Since 2005, the following communities in Georgia have directly benefited from the program:

- Albany
- Americus/Sumter County
- Auburn
- Brunswick
- Calhoun
- Camden County
- Cartersville
- Cedartown
- Colquitt
- Cordele
- Covington
- Dalton/Whitfield County
- Douglas
- Douglasville
- Eatonton
- Fort Valley
- Gainesville
- Garden City
- Gray/Jones County
- Greensboro
- Griffin
- Hall County
- Harlem
- Hawkinsville
- Liberty County
- Lithonia
- Madison
- Metter
- Milledgeville
- Moultrie
- Nashville
- Newnan
- Pembroke
- Perry
- Pine Mountain
- Porterdale
- Rincon
- Rome
- Roswell
- Sandersville/Tennille
- Sylvania
- Sylvester
- Thomasville
- Thomson/McDuffie County
- Tifton
- Toccoa
- Trion
- Valdosta
- Vienna
- Wadley
- Warner Robins
- Washington
- Waycross
- Waynesboro
- Winder

“As part of the City of Auburn’s strategic plan, we joined the program to better understand our housing needs through an assessment. The team we put together was a community building experience in and of itself. We planned and toured and learned together. Our community assessment showed the need for affordable housing for our senior citizens. Although it took two years, we now have senior apartments currently under construction that fit right in with our city. The entire city has benefitted from the GICH experience - our planning department, our codes and enforcement officer, our team. This is a vital program to all cities.”

- Mayor Linda Blechinger, City of Auburn

The UGA Archway Partnership, UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government, UGA Extension and the Georgia EMC provide in-kind support, and the program is partially funded by a USDA Rural Development RCDI grant.
**What is the program?**

GICH helps communities improve their quality of life and economic vitality through the development of locally-based housing and revitalization strategies. This is achieved through:

- Technical assistance
- Collaboration
- Expert presenters
- Training
- Facilitation
- Consensus building
- Networking
- Mentoring

During the three-year program of technical assistance and cross-community sharing, participating community housing teams will:

- Attend two retreats a year with other participating communities
- Identify issues and needs, available resources, and potential obstacles
- Develop new ideas about meeting local housing needs and enhancing community development
- Learn about best practices and available resources and funding for housing and community development
- Produce a community housing plan with objectives and goals
- Begin implementation of the action plan

**What is the program participation timeline?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Activity Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Application posted online; Visit exhibit booth at GMA convention in Savannah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Attend informational webinar; Submit letter of intent to apply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Submit written application; Second yearly retreat [after selected]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Site visit to finalist communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Selection announcement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Orientation meetings with new communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>First yearly retreat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What must interested communities do?**

- Begin identifying potential team members
- Meet to discuss housing issues and needs
- Request GICH overview/presentation
- Review online application and other information at [www.fcs.uga.edu/fhce/gich](http://www.fcs.uga.edu/fhce/gich)

**For more information contact:**

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### Local GICH Initiatives

The following are some examples of initiatives that have been undertaken by communities as a result of their participation in GICH:

- Targeted a distressed neighborhood for revitalization
- Developed multi-family tax credit apartments; redevelop a failed subdivision
- Revised out-dated codes and ordinances; adopt new ones
- Increased code enforcement; remove or demolish abandoned or dilapidated homes
- Created a Land Bank Authority or Community Land Trust
- Obtained first CDBG and CHIP grants; developed a rehabilitation program; provided housing counseling and down payment assistance; completed sewer/water infrastructure improvements
- Wrote and adopted an Urban Redevelopment Plan; created a Redevelopment Authority; obtained Opportunity Zone designation
- Conducted a housing assessment and windshield survey
- Partnered with Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together, Work Camp, churches, and others
- Convened neighborhood clean-up days; establish neighborhood watch programs
- Launched an education/public awareness campaign

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**Visit the website:**

[www.fcs.uga.edu/fhce/gich](http://www.fcs.uga.edu/fhce/gich)