

Programs & Activities

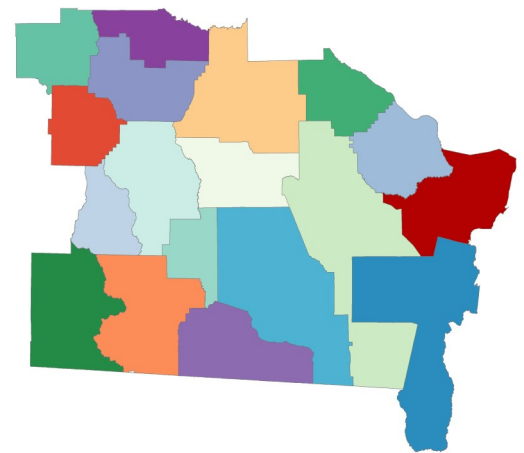
A summary & sampler of activities of the Southern Georgia Regional Commission • 2020 •

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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 55 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.

SGRC Serves 18 Counties in Southern Georgia



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

PLANNING SERVICES

Contacts: Sherry Davidson & Elizabeth Backe, AICP

SGRC assists local governments in completing comprehensive plan updates, drafting local development regulations, updating Hazard Mitigation Plans, and by providing other specialized planning studies. In addition, planning staff assist with needs identified in adopted Community Work Programs and by hosting training and development workshops. The Planning program provides information and public policy options to local governments based on sound research and analysis. Through continuous outreach, we help our member 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 the protection of the region's environmental and cultural resources. Listed below are several additional ways in which we assist local governments.

- ◆ Subdivision ordinances
- ◆ Zoning overlay districts
- ◆ Sign Ordinances
- ◆ Creation or updating of zoning/land development codes
- ◆ Landscaping Ordinances
- ◆ Design Standards
- ◆ Drafting of model ordinances
- ◆ Ongoing zoning assistance (staff reports, presentation of cases)
- ◆ Historic district ordinances
- ◆ PlanFirst application assistance
- ◆ Regional Planning
- ◆ Water resource districts & floodplain ordinances

SMALL BUSINESS LENDING

Contact: Rex Dorsey

SGRC's loan program provides financing to small business owners for development of new businesses or expansion of existing businesses through several different loan programs. Small Business 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 over \$6 million-dollar EDA/USDA Rural Development funded revolving loan fund (RLF) and 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 Department provides "gap" financing to viable businesses.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)

Contact: Rachel Strom

SGRC's Geographic Information Systems program develops and maintains geographic information system (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. For examples and more information 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! The following is a list of services:

◆ Web-Based Mapping	◆ Emergency Services	◆ Site Selection	◆ Planning Support
◆ GIS Education	◆ Market Analysis	◆ Economic Development	◆ Cemetery Mapping
◆ Parcel Mapping	◆ Crime Mapping & Analysis	◆ Utilities Management	◆ Hazard Mapping

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Contact: Roberta Lovett

The vision of the Southern Georgia Workforce Development Division 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.

Workforce Development 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. Please find us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/workforcesoutherngeorgia The following is a list of the programs available to employers and job seekers:

◆ Adult Education/GED	◆ Tuition Assistance	◆ Supportive Services
◆ On-the-Job Training	◆ Layoff Aversion	◆ Customized Training
◆ Incumbent Worker Training	◆ Rapid Response Assistance	◆ Workforce Preparation
◆ Career Planning	◆ Job Search Assistance	◆ Youth Work Experience

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Contact: Scott Courson

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.

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. Area Agency on Aging programs and services include:

- ◆ Information and Assistance
- ◆ Assistive Technology
- ◆ Caregiver Education
- ◆ Wellness Programs
- ◆ Home Modification (Wheelchair Ramp Construction)
- ◆ Nutrition Services, Including Senior Center Services, Home Delivered Meals, and Nutrition Education
- ◆ Case Management
- ◆ Personal Care Services
- ◆ Caregiver In-Home Respite
- ◆ Alzheimer's Adult Day Care
- ◆ Money Follows the Person and Nursing Home Transitions
- ◆ Options Counseling
- ◆ Homemaker Services
- ◆ Elderly Legal Assistance Program
- ◆ Care Consultation
- ◆ Elderly and Disabled Waiver Program (EDWP)

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Contact: Kimberly Hobbs

The SGRC's Community and Economic Development Program provides technical assistance to local governments in identifying projects to improve community programs and facilities (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.); 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. 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 (CDBG/CDBG-EIP/CDBG-RDF/CDBG-ITAD)
- ◆ USDA Public Facilities and Rural Business Development Grant/ Loan Programs
- ◆ FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program
- ◆ OneGeorgia Authority Equity and Edge Grant/Loan Programs
- ◆ Economic Development Administration (EDA) Public Works Grant Program
- ◆ Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) Grant/Loan Programs
- ◆ DNR Recreational Trails Program and Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants
- ◆ Department of Transportation (GDOT) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
- ◆ And a variety of other grants/loans

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Contact: Larry Adams

The Information Technology (IT) Services Program provides valuable services to local governments in our region. SGRC delivers desktop computer, server, and networking support.

The benefits of this service include:

◆ State Contract Pricing ◆ Quick response with local staff ◆ Free estimates

TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENTAL

Contact: Corey Hull

The SGRC's Transportation and Environmental Programs serve local governments in planning activities and deliver vital transportation services to clients. Since 2002, the SGRC has been the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Valdosta Urbanized Area, carrying out various long- and short-range transportation planning activities around metropolitan Valdosta. The SGRC also provides transportation planning services to rural counties in the region through a funding partnership with the Georgia Department of Transportation. These services are primarily focused on rural transit and bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure planning. The SGRC Coordinated Human Service Transportation Program serves, on average, 500 trips per day (for clients of Georgia Department of Human Services and other state agencies). These individuals receive transportation for a number of purposes including medical appointments, senior center attendance, and mental health program participation.

Partnering with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, local governments and private landowners, the SGRC Environmental Services Program develops and implements water quality best management practices along rivers and streams throughout the region.



Lisa Cribb
Executive Director

SOUTHERN GEORGIA
REGIONAL COMMISSION

Chris Strom
Assistant Executive
Director

Valdosta Office
327 West Savannah Avenue
Valdosta, GA 31601
(229) 333-5277

An Equal Opportunity Employer Program
WWW.SGRC.US

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

Mission Statement:

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