list of participating communities, may also be found on this website. Interested cities are encouraged to attend an informational webinar in June (TBD) and must submit a letter of intent by July 9th. **Applications are due by August 6, 2018.** Five cities will be selected, and these will be announced in early October.

Learn more about the program at the GICH booth during the GMA Annual Convention in Savannah on Saturday, June 23rd from 4:30pm to 6:00pm or Sunday June 24th from 8:30am to 1:30pm. For questions, or to RSVP for the webinar, please contact Kim Skobba at 706-542-4949 or kskobba@uga.edu. We look forward to working with you!

“The City of Pembroke was honored to participate in the GICH Program. It brought citizens, nonprofits, businesses, churches and government officials together to create a long-term bond that will push our City into the future. We identified target areas that will allow us to focus on the most critical housing issues in our city. We also used the resources provided by GICH to develop a code enforcement division and planning department. We have recently benefited from the award of a tax credit development with 60 townhome units focused on families in the workforce and we are working to develop senior housing units. I believe 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