
The Georgia Initiative for Community Housing



2024
ANNUAL
REPORT

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HELPING YOUR COMMUNITY
MEET ITS HOUSING NEEDS

Since its establishment in 2004, the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) has contributed to advancing housing stability in 100 communities across Georgia. Through collaboration with local, regional, and state leadership, GICH serves as a platform for developing innovative solutions to complex housing issues. As Georgia communities continue to navigate the evolving landscape of housing and community development, the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing remains a vital resource for fostering innovative solutions and lasting partnerships. The dedication and achievements of GICH communities exemplify the power of collaboration in addressing housing challenges and enhancing the quality of life for residents across the state. Moving forward, GICH will continue to support communities in their efforts to create sustainable, inclusive, and thriving neighborhoods.

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GICH 2024 Fall Retreat Graduation Awards Luncheon

2024 Year in Review

INVESTMENTS IN GICH COMMUNITIES

A key advantage of the GICH program is the exclusive benefits provided to GICH communities through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). These benefits include expanded access to grant funding and opportunities for affordable housing development. Three critical programs—the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the Community HOME Investment Program (CHIP), and the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program—play essential roles in directing much-needed investments into GICH communities for various local housing improvement initiatives.

In 2024, GICH communities received more than \$38.2 million in funding through these three programs, marking an increase of approximately \$9 million compared to 2023. Specifically, GICH communities were awarded \$12.2 million through the CDBG program, \$6 million through the CHIP program, and \$20 million through the LIHTC program. Each of these programs contributed more funding to GICH communities than in the previous year.

By securing increased financial support for housing and community development, the GICH program continues to strengthen local economies, enhance neighborhood stability, and improve overall quality of life for Georgia residents.

INVESTMENTS IN GICH COMMUNITIES

96
COMMUNITIES
SINCE 2004

In 2024, across all current and former GICH communities, DCA invested:

Low Income Housing Tax Credit financing for the development of affordable rental housing

\$20M

Community Development Block Grant funds supporting local housing and community development initiatives

\$12.2M

Community HOME Investment Program (CHIP) grants for rehabilitation and construction of owner-occupied homes

\$6.0M

\$38.2M

Since 2004, DCA has invested over 475 million across the 96 Georgia communities that have participated in GICH.

Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA)



The GICH program has been successful for us by bringing together individuals who are passionate about improving the quality of life, specifically housing needs, in Chattooga County. Without the training and the credibility of the GICH program, we do not feel there would be a united and mission-driven focus on housing in our community.”

Cindy Rivers McGraw, Executive Director, Chattooga GICH Team Lead

GICH RETREAT ATTENDANCE

GICH hosts two biannual retreats, one in the spring and one in the fall, offering participants valuable insights into local housing challenges, available resources, and effective strategies for addressing these issues. These retreats also serve as a vital platform for networking, connecting stakeholders engaged in housing improvement efforts with organizations that provide critical support and resources.

The trend of increasing attendance at GICH retreats continued in 2024. The Spring Retreat, held at the UGA Campus Conference Center in Tifton, GA, welcomed 254 attendees—15 more than in 2023. The Fall Retreat, hosted at the UGA Center for Continuing Education and Hotel in Athens, GA, drew a total of 293 participants over three days. The Fall Retreat’s attendance set a new milestone, making it the highest turnout in the program’s 20-year history—a testament to GICH’s growing impact and the increasing commitment of communities to addressing local housing challenges. As more stakeholders recognize the program’s impact, GICH continues to strengthen its role in shaping innovative housing solutions and fostering collaboration across Georgia.

GICH 2024 Retreat Attendance		
Role	Spring 2024	Fall 2024
Speakers	17	17
Program staff / facilitators	23	24
Guests	54	53
Housing team members	164	199
Total	254	293

Source: Georgia Initiative for Community Housing Retreat Attendance Data

HOUSING RELATED IMPACTS

GICH housing teams continue to make a meaningful impact on local housing through a range of initiatives aimed at improving community development. The GICH annual evaluation survey provides valuable insights into these efforts and the tangible progress achieved.

In 2024, survey responses indicated that GICH teams facilitated the development of four new housing units, revitalized or rehabilitated 126 units, and demolished 22 abandoned or dilapidated structures. Additionally, 94 clients participated in housing counseling classes organized by GICH teams, equipping them with essential knowledge and resources. GICH teams also played a key role in establishing four new organizations, including land bank authorities and urban redevelopment plan areas, to further support housing initiatives. Furthermore, 15 significant partnerships were formed within GICH communities, strengthening collaborative efforts to address local housing needs.

These achievements highlight the lasting impact of GICH, demonstrating how strategic partnerships, education, and redevelopment efforts work together to create stronger, more resilient communities.

Housing Impacts 2024	
# new housing units constructed	4
# housing units revitalized or rehabilitated	126
# abandoned/dilapidated housing units removed	22
# of clients in housing counseling classes	94
# of new agencies, organizations, and authorities created	4
# of new significant part	15

Source: GICH 2024 Annual Report Survey

2024 Community Highlights

FRESHMEN

City of Thomaston: a community poised for growth and revitalization



Thomaston, a traditional blue-collar town located approximately 65 miles south of Atlanta, is also near other major economic centers, including Macon and Columbus. Given its strategic location near these key hubs, the city is well-positioned for growth and redevelopment in the coming years. However, despite this promising outlook, Thomaston faces significant challenges in the area of housing. These challenges include a shortage of available and diverse housing options, particularly for the city's aging population. Additionally, limited neighborhood connectivity and a lack of market-rate housing developments further hinder the city's ability to meet current and future housing demands. Prior to applying for GICH, Thomaston partnered with the University of Georgia's Archway Partnership through its Connected Resilient Communities program to conduct a housing needs assessment on the city's east side. The insights gained from this assessment are being integrated into an Urban Redevelopment Plan aimed at revitalizing key neighborhoods.

In its first year as a GICH community, the Thomaston housing team has made substantial progress toward its revitalization goals. Initial efforts have focused on

strategic planning and gaining a deeper understanding of the programs, resources, and best practices available to support housing development. The team has established monthly meetings to refine its objectives and priorities, ensuring a structured approach to addressing housing challenges. As part of its research, the team also conducted a site visit to Gainesville, a GICH alumni community, to learn from its successful urban redevelopment initiatives. Building on these efforts, Thomaston has officially adopted an Urban Redevelopment Plan designed to expand incentives and economic development tools that will fa-

cilitate investment, job creation, and targeted revitalization efforts. Looking ahead, the housing team has ambitious plans for the coming year, including the scattered-site development of single-family homes on city-owned property, the implementation of the first phase of the Rails-to-Trails initiative, and additional site visits to other GICH communities to further inform and enhance local redevelopment strategies.

Through these coordinated efforts, Thomaston is taking significant steps toward fostering a more connected, resilient, and vibrant community.



Thomaston and Gainesville Housing team members during visit

SOPHOMORES

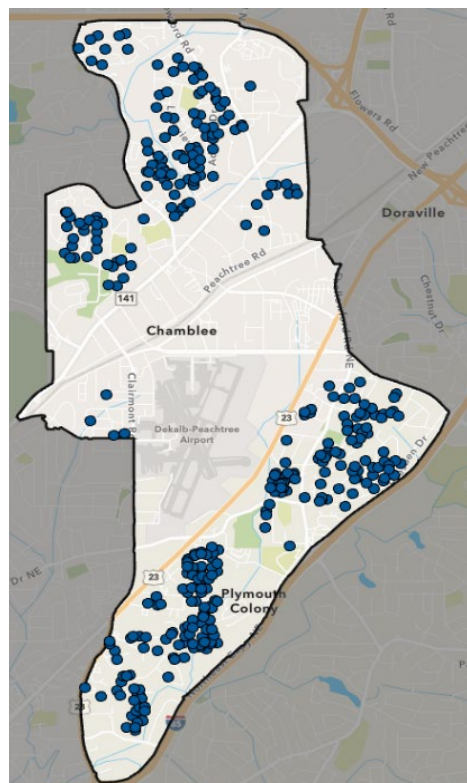
City of Chamblee: Building a Future of Housing Affordability and Inclusive Growth



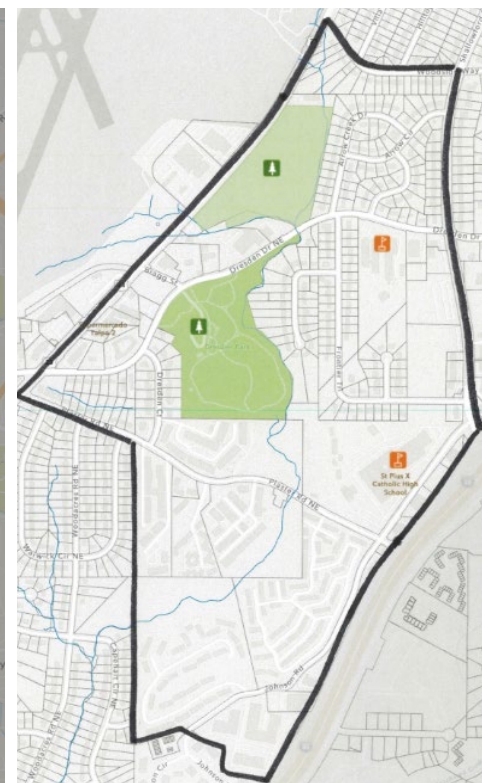
Led by members of the City's Planning Department, the City of Chamblee's GICH team has made significant strides over the past two years in addressing the city's housing challenges. Through targeted initiatives, the team has deepened its understanding of local housing issues while implementing strategies to expand affordable housing options. A key component of these efforts has been the development of strategic partnerships with organizations such as Georgia Tech and the Georgia Heirs Property Law Center. Additionally, the City of Chamblee has undertaken critical updates to the housing section of its Comprehensive Plan, which will serve as a guiding framework for future housing initiatives. These updates emphasize both public and private solutions to housing affordability, with a particular focus on fostering naturally occurring affordable housing (NOAH) through diverse, higher-density developments in targeted neighborhoods. One such targeted neighborhood is the Dresden Drive area, where the City's Planning Department is developing a mini-master plan based on community input. This plan includes improvements to sidewalks, trails, and tree canopies, aiming to enhance neighborhood connectivity, support existing residents, and attract responsible redevelopment.

To explore housing development opportunities in the downtown area, Chamblee has partnered with Georgia Tech's Public Policy program. Students in the program are developing policy recommendations to help the City create strategies that promote both the retention and development of affordable housing. The Chamblee housing team has also prioritized addressing heirs' property issues—an important challenge that can impact generational wealth and community stability. In collaboration with the Georgia Heirs Property Law Center, the team is identifying potential heirs' properties,

educating residents on the importance of estate planning, and developing programs to assist families in securing clear property titles. The work of the Chamblee housing team is vital to ensuring that all residents have access to stable, affordable housing while preserving the city's unique character. Through strategic planning, partnerships, and community engagement, the team is laying the foundation for a more inclusive and sustainable future for Chamblee.



Chamblee NOAH Inventory Map



Dresden Drive neighborhood

JUNIORS

Gilmer County: Overcoming Barriers to Create Lasting Housing Solutions



Over their three years in the GICH program, the Gilmer County housing team has worked diligently to address significant challenges in expanding safe and affordable housing. Situated in the rural North Georgia Mountains, the county's rugged topography and predominant agricultural land use have limited available sites for new housing development. Additionally, the region's natural beauty has fueled a growing short-term rental market, further driving up housing costs and reducing the availability of affordable workforce housing. Another major hurdle has been raising awareness among community stakeholders about the critical need for workforce housing and the long-term benefits of investing in such developments. Despite these obstacles, the Gilmer County housing team has made substantial progress in expanding the supply of quality, affordable workforce housing.

Their success can be attributed to a strong focus on community engagement and the cultivation of strategic partnerships with local nonprofit organizations and developers. To raise awareness of local housing needs, the team collaborated with The Georgia Conservancy to conduct a comprehensive housing study. The findings were shared with residents through a countywide town hall meeting, fostering a deeper

understanding of workforce housing challenges. Additionally, the team utilized multiple media platforms—including Facebook and the local newspaper—to introduce housing team members, highlight the county's workforce housing needs, and publish educational articles on housing-related issues.

Beyond public outreach, the team actively pursued partnerships with qualified Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) developers to support workforce housing initiatives. These efforts led to a successful collaboration with Paladin, a nonprofit housing development firm, which secured funding for a 50-unit workforce housing development.

The team also established a critical partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Fannin & Gilmer County, resulting in the construction of four new homes—the first Habitat homes built in Gilmer County in over 20 years.

The work of the Gilmer County housing team has been instrumental in creating housing opportunities that strengthen the local workforce and ensure long-term community sustainability. By overcoming geographic and economic challenges through education, collaboration, and advocacy, the team is paving the way for a more accessible and inclusive housing landscape in Gilmer County.



Gilmer County GICH team and HFH Fannin & Gilmer County

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GICH 2024 GRADUATES!

Gilmer County GICH Housing Team



Baldwin County GICH Housing Team



Chattooga County GICH Housing Team



“Communities demonstrating commitment to quality affordable housing”

GICH 2025 COMMUNITY COHORT

Each year, five new communities are selected to participate in the GICH program. Congratulations to the Class of 2025! Your journey to enhancing local housing quality has begun. We look forward to celebrating your accomplishments over the next three years and beyond!

City of Blairsville –
Union County

Crawford County

City of Hampton

Murray County

City of Waycross –
Ware County



Strengthening Georgia's Communities: The 20-Year Impact of GICH

As the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) enters its 21st year, it is essential to reflect on the program's history and its current impact across the state. For two decades, GICH has supported local leaders in addressing housing challenges and implementing transformative solutions within their communities. The program's success is driven by a collaborative network of dedicated organizations, local governments, and residents who share a commitment to expanding access to quality, affordable housing for all Georgia residents. The following overview highlights the scope of GICH's reach and its lasting impact on communities throughout the state. Through innovation, partnership, and unwavering commitment, GICH continues to empower communities, strengthen neighborhoods, and create a lasting foundation for a more prosperous Georgia.

THE LEGACY OF GICH LEADERSHIP

The Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) program emerged from Georgia's experience with the National League of Cities, which conducted an 18-month pilot program with six cities in the state. This pilot provided facilitated sessions with community housing teams, expert speakers, and opportunities for information sharing and networking among participating communities. The leadership of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA), and the University of Georgia (UGA) observed the pilot and were so impressed with its impact that they decided to collaborate and continue the program's model to address the needs of more communities in Georgia.

In 2004 the GICH program officially launched and Dr. Karen Tinsley, a Senior Public Service Associate in the College of Family and Consumer Sciences at the University of Georgia, was selected as its first director. Dr. Tinsley was a passionate advocate for improving housing conditions in Georgia, and under her dedicated leadership, GICH became the premier housing education program for local leaders in the state, earning national recognition. Her leadership guided 65 communities through the program, facilitating progress toward hous-



Dr. Karen Tinsley
(GIHC Director 2004-2018)



Dr. Jermaine Durham
(GIHC Director 2019-present)

ing stability and generating an economic impact in the millions. Dr. Tinsley served as the GICH director for 13 years until her passing in 2018, leaving behind a legacy of commitment and transformation in community housing.

In 2019, Dr. Jermaine Durham was appointed to lead the GICH program and continues to serve in this role today. Dr. Durham has worked diligently to build upon Dr. Tinsley's legacy, expanding the program's reach and impact. Since he began, 30 additional communities have participated in GICH, and attendance at the program's biannual retreats has reached record levels, with up to 250 participants.

Under his leadership, GICH communities have secured approximately \$181 million in grant funding and housing investments, significantly advancing local housing initiatives. Dr. Durham has also played a crucial role in securing an additional \$368,982 in funding to support program initiatives and research.

The leadership of both Dr. Tinsley and Dr. Durham has been instrumental in shaping the GICH program into a transformative force for community housing in

Georgia. Dr. Tinsley laid a strong foundation, inspiring a commitment to sustainable housing solutions, while Dr. Durham has continued to expand and elevate the program’s impact. Their dedication has empowered communities across Georgia to implement effective housing strategies, secure critical funding, and improve the quality of life for residents. Through their vision and leadership, GICH has become a model for community-driven housing initiatives, leaving a lasting legacy of progress and empowerment.

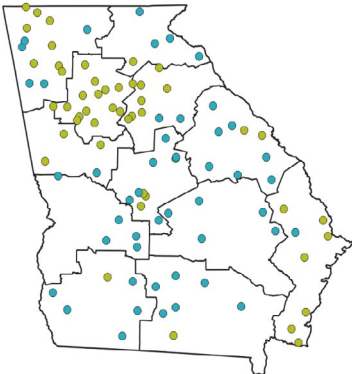
PROFILE OF GICH COMMUNITIES

GICH’s Reach Across Georgia

The inaugural cohort of GICH communities included the cities of Cartersville, Fort Valley, Sylvester, Thomasville, Valdosta, and Waycross. Since its inception, the program has directly benefited more than 100 communities across Georgia. GICH communities are distributed throughout all twelve districts of the state’s Regional Commissions, ensuring broad geographic representation. The program serves

a diverse range of communities, encompassing both rural and urban areas, each with unique housing challenges and opportunities. GICH’s expansive reach underscores its critical role in addressing housing needs statewide. By serving communities in every region of Georgia, the program ensures that both rural and urban areas have access to the resources and expertise needed to tackle housing challenges. This broad coverage fosters regional collaboration, allowing communities to share best practices, leverage funding opportunities, and develop tailored strategies that address local housing needs effectively.

**GICH Communities:
Rural vs. Urban
with DCA Regional
Commission Outlines**



GICH Communities by Regional Commission

Regional Commission	Total GICH Communities
Northwest Georgia	13
Georgia Mountains	5
Atlanta Regional Commission	14
Northeast Georgia	9
Three Rivers	5
Middle Georgia	10
Central Savannah River Area	9
River Valley	5
Heart of Georgia-Altamaha	5
Coastal Georgia	8
Southwest Georgia	6
Southern Georgia	7
GICH Communities Rural vs. Urban	
Rural	49
Urban	47

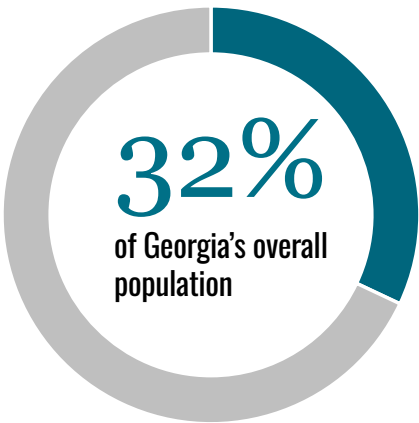
Data is through 2024. Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs

Demographic Characteristics of GICH Communities

Understanding the demographic composition of GICH communities is critical for tailoring housing policies and programs to meet the unique needs of these populations. This insight ensures that efforts to address housing challenges are inclusive and equitable, reflecting the diversity of Georgia’s residents. Additionally, the demographic data helps inform decisions regarding resource allocation and community engagement strategies, optimizing the impact of the GICH program across the state.

GICH communities have a total population of 3,467,146, representing 32% of Georgia’s overall population of 10,722,325. The demographics of these communities largely mirror those of the state as a whole, though they are slightly more diverse. GICH communities have a higher proportion of Hispanic or Latino and Asian residents compared to the state’s overall population, while the proportion of White residents is slightly lower than that of Georgia at large.

GICH communities represent...



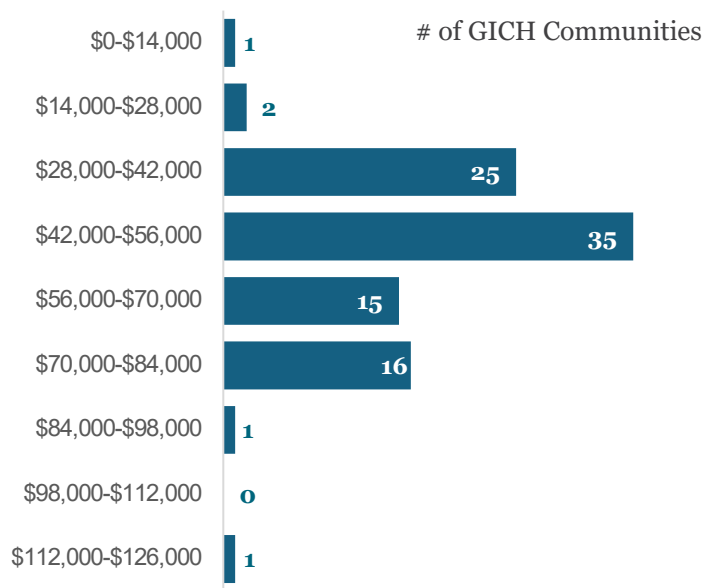
Geographic Area	% White	% Black or African American	% Hispanic or Latino	% Asian
GICH Communities	46%	31%	14%	5%
State of Georgia	51%	31%	10%	4%

Data is through 2024. Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs

Economic Characteristics of GICH Communities

Assessing median household income and poverty rates is crucial for understanding community well-being, as these indicators provide insight into economic stability and residents’ overall quality of life. Communities with lower median incomes and higher poverty rates often face significant challenges related to housing, employment, and access to essential services, making targeted assistance programs vital for fostering long-term economic growth and resilience. The median household income among GICH communities varies significantly, ranging from \$26,125 to \$122,924. In comparison, the median household income for the State of Georgia is \$71,355. Notably, approximately 81% of GICH communities have median incomes below the state average, highlighting the economic disparities present across participating localities. Additionally, poverty rates in GICH communities tend to be higher than the statewide average, with GICH communities reporting a poverty rate of 16%, compared to 13.5% for Georgia as a whole.

Median Household Income in GICH Communities



Data is through 2024. Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs

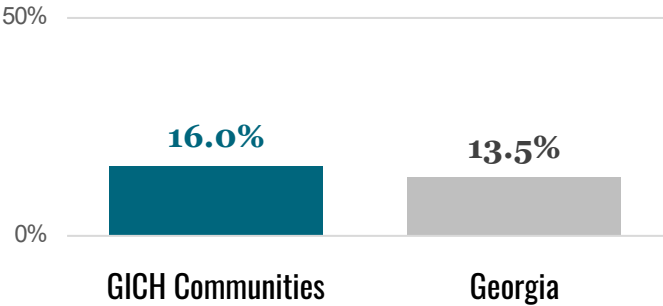
Given these economic conditions, GICH’s focus on communities with lower household incomes and elevated poverty rates is essential. These areas often struggle with housing affordability, infrastructure development, and economic mobility, making them prime candidates for the support and resources offered through the GICH program. By prioritizing communities facing economic hardships, GICH can help drive meaningful improvements in housing stability and overall community development, ultimately fostering more equitable growth across the state.

Housing Characteristics of GICH Communities

Understanding housing characteristics such as housing tenure, housing cost burden, and median housing values are critical indicators of community well-being, as they reflect economic stability, housing affordability, and residents’ ability to achieve homeownership. Communities with lower homeownership rates, a high percentage of cost-burdened households, and lower median home values often face challenges related to housing security, investment in property maintenance, and overall economic resilience. In terms of housing tenure, GICH communities have a higher proportion of renters (41%) and a lower rate of owner-occupied housing (59%) compared to the state overall. The percentage of cost-burdened households—those spending more than 30% of their income on housing—is comparable between GICH communities (33%) and the State of Georgia (30%).

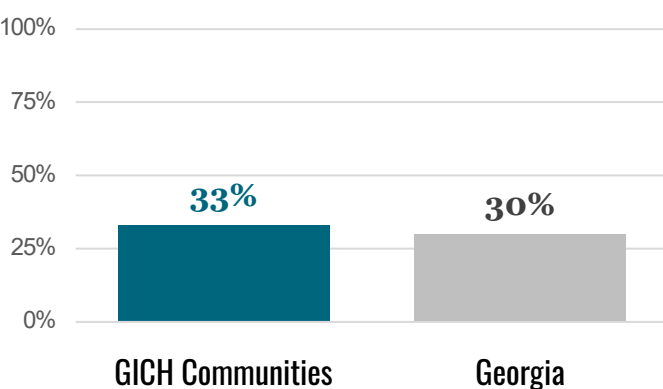
Additionally, the median home value for owner-occupied housing in most GICH communities (approximately 82%) is lower than the state median, which was \$245,900 in 2024. GICH’s focus on communities with lower homeownership rates, a significant share of cost-burdened households, and lower median home values is essential to addressing housing challenges in economically disadvantaged areas. Tese conditions often indicate a need for targeted housing programs, policy interventions, and financial assistance to promote stability, homeownership opportunities, and community revitalization. By working with communities facing these challenges, GICH plays a vital role in fostering sustainable development and improving overall housing conditions across the state.

Poverty Level
GICH Communities vs. Georgia



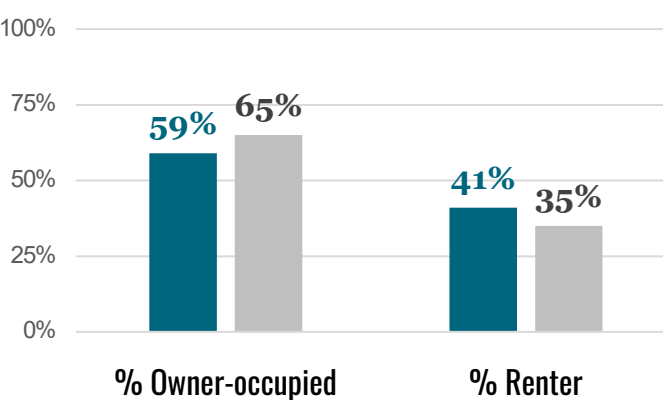
Data is through 2024. Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs

Cost Burden Households
GICH Communities vs. Georgia



Data is through 2024. Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs

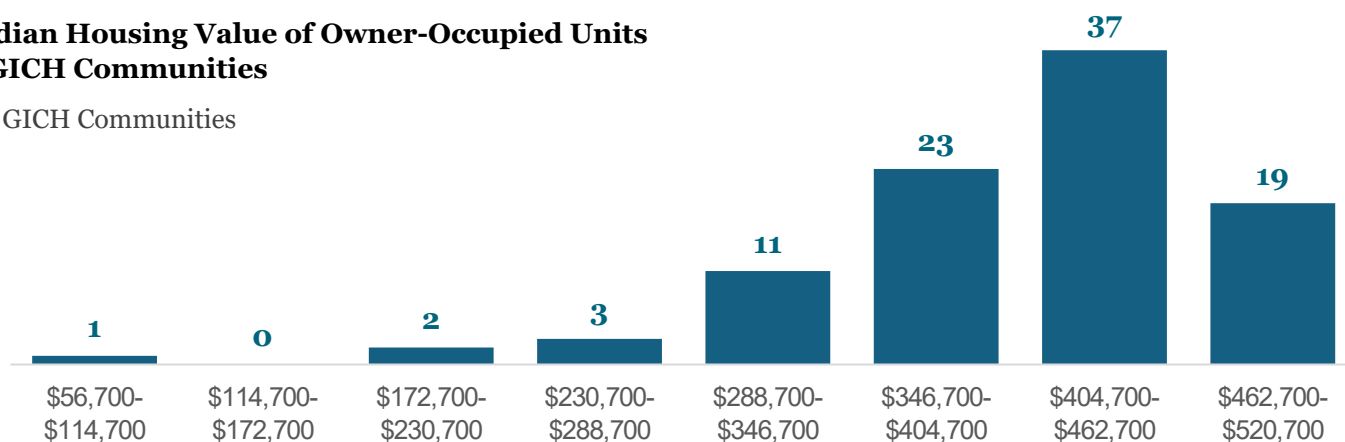
Housing Tenure
GICH Communities vs. Georgia



Data is through 2024. Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs

Median Housing Value of Owner-Occupied Units in GICH Communities

of GICH Communities



Data is through 2024. Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs

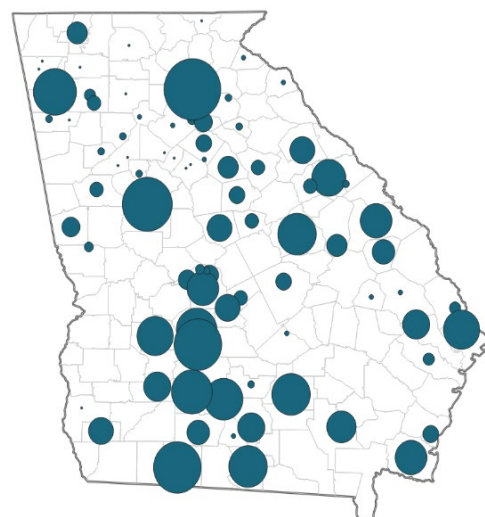
Investments in GICH Communities

Communities seeking participation in the GICH program often face complex challenges that extend beyond housing and are deeply connected to broader economic issues. Addressing these challenges requires targeted support, funding opportunities, and strategic planning to enhance local housing conditions and economic stability.

A key component of the GICH program is the array of special benefits provided through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). These benefits include increased access to critical funding sources such as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Community HOME Investment Partnership Grant programs. Additionally, GICH communities can leverage their program designation to attract investments in affordable housing development through the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program.

These advantages significantly improve the ability of GICH communities to compete for vital funding, ultimately facilitating greater housing development and economic revitalization. Beyond financial assistance, the housing education and technical support provided through GICH strengthen the capacity of local leaders, equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge to secure funding for safe and affordable housing projects. The success of this approach is evident in the substantial investments that have flowed into GICH communities since the program's inception.

Total Grant Funding by Location



Data is through 2024. Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs

Total Grants & Funding in GICH Communities since 2005

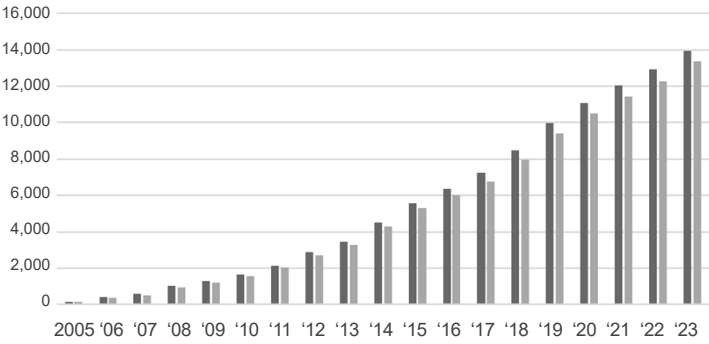
Funding Type	# of Grants	Total Funding
CHIP	139	\$ 45,833,903
CDBG	249	\$ 208,968,132
LIHTC	227	\$ 220,557,859
Total	615	\$ 475,359,894

Data is through 2024. Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs

Since 2005, 83 communities have received at least one grant or award after joining GICH, with awards ranging from one to 25 per community. This represents an 84% success rate in securing funding post-GICH participation. Collectively, GICH communities have been awarded more than 615 grants and funding awards, amounting to approximately \$475.4 million in housing investments. Furthermore, the program’s impact extends to affordable housing development, with GICH communities attracting LIHTC developers, leading to the proposal or construction of 13,948 total housing units, including 13,361 affordable units across the state. These outcomes highlight GICH’s critical role in fostering investment, expanding affordable housing opportunities, and strengthening communities throughout Georgia.

Total units to date:
LIHTC units built after joining GICH

■ Total units to date: LIHTC
■ Total AFFORDABLE units to date: LIHTC



Data is through 2024. Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs

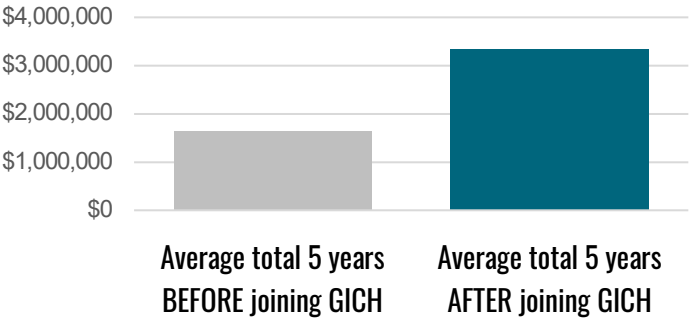
Communities Before & After GICH

Measuring investments in GICH communities before and after program participation in the program is essential for evaluating its impact on housing development and funding success. By analyzing funding allocations over time, policymakers can assess how GICH helps communities improve their ability to secure critical resources for affordable housing and community revitalization.

This chart illustrates the average total funding allocated to GICH communities for Community HOME Investment Program (CHIP), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) awards in the five years before and after program participation. The analysis is based on a sample of 26 GICH communities that joined the program between 2014 and 2018. Adjusted for inflation, the average total funds allocated to GICH communities in the five years prior to joining was \$1,698,003. In contrast, the average total funds allocated in the five years following participation increased to \$3,352,907, demonstrating a significant rise in financial investment post-GICH engagement.

This increase in funding highlights the critical role GICH plays in strengthening a community’s ability to compete for and secure vital housing and development resources. The program’s unique benefits—such as technical assistance, priority access to state funding, and enhanced collaboration with housing stakeholders—help communities build the knowledge, capacity, and strategic positioning necessary to attract greater investment.

Before and After GICH:
Average total for 5 years before and after



Data is through 2024. Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs

The Lasting Impact and Future of GICH

Since its inception, the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) has played a transformative role in strengthening communities across the state by addressing critical housing needs, fostering economic development, and increasing access to essential funding opportunities. By providing technical assistance, facilitating collaboration, and enhancing the capacity of local leaders, GICH has empowered communities to secure vital resources that improve housing conditions and economic stability. The program's impact is evident in the substantial financial investments, expanded affordable housing opportunities, and strengthened regional cooperation that have resulted from its efforts.

GICH's success in helping communities secure funding—demonstrated by the significant increase in grant awards and investments post-participation—underscores its value as a key driver of positive change. The program has helped communities navigate complex housing challenges, increase homeownership opportunities, and attract private investment through initiatives like the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program. Furthermore, GICH's ability to support both rural and urban communities ensures that housing solutions are tailored to meet diverse local needs, fostering inclusive and equitable growth across Georgia.

Looking ahead, GICH is poised to continue making a lasting impact on communities statewide. With ongoing efforts to enhance program benefits, expand access to critical funding sources, and strengthen partnerships among housing stakeholders, the program will remain a cornerstone of housing and community development in Georgia. As more communities engage with GICH, the program's legacy of fostering sustainable, vibrant, and resilient communities will continue to grow. By ensuring that local governments, housing organizations, and community leaders have the tools and resources necessary to address housing challenges, GICH will help build a stronger and more prosperous future for residents across the state.



GICH Partners

The Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) helps communities improve quality of life and economic vitality through the development of locally-based housing and revitalization strategies. GICH is a collaboration between the Georgia Department of Community Affairs; the University of Georgia's Housing and Demographics Research Center, a unit of the Department of Financial Planning, Housing, and Consumer Economics in the College of Family and Consumer Sciences; University of Georgia's Office of the Vice President for Public Service and Outreach; and the Georgia Municipal Association. GICH's founding partner, Georgia Power, and its ongoing retreat sponsor, Wells Fargo, continue to support the initiative's ability to reach diverse communities across Georgia. GICH is also funded through the Rural Community Development Initiative (RDCI), a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Grant program.



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