

In the REGION

Seven Southern Georgia Communities Awarded Over \$4.8 Million in CDBG Funds

On September 27, Governor Brian Kemp announced that sixty local governments will be awarded more than \$43 million in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to help improve their communities. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocated the annual funds to Georgia's CDBG program, which is administered by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

"Georgians in these 60 counties and neighboring communities will directly benefit from the quality-of-life improvements provided by the CDBG program," Governor Kemp said. "Our infrastructure investments are yielding great dividends, attracting major manufacturers and jobs to our state and helping keep Georgia the number one state for business."

DCA Commissioner Christopher Nunn echoed Gov. Kemp's sentiment: "I am extremely proud of these investments and the community impact

that will result from each one. These awards represent careful planning, hard work, and a commitment to improving local communities. It is extremely fulfilling to see the long-term impact CDBG funds have in Georgia. Investments this year will provide essential resources that benefit communities for years to come."



Harrell Road will be improved with CDBG funds in Cook County. Upon completion of the project, residents will no longer be endangered by this frequently flooded roadway.

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The Southern Georgia Regional Commission proudly serves Atkinson, Bacon, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brantley, Brooks, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Cook, Echols, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, Pierce, Tift, Turner, and Ware Counties.

Community and Economic Development

Seven Southern Georgia Communities Awarded Over \$4.8 Million in CDBG Funds (continued)

Local governments within the Southern Georgia Regional Commission's region were awarded just over \$4.8 million in CDBG funds. Those communities receiving grant funds include Bacon, Cook, and Ware Counties; and the following Cities of Adel, Broxton, Douglas, and Ocilla.

Listed below is a brief description of how CDBG funds will be utilized in each community.

City of Adel - \$710,713 – Neighborhood Revitalization

City of Broxton - \$592,227 – Water Improvements

Bacon County - \$737,315 – Street Paving and Drainage Improvements

Cook County - \$653,312 – Street Paving and Drainage Improvements

City of Douglas - \$637,875 – Housing Revitalization

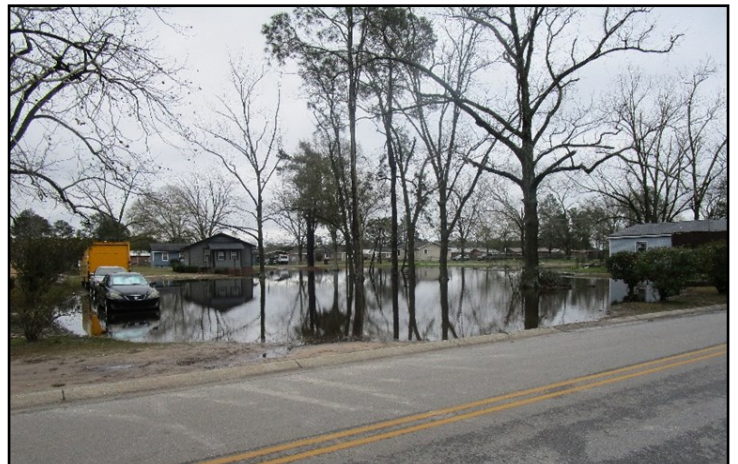
City of Ocilla - \$750,000 – Multi-Infrastructure Improvements

Ware County - \$750,000 – Street Paving and Drainage Improvements

The Southern Georgia RC's Community and Economic Development Division prepared six of the seven awarded CDBG applications in this region. DCA Commissioner Christopher Nunn will recognize local CDBG recipients at the SGRC Area Officials Appreciation Dinner at The Farm in Adel on October 26.



The Emerson Park area of Ware County's Street Paving and Drainage improvements will include six safe, paved roads on which to travel, and a functioning storm drainage system to efficiently remove rainwater from the neighborhood.



The City of Ocilla's Street Paving and Drainage Infrastructure improvements will alleviate the dangerous flooding conditions pictured here in Ocilla on McKinley Street & Roosevelt Street.

Local Government Services

Georgia Planning Association Fall Conference

The Georgia Planning Association (GPA) and the Tennessee Planning Association (TAPA) joined together this fall in Chattanooga, Tennessee for the annual fall planning conference. The meeting took place at the Chattanooga Convention Center in the heart of downtown Chattanooga. This year's conference, themed "2021 Moving Forward Together," covered three days beginning mid-day Wednesday October 6 through mid-day Friday October 8, 2021.

Over three hundred planners from across Georgia and Tennessee attended the fall conference to meet planners from both states and to earn professional education credits. At all times throughout the conference there were three concurrent meetings and one mobile workshop available to participants. The seminar topics included Equity, Community Engagement, Environmental Laws, Trail Development, Freight Planning, AICP Certification courses and much more.

Corey Hull, Elizabeth Backe, and James Horton attended from Southern Georgia Regional Commission and were all presenters in the formal conference agenda. Elizabeth and James joined with James Pope of Heart of Georgia – Altamaha Regional Commission to present a seminar entitled "Lessons Learned in Rural Engagement." This seminar focused on high-tech and low-tech methods to engage local officials and the public



in the planning process. Corey presented a seminar entitled "Planning for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles in Small Cities," which outlined future changes the design and function of streets with autonomous vehicles becoming the norm. Both workshops were well attended and proved successful with many questions and good discussion.

Contact the SGRC Planning Staff at (229)333-5277 for information on Government and Planning services available.

Geographic Information Services (GIS)

SGRC-GIS Announces SGRC 2020 Census HUB

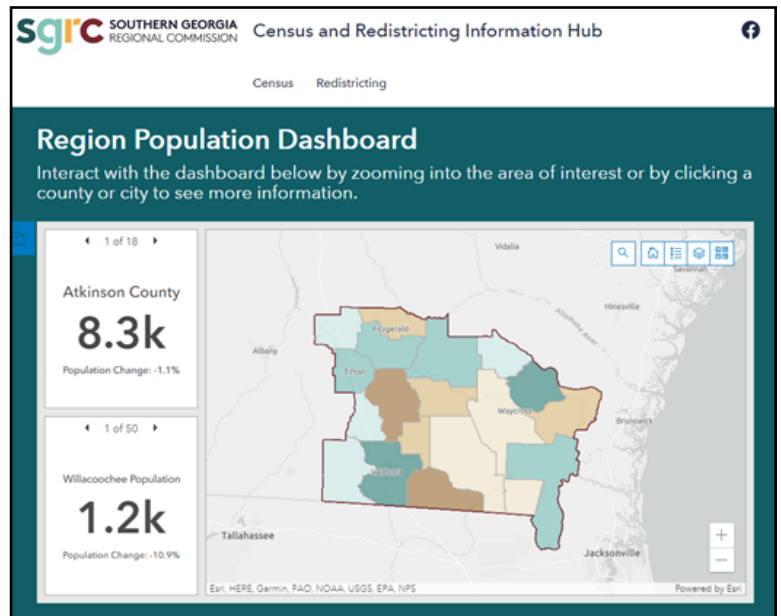
2020 Census data is available! SGRC-GIS Director Rachel Strom said the SGRC-GIS division is helping to navigate the wealth of information available by doing what it does best, mapping it. More than that, GIS wanted to create a “one-stop shop” for relevant 2020 Census information, whether it be for statistics, or finding resources as the information is slowly released.

ESRI’s HUB – a community engagement software, was the perfect platform on which to build an outreach solution. It allowed GIS staff to gather information from a variety of official sources, and present it in a way that makes sense to the SGRC region.

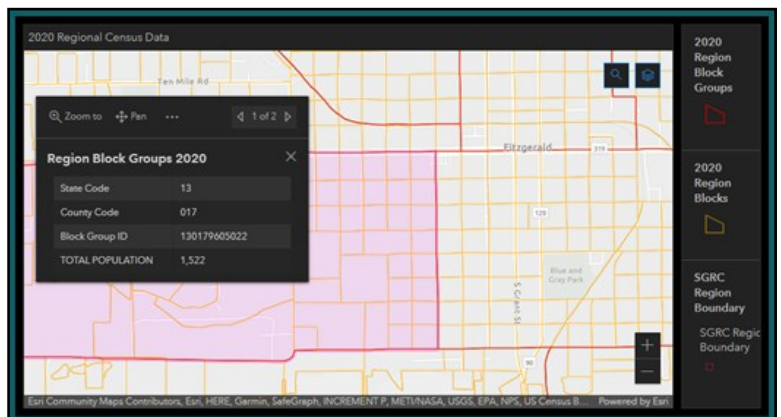
On the SGRC 2020 Census HUB there are city and county-wide population change interactive dashboards, links to official resources from the Census and GA reapportionment office, as well as more detailed local information - such as population by Census tracks, block groups, and blocks.

The SGRC 2020 Census HUB is accessible from a computer or mobile device with internet access at the following link: <https://www.sgrcmaps.com/RedistrictingInfo>.

For questions or to obtain more information, contact Rachel Strom at rstrom@sgrc.us.



2020 Region Population Dashboard



2020 Region Block Groups

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Geographic Information Services (GIS)

SGRC-GIS Mapping 2020 Census Data (continued)

The screenshot shows the website for the Southern Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC) Census and Redistricting Information Hub. The header includes the SGRC logo and navigation links for Home, Census, Redistricting, Elections & Voting, and Contact. A teal banner states: "The Legislative & Congressional Reapportionment & Redistricting Office is responsible for creating and updating state and congressional district lines in accordance with data from the United States Census." Below this is the seal of the Georgia General Assembly and text explaining that users can view maps of current districts under the "Statewide Plans" tab and find other information under the "Resources" tab. A "Go to the Data" button is provided. To the right, it asks users to direct all PDF requests for district maps to [Reapportionment Office via email](#). Contact information for the Georgia General Assembly | Office of Legislative & Congressional Reapportionment is listed: 407 Coverdell Legislative Office Building, 18 Capitol Square, Atlanta, GA 30334, Phone: 404-656-5063. A video player titled "Joint Redistricting Informational Video" is embedded, showing a woman in a legislative setting. To the right of the video, under "For More Information", are links to: [2020 Census Population Count Updates](#), [2021-2022 Guidelines For The House Legislative And Congressional Reapportionment Committee](#), [Legislation Search](#), and [Redistricting Process](#). A footer note says: "View more videos like this from the [Georgia House of Representatives](#) here."

SGRC 2020 Census and Redistricting Information Hub

Area Agency on Aging (AAA)

SGRC-AAA Observes Residents' Rights Month in October

The SGRC Aging Division consistently recognizes the importance of participant's rights and seeks to provide services and resources that are person-centered and based on the needs and preferences of the people served. Residents' Rights Month is an annual event designated by the Consumer Voice and is celebrated in October to honor residents living in all long-term care facilities and consumers receiving services in their home or community.



The 2021 Residents' Rights Month theme, which is "Reclaiming My Rights, My Home, My Life", acknowledges the impact of this past year on residents and highlights the need for residents' rights to be recognized, recovered, and reasserted. The theme focuses on raising awareness of federally mandated residents' rights while also underscoring the need for dignity and self-determination. Visit www.theconsumervoice.org for more information.

Resident's Rights in Long-Term Care Facilities & Community Settings



Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs act as advocates for residents of nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and similar residential care facilities.

Find a local program at:
www.acl.gov/ombudsman

The right to information, in a language you understand.



The right to participate in all aspects of your care.



The right to privacy and confidentiality.

The right to make **INDEPENDENT CHOICES** based on your needs and preferences.



The right to participate in social, religious, and **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES.**

THE RIGHT TO...

- safe and appropriate transfer and discharge, including the right to appeal decisions.
- complain without fear of repercussions.
- be free from discrimination, abuse, neglect, and restraints.



The right to organize and participate in resident groups or councils.



The right to information about living in the community.

The right to adequate medical care and treatment.



The right to **VISITS** from friends, family, providers and other people of your choosing.



Area Agency on Aging (AAA)

SGRC Recognizes Staff for Years of Service



**Angela Swinford, Manager of
Community Transitions Program**

The SGRC-AAA Division would like to congratulate Angela Swinford on twenty years of service to the SGRC. Angela is an LPN and the Manager of Community Transitions for the AAA which provides the Nursing Home Transitions and Money Follows the Person Programs. These services help people age sixty and above, and those with certain disabilities, to transition home and back into the community from long-term care and rehabilitation facilities.

Congratulations Angela!



Linda Gail, Program Manager

The SGRC-AAA Division would like to congratulate Linda Gail on ten years of service to the SGRC. Linda is a Program Manager for the AAA and administers various aging services contracts, including those for nutrition services throughout the region. She is an active member of the Senior Hunger Coalition and the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.

Congratulations Linda!

Transportation and Environmental

SGRC Transportation Division Shares Answers to Frequently Asked Regional Public Transit Questions

Regional public transit began on July 1, 2021 for Atkinson, Bacon, Berrien, Brantley, Brooks, Charlton, Coffee, Cook, Irwin, Lowndes, Pierce, Tift, Turner and Ware counties. The opportunity for public ridership is now available to the general public and riders are able to schedule trips for any purpose within the participating regional counties. Since the onset of the program, there are several questions that are asked frequently regarding the service. So, to provide information to the general public, the SGRC Transportation Division has shared the following answers to the most frequently asked regional public transit questions:

Can I book rides without a smartphone?

Yes, simply call 1 (855) 360-7475 for assistance over the phone.

How much does a trip cost?

Trip cost is determined by the mileage it takes from pick-up to drop-off. 1-10 miles= \$3.00. 10+ miles is \$.50/a mile. Example: 12 miles= \$4.00. Rates are on a per trip, per person basis.

Can I book a ride in advance?

Yes, riders must provide a 24-hour notice to book a trip.

How many days in advance can I book?

Rides may only be booked 1 day in advance.

Can I book a recurring set of rides?

No, recurring rides may not be booked. Transportation is booked on a day-to-day basis

Can I bring someone along with me?

Yes, ADA allows for a “Personal Care Attendant.” Transportation cost is determined by mileage and is charged at a per person rate. This cost would apply to all individuals riding.

What happens if I cancel my ride?

There is a fee for cancelled rides, unless the ride is cancelled within 1 minute of the time it is booked.

What do I do if my driver left without me?

Please call (855) 360-7475. If the driver is available, they may be able to return and continue the scheduled trip.

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Transportation and Environmental

SGRC Transportation Division Shares Answers to Frequently Asked Regional Transit Questions (continued)

What do the vehicles look like?

All vehicles are white with blue lines and the county's name. However, Tift County has a different design and the name "Tift Lift" is on vehicles that operate in Tift County.

Are vehicles wheelchair accessible?

Yes! Wheelchair accessible vehicles are available. Riders who need assistance boarding a vehicle should report the need when booking a trip.

I left something in the vehicle — how do I retrieve it?

Please call (855) 360-7475 to check with the office for lost belongings .

What time will I be picked up?

We ask that all passengers are ready up to 1 hour prior to appointment time.

Do I have to return the same day?

No, a return trip may be scheduled for a different day and requires 24-hour notice.

Are there any vehicles that travel outside of the region?

Yes, rate is determined by mileage driven, cost may increase depending on how many miles driven.

Do the vehicles have seat belts?

Yes. All seats are equipped with seat belts and must be used at all times. Safety is a top priority.

The SGRC Transportation Division will continue to post updates in the future on this website: <https://www.sgrc.us/public-transit-services.html> and the SGRC Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/SouthernGeorgiaRC/>.

For more information about SGRC Regional Public Transit please contact Megan Fowler, Transit Manager, at (229) 333-5277 or mfowler@sgrc.us.



Small Business Lending

SGRC Small Business Lending Division Highlights COVID Relief Loan

Rex Dorsey, Director of the SGRC Small Business Lending Division, would like to remind small businesses that the Southern Georgia Regional Commission has been granted an EDA Award as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to set up a supplemental Revolving Loan Fund to respond to the unusual and compelling urgency of relief to small businesses in the region. These loans are available to existing businesses in Atkinson, Bacon, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brantley, Brooks, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Cook, Echols, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, Pierce, Tift, Turner, and Ware Counties.

All applicants should be prepared to send the following required application documents (additional information may be required):

- 1) SGRC Covid-19 Fund Application Form. A business plan may be required
- 2) SGRC Personal Information and Certifications Form
- 3) Personal Financial Statement Form - to be completed by each owner with 20% or more ownership
- 4) Most recent year Personal Tax Return (or the year prior with a copy of the extension for the current year)

- 5) Last 3 Years Business Tax Returns (if most recent tax return is unavailable, a Balance Sheet and Income Statement as of the most recent year end must be submitted)
- 6) Business Debt Schedule
- 7) Last Three Months Business Bank Account Statements
- 8) A debt schedule covering all existing debt on the business and affiliates
- 9) A copy of key cost documents such as real estate purchase contracts, contractor cost quotes, vendor quotes for machinery and equipment, etc.

For more information and directions to submit the loan, see the COVID-19 Relief Fund Loan Application link at the top of the Lending Division's page on the SGRC website at: <https://www.sgrc.us/lending.html>.

For questions on the SGRC Lending Division, via email contact Rex Dorsey at rdorsey@sgrc.us or Michelle Frey at mfrey@sgrc.us or contact either staff via telephone at (229) 333-5277.



Workforce Development

Amy Jones Awarded Workforce Development Hero Award

The SGRC Workforce Development Director Roberta Lovett recently announced that Amy Jones, Business Services/Sector Partnership Coordinator for SGRC Workforce Development was awarded a Workforce Development Hero Award from the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP).

Workforce Development Professionals Month is observed annually in September and was created in 2005 by the NAWDP to raise awareness about the importance of the industry to a growing national economy.

The person who nominated Amy said, “Amy goes above and beyond to help each and every individual client to overcome any barriers and be successful. She has developed a friendly working relationship within every one of the Southern Georgia's

18 counties that she covers, to assist companies and individuals. She has extended her hand to other regions and by doing so, she developed a relationship with South West Georgia (SOWEGA)'s Workforce Development Division, every hospital, and educators in all 18 counties of the SGRC Region.”

Lovett said, “We are incredibly pleased that Amy was recognized and received this accolade. She demonstrates a great deal of expertise in her position and is an outstanding asset to the SGRC Workforce Development Team.” Congratulations Amy!



Amy Jones, Business Services/Sector Partnership Coordinator for SGRC Workforce Development

Contact the SGRC

SGRC Council 2021 Meeting Schedule Meeting Locations TBD

**November – No meeting
(combined with December meeting)**
December 9, 2021 – 11:00 am

SGRC Staff Appreciation Event ~Tropical Treat with Kona Ice~



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