

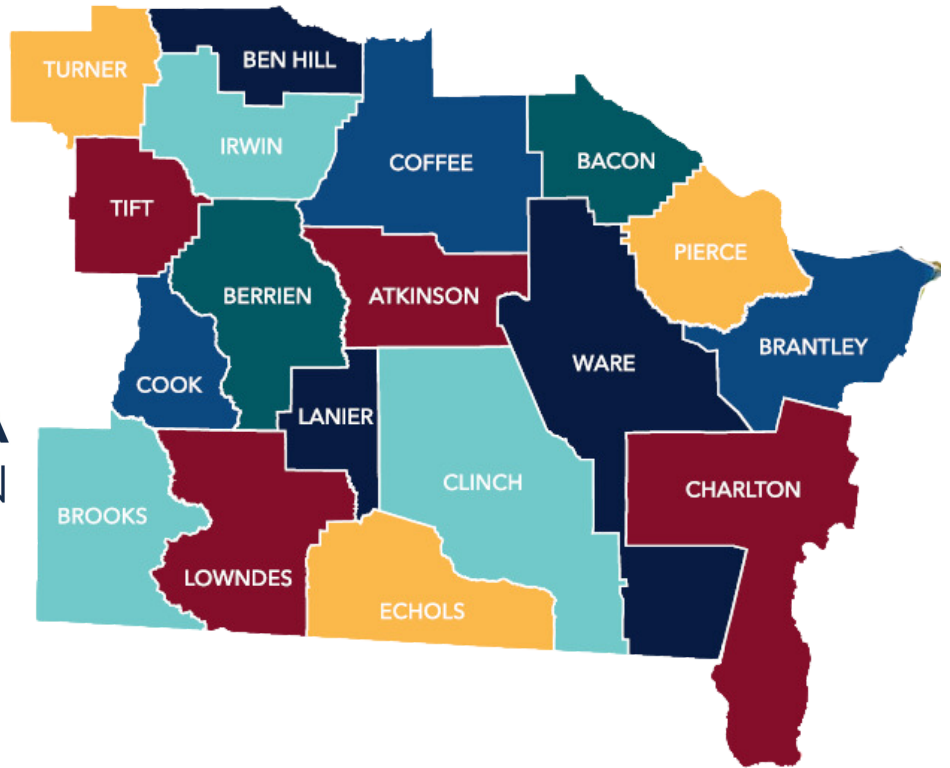
Programs & Activities

A summary of activities of the Southern Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Services • Community Focused



SOUTHERN GEORGIA
REGIONAL COMMISSION



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 technical experts in a number of specialized fields, who team with local governments to solve problems and to increase the prosperity and quality of life in the region. The following is a sample of the programs and activities that SGRC provides; however, it is not a comprehensive list.

Please do not hesitate to call us to explore ways the SGRC can best work with your city or county to address your community's and our region's issues, challenges, and opportunities.



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

Area Agency on Aging (AAA)

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 Department of Human Services and between the SGRC and the 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.

AAA programs and services include (not all inclusive):

- Intake & Assessment - The I&A process may involve a telephone interview conducted by a Screening Specialist (a nurse or social worker) to determine an applicant's service needs. Upon determining the appropriate services needed, the applicant/client may be referred to a service provider for a face-to-face assessment.
- Elderly & Disabled Waiver Program (EDWP) - Provides community-based and in-home services as an alternative to nursing home placement for frail persons who meet Medicaid eligibility requirements. A case manager acts as a service broker and client advocate to ensure that services help the client maintain independence and avoid nursing home placement.



For information about AAA programs and services, contact your Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) at 1-888-73-AGING (1-888-732-4464).

Also, find us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/SouthernGeorgiaAreaAgencyonAging.

Community and Economic Development

The SGRC's Community and Economic Development (CED) 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 (Grant funded projects include street paving and drainage, water and sewer, public buildings, neighborhood revitalization, streetscape and pedestrian facilities, as well as police and fire department facilities, equipment, and vehicles.). In addition, CED activities promote regional economic development by assisting local communities in increasing their economic development capacity, identifying funding to assist with the location and expansion of new and existing industry, and facilitating activities which encourage business development and job creation in order to enhance the standard of living for area residents. The SGRC's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) identifies problems and barriers to economic development, and proposes strategies to overcome these barriers.

Community and Economic Development activities include:

Community Development Block Grants

OneGeorgia Authority Equity Grant/Loan Programs

DNR Recreational Trails Program and Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants

USDA Public Facilities & Rural Business Development Grant/Loan Programs

Economic Development Administration (EDA) Public Works Grant Program

Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) Grant/Loan Programs

Southeast Crescent Regional Commission State Economic & Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grant Program

FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program

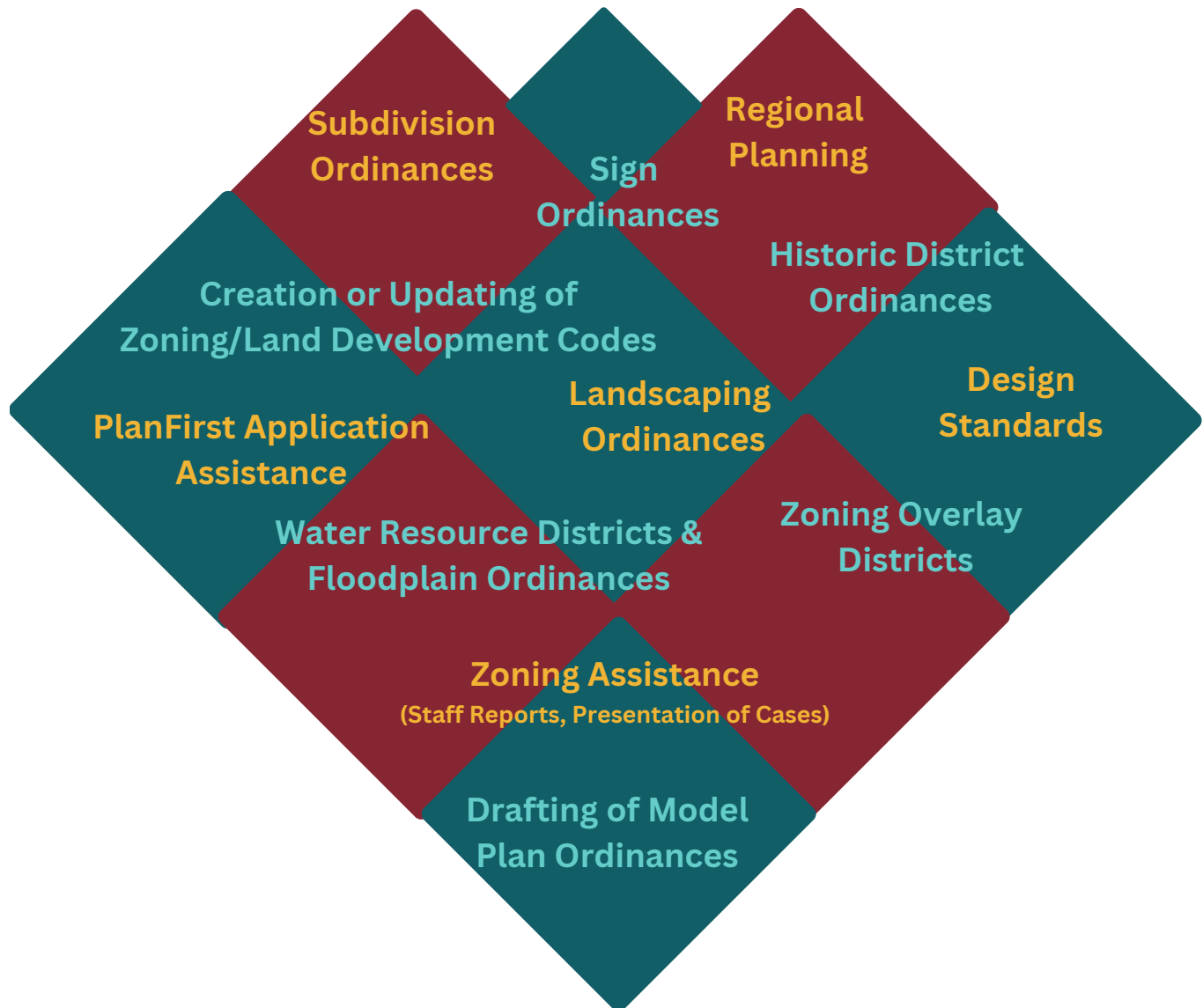
And a Variety of Other Grants/Loans

For information about CED programs and services, contact:

Tonia Hendricks, CED Director
(912) 285-6097
trhendricks@sgrc.us.

Planning

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 hosts training and development workshops. Planning 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



For information about Planning programs and services, contact:

James Horton, Planning Director
(229) 333-5277
jhorton@sgrc.us

Regional Transit

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.

FY2023 Trips Provided

Senior Center & Other Senior Activities 41,927	Non-Emergency Medical Transport (NEMT) 18,432	Private Pay 7,897
Meals On Wheels 56,620	Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DHDD) 32,149	Public Trips 30,089



For information about Regional Transit Services contact:

**Megan Fowler, Transit Director
(229) 333-5277
transit@sgrs.us**

Transportation Planning & VLMPO

The SGRC's Transportation division assists local governments in transportation planning efforts and the administration of transportation related initiatives aimed at constructing, improving, and maintaining infrastructure. Since 2002, the SGRC has been designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Valdosta Urbanized Area. In this capacity, SGRC is involved in both long and short term transportation planning activities within the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Area, which includes Lowndes county and portions of Berrien, Brooks and Lanier counties. Additionally, the Transportation Division extends its transportation planning services to rural counties in the region, focusing primarily on transportation planning and infrastructure, bicycle/pedestrian planning and infrastructure, and rural transit planning initiatives through partnership with the Georgia Department of Transportation.

**For information about Transportation Planning and VLMPO contact:
Amy Martin, Transportation Planning Director**

**(229) 333-5277
amartin@sgrc.us**

Workforce Development - WorkSource Southern Georgia

Under the federally funded Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the SGRC's Workforce Development division provides valuable services to both employers and job seekers in the Southern Georgia Region.

Employer Services

Employers searching for skilled workers can take advantage of the On-the-Job Training (OJT) program. OJT lets an employer hire and train eligible, skilled workers and get reimbursed for those efforts. Employers participating in this program benefit from more efficient recruiting, more targeted training and reduced training expenses. In addition to OJT, our Business Services staff can assist employers with: Incumbent Worker Training (IWT), Lay-Off Aversion assistance, Job Fair Services, Collaborative Recruitment Planning, Assistance with Hiring Veterans, and Labor Market Research and Information.

Job Seeker Services

WIOA provides job seekers access to education, training, and support services so that they have the skills necessary to enter the workforce. With the assistance of a Career Advisor, job seekers can receive job search assistance, career advisement, financial assistance with the cost of training for in-demand occupations for the region as well as supportive services to assist with the cost of transportation and child care.

If you are interested in any of our programs, or if you have other workforce needs please do not hesitate to reach out to our staff.



For more information about Workforce Development Programs & Services contact:

Amy Jones, Business Services Manager
(912) 285-6097
ajones@sgrc.us

Bonnie Howard, Planner/Monitor
(912) 285-6097
bhoward@sgrc.us

Small Business Lending

SGRC's Small Business Lending division provides financing to small business owners for development of new businesses or expansion of existing businesses through several different loan programs. This division is setup as two separate non-profit agencies governed by one Loan Board of Directors: (1) The Southern Georgia Area Resource Development Agency (ARDA) operates an over \$6 million-dollar EDA/USDA Rural Development funded revolving loan fund (RLF), and (2) The Southern Georgia Area Development Corporation (ADC) is a Certified Development Corporation with the Small Business Administration charged with making SBA 504 loans for commercial businesses and packaging SBA 7(a) Guaranteed loans on behalf of local lending institutions.

The mission is to promote industrial and commercial business development and job creation throughout the 18-county region through a public-private partnership with regional financial institutions. In conjunction with the banking industry, the Small Business Lending division provides "gap" financing to viable businesses.

For information about Small Business Lending contact: **Lance Wilcher, Lending Director**
(229) 333-5271
lwilcher@sgrc.us

Geographic Information Services

The SGRC's Geographic Information Services (GIS) division develops and maintains GIS data and applications for governments in Southern Georgia and beyond.

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. The following are services provided by the GIS division:



For more information about GIS Programs and Services contact:

Rachel Strom, GIS Director
(229) 333-5277
rstrom@sgrc.us

For examples about how GIS impacts the Southern Georgia area, please visit www.sgrcmaps.com and www.valorgis.com. Also, please follow us on social media at: www.facebook.com/sgrc.gis.3, [Instagram @sgrc_gis](https://www.instagram.com/sgrc_gis), and [Twitter @sgrcgis](https://twitter.com/sgrcgis).

For GIS instruction, subscribe to the [SGRC YouTube](#) channel!



Chris Strom

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REGIONAL COMMISSION

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Our Mission

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