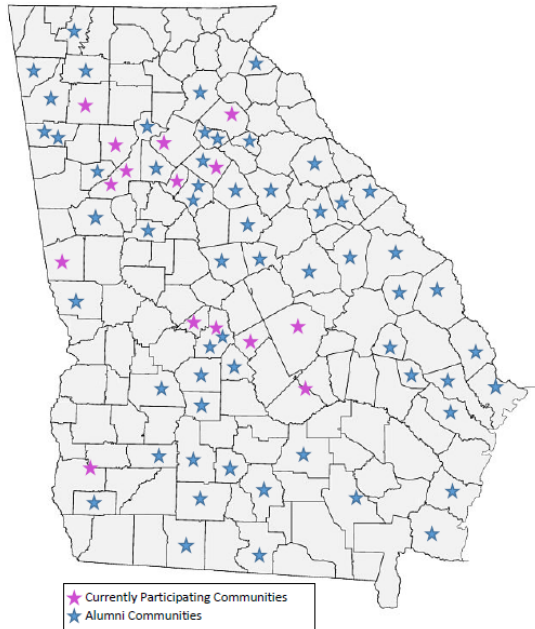


## GICH Impact in Georgia

Since 2005, 71 communities have participated on local housing planning teams and have directly benefited from the program.



*“As part of the City of Auburn’s strategic plan, we joined the program to better understand our housing needs through an assessment. The team we put together was a community build-ing experience in and of itself. We planned and toured and learned together. Our community assessment showed the need for affordable housing for our senior citizens. Although it took two years, we now have senior apart-ments that fit right in with our city. The entire city has benefitted from the GICH experience - our planning department, our codes and enforcement officer, our team. This is a vital program to all cities.”*

**– Mayor Linda Blechinger, City of Auburn**

## Partners



Housing and Demographics Research Center



## Founding Sponsor



The UGA Archway Partnership, UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government, and UGA Extension provide in-kind support. In 2018, the program was partially funded by the Wells Fargo Foundation and the USDA Rural Development RCDI grant.

*Helping Your Community Meet Its Housing Needs*





## What is the program?

GICH helps communities improve their quality of life and economic vitality through the development of locally-driven housing and revitalization strategies. This is achieved through:

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

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

- Attend biannual retreats 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 strategic housing plan with measurable goals
- Begin implementation of the action plan

**Visit the website:**

[www.fcs.uga.edu/fhce/gich](http://www.fcs.uga.edu/fhce/gich)

## What is the program participation timeline?

- April ..... Application posted online
- May ..... View informational webinar
- June ..... Visit exhibit booth & submit Letter of Intent to apply
- July ..... Submit written application
- August ..... Site visits to finalist communities
- October ..... Selection announcement
- February & September .... Attend biannual retreats (selected communities)

## What must interested communities do?

- Begin identifying potential team members
- Meet to discuss housing issues and needs
- Request GICH overview/presentation
- Review online application and other information at [www.fcs.uga.edu/fhce/gich](http://www.fcs.uga.edu/fhce/gich)

**For more information contact us at [gich@uga.edu](mailto:gich@uga.edu) or 706-542-4949**

### 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 and/or Revitalization Area Strategies designations
- 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