

Since 2005, the following communities in Georgia have directly benefited from the program:

Americus/Sumter County	Metter
Auburn	Milledgeville
Brunswick	Moultrie
Calhoun	Nashville/Berrien County
Camden County	Newnan
Cartersville	Rome
Colquitt	Sandersville
Cordele	Sylvania
Covington	Sylvester
Dalton/Whitfield County	Thomasville
Douglas	Thomson/McDuffie County
Eatonton	Tifton
Fort Valley	Toccoa
Gainesville	Valdosta
Garden City	Vienna
Gray/Jones County	Wadley
Griffin	Warner Robins
Hall County	Washington
Harlem	Waycross
Hawkinsville	Waynesboro
	Winder

“Covington’s involvement with GICH has paid great dividends. Not only has it helped us focus our housing efforts, it has also opened the door to financing opportunities that otherwise would have likely been out of reach for us. The resources shared by all of the sponsoring partners have allowed us to address our housing initiatives much quicker than we anticipated. We have also benefited by learning about programs and successes within other GICH communities. The program will pay dividends in Covington for many years to come.”

**– Mayor Kim Carter
City of Covington**

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&

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**Georgia Initiative for
Community Housing**

**Helping Your
Community
Meet Its
Housing &
Neighborhood
Revitalization
Needs**





What is the program?

Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) helps communities create and launch a locally based plan to meet their housing and neighborhood revitalization needs through

- Technical assistance
- Collaboration
- Expert presenters
- Training
- Facilitation
- Consensus building
- Networking
- Mentoring

What must interested communities do?

During the three-year program of technical assistance and cross-community sharing, participating community housing teams will:

- Attend two retreats a year with other participating communities
- Identify issues and needs, available resources, and potential obstacles
- Develop new ideas about meeting local housing needs and enhancing community development
- Learn about best practices and available resources and funding for housing and community development
- Produce a community housing plan with objectives and goals
- Begin implementation of the action plan

What is the program participation timeline?

- June..... Application posted online;
Attend resource session at GMA convention in Savannah
- July..... Attend informational webinar;
Submit letter of intent to apply
- September Submit written application; Second yearly retreat [after selected]
- October..... Site visit to finalist communities
- November Selection announcement
- February First yearly retreat

For more information contact:

Karen Tinsley
GICH Program Coordinator
Housing and Demographics
Research Center
University of Georgia

706.542.4949
klt@uga.edu

Visit the website:

www.fcs.uga.edu/hace/hdrc/gich

Local GICH Initiatives

The following are some examples of initiatives that have been undertaken by communities as a result of their participation in GICH:

- Targeted a distressed neighborhood for revitalization
- Developed multi-family tax credit apartments; redevelop a failed subdivision
- Revised out-dated codes and ordinances; adopt new ones
- Increased code enforcement; remove or demolish abandoned or dilapidated homes
- Created a Land Bank Authority or Community Land Trust
- Obtained first CDBG and CHIP grants; developed a rehabilitation program; provided housing counseling and down payment assistance; completed sewer/water infrastructure improvements
- Wrote and adopted an Urban Redevelopment Plan; created a Redevelopment Authority; obtained Opportunity Zone designation
- Conducted a housing assessment and windshield survey
- Partnered with Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together, Work Camp, churches, and others
- Convened neighborhood clean-up days; establish neighborhood watch programs
- Launched an education/public awareness campaign