



MEMORANDUM

TO: Philip Gilman, Deputy Commissioner for Housing, DCA
CC: Meagan Cutler, Affordable Housing Policy Manager, DCA
Glenn Misner, Director of CDBG Field Services and NSP, DCA
Samanta Carvalho, Director of Community Housing
Development, DCA
Jermaine Durham, Director of GICH, UGA
FROM: Austin Chancy, Senior Housing Policy Analyst, DCA
RE: GICH Alumni Certification 2024 Approvals
DATE: April 15, 2024

Introduction

The Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) is a three-year program that helps communities improve their quality of life and economic vitality through locally driven housing and revitalization strategies. Upon graduation from the program, communities can apply for alumni certification to demonstrate their continued participation in GICH. The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has designated 21 GICH certified alumni communities in 2024. The purpose of certification is to encourage GICH alumni to continue their efforts of addressing affordable housing issues and shortages within their communities by using the Housing Plan document developed while participating in the program. Certified alumni communities are eligible for additional incentives through DCA's Housing Tax Credit, Community HOME Investment Program, and Community Development Block Grant programs.

Overview of 2023 Alumni Certification Process

This year, 27 GICH alumni communities submitted certification applications with relevant documentation. Each application was evaluated through a standardized scoring process requiring the completion of five key criteria, including:

1. Updating their GICH team roster
2. Attending GICH retreats in 2022 and 2023
3. Having at least four team members attend housing continuing education events (as defined by DCA) in 2022 and 2023.
4. Holding at least one team meeting with a majority of active team members in attendance in 2022 and one team meeting in 2023.
5. Updating their GICH housing plan within the last three years OR having their updated plan incorporated into a local planning document in the past three years

Approvals

In total, 22 GICH alumni communities were successfully certified in the 2024 cycle:

- Albany
- Athens
- Centerville
- Cordele
- Douglasville
- Dublin
- Eatonton
- Gainesville/Hall County
- Griffin
- LaFayette
- Millen
- Newnan
- Rome/Floyd County
- Statesboro
- Sylvester
- Thomasville
- Troup County
- Union City
- Vienna
- Warner Robins
- Washington
- Waynesboro

Currently Certified Alumni Communities

For DCA's purposes, the following is a comprehensive list of all communities who are currently certified as alumni. In all, there are currently 33 certified alumni communities and 12 recent graduates. Note that certification is valid for two years.

Certified in 2023 (expires on 1/1/2025)

Americus-Sumter County
Bartow County
Cochran
Dalton-Whitfield County
Douglas
Garden City
Liberty County
Madison
McRae-Helena County
Perry
Tifton

Certified in 2024 (expires on 1/1/2026)

Albany
Athens
Centerville
Cordele
Douglasville
Dublin
Eatonton
Gainesville/Hall Co.
Griffin
LaFayette
Millen
Newnan
Rome/Floyd Co.
Statesboro
Sylvester
Thomasville
Troup Co.
Union City
Vienna
Warner Robins
Washington
Waynesboro

Recent Graduates

2022 (Expires on 1/1/2025)

Adel Ocilla
Conyers Rossville
Hartwell Statesboro
LaFayette

2023 (Expires 1/1/2026)

Blakely East Point
Calhoun Jonesboro
Covington

