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SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

REGIONAL SERVICES • COMMUNITY FOCUSED

ANNUAL REPORT FY2023

The Southern Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC) is a regional planning and intergovernmental coordination agency which serves 45 municipalities and 18 counties in Southern Georgia. For more than 60 years, the SGRC has provided a comprehensive array of services and resources in response to the needs of member local governments. SGRC has a dedicated staff of over 60 professionals, including subject matter experts in a number of specialized fields. The SGRC utilizes its valuable combination of commitment, passion, and expertise to benefit our communities and partner agencies through programs that improve the quality of life in Southern Georgia.

SGRC REGION

Atkinson, Bacon, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brantley, Brooks, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Cook, Echols, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, Pierce, Tift, Turner, and Ware Counties

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Kimberly Hobbs

,

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Chris Strom

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Roberta Lovett

OFFICE ADDRESSES:

Valdosta Office 1937 Carlton Adams Drive Valdosta, Georgia 31601 (229) 333-5277

Waycross Office 1725 South Georgia Parkway, West Waycross, Georgia 31503 (912) 285-6097

WEBSITE www.sgrc.us



MISSION STATEMENT

To develop, promote, and provide services that make the Southern Georgia region a better place to live and work.

A MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN LEE GOWEN



As Chairman of the Southern Georgia Regional Commission, I am proud to present to you the SGRC's FY23 Annual Report. This year's report shares the story of how each division of the SGRC has diligently worked to serve our region. The many successes

documented herein can be directly attributed to the SGRC's dedicated leadership and staff.

Speaking of leadership, I would be remiss if I did not mention the excellent guidance that Lisa Cribb provided as Executive Director of the SGRC. During her 30 years of service to the SGRC, Lisa expertly navigated the ever-changing environment while always ensuring that the services provided by the Regional Commission met the myriad of needs in Southern Georgia. Her leadership resulted in many milestones including the construction of the beautiful new Valdosta office which graces the cover of this report. Best wishes to Lisa for a truly happy retirement.

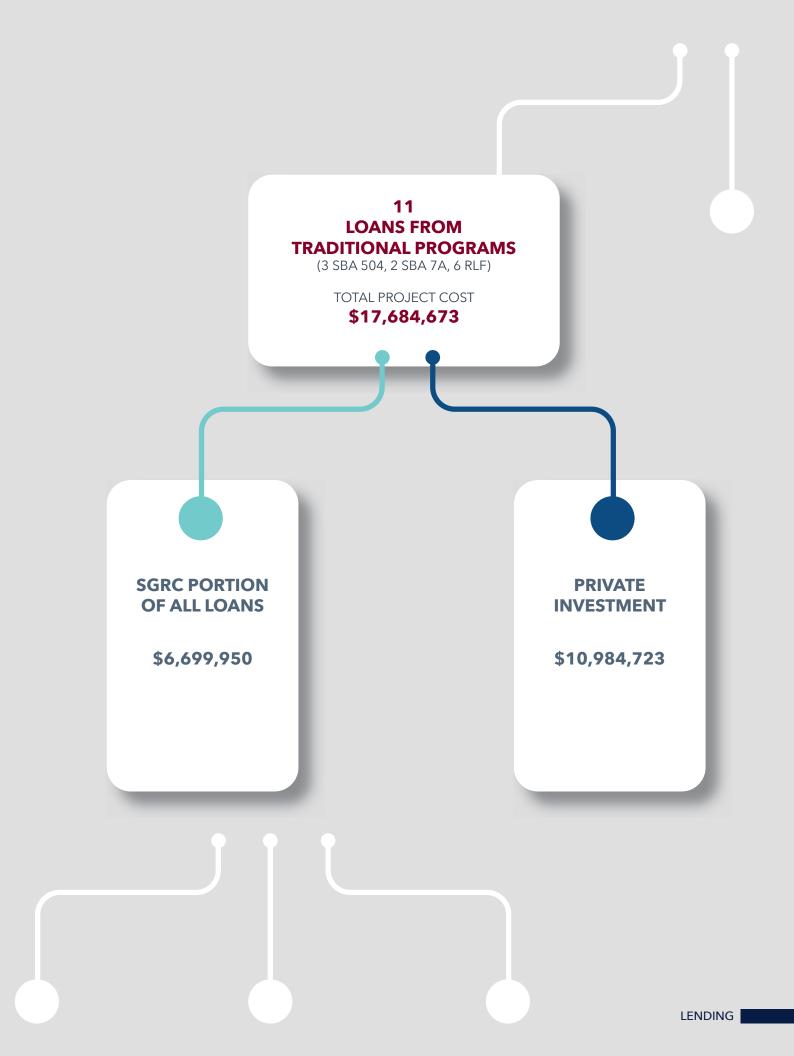
Like they say though, when one door closes, another one opens and with Lisa's retirement came the appointment of Kimberly Hobbs as SGRC Executive Director. Kimberly's 26 years of service to the regional commission has equipped her to lead our organization into the future. I anticipate that under her direction, the Southern Georgia Regional Commission will continue to be the premier RC in the state and that it will innovate and adapt to meet the needs of all local governments in the region. In FY23, the committed staff of the SGRC administered programs and services that increased the quality of life for Southern Georgia's citizens. The Area Agency on Aging served over 350,000 congregate and home delivered meals to senior citizens in the region. For the second year in a row, the SGRC-AAA received the First Place Platinum Award for its Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program which provided 4,700 vouchers to seniors for Georgia Grown fruits and vegetables. Regional Transit provided over 185,000 trips for senior citizens, Department of Behavioral Health and Department of Human Services clients, non-emergency medical transport, Meals-on-Wheels, and others. The Workforce Development division assisted nearly 900 adults, youth, and dislocated workers in overcoming significant barriers to employment.

Community and Economic Development helped local governments in securing \$17.6 million in grant funding for various infrastructure and housing improvement projects. These projects will benefit over 120,000 Southern Georgians. The Lending division made 11 loans with a combined total project cost of \$17 million and 152 jobs created. In its vital role of overseeing the SGRC's budget, the Finance division ensured that this organization is a good steward of all public funding. In FY23, for every \$1 collected in dues, the SGRC region received \$36 in federal, state, and local funding.

The mission of the SGRC is to develop, promote, and provide services that make the Southern Georgia region a better place to live and work. As you will see in this report, the leadership and staff of the SGRC are achieving that mission. I encourage you to thoroughly review the annual report's valuable contents, and to share the achievements of this essential agency with those who may not know about its endeavors.



The SGRC's Lending division provides financing to small business owners for development of new businesses or expansion of existing businesses through several different loan programs. Lending is setup as two separate non-profit agencies governed by one Loan Board of Directors. The Southern Georgia Area Resource Development Agency (ARDA) operates an EDA/USDA Rural Development funded revolving loan fund (RLF) totaling nearly \$6 million. The Southern Georgia Area Development Corporation (ADC) is a Certified Development Corporation with the Small Business Administration (SBA) charged with making SBA 504 loans for commercial businesses and packaging SBA 7(a) Guaranteed loans on behalf of local lending institutions.



Come in,



ve're

152 JOBS CREATED

INDUSTRIES SERVED

Childcare & Pre-School Cut Stone & Stone Manufacturing Daycare Fertilizer Manufacturing Gift, Novelty, & Retailers Hotel & Motels Residential Care Facility Restaurant & Bar Seafood Distribution Truck/Trailer Manufacturing

> 6 COUNTIES

LOANS SUPPORTED BUSINESSES IN 6 COUNTIES

Ben Hill Brooks Chatham Cook Lowndes Ware

LENDING



LENDING

FY2023

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The SGRC's Community and Economic Development division provides technical assistance to local governments in identifying projects to improve community programs and facilities, developing related grant and loan applications, and administering funded projects. Community and Economic Development activities are designed to promote regional economic development, to assist local communities in increasing their economic development capacity, to identify funding to assist with the location and expansion of new and existing industry, and to facilitate activities which encourage business development and job creation in order to enhance the standard of living for area residents.

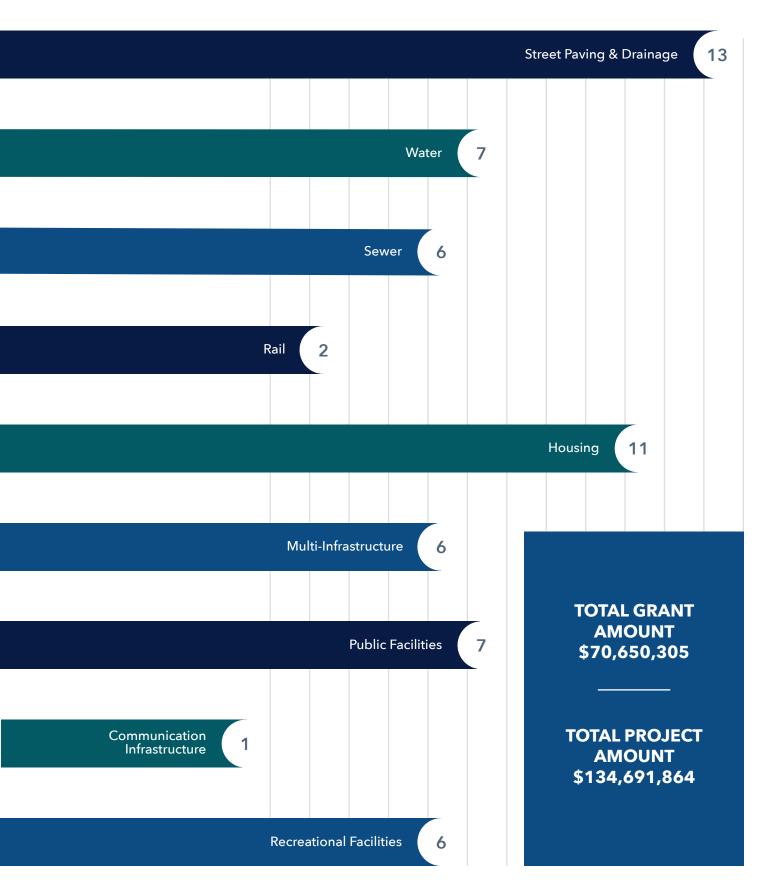


(16 Community Development & 4 Economic Development)



*With Private Investment

FY23 PROJECT ADMINISTRATION: 59 PROJECTS



FY23 PROJECT ADMINISTRATION: 59 PROJECTS BY PROGRAM



A FEW OF THE MANY PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION DURING FY2023



New Jersey Avenue WARE COUNTY





Second Harvest LOWNDES COUNTY

Rail Spur CITY OF OFFERMAN



The SGRC's Planning Division assists local governments in completing comprehensive plan updates, drafting local development regulations, updating Hazard Mitigation Plans, and providing other specialized planning studies. In addition, planning staff assists with needs identified in adopted Community Work Programs and by hosting training and development workshops. The Planning Division provides information and public policy options to local governments based on sound research and analysis. Through continuous outreach, this division helps local governments maintain Qualified Local Government status which allows them to receive state and federal funding. Planning activities focus on fulfilling community and regional visions and goals as well as protecting the region's environmental and cultural resources.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATES AND AMENDMENTS

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATES COMPLETED

- 1. Bacon County Comprehensive Plan Update
- 2. City of Tifton Comprehensive Plan Update
- 3. Pierce County Comprehensive Plan Update
- 4. Tift County Comprehensive Plan Update

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATES IN PROGRESS

- 1. Coffee County Comprehensive Plan Update
- 2. Irwin County Comprehensive Plan Update

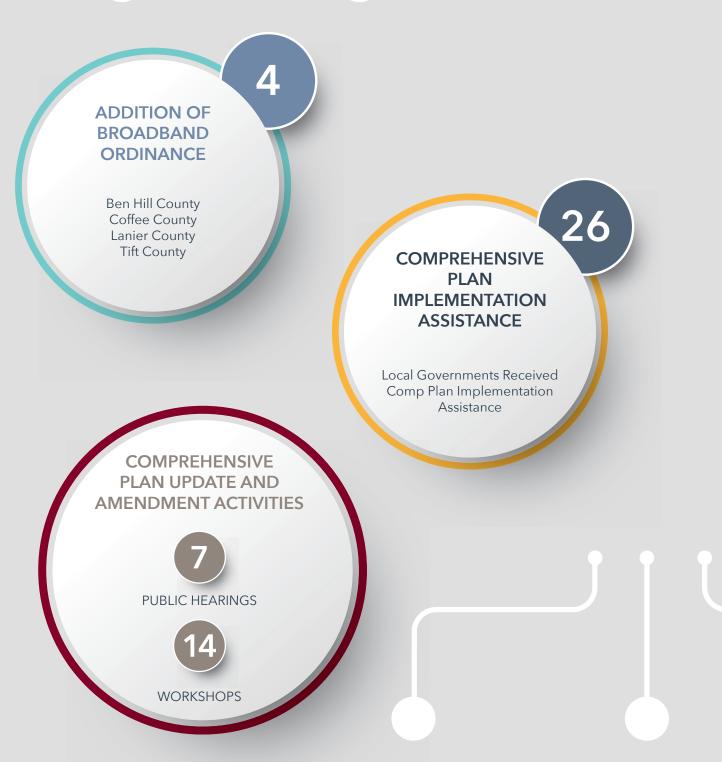
PRE-COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE WORKSHOPS COMPLETED

- 1. City of Tifton
- 2. Coffee County
- 3. Irwin County
- 4. Tift County

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENTS COMPLETED

- 1. Adel Comprehensive Plan for a New Work Program Element
- 2. Ben Hill County and the City of Fitzgerald for a Broadband Element
- 3. Coffee County and Cities of Ambrose, Broxton, Douglas, and Nicholls for a Broadband Element
- 4. Lanier County and the City of Lakeland for a Broadband Element
- 5. Tift County and the Cities of Omega and Ty Ty for a Broadband Element

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATES AND AMENDMENTS



HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS

HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS IN PROGRESS

Atkinson County and the Cities of Pearson and Willacoochee Coffee County and the Cities of Ambrose, Broxton, Douglas, and Nicholls Cook County and the Cities of Adel, Cecil, Lenox, and Sparks Lanier County and the City of Lakeland Turner County and the Cities of Ashburn, Rebecca, and Sycamore

HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS ADOPTED

Bacon County and the City of Alma Charlton County and the Cities of Folkston and Homeland Pierce County and the Cities of Blackshear, Offerman, and Patterson Ware County and the City of Waycross **PLANNING & ZONING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

LAKE PARK ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

AMENDED CITY OF DOUGLAS UNIFIED LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE (ULDC)

ZONING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

4

Lanier County Cook County City of Alapaha City of Douglas

STAFF REPORTS AND SPECIAL EXCEPTION REQUESTS

12

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS ATTENDED

5

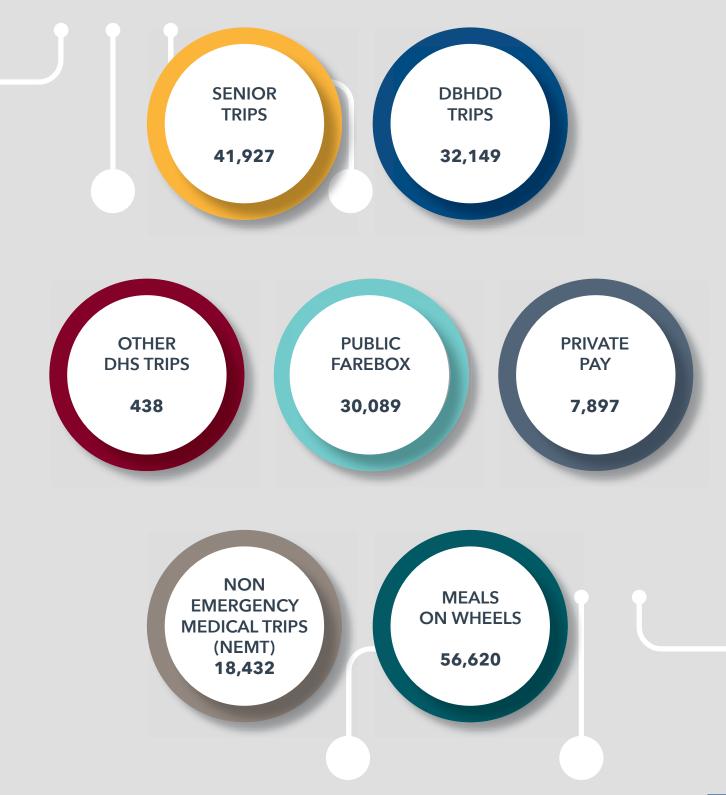
ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES





The SGRC's Regional Transit division provides rural transportation services for the benefit of the public and disadvantaged populations, including persons with disabilities, older adults, and persons without a vehicle. The program enhances rural area mobility and improves access to health care, shopping, education, employment, public services, and recreation. By coordinating funding from the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS), Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (Medicaid), and other private pay contracts, the program provides, on average, 350 trips per day to the citizens in the eighteen-county region.

REGIONAL TRANSIT



REGIONAL TRANSIT

REGIONAL TRANSIT



\$1,572,064

SCIC REGIONAL TRANSIT 855-360-7475 GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

\$1,079,866

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES 5310 FTA

\$989,539

LOCAL FUNDING (INCLUDING IN KIND)

\$44,441

MODIVCARE NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAID

\$344,964

REGIONAL TRANSIT

C 855-360-7475

1

FY2023

TRANSPORTATION AND VLMPO

The SGRC Transportation Division supports local governments in their transportation planning endeavors by delivering vital services and promoting measures aimed at safeguarding and enhancing the regional transportation network. Acting as the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Valdosta Urbanized Area, the SGRC engages in an array of both immediate and long-range planning initiatives within and surrounding the metropolitan Valdosta area. Furthermore, the division extends its transportation planning support to rural counties in the region, prioritizing multi-modal transportation planning, rural transit planning, and diverse transportation infrastructure projects.

DOCUMENTS PRODUCED

FY2024 VALDOSTA-LOWNDES MPO UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM FY2023 VALDOSTA-LOWNDES MPO CRASH REPORT

FY2023 VALDOSTA-LOWNDES ANNUAL REPORT

1. 1. 4 4 6 6

FY2024-2027 VALDOSTA-LOWNDES TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

VALDOSTA ON-DEMAND URBAN TRANSIT SYSTEM TRIP ORIGIN & DESTINATION WEB BASED APPLICATION

SOUTHERN GEORGIA TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT ACT OF 2010 (TIA) PROJECT SUBMISSION WEB BASED PORTAL

HAHIRA AREA TRAFFIC AND LAND-USE STUDY

TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLANS

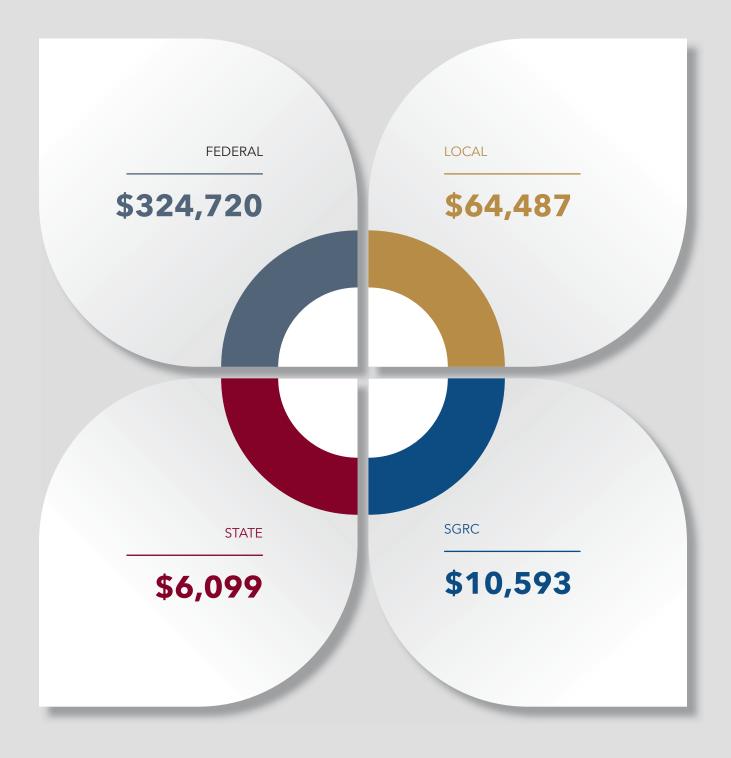


Clinch County, Echols County, Lanier County



NADO's Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards program honors and recognizes noteworthy projects and practices in rural, small metropolitan, and other regions that help meet regional needs through various program areas related to transportation, mobility, goods movement, planning and analysis, and more.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING FUNDS LEVERAGED All Programs Combined



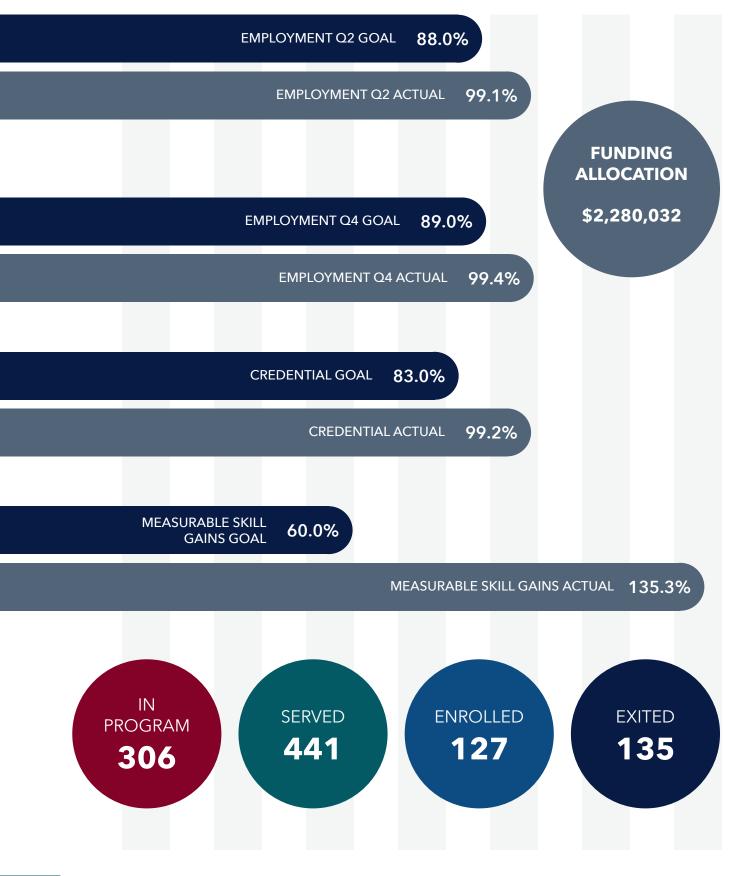
FY2023

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The SGRC's Workforce Development division's vision is to empower Southern Georgia employers, individuals, and communities to prosper and grow the region's economy through a workforce development system that is inherently customer-centered, seamless, and effective. This division administers the federally funded Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program. WIOA is landmark legislation that is designed to (1) strengthen and improve our nation's public workforce system, (2) help get Americans, including youth and those with significant barriers to employment, into high-quality jobs and careers, and (3) help employers hire and retain skilled workers.

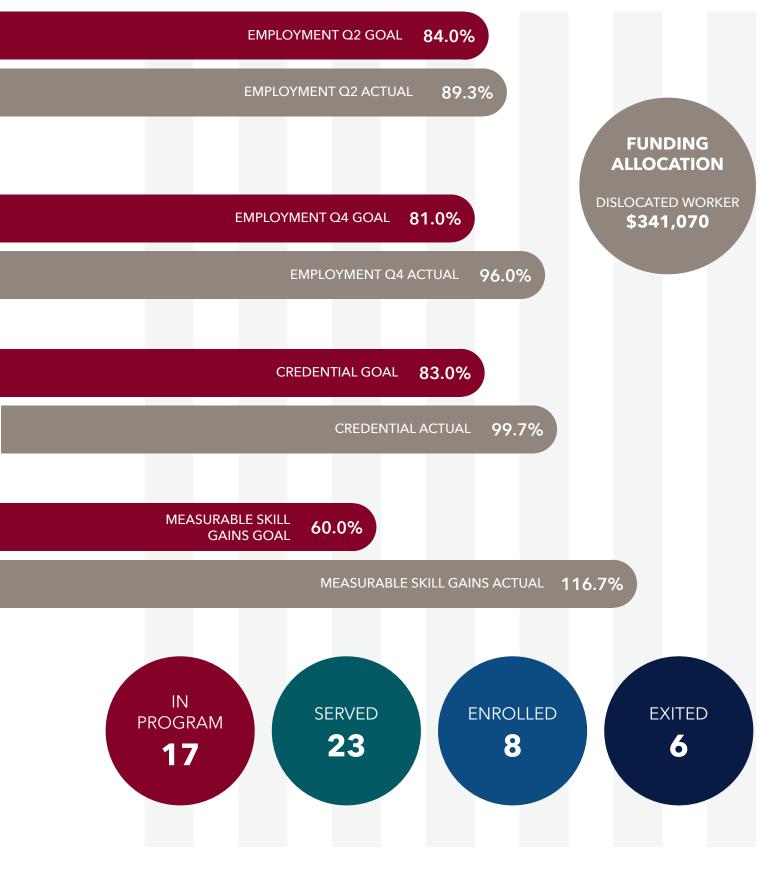


ADULT PERFORMANCE MEASURES



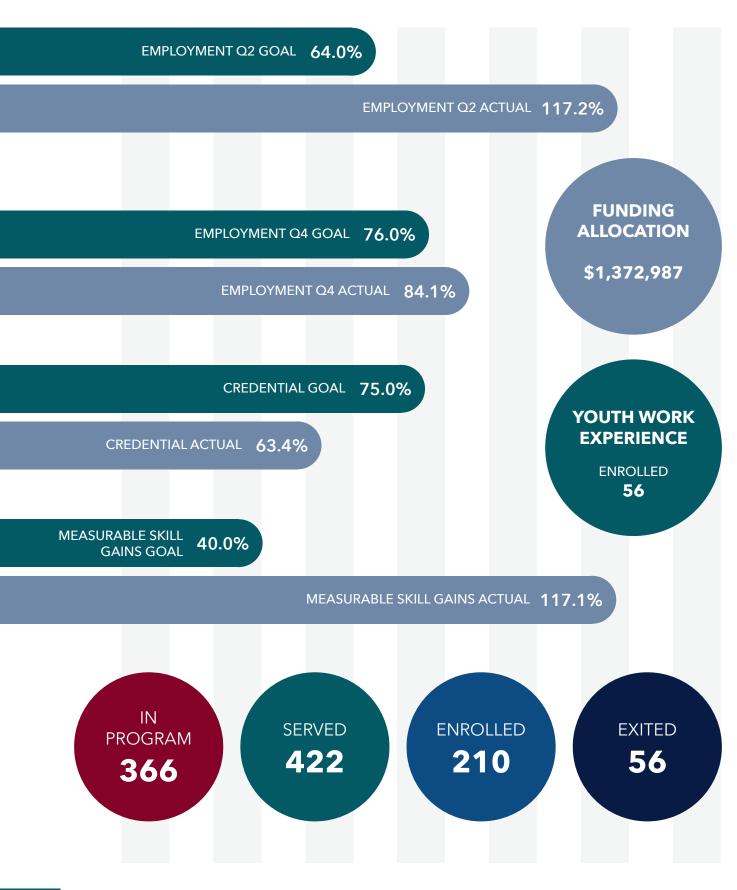
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

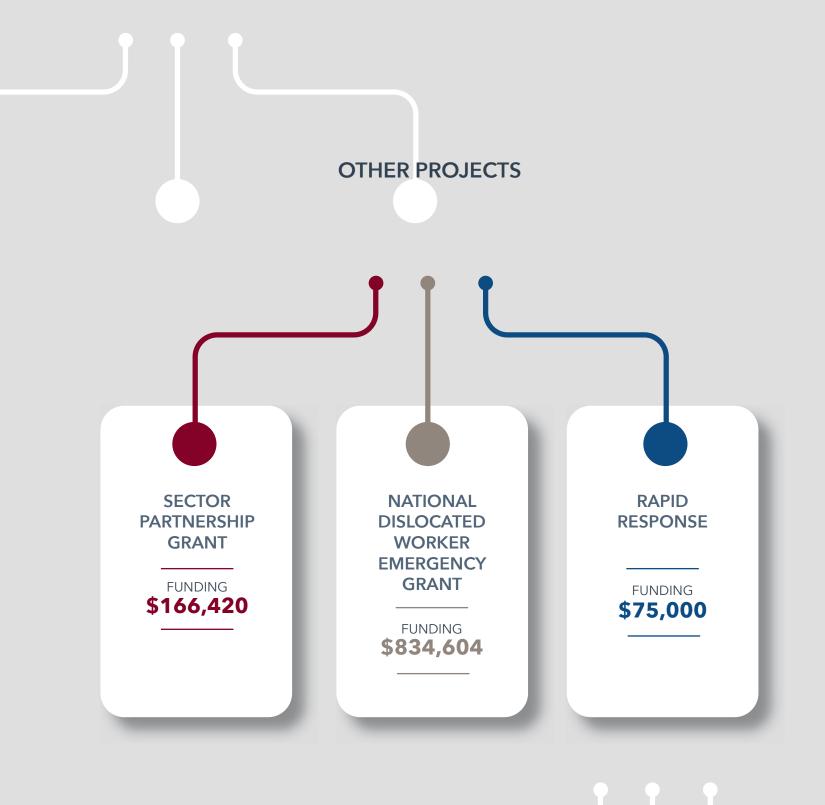
DISLOCATED PERFORMANCE MEASURES



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

YOUTH PERFORMANCE MEASURES







The SGRC's Area Agency on Aging (AAA) develops, provides, coordinates, and advocates for services that assist older individuals, at-risk adults, persons with disabilities, their families, and caregivers. The vision of the AAA is to assist these individuals in Living Longer, Living Safely, and Living Well. AAA programs and services receive federal and state funding through a contract between the SGRC and the GA Department of Human Services and between the SGRC and the GA Department of Community Health. While some services are provided by AAA staff, most programs are sub-contracted to cities, counties, and other organizations that contribute local monies to provide services directly in their communities.

AWARDS



Pictured (I-r) are Linda Gail, SGRC-AAA Aging Program Manager, Shawn Taylor, SGRC-AAA Aging Assistant Director, and Scott Courson SGRC-AAA Aging Director.

SFMNP FIRST IN STATE AWARD - SGRC-AAA RECEIVES HONOR FOR A 2ND YEAR IN A ROW

The SGRC-AAA Division's Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) was awarded the "First Place Platinum Award" for a second year in a row. The First Place Platinum Award recognizes the AAA with the highest number of vouchers redeemed in Georgia for the SFMNP. The SFMNP encourages healthy eating by making fresh Georgia-grown fruits, vegetables, and herbs available at approved market sites to seniors living in the Southern Georgia region. Scott Courson, SGRC-AAA Aging Director, stated "this program is especially important because South Georgia is known as a food desert, with very limited options for people to access fresh fruits, vegetables, and other grocery items."





AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CONNECTION (ADRC) OUTREACH



147 LOCAL EVENTS AND FESTIVALS ATTENDED IN THE REGION







Informed hundreds of seniors, persons with disabilities, caregivers, and community partners about AAA services and programs through a monthly community resources flyer to providers

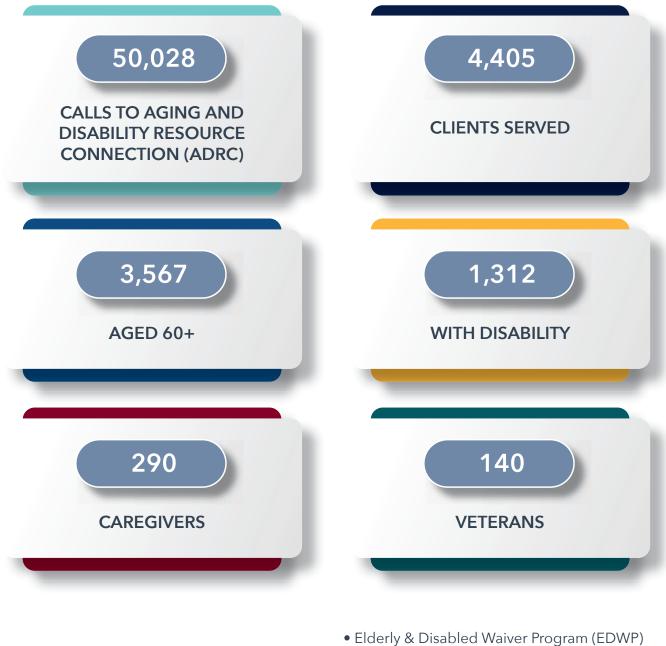
SGI'C

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CONNECTION (ADRC)



SGRC-AAA ADRC staff members provide intake and assistance with accessing community resources and services.



- **MOST FREQUENT ADRC CALL TOPICS** • Home Delivered Meal Services
 - Homemaker Services

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FY2023



PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FY2023



13,351 HOURS OF CASE MANAGEMENT

13,222 HOURS OF HOMEMAKER SERVICES

7,182 HOURS OF ALZHEIMER'S ADULT DAY CARE

> **11,770** HOURS OF RESPITE CARE

14,017 HOURS OF PERSONAL CARE

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

PARTICIPANTS SERVED IN FY2023

242

Elderly and Legal Assistance Program (ELAP) Cases Represented by Georgia Legal Services for

> 197 CLIENTS

41,927

Trips Provided through the Georgia Department of Human Services Coordinated Transportation Program

212

Persons assisted through the Material Aid Program

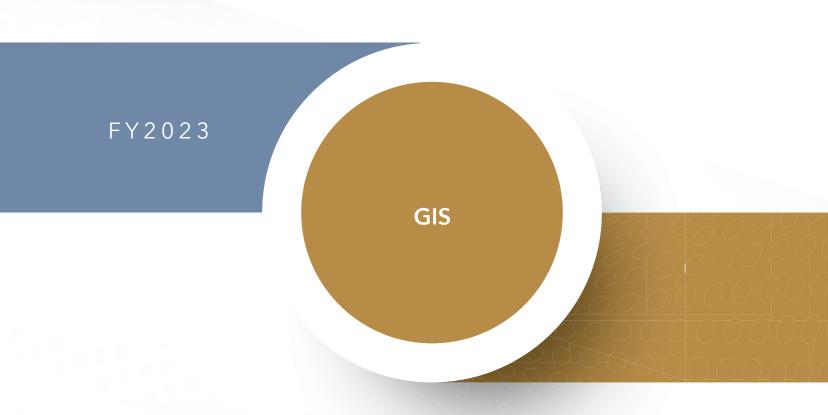
1,122

Active Clients in the Elderly and Disabled Waiver Program (EDWP) for Community Care Services Program (CCSP)

24

Referrals made for Community Transitions Programs

AREA AGENCY ON AGING



The SGRC's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) division develops and maintains GIS data and applications for governments in Southern Georgia and other areas. GIS technology is all about making better decisions through query and analysis of spatial data and is used extensively in the Southern Georgia region. Local governments utilize GIS technology and data developed by SGRC to handle everything from monitoring growth and parcel assessment to crime analysis and emergency response planning.

GRANT MAPS



ROADWAY ELEMENT VALIDATION AND MAPPING PROGRAM (REVAMP) PROJECT WITH GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

18 SGRC COUNTIES

18

Atkinson Bacon Ben Hill Berrien **Brantley** Brooks Charlton Clinch Coffee Cook **Echols** Irwin Lanier Lowndes Pierce Tift Turner Ware

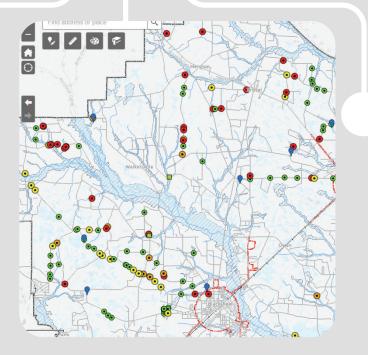
Bicycle Lanes, Curb Ramps, Shoulder Curbs, Shoulder Gutters, and Sidewalk data creation for

18 COUNTIES

15

PROVISION OF GAP SERVICES TO SISTER REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

15 COUNTIES



3 COMMUNITIES

Submitted Census Boundary and Annexation Surveys updates for 3 communities

Adel

Fitzgerald

Hahira

243

GIS WEB MAPS

Created or maintained 243 Interactive GIS Web

Maps for 23 communities within the region

8 REGION-WIDE MAPS

MAINTAINED 8 INTERACTIVE MAPS

REGIONAL BASIC INTERACTIVE MAP

- Georgia Election Interactive application - showing the new Georgia Election districts (Congressional, Senate, and House)
- City Hall locations
- Georgia Broadband Service Areas

MAINTAINED 4 REGION-WIDE INTERACTIVE WEB MAPS

- Regional Voting Precinct Map
- SGRC Region Flood Map
- Regional Emergency Center of Operation
- Community Boundary Review

4 INTERACTIVE MAPS

Maintained 4 Interactive Web Maps for Department of Public Health

TRANSPORTATION MAPS

NEW IN FY23

TRANSPORTATION WEB APPS MAINTAINED

Electric Vehicle Station Suitability Analysis

Transportation 2045 population and growth area

Valdosta Transit On-Demand use by Census boundaries NEW IN FY23

CREATED TSPLOST SUBMISSION PORTAL

MAINTAINED

VISION2045

WEBSITE AND STORY MAP

CRASH MAPS AND STATISTICS

10 MAPS CREATED

59,646 INCIDENTS MAPPED

CATEGORIES INCLUDE

Pedestrian Tractor Trailer Bicyclist DUI Fatal High Crash Locations Motorcyclist Under 21

MAINTAINED

VALDOSTA-LOWNDES METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (VLMPO)

PROJECT PHASE DASHBOARD

HUB MAINTENANCE AND CREATION



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CREATED: REGIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS HUB

SgIC southern Georgia Exploring Agritourism in Southern Georgia

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Exploring Agritourism in Southern Georgia

Highlighting Agritourism experiences that offer locally grown and sourced products from the heart.

SGRC's Guide to Agritourism June 27, 2022

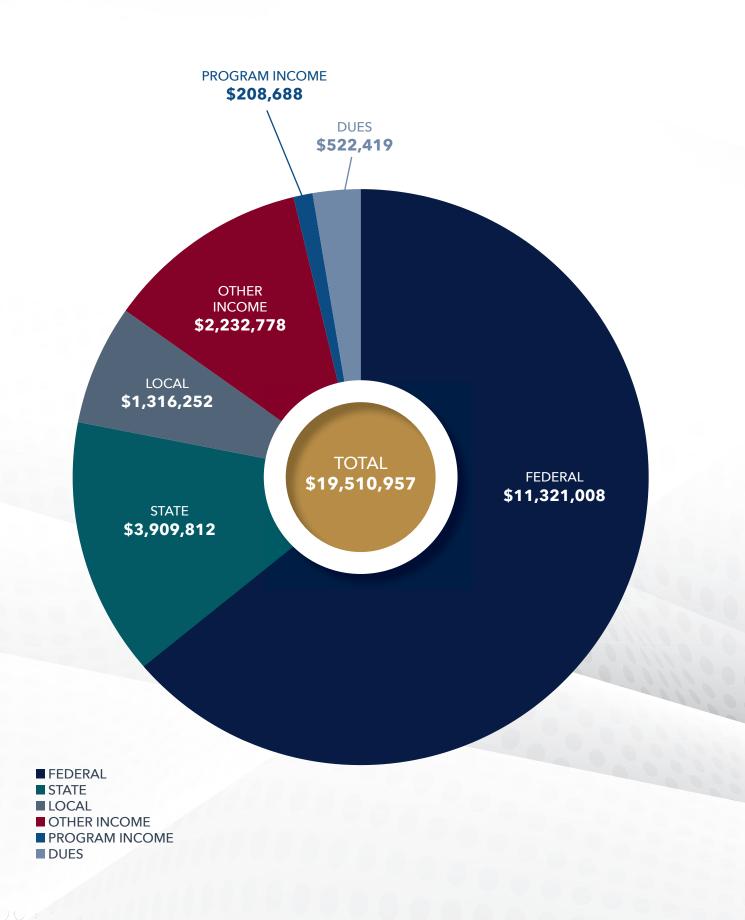


MAINTAINED: REGIONAL AGRITOURISM HUB

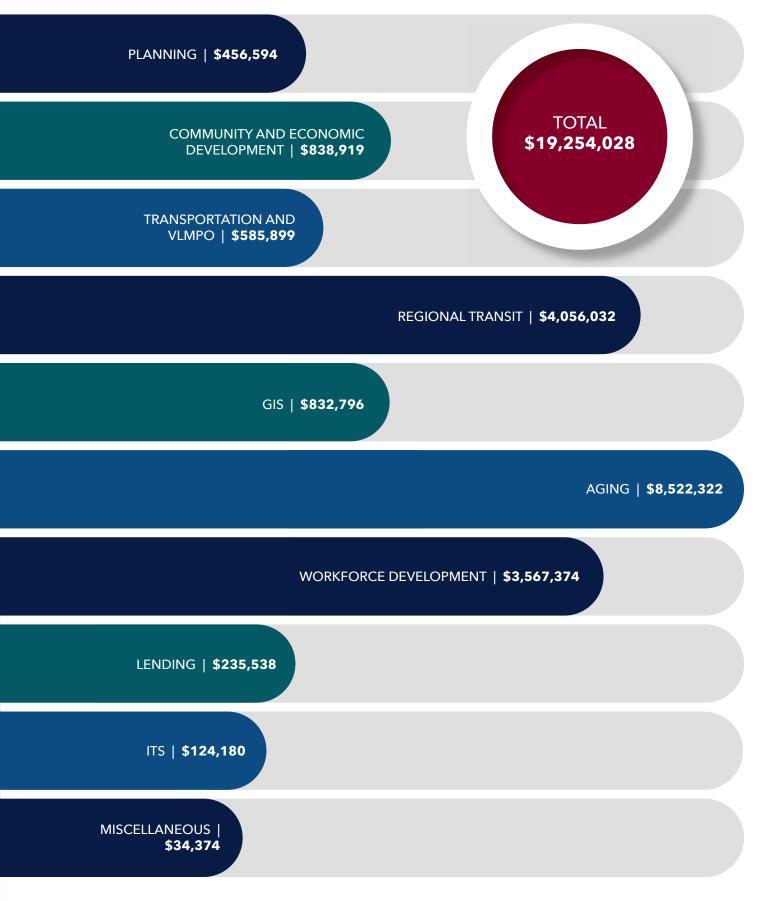


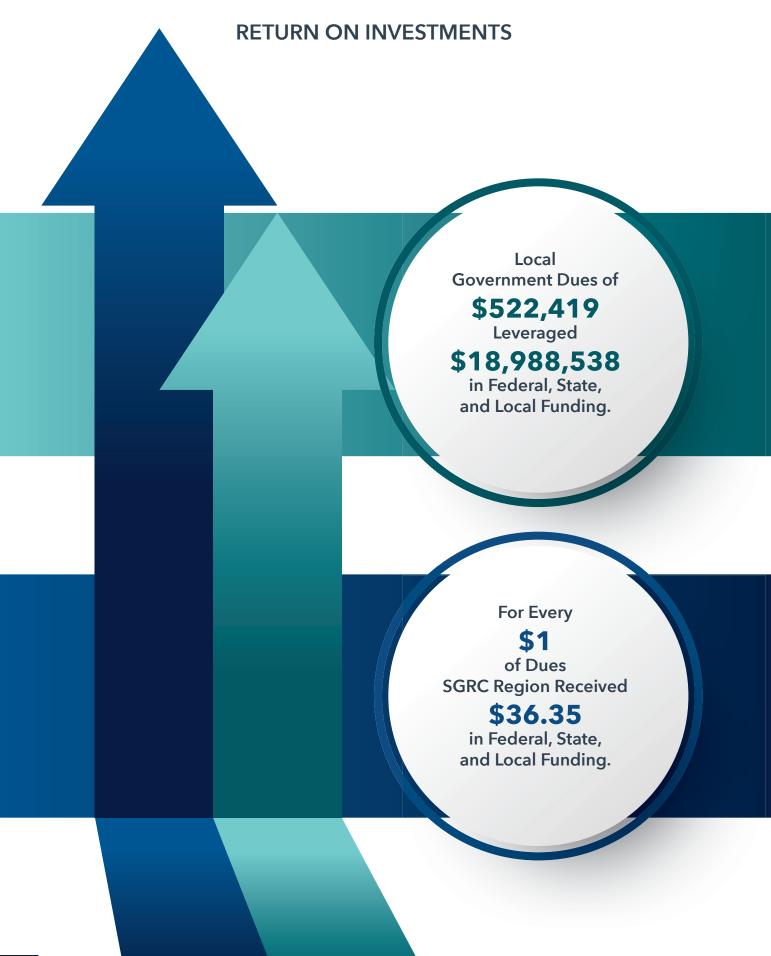
The SGRC Finance division oversees a multi-million dollar budget comprising funds from over a dozen Federal and State agencies. The Finance department is responsible for the maintenance of accounting records and financial reporting in compliance with complex government rules, regulations, and contractual requirements for every dollar received by the SGRC.

SGRC REVENUES



SGRC EXPENDITURES





SGRC COUNCIL MEMBER LIST

The SGRC leadership and staff are thankful for the excellent guidance and unfailing support of our Council. The dedicated service of each Council member enables the accomplishments of the SGRC's programs and activities throughout the region.

ATKINSON

Parker Liles Robert Johnson Robbie Stone

BACON

Shane Taylor Larry Taylor Kevin Ellis

BEN HILL

Steve Taylor Jason Holt Jason Dunn

BERRIEN Ronnie Gaskins Travis Brown Lisa Smart

BRANTLEY

Skipper Harris Marty Lee Vacant

BROOKS

Patrick Folsom Don Morgan Zurich Deshazior

CHARLTON

James Everett Lee Gowen Vacant

CLINCH

Henry Moylan Vacant Willie Hardee, Jr.

COFFEE

Jimmy Kitchens Tony Paulk Adam Smith

COOK Lindsey Parrish Buddy Duke Nyisha Key

ECHOLS

Stanley Corbett Cheryl Garner

IRWIN Scott Carver Melvin Harper Mona MacKenzie

LANIER

Dennis Fender Bill Darsey James Barnes

LOWNDES

Joyce Evans Vivian Miller-Cody Anthony Payton

PIERCE

Neal Bennett Keith Brooks Steven Paul

TIFT

Tony McBrayer Julie Smith Vacant

TURNER

Nick Denham Sandra Lumpkin Brandi Giddens

WARE

Elmer Thrift Michael-Angelo James Barbara King

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

3 Vacancies

LT. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE Keith Stone

SPEAKER'S OFFICE

Matt Seale

SGRC'S 2023 NADO IMPACT AWARDS





The National Association of Development Organization's Impact Awards program honors NADO members for their creative approaches to advancing regional economic development and improving quality of life. The award recipients have made significant impacts on their regions and demonstrate the diversity of services and program delivery provided by regional development organizations across the country.



SgiC southern georgia regional commission

REGIONAL SERVICES • COMMUNITY FOCUSED



