



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT







# Rural Georgia Initiatives

# Meet the GDEcD Rural Team!



# Rural Georgia Initiatives - Our Mission

- To help rural Georgia communities become more competitive for economic development projects and sharing best practices for attracting jobs and investment
- To work diligently to “connect the dots” and advance these strategies, thereby improving the quality of life for those residing in Georgia’s rural communities



# GDEcD Opportunities for Rural Georgia

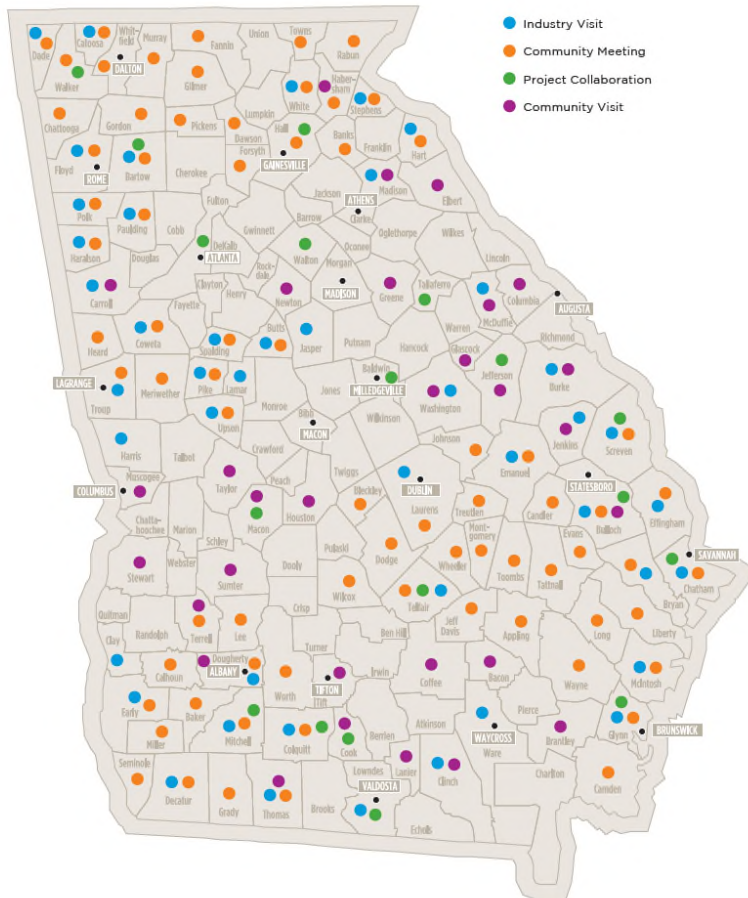
- Georgia has Trade activity in 223 countries and territories worldwide with total trade activity exceeding \$139.3 billion in 2018
- Tourism is a \$63.1 billion industry for the state, and it employs 460,000 Georgians
- The Film industry represents a \$9.5 billion economic impact on the state
- The Arts employ almost 134,000 Georgians
- The Centers of Innovation supported 1,185 companies in FY 2018 leading to \$52.7 million in direct economic benefit and \$486 million in future investments





# Global Commerce in FY 2018

- 27,373 new jobs and \$5.56 billion in investments
- Record-breaking 419 expansion or relocation projects throughout Georgia
- 78% located outside of Metro Atlanta counties
  - 14,447 jobs
  - \$4.6 billion in investments



# Rural Georgia Initiatives

## Where we've been

**88+ Community Meetings**  
 plus additional visits to  
 counties where our assistance  
 has been needed

# Top 5 Issues Raised During Community Meetings

1. **Human Capital** (workforce development, brain drain, leadership)
2. **Healthcare** (lack of access, lack of support for existing providers)
3. **Housing** (lack of new housing in southern Georgia, lack of affordable housing in northern Georgia)
4. **Broadband** (“last mile” of connectivity)
5. **Aging Infrastructure** (mainly due to lack of tax base to make investments)



# Top 5 Issues Raised During Community Meetings

1. **Human Capital** (workforce development, brain drain, leadership)
  - *TCSG, College and Career Academies, local leadership programs*
2. **Healthcare** (lack of access, lack of support for existing providers)
  - *Patients First Act, HRDC hearings – CON discussions*
3. **Housing** (lack of new housing in southern Georgia, lack of affordable housing in northern Georgia)
  - *Georgia Power Housing Summit – Spring 2019, local legislative/zoning changes*
4. **Broadband** (“last mile” of connectivity)
  - *Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative (2018 ACE Act and 2019 Expanding Rural Broadband Access)*
5. **Aging Infrastructure** (mainly due to lack of tax base to make investments)
  - *USDA RD Community Facilities Grant/Loan program, CDBG program, OneGeorgia programs*

# What the team is hearing in Rural Georgia

88+ community meetings

Strengths	Challenges
School System/Graduation Rates	School System/Graduation Rates
Quality of Life/Downtown Area	Quality of Life
Healthcare/Hospital	Healthcare/Hospital
Transportation - Airport, Interstate, Railroad	Transportation - Airport, Interstate, Railroad
Local Government Leadership	Local Government Leadership
Agriculture/Agribusiness/Agritourism	Internet Access/Cell Phone Coverage
Loyal Community Members/Great Place to Live	Workforce-Recruitment/Skill Level/Soft Skills



# What rural communities are sharing

88+ community meeting

## Community Ideas and Potential Solutions

State money for developing economic development product

Put “border county” and “bedroom communities” into Tier calculation

State assistance/money for website design and development

More money for rural infrastructure (roads, water/sewer, etc.)

Grants to bring historic buildings up to code to be usable again

# Rural Georgia Initiatives - Our Goal

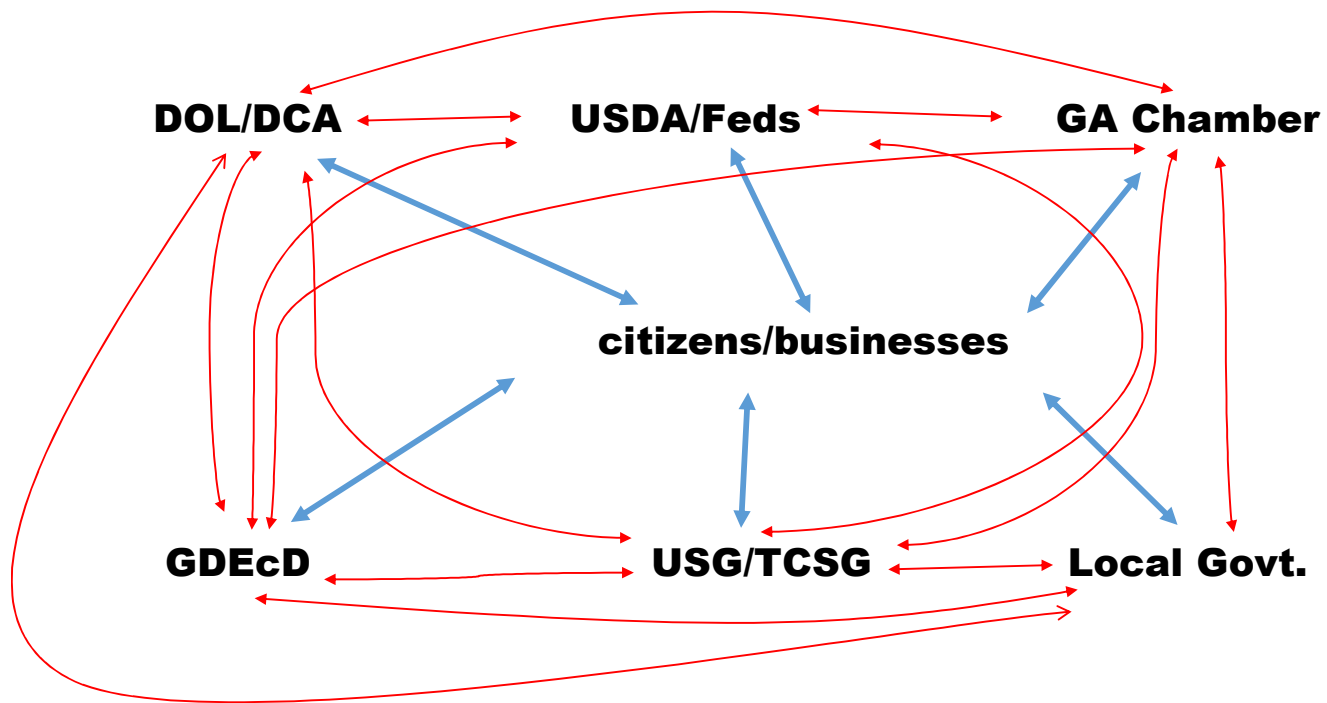
Long-term, it is our goal to see Rural Georgia grow and become more competitive for economic development activity.

It could be many years before we actually see the fruits of our labors.





# Georgia Resources Web Example



# Questions?

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