

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

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

Partners



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Georgia Initiative for Community Housing



Helping Your Community Meet Its Housing Needs





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

Visit the website:

www.fcs.uga.edu/fhce/gich

What is the program participation timeline?

- June..... Application posted online; Visit exhibit booth at GMA convention in Savannah
- July..... Attend informational webinar; Submit letter of intent to apply
- September Submit written application; Second yearly retreat [after selected]
- October..... Site visit to finalist communities
- November Selection announcement
- January Orientation meetings with new communities
- February First yearly retreat

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

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 and/or Revitalization Area Strategies designations
- 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