

Economic Development Finance Programs



Department of Community Affairs
Mike Beatty
Commissioner

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Economic Development Financing Packet



Georgia Department of Community Affairs
60 Executive Park South, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30329-2231
(404) 679-1593

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Introduction and Acknowledgements

Thank you for contacting the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), Office of Economic Development (OED) for your copy of the Economic Development Finance Packet (EDFP). The EDFP is a comprehensive listing of state, federal, local and national programs that are designed to promote economic development and business enhancement in Georgia. The Department is appreciative of the many agencies that have willingly provided information on their programs. The information in this packet was summarized from each agency's material.

While we feel that this packet is thorough, it does not include every applicable program that could benefit businesses. Programs that are of interest to you, your business, or your organization should be contacted directly. All possible contact information has been provided where feasible. However, please be aware that each program may have periodic updates that may not be included in this version of the EDFP. As changes or corrections are brought to the attention of OED, the most expeditious corrections will be reflected on the DCA website at www.dca.state.ga.us. However, the OED strongly recommends that you contact the organization of interest directly for the most current information and procedures.

For individuals who are seeking to start their own business or want to expand an existing business, the Small Business Administration (SBA) section of the EDFP should be reviewed in its entirety. To be eligible for assistance from the SBA, a business must meet certain SBA criteria. By definition, a very small business is defined as a business with no more than 15 employees and less than \$1 million in annual receipts. The SBA further defines small businesses by number of employees, annual average sales receipts, and by industry. Contact the SBA directly for more detailed information. The SBA, through its Small Business Development Center (SBDC) network, offers business owners and prospective business owners, instruction in the fundamentals of business operations, including the cornerstone of any business, the business plan. SBDCs also provide up-to-date training, counseling, and other forms of technical assistance. There are nineteen (19) SBDCs located strategically throughout Georgia.

In addition to the SBA section, there are an assortment of programs that are specifically tailored to smaller businesses. These programs will have an SB designation next to its listing in the table of contents. One question the OED fields on a frequent basis is, "Can an individual obtain a grant to start a business?" The straightforward answer to this question is "No!" Additionally, the OED is not aware of any grant programs that offer no-cost financial assistance to individuals who want to start a for-profit business. While there are grant programs available, (some are listed in this packet) grants are generally made to units of local government and non-profit organizations to carry out a specific mission. Examples in the economic development arena include, but are not limited to, job creation and retention, downtown redevelopment, and other community redevelopment efforts that result in public benefit. Only businesses and organizations that work closely with the appropriate local government entity, and make firm job creation and private investment commitments, will be *considered* for these programs.

It is the Department's pleasure to provide you with this updated version of the EDFP. We again want to thank the many organizations listed in the EDFP that have made a mission of fostering business growth in Georgia. We hope that the information contained in the EDFP results in continued business expansions and start-ups in the great State of Georgia!

Please feel free to contact the Department for further information.

Georgia Department of Community Affairs
60 Executive Park South, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30329-2231
404-679-4940

www.dca.state.ga.us

Coleen Gelot
Economic Development Consultant
404-679-3110
cgelot@dca.state.ga.us

Ross J. Avina III
Senior Credit Underwriter
404-679-1593
ravina@dca.state.ga.us

Andy Yarn
Economic Development Consultant
404-679-1589
ayarn@dca.state.ga.us

How to Operate a Business Legally in Georgia

Every new business owner should be aware that a business license is necessary to operate legally in Georgia. Obtaining a business license will depend upon where the business is located. If the physical address of the business is within the corporate limits of a city, then the license can be obtained from the city; if the business is located outside the corporate limits of a city, then the license can be obtained from the county. However, license acquisition is just the starting point. Business owners should be aware of multiple state and federal requirements that are necessary to operate. This can include withholding tax, workers compensation, sales and use tax, labor law compliance, and occupancy permits to name a few.

Finding out this information can be difficult since there are agencies at the federal, state, and local levels that may need to be consulted. The information in this packet is not all-inclusive and should not be considered a substitute for legal assistance from a qualified attorney. Also, since these requirements are subject to change, business owners should contact individual departments for the most current information.

To this end, the Secretary of State's office offers the First Stop Business Information Center to assist business owners. The center is designed to offer one-stop shopping on the licensing and permitting of businesses in Georgia. Their contact information can be found on page 7 of this packet.

Businesses that want to provide child care services need to contact the Department of Human Resources (DHR). Organizations caring for less than six children need to *register* with DHR. If providing care for more than seven children, the organization needs to be *licensed*. For more information, contact:

Bright from the State Georgia Department of Early Learning

10 Park Place South, Suite 200
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 657-5562
<http://www.decal.state.ga.us>

Businesses involved in food processing or grocery sales need a food sales establishment license from the Georgia Department of Agriculture before starting. An inspection is also required and may be requested by phone. An application for business will be accepted if the inspection shows that the establishment meets the department's requirements. Help can be obtained from the Department of Agriculture in preparing for the inspection. It is advised that business owners contact the department before investing in any renovation, equipment or plans. For information, contact:

Georgia Department of Agriculture

Consumer Protection Division
19 Martin Luther King Drive
Agriculture Building, Room 306
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
(404) 656-3627
<http://agr.georgia.gov>

Firms engaged in cooking or food preparation, including restaurants, hotels and nursing homes, are licensed by the county environmental health departments.

Categories of business that concern the public interest are subject to special permits, licensing and inspection. This includes, but is not limited to, schools, nurseries, motor transport, public entertainment, employment agencies, securities dealers and financial institutions. For more information on these types of businesses, contact the

State of Georgia Information Line
(404) 656-2000
www.georgia.gov

Businesses which sell alcoholic beverages must have a state alcoholic beverage license and a local license which is obtained from either the city or county in which the store is located. The application forms for the licenses must be completed before the business is opened. Local authorities and the Department of Revenue can be of assistance in preparing the application. For information and application forms from the state contact:

Department of Revenue
Alcohol & Tobacco Unit
1800 Century Blvd., N.E., Suite 4235
Atlanta, Georgia 30345-3205
(404) 417-4900
www.etax.dor.ga.gov

Taxes cannot be ignored, of course. Business owners are required by law to withhold the following from the wages paid to employees: federal income taxes, state income taxes and FICA (Social Security) Insurance.

Income taxes will also be levied by the federal and state governments on earnings of any business. Therefore, each business must file an income tax return with both agencies. Businesses may be required to file estimated tax returns and pay estimated taxes on a quarterly basis.

For federal tax information, contact:

U.S. Internal Revenue Service
275 Peachtree St., N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
1-800-829-1040
www.irs.gov

State tax information can be obtained from:

Georgia Department of Revenue
Taxpayer Services Division
1800 Century Blvd., N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30345-3205
(404) 417-2400
www.etax.dor.ga.gov

The IRS has a number of publications that are available upon request to small businesses. One of the most helpful is "Your Business Tax Kit," which includes data and forms for Federal Employer Identification Number and a tax guide for small businesses that can be ordered by calling Forms and Publications at 1-800-829-3676 or through a visit to the IRS office.

In Georgia there is a 4 percent sales and use tax which applies to the retail purchase, retail sale, rental, storage, use or consumption of tangible personal property and certain services. In other words, sales tax must be collected on just about every tangible personal property and certain services. Sales tax must also be collected on just about every tangible item sold, except for the exempt categories of prescription drugs, eyeglasses and contact lenses.

A sales tax number is required for each business before opening. The number plus instructions for collection, reporting and remitting the money to the state on a monthly basis can be obtained from:

Georgia Department of Revenue
Sales and Use Tax Division
1800 Century Blvd., N.E., Suite 8214
Atlanta, Georgia 30345
(404) 417-6601
www.etax.dor.ga.gov

In addition, some counties have exercised local option issues to increase their sales and use tax to pay for certain projects.

Businesses are required by the state to pay unemployment insurance tax if the company has one or more employees for 20 weeks in a calendar year or it has paid gross wages of \$1,500 or more in a calendar quarter. The taxes are payable at a rate of 2.7 percent on the first \$8,500 in annual wages of an employee. Unemployment insurance must be reported and returns made to the state. For information contact:

Georgia Department of Labor
Adjudication Section, Sussex Place
148 International Blvd., N.E., Suite 850
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-1751
(404) 232-3301
www.dol.state.ga.us

If a business employs three or more, workers' compensation insurance must be carried to provide protection to those injured in on-the-job accidents. The State Board of Workers' Compensation aids people who need claim assistance. For information contact:

State Board of Workers' Compensation
270 Peachtree St., N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-1299
(404) 656-3875
<http://sbwc.georgia.gov>

Virtually all business entities are subject to the federal minimum wage, overtime and child labor laws. Information on these laws and other federal laws pertaining to labor, may be obtained from:

U.S. Department of Labor
Wage and Hour Division
Room 7m40
61 Forsyth St., S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 893-4525
www.dol.gov

Incorporating a business allows a firm to take advantage of the limited liability of a corporation. A corporation is usually a taxpayer separate from its owners, unless the company decides it wants to be an "S" corporation for special tax consideration. Contact an attorney or accountant for information on just what each designation can mean to the firm.

Legal assistance will be needed to incorporate. Incorporation involves checking with the Secretary of State to see if the name chosen for the business is available. Typed Articles of Incorporation must then be submitted, along with a fee. Additionally, a notice of incorporation must be published in the official legal newspaper for the county. There is also a fee for this printing. Each business must submit a consent from a person who will act as registered agent for service of process on the corporation. This consent must be filed along with the Articles of Incorporation. The articles must name at least three directors, unless the corporation will have two or fewer shareholders. For more information, contact:

Secretary of State, Corporations Division
315 West Tower, Floyd Building
Two Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, S.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
(404) 656-2817

Trademarks and service marks may be registered under federal laws or state laws. In Georgia, an application form should be filed, along with a \$15 fee and copies of the trademark or service mark. Registration is then good for 10 years. For further information contact the **Office of the Secretary of State at: Trademarks Section, Secretary of State**

Corporations Division, 306 West Tower
Floyd Building
Two Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, S.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
(404) 656-2861
<http://sos.georgia.gov/corporations/trademarks.htm>

For federal information contact:

General Information Services Division
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Crystal Palace 3, Room 2C02
Washington, DC 20231
(800) 786-9199
www.uspto.gov

Secretary of State First Stop Business Information Center

The First Stop Business Information Center provides the small business owner and the prospective entrepreneur with a central point of information and contacts for state regulatory requirements for operating a small business.

Businesses that use any name other than the owner's must register this fictitious name with the county as required by the Trade Name Registration Act. This registration requirement does not apply to corporations doing business under their corporate names or to those practicing any profession under a partnership name. For information contact the Clerk of the Superior Court for the county in which the business is located.

Last but not least, if an established business is to be bought, the purchaser must comply with the Bulk Sales Law. This law requires that at least five days before the actual purchase, each creditor must be personally notified of the proposed sale. In counties of more than 200,000 population, this intent must be published at least one time in the county legal newspaper not less than seven days prior to completion of the purchase. An attorney should be consulted about this procedure.

For further information contact the Office of the Secretary of State at:

Suite 315 West Tower
Floyd State Office Towers
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
1-800-656-4558
(404) 656-7061
(404) 657-6380 Fax
(404) 656-2392 TTY Communication
firststop@sos.state.ga.us
www.sos.state.ga.us/firststop

***GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (DCA)***

www.dca.state.ga.us

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE PROGRAMS

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Annual Competition Economic Development Program

The primary objective of the economic development (ED) component of the CDBG program is the expansion of economic opportunities in cities and counties, principally for persons of low-and moderate-income. This is accomplished by funding viable projects which cannot take place without CDBG assistance. Applicants should note that any project must create or retain jobs for low- and moderate-income persons.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants under Georgia's CDBG annual competition program are cities and counties. Excluded are metropolitan cities, urban counties and other units of governments eligible to participate in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) urban counties or metropolitan cities program. Ineligible applicants under Georgia's program are Albany, Atlanta, Augusta-Richmond County, Brunswick, Dalton, Gainesville, Hinesville, Macon, Marietta, Rome, Savannah, Valdosta, and Warner Robins; the Athens-Clarke County Unified Government, the Columbus Consolidated Government, Clayton County, Cobb County, DeKalb County, Fulton County, Gwinnett County, and any incorporated city within a HUD Entitlement Urban County which chooses to participate with the Urban County through a cooperating agreement.

Eligible Projects

CDBG annual competition grants may be loaned to businesses or used to build public infrastructure that make business projects possible and which will create employment for low-and moderate-income persons. Generally eligible are:

1. Projects carried out by public or private nonprofit entities including:
 - (a) acquisition of real property;
 - (b) acquisition, construction or rehabilitation of public facilities, site improvements and utilities.
2. Loans to private businesses, when assistance is necessary and appropriate to carry out an economic development project.

Grant and Loan Conditions

Loans are usually made at below-market rates with favorable terms (but no more favorable than the minimum necessary to make the project feasible). A payback is not required where CDBG funds are used for public infrastructure projects, but the applicant community must present evidence that it cannot finance the project without assistance. Private businesses which are the primary beneficiary under a public facility project are required to warrant their commitments to invest and create jobs with an irrevocable letter of credit.

Maximum Funds Available

The amount available for the Annual Competition depends on the funding the State receives annually from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). For Fiscal Year 2007, the total State CDBG funding level is approximately \$43 million with approximately \$36 million available for the annual competition.

The amount used for economic development projects will depend upon the number and quality of the applications received and upon the demand for funds in the areas of housing and public facilities. The maximum CDBG annual competition amount that may be applied for is \$500,000.

Deadline

Applications for the CDBG annual competition program usually must be submitted during the second quarter of each calendar year. The final deadline is announced each year by DCA, and only one competition is held each year. Awards are generally announced 90 days after the receipt of applications.

Program Requirements

Funding is very competitive; typically one in two applicants is successful.

- To be competitive as an ED project, CDBG dollars must be leveraged at a minimum of one private dollar to every CDBG dollar; leverage ratios of 2 to 1 are not uncommon.
- Job creation is a major competitive factor.
- Awards are contingent upon firm commitments by other financial participants.
- Personal guarantees and adequate collateral.

For further information contact:

Joanie Perry, Director, Office of Economic Development
Community Development and Finance Division
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
60 Executive Park South, N. E.
Atlanta, GA 30329-2231
(404) 679-3173
jperry@dca.state.ga.us
www.dca.state.ga.us

Employment Incentive Program (EIP)

General Description

The Employment Incentive Program (EIP) is a financing program capitalized with State CDBG funds that may be used by private businesses along with conventional private financing to carry out economic development projects which will result in employment of low- and moderate-income persons. Projects that create opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons to advance themselves by obtaining employment, greater job security, better working conditions, job training, enhancement of workplace skills and advancement opportunities receive the greatest consideration.

Eligibility Requirements

Eligible EIP activities encompass three broad areas:

1. Grants to local governments for the installation of public infrastructure which will support an eligible economic development project. Eligible projects include public water and sewer systems, distribution and/or collection lines, wastewater treatment projects, rail spurs, and various other types of public facilities;
2. Grants to local governments who then loan the EIP proceeds to a sub-recipient business to finance various fixed assets which will be used in an eligible economic development project. Eligible uses for EIP loan funds include financing for a variety of fixed assets: land, new facilities, rehabilitation of existing facilities, machinery and equipment, and some types of privately owned infrastructure; and
3. Grants to local governments for assistance to local development entities and other local non-profit corporations to fund facilities which assist low- and moderate-income persons to acquire employment, the employment skills and/or basic educational training to become more effective participants in the local economy. Eligibility for such activities will be limited to "new" activities which have not previously been undertaken by the unit of local government or local development entity. EIP projects must always create or retain employment principally for low- and moderate-income persons.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants for funding under Georgia's EIP program are units of general-purpose local government. Excluded are metropolitan cities, urban counties and other units of government eligible to participate in HUD's urban counties, or metropolitan cities program. Currently, ineligible applicants under Georgia's program are Albany, Athens-Clarke County Unified Government, Atlanta, Augusta-Richmond County, Brunswick, Clayton County, Columbus Consolidated Government, Cobb County, Dalton, DeKalb County, Fulton County, Gainesville, Gwinnett County, Hinesville, Macon, Marietta, Rome, Roswell, Savannah, Valdosta and Warner Robins, as well as any incorporated city within a HUD Entitlement Urban County which chooses to participate through a Cooperating Agreement with the Urban County in the HUD Entitlement Program or any other community designated by HUD as an entitlement community.

Assistance Amounts

The maximum EIP grant or loan amount is \$500,000. Each dollar in EIP funds must leverage a minimum of one dollar in private investment.

Financing Terms

Each business receiving EIP assistance must enter into a legally binding agreement with the local government detailing performance criteria for job creation and private investment. Agreements based on EIP grants for infrastructure are backed by irrevocable stand-by letters of credit the

business must supply. Projects involving direct loans are underwritten and collateralized using standard commercial loan documents. Performance criteria for job-creation and investment are included in the EIP loan agreement. Equity contributions and loan-to-value ratios are set case-by-case. Loans must be fully collateralized. The interest rate and term of an EIP loan are determined on a case-by-case basis. The average rate is currently 3% and terms of EIP loans ranged between 4 and 15 years depending on the assets to be financed.

Deadlines

Local governments may submit an EIP application at any time. The Department strongly recommends applicants submit an initial project assessment (IPA) for any potential project. This allows applicants and the Department to assess the potential competitiveness of a proposed project prior to the submission of an application. An acceptable, complete EIP application may then be submitted. The application review usually takes approximately 45 days after receipt of a complete application.

For information on EIP loans-to-business projects contact:

Nyanza Duplessis
(404) 679-0563
ndupless@dca.state.ga.us

For information on EIP Public Infrastructure projects contact:

Andy Yarn
Community Development and Finance Division
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
60 Executive Park South, N. E.
Atlanta, GA 30329-2231
(404) 679-1589
ayarn@dca.state.ga.us
www.dca.state.ga.us

Regional Economic Business Assistance (REBA) Program

General Description

The Regional Economic Business Assistance (REBA) program is a specialized economic-development tool that may be used to enhance Georgia's competitiveness in attracting significant economic development projects and as a vehicle for significant local, regional or state-wide initiatives that will have either short- or long-term economic development benefits. REBA should not be used when other state or federal programs could be used or when local funds are sufficient to accomplish economic development goals.

Eligibility Requirements

Generally, REBA funds are targeted for projects in non-rural counties. All applications must include a recommendation from a state agency whose statutory powers include community and economic development (e.g., the Georgia Department of Economic Development). REBA projects should retain or create jobs in Georgia and result in new private investment in Georgia.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants for REBA funding are general-purpose local governments, local-government authorities, regional development centers, state agencies and state authorities.

Eligible Activities

Eligible activities include, but are not limited to: (1) public land acquisition and site development, (2) public infrastructure improvements, (3) publicly owned machinery and equipment, and (4) publicly owned / privately leased fixed assets and machinery and equipment.

Assistance Amounts

The maximum amount available for economic development projects varies based upon the recommendation made by the Georgia Department of Economic Development.

Deadlines

Eligible applicants may submit an application at any time.

For information regarding a recommendation for REBA funding contact:

The Georgia Department of Economic Development regional representative whose service area includes the potential business location or

Heidi Green, Deputy Commissioner
Georgia Department of Economic Development
(404) 962-4070

DCA Contact:

Dawn Sturbaum, Incentives Manager
(404) 679-1585
dsturbau@dca.state.ga.us

Downtown Development Revolving Loan Fund (DD RLF)

General Description

The purpose of the Downtown Development Revolving Loan Fund (DD RLF) is to assist cities, counties and development authorities in their efforts to revitalize and enhance downtown areas by providing below-market rate financing to fund capital projects in core historic downtown areas and adjacent historic neighborhoods where DD RLF will spur commercial redevelopment.

Eligible Applicants

- Eligible applicants under this program shall be municipalities with a population of 100,000 or less, counties with a population of 100,000 or less proposing projects in a core historic commercial area, and development authorities proposing projects in a core historic commercial area in municipalities or counties with a population of 100,000 or less. The ultimate user of funds may be a private business or a public entity such as a city or development authority.
- If the applicant is not the municipality in which the proposed activities will take place, then the application must include a resolution of support and commitment of cooperation from the applicable local government.
- Eligible applicants must have an existing downtown commercial area that meets two or more of the following characteristics:
 - (a) A significant number of commercial structures fifty (50) years old or older;
 - (b) Empty storefronts or documentation of an immediate threat to a downtown's commercial viability;
 - (c) A feasibility/market analysis identifying the businesses/activities which can be supported in the downtown area and a plan for attracting or retaining such businesses/activities;
 - (d) A downtown master plan and/or strategic plan designed to guide public or private investment;
 - (e) Commitment(s) for private/public funding to support downtown development activities (from banks, downtown development authorities, local businesses, other government agencies, etc.) enhancing, directly or indirectly the activity(s) to be financed with the Department's loan.

Eligible Activities

Applicants must demonstrate that they have a viable downtown development project and clearly identify the proposed uses of the loan proceeds. Once approved, funds may be used for such activities as: real estate acquisition, development, redevelopment, and new construction; rehabilitation of public and private infrastructure and facilities; purchase of equipment and other assets (on a limited basis).

Assistance Amounts

The maximum loan is \$250,000 per project. At its discretion, the Department may decide to loan an amount less than the amount requested in an application.

Loan Terms: Interest rate is below-market rates. Repayment period is typically ten years with a fifteen-year amortization. Security is usually project collateral and personal guarantees.

Application Deadlines

Applications will be accepted throughout the year and as loan funds are available to the Department.

For further information contact:

Alan Dickerson
Community Development and Finance Division
(404) 486-0224
adickers@dca.state.ga.us

Georgia Department of Community Affairs
60 Executive Park South, N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30329-2231
www.dca.state.ga.us

Note: The Department works closely with the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) through its Georgia Cities Foundation Program (GCF) to assist Georgia's downtown communities with revitalization. For more information on the GCF, visit the GCF website at www.georgiacitiesfoundation.org or contact Perry Hiott at (678) 686-6207 or by email at phiott@gmanet.com

Redevelopment Fund

General Description

The Redevelopment Fund, a set-aside of the State's non-entitlement CDBG program, provides flexible financial assistance including grants and loans to local governments to assist them in implementing challenging economic and community development projects that cannot be undertaken with existing public sector grant and loan programs. The Redevelopment Fund will reward locally initiated public / private partnerships by providing financing to leverage private sector investments in commercial, downtown, and industrial redevelopment and revitalization projects that need Redevelopment Fund investment to proceed. While all CDBG funded projects that create jobs must meet applicable low- and moderate-income criteria, the Redevelopment Fund will allow projects to be approved using an "eliminating slum and blight" national objective. The Redevelopment Fund may support and extend DCA's existing CDBG programs in order to allow redevelopment projects with "challenging economics" to be made competitive for DCA, private, and other public funding investments.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants under the Redevelopment Fund program are units of general purpose local governments classified as "non-entitlement" by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Excluded are entitlement cities, metropolitan cities, urban counties, and other units of government eligible to participate in HUD's urban county program. Ineligible applicants under Georgia's program are Albany, Atlanta, Augusta-Richmond County, Brunswick, Dalton, Gainesville, Hinesville, Macon, Marietta, Rome, Savannah, Valdosta, and Warner Robins; the Athens-Clarke County Unified Government, the Columbus Consolidated Government, Clayton County, Cobb County, DeKalb County, Fulton County, Gwinnett County, and any incorporated city within a HUD Entitlement Urban County which chooses to participate with the Urban County through a cooperating agreement.

Eligible Activities

Eligible activities under the Redevelopment Fund are those identified in Title I of The Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and all eligible activities under the Department's EIP, CDBG, and CDBG Loan Guarantee (Section 108) program. Activities are eligible to the extent that the funded activity meets the slum or blight national objective. Proposed activities must be based on firm written commitments from local governments and eligible sub-recipients. NOTE: For the Redevelopment Fund, the term "sub-recipient" may generally be interpreted as a business or corporation. However, in cases where the Redevelopment Funds are to be loaned to or passed through a local development authority, the development authority itself would also be a "sub-recipient" subject to the same rules and regulations as a benefiting business or corporation.

Available Financing

The maximum amount of assistance that can be applied for is \$500,000. In cases of projects with exceptional public benefits or need, the Commissioner of DCA may raise the allowable assistance amount. Projects involving direct loans are underwritten and collateralized using standard commercial loan documents. Performance criteria for job-creation and investment are included in the RDF loan agreement. Equity contributions and loan-to-value ratios are set case-by-case. Loans must be fully collateralized. The interest rate and term of an RDF loan are determined on a case-by-case basis. The average rate is currently 3% and terms of RDF loans ranged between 4 and 15 years depending on the assets to be financed.

For further information contact:

Joanie Perry

Community Development and Finance Division

Georgia Department of Community Affairs

60 Executive Park South, NE

Atlanta, Georgia 30329-2231

(404) 679-3173

jperry@dca.state.ga.us

www.dca.state.ga.us

Local Revolving Loan Funds (RLF)

Summary

Local Revolving Loan Funds (RLF) are potential sources of funding for new or expanding businesses in select areas throughout Georgia. The goal of each RLF is the creation of job opportunities, primarily for low and moderate-income persons.

Funding

Funds for each RLF are capitalized with a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and/or an Employment Incentive Program (EIP) or Redevelopment Fund (RDF) loan(s). As loan repayments are made, the RLF is established. Loan applications are received and reviewed by the local RLF committee and government that operate the RLF.

Eligible borrowers

- For-profit businesses
- Local development authorities

Ineligible borrowers

- Lending and Investment Institutions
- Unregulated Media (Newspapers and magazines)
- Speculative ventures
- Charitable organizations
- Passive-income companies

Program Requirements

Loan applications are reviewed by the local RLF committee in accordance with locally adopted policies and procedures. The local RLF committee determines loan amounts, rates and terms. Competitive applications include:

- A commitment to create jobs
- Firm commitments by other financial participants (leverage of \$1:\$1)
- Ability to service debt
- Personal guarantees
- Adequate collateral

How to apply

Call DCA for the RLFs in your area. DCA will give you the contact person for the RLF. For further information:

Michael Casper
Community Development and Finance Division
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
60 Executive Park South, N. E.
Atlanta, GA 30329-2231
(404) 679-0594
mcasper@dca.state.ga.us
www.dca.state.ga.us

Cities & Counties with Revolving Loan Funds

Alma	Crawford County	Liberty County	Sylvester Taliaferro
Alapaha	Crisp County	Manchester	County Telfair County
Americus Appling	Decatur County	McDuffie County	Thomson
County Arabi	Dodge County	McIntosh County	Tift County Toombs
Bainbridge	Early County	Montezuma	County Vidalia
Ben Hill	Eatonton	Monticello	Warren County
Berrien County	Gainesville Glynn	Moultrie	Waycross Waynesboro
Blackshear	County	Ocilla	Wilkinson County
Cairo	Greensboro	Pearson	Willacoochee Worth
Calhoun	Haralson County	Pierce County	County Wrens
Clarke	Hart County Heard	Plains	
Commerce	County Homerville	Preston Randolph	
Clarke County	Lanier County	County Rome	
Clinch County	Lavonia	Seminole County	
Cordele		Swainsboro	

Note: Fund size and availability vary by location.

Office of Field Services

The Department of Community Affairs Office of Field Services (OFS) in the Community Development and Finance Division provides expert technical assistance and on site services to assist local governments with development and implementation of projects to achieve community and economic development goals.

Technical Assistance

- Office of Field Services Representatives provides expert assistance to local governments, authorities, and other community groups with:
 - Project development. OFS Staff provides on site assistance that tailors available programs and services specifically to individual project needs.
 - Best practices. OFS Staff provides input and insight into most effective delivery methodologies to ensure project success.
 - Financing strategies. OFS Staff can help develop best strategy for deal structuring and various financing arrangements most suited for a specific project.
 - Project implementation. OFS Staff is assigned to each individual project to assist with project from start to finish.

- Provides ongoing support to assist local governments overcome problems that may be encountered during the project to ensure successful completion of projects

Compliance Monitoring

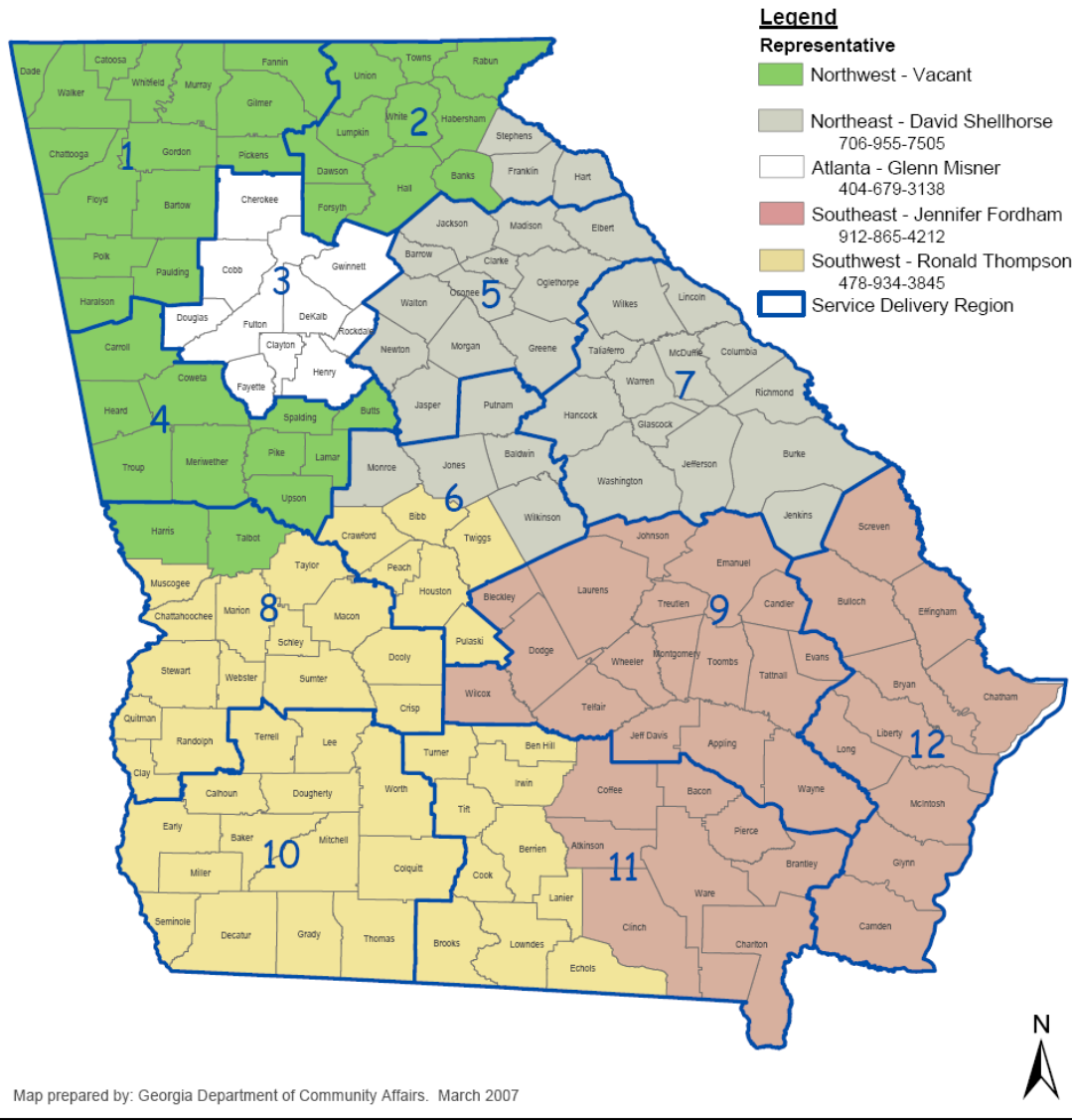
- Office of Field Services representatives monitor for compliance with State and Federal regulations in the following areas:
 - Property acquisition
 - Financial records
 - Labor standards
 - Citizen participation
 - Environmental review
 - Procurement

Contact Information:

METRO ATLANTA and NORTHWEST GA		NORTHEAST GA	
<u>Economic Dev.</u>	<u>Community Dev.</u>	<u>Economic Dev.</u>	<u>Community Dev.</u>
Glenn Misner	Brent Allen	David Shellhorse	Teresa Noles
(404) 679-3138	(404) 217-0733	(706) 955-7505	770-489-1984
gmisner@dca.state.ga.us	ballen@dca.state.ga.us	dshellho@dca.state.ga.us	tnoles@dca.state.ga.us
SOUTHEAST GA		SOUTHWEST GA	
Jennifer Fordham	Robert Compton	Ronald Thompson	Ray Pridgeon
(912) 865-4212	(229) 247-1137	(478) 934- 3845	(229) 725-6637
jfordham@dca.state.ga.us	rcompton@dca.state.ga.us	rthomps@dca.state.ga.us	rpridgeo@dca.state.ga.us

Office of Field Services

Economic Development Field Service Areas



Office of Downtown Development (ODD)

DCA's Office of Downtown Development (ODD) focuses on economic development through downtown revitalization, heritage preservation and restoring a sense of place. Our flagship program, the Georgia Main Street / Better Hometown Program, is a self-help community development program designed to improve a downtown's quality of life. These programs develop vision and leadership using the National Main Street Center's Four-Point Approach™: Organization, Design, Economic Restructuring and Promotion. Georgia Main Street / Better Hometown Programs also employ a professional downtown manager and build the program on the foundation of a local public/private partnership. In addition, we now offer the ODD Affiliate Option for those cities for whom a Main Street / Better Hometown Program is not the desired approach. By committing to a designated downtown manager and utilizing the four points, cities can explore downtown development in a less traditional setting. All ODD programs are grounded in the Main Street Four-Point Approach™ to downtown development.

Training & Special Projects

- Develops and delivers training and workshops on downtown development skills and issues
- Provides support to cities in Metropolitan Atlanta with specialized, advanced training and technical assistance
- Co-sponsors the Annual Georgia Downtown Conference with the Georgia Downtown Development Association

Special Initiatives

- Urban Georgia Network: Networking forum for larger, urban and MSA-area programs
- New Town Networking (new for 2008): Designed to assist communities which lack a definable downtown/central business district or lack a critical mass of historic buildings in their Central Business District
- Seasoned Managers Retreats: Advanced-level networking and training for experienced downtown managers

Design Services

- Building Design, Streetscapes and Landscape Architecture assistance
- Provides design assistance to Main Street / Better Hometown cities
- Assists ODD affiliates
- Assists other non-affiliated cities (time permitting)

Field Services

- Provides downtown development-related direct program assistance
- Provides direct assistance to Main Street / Better Hometown cities through field-based downtown development staff
- Provides start-up services for cities interested in becoming a Main Street / Better Hometown city or an ODD affiliate
- Assists other cities with downtown development issues (time permitting)

Contact Information

Office Director

Billy Parrish, Director
(404) 679-3115
bparrish@dca.state.ga.us

Design Services

Steve Storey, Design Services Manager
(706) 583-2734
sstorey@dca.state.ga.us

Training and Special Projects

Cindy Eidson, Program Manager
(404) 679-3101
ceidson@dca.state.ga.us

Main Street/Better Hometown Program Information

Jo Childers, State Coordinator & Field Services Manager
(229) 924-3707
jchilder@dca.state.ga.us

FIELD SERVICES CONTACTS:

METRO ATLANTA

Martha Reimann
(404) 378-2307
mreimann@dca.state.ga.us

NORTH GEORGIA

Regions 1, 2 & 4
Vacant
Contact: Jo Childers
(229) 924-3707
jchild@dca.state.ga.us

CENTRAL GEORGIA

Regions, 5, 6 & 7
Mary Alice Applegate
(478) 742-5145
mapplea@dca.state.ga.us

MID-SOUTH GEORGIA

Regions 8, 9, 12 North
Sherry Evans
(229) 268-9477
sevans@dca.state.ga.us

SOUTH GEORGIA

Regions 10, 11, 12 South
Kelly Folsom-Lane
(229) 686-2156
kfolsoml@dca.state.ga.us

Georgia Appalachian Region Business Development Revolving Loan Fund Program (RLF)

The ARC Business Development Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) is a pool of money administered by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). DCA uses the money to allow local development authorities to make below-market-rate loans on a matching basis to qualified businesses in the Appalachian region of Georgia. The purpose of the RLF is to encourage economic development, job creation and job retention.

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funds programs in the northern 37 counties: Banks, Barrow, Bartow, Carroll, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Dade, Dawson, Douglas, Elbert, Fannin, Floyd, Forsyth, Franklin, Gilmer, Gordon, Gwinnett, Habersham, Hall, Haralson, Hart, Heard, Jackson, Lumpkin, Madison, Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Polk, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, Walker, White, and Whitfield counties.

Businesses Qualified to Receive RLF Funds

Many businesses in the Appalachian Region potentially qualify for RLF funds, but the businesses with the greatest chance for RLF funding include manufacturing businesses.

Only private, for-profit businesses are eligible to receive RLF loan funds. These include new, existing, or expanding enterprises. Banks, savings and loan institutions, and finance companies are not eligible for the program. Developers may receive RLF funds if their tenants are private, for-profit businesses that are willing to commit to job creation or retention and to other program requirements.

Eligible Uses for Loan Proceeds

- Working capital
- Building acquisition
- New construction/rehabilitation
- Equipment purchase & installation
- Land acquisition

Please note that all applicable local, state, and federal laws and guidelines must be met before any activity is considered eligible and that all activities must produce positive results (including job creation or retention) for the area as well as for the business receiving financing.

Ineligible Uses of the Loan Fund

- Assistance to relocating businesses
- Refinancing
- Displacement of private funds (i.e., projects must demonstrate need for favorable financing)
- Speculative projects

Loan Amounts and Loan Terms and Conditions

An applicant may apply for funds from the RLF as many times as necessary as long as the RLF does not have a loan exposure greater than \$200,000 for any one business. Total project costs may be any amount as long as the RLF financed portion of the project does not exceed 50%. Interest rates are usually two to four points below the prime rate. Loan terms normally do not exceed 5 years for working capital and 15 years for fixed assets. Interest rates may be fixed or variable, but are normally fixed. Businesses must provide at least ten percent equity for their projects. Businesses must create or retain one private sector job for every \$20,000 of RLF loan proceeds.

Loan Requirements and Application Steps

- Meet with DCA to discuss application requirements
- Obtain the approval of the local development authority to act as the lender of the RLF funds (DCA can assist in helping obtain development authority review of a proposed project)
- Complete the application and all certifications
- Application review by DCA's loan committee

Important

Past investments do not usually count toward the 50% match that must be arranged by the borrower. Beginning the project prior to the date of the loan committee meeting may demonstrate that favorable financing for the project is not needed.

(Note: DCA's loan committee may reject an application for any reasonable cause. Applications will normally be approved or rejected within 30 days after a completed application has been submitted.)

For further information contact:

Russell Morrison
(404) 679-4825
rmorriso@dca.state.ga.us

Georgia Department of Community Affairs
60 Executive Park South, N. E.
Atlanta, GA 30329-2231
<http://www.dca.state.ga.us/economic/financing/programs/appregion.asp>

Appalachian Regional Commission Area Development Funds

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) provides federally funded infrastructure improvement and operational grants to north Georgia cities and counties to assist in the creation of permanent jobs. Local governments must compete annually for available funds. Project grants are usually \$300,000 or less. Eligible counties include Banks, Barrow, Bartow, Carroll, Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, Douglas, Fannin, Floyd, Franklin, Gilmer, Gordon, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Haralson, Heard, Jackson, Lumpkin, Madison, Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Polk, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, Walker, White, and Whitfield counties.

Program Objectives

The program purpose is to assist economic development of Appalachian Region counties in Georgia by:

1. requiring significant near-term job creation as a result of each project's specific performance;
2. requiring that limited ARC dollars be used with projects that are most likely to be completed quickly, giving priority to projects that include substantial private investments;
3. giving priority to projects that are consistent with documented local plans and strategies which support the four ARC goals:
 1. Increase job opportunities and per capita income in Appalachia to reach parity with the nation,
 2. Strengthen the capacity of the people of Appalachia to compete in the global economy,
 3. Develop and improve Appalachia's infrastructure to make the Region economically competitive,
 4. Build the Appalachian Development Highway System to reduce the Region's isolation and consistency with the state's strategy statement.

Grant Amounts Available/Match Requirements

Generally, Georgia will receive approximately \$2.5 million for the program. Because of limited funds, grant amounts are available up to \$300,000 for individual infrastructure projects. (The amount for operational grants is usually less than \$100,000.) Competition for the projects is keen and ARC normally funds up to 50% of project costs. In a number of Georgia's ARC counties, economic activity is so strong that the Commission restricts funding to 30% and in some counties may limit funding to certain types of projects. These include Bartow, Douglas, Pickens, and Whitfield counties. Cherokee, Dawson Forsyth, and Gwinnett Counties are designated as economic Attainment and funding is not available in these areas.

Eligible Activities

Most activities providing water and sewer services are eligible as long as program objectives are met by the proposed project. Projects related to the supply, storage, treatment, and transmission of water are eligible, and projects related to the collection, storage, and treatment of sewer are eligible. Education activities are presently limited to adult literacy and school drop-out prevention. Projects related to health, workforce development, technology and entrepreneurship may also be eligible.

Ineligible Activities

Ineligible activities include the construction of public buildings, which includes libraries, cultural centers, hospitals, schools, and general government office buildings.

Program Administration

The program is administered by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) in cooperation with the ARC. Pre-applications for the program are prepared by Regional Development Centers (RDC) on behalf of local governments in August of each year. DCA then works with RDCs and local governments to prepare a complete application for consideration by the Governor and ARC. Final approval for projects generally occurs in the summer of the following year after pre-application submission.

For further information contact:

James Thompson, ARC Office Director
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
60 Executive Park South, N. E.
Atlanta, GA 30329-2231
(404) 679-1584
jthomps@dca.state.ga.us
www.dca.state.ga.us

CDBG Loan Guarantee Program

Program Description:

The CDBG Loan Guarantee Program (Section 108) is a flexible economic and community development financing tool that can be used for certain large-scale economic development projects that cannot proceed without loan guarantee assistance. Funds for this program are raised through the sale of notes through federal underwriters following DCA's guarantee of the financing to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Eligible Borrowers:

General purpose, "non-entitlement" local governments. Local governments may (for DCA-approved projects) re-loan the proceeds to for-profit businesses and local development authorities that may serve as eligible sub-recipient borrowers.

Eligible Activities:

- Acquisition of real property
- Clearance and removal of slums and blight
- Rehabilitation of real property owned by a public entity
- Site preparation, including construction, reconstruction, or installation of public utilities or facilities related to the redevelopment or reuse of the real property
- Other economic development activities eligible under the CDBG and EIP program

Loan Amount:

Maximum loan amount is \$5,000,000

Terms and Conditions:

Financing options will vary, but generally loan terms that are less than 10 years are most competitive. Local governments with sound finances that provide certain "credit enhancements" may be able to arrange loan terms up to 20 years. In order to be approved by DCA, all projects will be subject to rigorous underwriting that documents a project's "economic viability". Local governments will generally be required to obligate themselves and document to DCA's satisfaction that all debt will be repaid.

Rate:

Interest rates are determined by the public market for government debt. Following DCA's (and ultimately HUD's) guarantee of the local debt, the note is "pooled" with other similar notes and sold to private investors by federal underwriters chosen by HUD. Because the notes are ultimately backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, the permanent interest rate on 108 loans will only be a few basis points higher than Treasury bond rates for similar terms. Interim rates will be a few basis points higher than the LIBOR rate.

Repayment:

Repayment is made by the participating local government. Local governments may generate revenue from leases or loans to sub-recipient entities to assist them in repaying loans.

Underwriting Process:

The Department will only "guarantee" financing for projects and local governments that it determines can generate sufficient revenue to service all debt obligations.

Job Creation:

Each funded activity must generally meet a minimum low-and moderate-income benefit threshold of 70%.

For further information contact:

Brian Williamson, Assistant Commissioner
Community Development and Finance Division
(404) 679-1587
bwilliam@dca.state.ga.us

or

Joanie Perry, Director, Office of Economic Development
Community Development and Finance Division
(404) 679-3173
jperry@dca.state.ga.us

Georgia Department of Community Affairs
60 Executive Park South, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30329-2231
www.dca.state.ga.us

Regional Economic Assistance Projects (REAP)

General Description

The purpose of Regional Economic Assistance Projects (REAP) is to provide a mechanism for local and state governments and the private sector to cooperate on large-scale tourism-related projects with multiple uses that will create jobs and enhance the local tax base. REAP will projects that assist produce growth and development, particularly in rural areas, resulting in additional local tax revenue and providing high-caliber employment opportunities in the tourism and hospitality industries. Additional benefits include sound project development, consistent governmental review and approval, responsible project implementation, and project monitoring and reporting. Upon meeting the requirements of the statute and the REAP Rules, including local government endorsement and certification by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), a developer of a certified REAP project may apply to the Georgia Department of Revenue for a state license for the sale of malt beverages, wine, or distilled spirits by the drink for consumption on the premises only.

Eligibility Requirements

In order to receive REAP certification, a project, in combination with any adjacent facility included by a reciprocal use agreement, must (a) be not less than 250 acres in size or located on or adjacent to a lake of not less than 2,500 acres in size, (b) where required, have zoning which is appropriate to the planned uses and plans which are consistent with other land use regulations, and (c) provide for at least three of the following criteria (a project that does not include an adjacent facility subject to a reciprocal-use agreement need only meet two of the criteria): (i) one or more regulation 18-hole golf courses, with a clubhouse providing food service, (ii) a commercial boat marina with at least 300 boat slips and a facility providing food service, (iii) a full-service restaurant with minimum seating for 75 or more persons, (iv) at least 100 residential units, (v) at least 200 rooms for overnight stays, (vi) conference facilities with capacity for 150 participants, or (vii) be located in a county in which a state-operated facility or authority provides services or products, or both, to the general public. The facilities of a REAP that meet the above criteria, excluding residential units, must have public access.

Eligible Applicants

Developers of projects that meet the REAP criteria are eligible to apply. Developer means an individual or organization that manages the development or maintenance of a project and is duly authorized to act as a representative of the project in a capacity such as a general partner, owner, or officer.

Application Requirements

In addition to the application requirements detailed in the REAP application package, an applicant for REAP certification must also provide (1) a resolution from the appropriate local government indicating that the project appears to meet the criteria set out in the Statute (specifically, O.C.G.A. § 50-8-191(c)) and approving the project and submission of the application to DCA for review and possible certification; and (2) a nonrefundable application and processing fee of \$5,000.

Assistance Amounts

There is no financial assistance available under REAP.

Deadlines

Developers may submit a REAP application at any time. It is strongly recommended that potential applicants contact DCA prior to submitting an application. Reporting Requirements Pursuant to the REAP Rules, developers are required to submit annual progress reports in the form prescribed by DCA.

For information on REAP contact:

Dawn Sturbaum
Community Development and Finance Division
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
60 Executive Park South, NE
Atlanta, GA 30329-2231
(404) 679-1585
dsturbau@dca.state.ga.us
www.dca.state.ga.us

Life Sciences Facilities Fund (LSFF)

Purpose

The purpose of the Life Sciences Facilities Fund (the “Facilities Fund” or “LSFF”) is to provide loan assistance for the purchase of fixed assets to assist with the expansion, retention or relocation of life-science companies targeted by Georgia. The Facilities Fund is intended to be used when needed to fill a financing gap that is unmet by the private sector (for example, venture capital, traditional commercial financing, or developer financing) or to provide low-cost financing as an inducement for the expansion, retention or recruitment of life-science companies within the State. Companies should be creating commercially promising technologies and higher quality jobs.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants for the program will be local government development authorities, joint or multi-county development authorities, and local governments. Applicants may apply at any time they have a viable project. Funds may be loaned directly to the sub-recipient company or funds may flow through a local development authority as a conduit. Each project and company will be subject to a financial analysis, business-model review and scientific validation.

Assistance Amount

There is no maximum loan amount, although generally the loan amount will not be more than 25% of the fixed-asset needs of the company’s Georgia location. A recommended loan amount should be included in a letter of support from a state agency or organization whose statutory or organizational powers and duties include community and economic development or the enhancement of Georgia’s technology sectors. Final approval of loan amounts is at the discretion of DCA. All loan repayments shall be recaptured by DCA in the LSFF program fund to be available to future eligible borrowers and to cover administrative costs of the program.

For further information contact:

Susan Brown
Community Development and Finance Division
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
60 Executive Park South, NE
Atlanta, GA 30329-2231
(404) 327-6841
sarringt@dca.state.ga.us
www.dca.state.ga.us

Opportunity Zones

Opportunity zones (OZ) offer significant local, state, and federal incentives for the redevelopment of underdeveloped and blighted areas. OZs exist to better utilize several existing state statutes to further economic development, entrepreneurship and increases in private-sector-led investments through locally driven partnerships. By undertaking local redevelopment initiatives in these underdeveloped and blighted areas, local governments can obtain an OZ designation that offers significant Job Tax Credits for expanding businesses. Because the local initiatives rely on the innovative use of existing statutes, projects (and progress) can be realized quickly without bureaucratic delays. By fostering partnerships and adhering to a core principal of supporting “bottom-up, locally driven” projects, OZs will allow innovative, multi-faceted policies, programs and projects to emerge quickly. The local initiatives which, if enacted in areas of 15% or greater poverty, allow an Opportunity Zone designation include:

The Georgia Urban Redevelopment Law

(O.C.G.A. § 36-61-2)

The Urban Redevelopment Act gives cities and counties in Georgia specific powers to rehabilitate, conserve or redevelop of any defined geographical area that is designated as an area of blight. As a prerequisite to exercising these powers, the city council or county commission must adopt a resolution finding that the area constitutes a blight area as defined by the Act and that redevelopment of the area is “necessary in the interest of the public health, safety, morals, or welfare” of the residents of the jurisdiction. In addition to designating by resolution an “urban redevelopment area” appropriate for redevelopment projects, the Act requires adoption by the local government of an urban redevelopment plan for the target area.

The Georgia Enterprise Zone Employment Act

(O.C.G.A. § 36-88-1 et seq.)

The State Enterprise Zone Statute allows underdeveloped or blighted areas that meet three of five criteria (poverty, unemployment, general distress, underdevelopment and blight) for designation. In Enterprise Zones established through local ordinance, an eligible business that makes a qualified capital investment and employs five (5) or more employees can qualify for local property tax abatements and relief from local business fees and regulations.

The State Job Tax Credit Benefit

(O.C.G.A. § 48-7-40.1(c)(4)).

Upon designation as an OZ, businesses that expand or locate within census block groups having 15% or greater poverty included in either a locally designated Enterprise Zone (§36-88-1 et seq.) and/ or where a local Redevelopment Plan has been adopted pursuant to Georgia’s Urban Redevelopment Law (§ 36-61-2) may take advantage of the state job tax credit. The credit may be claimed at \$3,500 per eligible new job, with the credit being first applied against 100 percent of the business’s Georgia income tax liability and any excess credit available to claim against withholding taxes as long as the proper steps are taken with the Department of Revenue.

In 2008 a Legislative amendment was passed which provides for businesses locating in an OZ to create only two (2) new jobs to be eligible for the program. The fact that these OZ areas reflect pervasive poverty allows for any lawful business to claim the job tax credit as opposed to only defined “Business Enterprises”.

For further information contact:

Brian Williamson, Assistant Commissioner
Community Development and Finance Division
(404) 679-1587
bwilliam@dca.state.ga.us

or

Joanie Perry, Director, Office of Economic Development
Community Development and Finance Division
(404) 679-3173
jperry@dca.state.ga.us

For technical assistance in claiming OZ job tax credits contact:

Dawn Sturbaum, Senior Incentives Program Manager
Community Development and Finance Division
(404) 679-1585
dsturbau@dca.state.ga.us

Georgia Department of Community Affairs
60 Executive Park South, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30329-2231
www.dca.state.ga.us

Georgia Business Expansion and Support Act

Executive Summary

INCOME TAX CREDITS

Job Tax Credit

Provides for a statewide job tax credit for any business or headquarters of any such business engaged in manufacturing, warehousing and distribution, processing, telecommunications, tourism, or research and development industries, but does not include retail businesses. If the following two requirements are met, job tax credits are available to businesses of any nature, including retail businesses: (1) in counties recognized and designated as the 40 least developed counties; and (2) in census areas located near a military base or in an Opportunity Zone which suffer from pervasive poverty.

Counties and certain census tracts in the state are ranked and placed in economic tiers using the following factors:

1. highest unemployment rate;
2. lowest per capita income; and
3. highest percentage of residents whose incomes are below the poverty level.

Tier	County Rankings	Minimum New Jobs Creation	Credit Amount per Eligible New Job
1	1 through 71	5	\$3,500
2	72 through 106	10	\$2,500
3	107 through 141	15	\$1,250
4	142 through 159	25	\$750

The credit amounts listed above are applicable to new jobs created on or after January 1, 2001. Jobs created prior to January 1, 2001 are calculated at the credit amount in place at the time the job was created.

Credits similar to the credits available in Tier 1 counties are potentially available to companies in certain "less-developed" census tracts in the metropolitan areas of the state. Beginning January 1, 2004, this was expanded to include other census tracts within the state, including Opportunity Zones and census tracts adjacent to a federal military installation which are suffering from pervasive poverty.

Note that average wages for the new jobs must be above the average wage of the county that has the lowest average wage of any county in the state. Also note that employers must make health insurance available to employees filling the new full-time jobs. Employers are not, however, required to pay all or part of the cost of such insurance unless this benefit is provided to existing employees.

Credits are allowed for new full-time jobs for five years in years two through six after the creation of the jobs. In Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties and in qualifying census tracts, the total credit amount may offset up to 100% of a taxpayer's state income tax liability for a taxable year. In Tier

3 and Tier 4 counties, the total credit amount may offset up to 50% of a taxpayer's state income tax liability for a taxable year. In Tier 1 counties and qualifying census tracts only, credits may also be taken against a company's income tax withholding. (The maximum use of the tax credit against withholding is \$3,500 per job regardless of any additional credit claimed for either the joint development authority or the port authority.) A credit claimed but not used in any taxable year may be carried forward for 10 years from the close of the taxable year in which the qualified jobs were established. The measurement of new full-time jobs and maintained jobs is based on average monthly employment. Georgia counties are re-ranked annually based on updated statistics. See the Job Tax Credit law and regulations for further information. (See "Opportunity Zone" on page 31 for information on new census block group targeting opportunities.)

Job Tax Credit for Joint Development Authorities

Provides for an additional \$500 job tax credit per job, when claiming the credit under the county tier ranking (O.C.G.A. § 48-7-40), for a business locating within the jurisdiction of a joint authority established by two or more contiguous counties. The joint development authority bonus may not exceed \$500, even if the county is a member of multiple joint authorities.

Job Tax Credit Bonus for Existing Industries

For business enterprises which have operated in Georgia for the preceding three years, an additional \$500 in job tax credit may be claimed for each eligible new job created in tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2006 and ending with tax years beginning prior to January 1, 2011. The business enterprise must meet Year One eligibility requirements for job creation in order to be eligible for the additional credit amount. The credit is then available to be claimed in Year Two if the jobs are maintained. There is no carry forward provision on this additional credit amount, so it must be utilized in the year it is claimed (i.e. Year Two). Please note that unlike the Job Tax Credit itself, which may be claimed for five years, the bonus credit for existing industries may only be claimed for one year.

Investment Tax Credit

The Investment Tax Credit (ITC) is based upon the same tiers as the Job Tax Credit program. The ITC allows a taxpayer that has operated an existing manufacturing or telecommunications facility, or a manufacturing or telecommunications support facility, in the state for the previous three years (36 months) to obtain a credit against income tax liability.

- Companies expanding in Tier 1 counties must invest \$50,000 to receive a 5% credit. That credit increases to 8% for recycling, pollution control, and defense conversion activities.
- Companies expanding in Tier 2 counties must invest \$50,000 to receive a 3% tax credit. That credit increases to 5% for recycling, pollution control, and defense conversion activities.
- Companies expanding in Tier 3 or Tier 4 counties must invest \$50,000 to receive a 1% credit. That credit increases to 3% for recycling, pollution control, and defense conversion activities.

Generally, a taxpayer may not take both the job tax credit and the investment tax credit for the same project.

Optional Investment Tax Credit

Taxpayers qualifying for the investment tax credit may choose an optional investment tax credit with the following threshold criteria:

Designated Area	Minimum Investment	%Tax Credit
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Tier 1	\$5 Million	10%
Tier 2	\$10 Million	8%
Tier 3 or Tier 4	\$20 Million	6%

The credit may be claimed for 10 years, provided the qualifying property remains in service throughout that period. A taxpayer must choose either the regular or optional investment tax credit. Once this election is made, it is irrevocable.

The optional investment tax credit is calculated based upon a three-year tax liability average. The annual credits are then determined using this base year average. The credit available to the taxpayer in any given year is the lesser of the following amounts:

1. 90% of the increase in tax liability in the current taxable year over that in the base year, or
2. The excess of the aggregate amount of the credit allowed over the sum of the amounts of credit already used in the years following the base year.

Generally, a taxpayer may not take both the job tax credit and the optional investment tax credit for the same project.

Retraining Tax Credit

The retraining tax credit allows some employers to claim certain costs of retraining employees to use new equipment, new technology, or new operating systems. The credit can be worth 50% of the direct costs of retraining full-time employees up to \$500 per employee per approved retraining program per year. The credit cannot be more than 50% of the taxpayer's total state income tax liability for a tax year. Credits claimed but not used may be carried forward for 10 years.

Child Care Credits

Employers who provide or sponsor child care for employees are eligible for a tax credit of up to 75% of the employers' direct costs. The credit cannot be applied against more than 50% of the taxpayer's total state income tax liability for that taxable year. Any credit claimed but not used in any taxable year may be carried forward for five years from the close of the taxable year in which the cost of the operation was incurred. In addition, employers who purchase qualified child care property will receive a credit totaling 100% of the cost of such property. The credit is claimed at the rate of 10% a year for 10 years. The qualified property credit may be carried forward for three years from the close of the taxable year in which the qualified property is placed in service, and the limitation on the use of the credit in any one year is 50% of the taxpayer's total state income tax liability. Recapture provisions apply if the property is transferred or committed to a use other than child care within 14 years after the property is placed in service. These two child care credits can be combined.

Research & Development Tax Credit

A tax credit is allowed for research expenses for research conducted within Georgia for any business or headquarters of any such business engaged in manufacturing, warehousing and distribution, processing, telecommunications, tourism, or research and development industries. The credit is calculated at 10% of the additional research expense over the "base amount," provided that the business enterprise for the same taxable year claims and is allowed a research credit under Section 41 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. The credit may be carried forward 10 years but may not exceed 50% of the business's remaining Georgia net income tax liability after all other credits have been applied for the current year. (Note that the base amount must contain positive Georgia taxable net income for all years.)

Ports Activity Job Tax & Investment Tax Credits

Businesses or the headquarters of any such businesses which meet the eligibility requirements for the job tax credit or the investment tax credit and that have increased their port traffic tonnage through Georgia ports during the previous 12-month period by more than 10% over their 1997 base year port traffic, or by more than 10% over 75 net tons, five containers or 10 20-foot equivalent units (TEU's) during the previous 12-month period, qualify for increased job tax credits or investment tax credits. NOTE: Base year port traffic must be at least 75 net tons, five containers, or 10 TEU's. If not, the percentage increase in port traffic will be calculated using 75 net tons, five containers, or 10 TEU's as the base. Companies must meet Business Expansion and Support Act (BEST) criteria for the county in which they are located.

The job tax and investment tax credits are as follows:

	Job Tax Credit	Investment Tax Credit	Optional Investment Tax Credit
Tier 1	Additional \$1,250	5%	10%
Tier 2	Additional \$1,250	5%	10%
Tier 3	Additional \$1,250	5%	10%
Tier 4	Additional \$1,250	5%	10%

Please note that the Job Tax Credit amount shown above is in addition to the credit allowed under O.C.G.A. §§ 48-7-40 and 40.1. The amounts shown above for the Investment Tax Credits are in lieu of the amounts allowed under O.C.G.A. §§ 48-7-40.2, 40.3, 40.4, 40.7, 40.8, and 40.9.

The additional job tax credit is limited to 50 percent of the taxpayer's Georgia net income tax liability in the current year regardless of the tier in which the jobs are located. The investment tax credit taken under the port traffic provision is limited to 50 percent of the taxpayer's net income tax liability. Any unused job or investment tax credit may be carried forward for ten years from the close of the taxable year in which the qualified jobs were established or the qualified property was placed in service. The optional investment tax credit taken under the port traffic provision shall be claimed for up to ten taxable years, provided the qualifying property remains in service throughout that period.

Companies that create 400 or more new jobs, invest \$20 million or more in new and expanded facilities, and increase their port traffic by more than 20% above their base year port traffic may take both job tax credits and investment tax credits

Headquarters Tax Credit

Companies establishing their headquarters or relocating their headquarters to Georgia may be entitled to a tax credit if the following criteria are met: 1) headquarters is defined as the principal central administrative offices of a company; 2) new jobs created at a new headquarters must be full-time (as defined by law and regulation) and must pay at least the average wage for Tier 1 counties, at least 105% of the average wage for Tier 2 counties, at least 110% of the average wage for Tier 3 counties, and at least 115% of the average wage for Tier 4 counties; 3) within one year, a company must invest \$1 million and create 50 jobs at a new headquarters facility; and 4) the company must elect not to take the job or investment tax credits. The credit is equal to \$2,500 annually per new full-time job or \$5,000 if the average wage of the new full-time jobs is 200% or

more of the average wage of the county in which the new jobs are located. The credits apply for five years beginning with the year in which jobs are placed in service. The credit may be taken against Georgia income tax liability with any excess credit applied against a company's withholding taxes. Credits may be carried forward for 10 years. Other requirements include: 1) no new full-time jobs created after seven years from the close of the taxable year in which the taxpayer first becomes eligible for the credit may receive credits; and 2) the number of new full-time jobs shall be determined by comparing the monthly average of full-time jobs subject to Georgia income tax withholding for the taxable year with the corresponding average for the prior taxable year.

SALES AND USE TAX EXEMPTIONS

Manufacturing Machinery

Provides for an exemption from the sales and use tax for:

1. Machinery used directly in the manufacture of tangible personal property when the machinery is bought to replace or upgrade machinery in an existing manufacturing plant presently operating within the state and machinery components which are purchased to upgrade machinery used directly in the manufacture of tangible personal property in a manufacturing plant;
2. Machinery used directly in the manufacture of tangible personal property when the machinery is incorporated for the first time into an existing manufacturing plant in this state;
3. Machinery used directly in the manufacture of tangible personal property when the machinery is incorporated for the first time into a new manufacturing plant located in this state;
4. Machinery used directly in the remanufacture of aircraft engines, parts, and components on a factory basis;
5. The sale or use of repair or replacement parts, machinery clothing or replacement machinery clothing, molds or replacement molds, dies or replacement dies, and tooling or replacement tooling for machinery used directly in the manufacture of tangible personal property in a manufacturing plant presently existing in this state. This exemption has been phased in over a 5 year period beginning on January 2001 at 20% of the purchase price per year with a limitation of \$150,000 per part;
6. Overhead materials consumed in the performance of certain contracts between the Department of Defense or NASA and a contractor engaged in manufacturing (this exemption has been phased in at a 25% increment rate each year from January 1, 1997 to January 1, 2004); and
7. The sale of machinery, equipment, and materials incorporated into and used in the construction or operation of a clean room of Class 100 or less in Georgia, provided that such clean room is used directly in the manufacture of tangible personal property.

Computer Sales and Use Tax Exemption

The sale or lease of computer equipment to be used at a facility or facilities in this state to any high-technology company classified under certain NAICS Codes where such sale of computer equipment exceeds \$15 million for any calendar year, or, where in the event of a lease of such computer equipment, the fair market value of such leased computer equipment exceeds \$15 million for any calendar year.

Primary Materials Handling Sales and Use Tax Exemption

Purchases of primary material handling equipment and racking systems which are used directly for the storage, handling, and moving of tangible personal property in a new or expanding

warehouse or distribution facility, when such new facility or expansion is valued at \$5 million or more and does not have greater than 15% retail sales, are exempt from sales and use taxes.

Electricity Sales and Use Tax Exemption

Electricity purchased that interacts directly with a product being manufactured is exempt from sales taxes when the total cost of the electricity exceeds 50% of the cost of all materials used, including electricity, in making the product. This exemption requires a utility study to document the conditions of the exemption.

For further information on job tax credits contact:

Dawn Sturbaum
(404) 679-1585
dsturbau@dca.state.ga.us

or

Russell Morrison
(404) 679-4825
rmorriso@dca.state.ga.us

Georgia Department of Community Affairs
60 Executive Park South, N. E.
Atlanta, GA 30329-2231

Also see: www.dca.state.ga.us/economic/taxcredit.html

For further information on retraining tax credits contact:

Mike Grundmann, Marketing Director
(404) 253-2822
mgrundmann@georgiaquickstart.org

Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education
75 Fifth Street, N.W.
Suite 400
Atlanta, GA 30308

Also see: <http://www.dtae.org/econdev/retrain.html>

For further information on income tax credits contact:

Pamela Goshay
(404) 417-2441
pamela.goshay@dor.ga.gov

Georgia Department of Revenue
1800 Century Boulevard
Room 15311
Atlanta, Georgia 30345-3205

Also see: <http://www.etax.dor.ga.gov/inctax/taxcredits.shtml>

For further information on sales and use tax exemptions contact:

Jon Galbraith
(404) 417-6628

jon.galbraith@dor.ga.gov

or

Andrea Shepard

(404) 417-6656

andrea.shepard@dor.ga.gov

Georgia Department of Revenue

1800 Century Boulevard

Room 15311

Atlanta, Georgia 30345-3205

Also see: <http://www.etax.dor.ga.gov/salestax/index.shtml>

Tax-Exempt Industrial Development Bond Financing

For businesses seeking long-term, low-interest rate financing for the construction or improvements of manufacturing facilities, Industrial Development Bond (IDB) financing is available both at the state and local levels. IDB financing is typically structured as public sales in the nation's bond markets or sold as private placements with interested investors. In the case of publicly sold IDB's, credit enhancements in the form of letters of credit are often provided by local banks, insuring that a favorable interest rate to the borrower will result from the sale of bonds. Interest rate may be fixed or variable.

Advantages

- Below-market interest rate financing generated through the sale of tax-exempt bonds.
- Long-term, low-payment financing, with term matched to the useful life of the assets financed.
- Comprehensive use of funds for manufacturing-related improvements, including purchase of land, construction or purchase and renovation of buildings, and purchase of new equipment.
- Up to \$10 million available for each eligible project.

Disadvantages

- State and federal limitations placed on IDB-financed projects remain in effect until the bonds are retired.
- Issuance costs may limit the attractiveness of IDB financing for amounts below \$3 million.

How It Works

- The borrower applies to a local development authority (LDA) for an inducement of the project.
- The LDA holds a public hearing in the jurisdiction where the project will be built.
- The borrower's creditworthiness is analyzed and appropriate credit enhancement is arranged.
- Bonds are issued and sold, proceeds of the sale are disbursed to the borrower as a loan, and issuance fees are paid. (Up to 2% of issuance costs may be financed through an IDB sale.)

Credit standards for IDB borrowers vary according to issuing authority and type of issuance:

- Public placement through local issuer:
Borrower must meet minimum debt standards for the bonds.

For further information contact:

Bobby Stevens

Georgia Department of Community Affairs

60 Executive Park South, N. E.

Atlanta, GA 30329-2231

(404) 679-4943

bstevens@dca.state.ga.us

www.dca.state.ga.us/economic/financing/programs/bondAllocation.asp

***Renewal Communities/Empowerment Zones/Enterprise
Communities (RC/EZ/EC)***

The federally designated Atlanta Renewal Community (which replaced the Atlanta Empowerment Zone but retains access to the EZ grant funds) and three Enterprise Communities receive federal grant funds through the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). The initiative is designed to stimulate job, economic, and housing growth in the nation's most distressed urban and rural areas. Eligible businesses located in federally designated RC/EZ/EC areas can take advantage of additional tax incentives and bond financing. Information related to these federal tax incentives can be found at www.hud.gov.

For further information contact:

Michael Casper
Community Development and Finance Division
Department of Community Affairs
60 Executive Park South, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30329-2231
(404) 679-0594
mcasper@dca.state.ga.us
www.dca.state.ga.us

Office of Regional Services

The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Local Government Assistance Division's Office of Regional Services (ORS) staff serves as the department's first point of local government or community contact for brokering, supporting and implementing departmental programs and services.

- Interacts with local governments and community organizations; reviews local and regional strategies, community goals and objectives, seeking opportunities for DCA and other resources and services to be utilized in reaching community goals and objectives.
- Assists DCA Divisions in distributing programmatic and service information.
- Maintains working relationships with the Georgia Rural Development Council, the Georgia Academy for Economic Development, University System and State Agency Partners, Regional Development Centers and other state and federal agencies that have community and economic development resources and services available to communities.
- Points communities in the direction of partnering organizations or groups with expertise and resources that can be of help in solving problems or pursuing opportunities.

Community Contact

Visits with local government officials and leaders. Provides where possible technical assistance to communities, utilizing DCA's base of expertise and best practices that draw from common elements of quality growth and community preparedness approaches.

Regional Advisory Councils

Provides staff support to the 21-member Regional Advisory Councils and coordinates activities with DCA Board liaisons and Department of Economic Development (DEcD) staff partners.

Team Georgia/Signature Communities

Serves as regional point persons for DCA's Team Georgia and Signature Community Program initiatives. Provides collaborative assistance to departmental specialists in identifying, responding to and completing requests of departmental clients. Assists in identifying communities and assisting them in developing competitive strategies for Signature Community designation.

Downtown Development

Consults with DCA's Office of Downtown Development, providing as requested technical assistance to Better Hometown, Classic Main Street, Urban Georgia Network cities and other communities on downtown development issues.

Georgia Initiative for Community Housing

Partners with and provides collaborative assistance to DCA's Housing Division, for marketing and implementing housing opportunities and strategies for those communities that competitively seek and receive program technical assistance.

Georgia Academy for Economic Development

Markets and provides logistical support for annual regional Academy programs. This two-phased, outcome-based program provides basic economic development and leadership training.

Affordable Housing

Markets and provides general information regarding DCA's Magnolia Housing Institute and other workforce housing opportunities available through the Department.

Leadership Development

Cooperates and coordinates with the University of Georgia’s J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership to market and implement Community Level Initiative leadership development programs.

Project Development

Works with clients to identify DCA and OneGeorgia Authority financial assistance programmatic opportunities to assist communities with goal implementation. Provides, as requested, specific assistance to DCA’s Community Development and Finance Division.

Georgia Rural Development Council

Consults with DCA’s Office of Rural Development, provides logistical support to the GRDC for regional meetings, conferences or other activities. Upon request, collects data and provides feedback on Council initiatives.

Regional Projects

Works with groups to foster regional cooperation and the implementation of regional projects.

For further information contact:

Winfred E. Owens, ORS Director, Athens
(706) 583-2731
wowens@dca.state.ga.us

Region 1

Leamon Scott, Rome
(706) 234-4571
lscott@dca.state.ga.us

Region 7

Tina Hutcheson, Bartow
(478) 469-3751
thutches@dca.state.ga.us

Region 2

Kathy Papa, Gainesville
(770) 965-8561
kpapa@dca.state.ga.us

Region 8

John Redmond, Ellaville
(706) 408-0127
jredmond@dca.state.ga.us

Region 3

Cynthia Easley, Atlanta
(404) 679-4789
ceasley@dca.state.ga.us

Region 9

James Crowdis, Dublin
(478) 272-8700
jcrowdis@dca.state.ga.us

Region 4

Corinne Blencoe Thornton, LaGrange
(706) 884-8950
cblencoe@dca.state.ga.us

Region 10

Spencer Mueller, Blakely
(229) 723-9184
smueller@dca.state.ga.us

Region 5

Courtney Horton, Watkinsville
(706) 817-0448
chorton@dca.state.ga.us

Region 11

Scott Purvis, Hahira
(229) 794-2096
spurvis@dca.state.ga.us

Region 6

Jo Anna Banks, Forsyth
(478) 994-9227
jbanks@dca.state.ga.us

Region 12

Ebony White, Savannah
(912) 353-8293
ewhite@dca.state.ga.us

OneGeorgia Authority

www.onegeorgia.org

Equity Fund (OneGeorgia)

Equity Grants and Loans

The Equity Fund provides financial assistance to eligible rural communities to help build capacity and the necessary infrastructure for economic development. This fund is OneGeorgia's most flexible financing tool. Equity is a community and economic development tool providing financial assistance including grants and loans that promote the health, welfare, safety and economic security of the citizens of the state through the development and retention of employment opportunities and the enhancement of various infrastructures that accomplish that goal.

Eligibility

Eligible recipients of grant and loan funds include general purpose local governments (municipalities and counties), local government authorities and joint or multi-county development authorities in rural counties suffering from high poverty rates. Sub-recipients may be a for-profit or non-profit entity. Financial underwriting of a sub-recipient company is required.

Available Financing

Grants/Loans may be made up to **\$500,000 per project**: (a) the award amount is dependent on regional impact; (b) support from neighboring counties; and (c) local investment and commitment. Up to **\$1,000,000 per project** is available if a project: (a) evidences support by a multi-county development authority with at least one directly eligible county; and (b) a revenue/cost sharing agreement between two or more counties is executed; and (c) where the project will result in substantial multi-county impact.

Grant funds for public activities require local investment and must demonstrate potential return on investment impact.

Loan funds for business growth are made at 3% interest at 5-7 years for machinery and equipment and 20 years for real estate. Loan funds for speculative buildings are made at zero percent interest with a five-year deferment; however, a marketing plan and local investment are required.

For information on OneGeorgia programs contact:

Nancy Cobb, Executive Director
Cindy Allgood, Project Development Specialist
Phone: (478) 274-7734
Fax: (478) 274-7727
ncobb@onegeorgia.org
tmole@onegeorgia.org

OneGeorgia Authority
1202-B Hillcrest Parkway
Dublin, GA 31021
<http://www.onegeorgia/equity.html>

or

Irette Patterson, DCA Grants Consultant
(404) 982-3506
ipatters@dca.state.ga.us

The Regional E-911 Set-Aside

E 9-1-1 Grants

The Regional E 9-1-1 Fund provides grants to finance activities that will assist applicants in providing enhanced 9-1-1 emergency telephone services (“E 9-1-1”) on a regional (i.e., multi-county) basis in counties that are not currently served by 9-1-1.

Eligibility

Eligible recipients of grant funds awarded under this program include general purpose local governments (municipalities and counties), local government authorities, joint or multi-county development authorities and regional E 9-1-1 systems in rural areas suffering from high poverty.

A regional system: a) is jointly owned by two or more counties; b) is owned by an authority that contains at least two counties; or c) involves an intergovernmental service agreement between multiple public jurisdictions containing two or more counties. Funds may be used for the provision of such public infrastructure, services, facilities and improvements needed to implement E 9-1-1 emergency telephone services.

Available Financing

\$1 million is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Award limits are based on the number of counties participating within a particular project as follows: a) two counties – \$400,000 per project; b) three counties – \$500,000 per project; c) four counties – \$600,000 per project; and d) five or more counties – \$700,000 per project.

For information on OneGeorgia programs contact:

Nancy Cobb, Executive Director

Tonya Mole, Projects Manager

Phone: (478) 274-7734

Fax: (478) 274-7727

ncobb@onegeorgia.org

tmole@onegeorgia.org

OneGeorgia Authority

1202-B Hillcrest Parkway

Dublin, GA 31021

<http://www.onegeorgia/e911.html>

or

Irette Patterson, Grants Consultant

(404) 982-3506

ipatters@dca.state.ga.us

AIRGeorgia

Purpose

The AIRGeorgia Fund provides financial assistance including grants and loans to integrate airport infrastructure improvements into OneGeorgia's overall plan for rural development. The AIRGeorgia Fund is intended to accelerate the completion of critical airport infrastructure improvements thereby placing every Georgian within a 30-minute drive of an airport that is capable of serving 85% of the corporate aircraft flying today.

Eligibility

Eligible recipients of grant and loan funds include general purpose local governments (municipalities and counties), local government authorities and joint or multi-county development authorities in rural counties suffering from high poverty rates. Funding is also available to support both single county and multi-county airport projects. The sub-recipient is generally a for-profit entity.

Available Financing

Award amounts are not limited. The award amounts will generally be limited to a maximum of 75% of eligible project cost with matching local investment of 25% required. Consideration of a lower local percentage may be made in extreme economic hardship situations.

Grant funds are available for publicly owned airports. Loans are available to finance facilities for use by private sector businesses. Applications will generally be considered at a 3% interest rate and require financial underwriting of the private sector partner.

For information on OneGeorgia programs contact:

Nancy Cobb, Executive Director

Tonya Mole, Projects Manager

Phone: (478) 274-7734

Fax: (478) 274-7727

ncobb@onegeorgia.org

tmole@onegeorgia.org

OneGeorgia Authority

1202-B Hillcrest Parkway

Dublin, GA 31021

<http://www.onegeorgia.com/AirGeorgia/index.html>

or

Irette Patterson, Grants Consultant

(404) 982-3506

ipatters@dca.state.ga.us

BRIDGE Program (OneGeorgia)

Purpose

The BRIDGE Fund provides financial assistance including grants and loans to support deployment of high-speed broadband in rural areas of Georgia.

Eligibility

Eligible recipients of grant and loan funds include general purpose local governments (municipalities and counties), local government authorities and joint or multi-county development authorities in rural counties suffering from high poverty rates. Funding is also available to support both single county and multi-county airport projects. The sub-recipient is generally a for-profit entity.

Available Financing

Based on need, funding is available to cover all or portion of costs for technical assistance. Funds are awarded based on the number of rural counties receiving new or enhanced high speed broadband services:

- Single County - \$200,000 Maximum
- Two Counties - \$400,000 Maximum
- Three or more Counties - No Maximum - Based on Strategy/Sustainability

The award will be made as a loan if ownership of the system is exclusively by a private entity, there is the ability to service debt via lease with private sector, etc., and there is a strong pro-forma. OneGeorgia offers 0% interest loans to encourage broadband service to underserved rural areas.

For information on OneGeorgia programs contact:

Nancy Cobb, Executive Director

Tonya Mole, Projects Manager

Phone: (478) 274-7734

Fax: (478) 274-7727

ncobb@onegeorgia.org

tmole@onegeorgia.org

OneGeorgia Authority

1202-B Hillcrest Parkway

Dublin, GA 31021

<http://www.onegeorgia/bridge-web/index.html>

or

Irette Patterson, Grants Consultant

(404) 982-3506

ipatters@dca.state.ga.us

EDGE Program (OneGeorgia)

Purpose

The EDGE Fund is a specialized economic development tool that may be used to enhance Georgia's competitiveness in attracting significant economic development projects. It is a threshold-based program providing "deal-closer" funds when one rural Georgia community competes for a business location and/or expansion with another state or country. EDGE funds should not be used when other state or federal programs could be used or when local funds are sufficient to accomplish economic development goals. Due to the specialized nature of the program and the limited resources available, potential applicants are encouraged to contact the OneGeorgia Authority.

Eligibility

Generally, EDGE funds are targeted for competitive projects in rural counties suffering from high poverty. "Competitive project" generally describes a situation in which a business is considering no less than two communities as a site for relocation or expansion where at least one community is outside Georgia and at least one, but not more than one, is in Georgia.

Eligible applicants for EDGE funding are general purpose local governments, local government authorities, joint or multi-county development authorities, state authorities or any combination of the above.

All applications must include a recommendation from a state agency whose statutory powers include community and economic development (e.g., the Georgia Department of Economic Development.) EDGE projects should retain or create jobs in Georgia and result in new private investment in Georgia.

Eligible activities include, but are not limited to: (1) public land acquisition and site development, (2) public infrastructure improvements, (3) publicly owned machinery and equipment and (4) publicly owned/privately leased fixed assets and machinery and equipment.

Available Financing

Funds are not limited in amount. Grant and loan amounts must be recommended by Georgia Department of Economic Development based on economic impact and demonstrated need. The company must make certain commitments including job creation/retention and private investment amounts.

For information on OneGeorgia programs contact:

Nancy Cobb, Executive Director

Tonya Mole, Projects Manager

Phone: (478) 274-7734

Fax: (478) 274-7727

ncobb@onegeorgia.org

tmole@onegeorgia.org

OneGeorgia EDGE Funds, cont'd

OneGeorgia Authority
1202-B Hillcrest Parkway
Dublin, GA 31021
<http://www.onegeorgia/edge.html>

or

Dawn Sturbaum, DCA Program Manager
(404) 679-1585
dsturbau@dca.state.ga.us

For information regarding a recommendation for EDGE funding contact:

The GDED regional representative whose service area includes the potential business location
www.georgia.org

Strategic Industries Loan Fund (SILF)

Purpose

The SILF provides loan assistance for the purchase of fixed assets for companies in one of the strategic industries targeted by Georgia when a company is considering an expansion of their existing Georgia site or a relocation to Georgia from another state. Strategic industries include: aerospace, agribusiness, energy and environmental, healthcare, eldercare, life sciences, logistics and transportation. Companies in the following supporting industries are also potentially eligible for SILF funding: advanced telecommunications, business and financial services, homeland security, multimedia and software development.

The Loan Fund is intended to be used when needed to fill a financing gap that is unmet by the private sector (for example, venture capital, traditional commercial financing, or developer financing) or to provide low-cost financing as an inducement for the expansion, retention or recruitment of companies in the State's strategic industries. Companies should be creating commercially promising technologies and higher quality jobs.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants and recipients of funds awarded under this program shall include, but not be limited to, general purpose local governments (municipalities and counties), local government authorities and joint or multi-county development authorities. All local government units that are party to an application must be in compliance, where applicable, with the requirements regarding comprehensive planning, report of local government finances, local service delivery strategies, government management indicators survey, report of registered authority finances and local government authorities registration.

Available Financing

Loans are not limited in amount. A recommended loan amount should be included in a letter of support from a state agency or organization whose statutory powers and duties include community and economic development or the enhancement of Georgia's technology sectors. Final approval of loan amounts is at the discretion of the Authority. Loan amounts generally should not exceed 25% of the fixed asset needs of the company's Georgia location.

For information on OneGeorgia programs contact:

Nancy Cobb, Executive Director

Tonya Mole, Projects Manager

Phone: (478) 274-7734

ncobb@onegeorgia.org

tmole@onegeorgia.org

OneGeorgia Authority

1202-B Hillcrest Parkway

Dublin, GA 31021

<http://www.onegeorgia/silf.html>

or

Susan Brown, DCA Program Coordinator

(404) 327-6841

sarringt@dca.state.ga.us

Entrepreneurial and Small Business Loan Guarantee Fund (ESB)

Purpose

The ESB Loan Guarantee Program provides financial assistance through loan guarantees to accredited Georgia financial lenders in order to back loans to provide gap financing to spur small business growth and development in economically stressed counties of the State. Loan guarantees are available to assist small businesses that would be unable to obtain suitable or adequate financing on their own.

Eligibility

Any organization meeting the below-referenced “lender” definition is eligible to participate in the ESB Loan Guarantee Program. “Lender” means a state or federally chartered bank or lending institution in good standing with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund as well as the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance. The lender must have an established and demonstrated successful lending track record as documented by financial records and/or statements. The lending institution must have a physical location in Georgia. The sub-recipient business must be located in one of the designated rural counties in Georgia.

Available Financing

OneGeorgia Authority will guarantee up to 50% of private bank loans from \$35,000 up to \$250,000. The ESB loan fund guarantee also requires a 10% equity injection by the borrower. The sub-recipient company must meet certain underwriting requirements and make commitments including job creation/retention.

For information on OneGeorgia programs contact:

Nancy Cobb, Executive Director

Lynn Ashcraft, Finance Officer

Phone: (478) 274-7734

Fax: (478) 274-7727

ncobb@onegeorgia.org

lashcraf@onegeorgia.org

OneGeorgia Authority

1202-B Hillcrest Parkway

Dublin, GA 31021

<http://www.onegeorgia/esb-web/>

or

Coleen Gelot, DCA Economic Development Consultant

(404) 679-3110

cgelot@dca.state.ga.us

***Georgia Department of Economic
Development (GDEcD)***

www.georgia.org

Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD)

Georgia Department of Economic Development (<http://www.georgia.org>)

REGION 1

Alice Carson
Regional Project Mgr.-EIR
Coosa Valley Technical College
One Maurice Culberson Drive
Rome, GA 30161
706-802-5680w
706-802-5496f
acarson@georgia.org

Dawn Townsend
Regional Project Mgr.-ESB
Coosa Valley Technical College
1151 Hwy. 53 Spur, SW
Calhoun, GA 30701
706-624-1495w
706-624-1135f
dtownsend@georgia.org

REGION 2 Lanier Technical College, 2990 Landrum Education Dr., Bldg 500, Oakwood, GA 30566-3405

Carole Ciriacks
Regional Project Mgr.-EIR
770-538-2756w
770-538-2755f
cciriacks@georgia.org

Suzanne Browne
Regional Project Mgr.-ESB
770-538-2757w
770-538-2755f
sbrowne@georgia.org

REGION 3 75 5th Street NW, Suite 1200, Atlanta, GA 30308

Blair Lewis
Regional Project Mgr.-EIR
678-689-3147w
404-228-0019f
blewis@georgia.org

Lindsay Martin
Regional Project Mgr.-ESB
404-962-4823w
404-962-4829f
lmartin@georgia.org

REGION 4 109 East Solomon Street, Suite 200, Griffin, GA 30224

Greg Wright
Regional Project Mgr.-EIR
770-229-3280w
770-229-3289f
gwright@georgia.org

Kristen Miller
Regional Project Mgr.-ESB
770-229-3304
770-229-3289
kmiller@georgia.org

REGION 5 1180 E. Broad Street, Athens, GA 30602

Susie Haggard
Regional Project Mgr.-EIR
706-542-9893w
706-542-6776f
shaggard@georgia.org

Ryan Thornton
Regional Project Mgr.-ESB
706-542-8298
706-542-6776
rthornton@georgia.org

REGION 6 Ga. Music Hall of Fame, 200 MLK Jr. Blvd., Macon, GA 31201 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 13404, Macon, GA 31208

Jennifer Nelson
Regional Project Mgr.-EIR
478-752-1893w
478-752-1891f
jnelson@georgia.org

Keith Moffett
Regional Project Mgr.-ESB
478-752-3225w
478-752-3227f
kmoffett@georgia.org

REGION 7 1054 Claussen Road, Suite 301, Augusta, GA 30907-3215

Wendy Bibb
Regional Project Mgr.-EIR
706-667-4863w
706-667-4867f
wbibb@georgia.org

Adela Kelley
Regional Project Mgr.-ESB
706-667-4865w
706-667-4867f
akelley@georgia.org

REGION 10

Brian Marlowe
Regional Project Mgr.-EIR
103 Carriage Lane
Sylvester, Georgia 31791
229-776-4168w
229-776-2371f
bmarlowe@georgia.org

Rebecca O'Neil
Regional Project Mgr.-ESB
1704 S. Slappey Blvd
Albany, GA 31701
229-430-3927w
roneil@georgia.org

REGION 11 2356 Rainwater Road, Tifton, Georgia 31793

Michelle Shaw
Regional Project Mgr.-EIR
229-386-3095w
229-386-7058f
mshaw@georgia.org

Rhonda G. Geiger
Regional Project Mgr.-ESB
229-386-3097w
229-386-7058f
rgeiger@georgia.org

REGION 12

Jane Schaller
Regional Project Mgr.-EIR
190 Crossroads Parkway
Suite 300
Savannah, GA 31407
912-651-7596w
912-651-7598f
jschaller@georgia.org

Ray Snow
Regional Project Mgr.-ESB
162 Tison Drive
Brunswick, GA 31523
912-280.6941w
912-265.4306f
rsnow@georgia.org

EIR – Existing Industry & Recruitment

ESB – Entrepreneur & Small Business

REGIONAL TOURISM REPRESENTATIVES

ATLANTA METRO

Brittany Gray - Atlanta Metro – Region 3

75 5th Street, NW
Suite 1200
Atlanta, GA 30308
P: 404-962-4084 F: 404-962-4093
C: 678-640-4338
bgray@georgia.org
Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas,
Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry

COAST

Carey Ferrara – Colonial Coast – Region 12

190 Crossroads Parkway
Suite 300
Savannah, GA 31407
P: 912-963-6965 F: 912-963-6966
C: 678-640-4357
cferrara@georgia.org
Brantley, Bryan, Camden, Charlton, Chatham,
Clinch, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, McIntosh,
Pierce, Ware

HISTORIC SOUTH

Jeannie Buttrum – Classic South – Regions 5 & 7

PO Box 204068
Augusta, GA 30917-4068
1054 Claussen Road, Suite 301, Augusta, GA
30907
P: 706-667-4944 F: 706-667-4945
C: 678-640-4350
jbuttrum@georgia.org
Burke, Columbia, Emanuel, Glascock, Greene,
Hancock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, Lincoln,
McDuffie, Oglethorpe, Richmond, Taliaferro,
Warren, Washington, Wilkes

Fay Tripp – Historic Heartland – Regions 4,5,6,7

P O Box 13404
Macon, GA 31208
200 MLK Jr. Blvd.,
Macon, GA 31201
P: 478-752-3254 F: 478-752-3255
C: 678-640-4364
ftripp@georgia.org

Baldwin, Bibb, Butts, Clarke, Crawford, Houston,
Jasper, Jones, Lamar, Monroe, Morgan, Newton,
Oconee, Peach, Putnam, Rockdale, Twiggs,
Walton, Wilkinson

Lori Wiggins Hennessee – Magnolia Midlands – Regions 6,7,11,12

110 West College Park Drive
Collins Hall, Room 117
Douglas, GA 31533
P: 912-389-4821 F: 912-389-4822
C: 678 640- 4342
lhennessee@georgia.org
Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Bleckley, Bulloch,
Candler, Coffee, Dodge, Evans, Irwin, Jeff Davis,
Laurens, Long, Montgomery, Pulaski, Screven,
Tattnall, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen, Wayne,
Wheeler, Wilcox

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS

Janet Cochran – NW Georgia Historic High Country - Regions – 1 & 4

300 West Waugh Street
Dalton, GA 30720
P: 706-272-2945 F: 706-272-2951
C: 404-276-9142
jcochran@georgia.org
Bartow, Carroll, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee,
Dade, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Haralson,
Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Polk, Walker,
Whitfield

Cheryl Smith – Northeast Georgia Mountains - Regions – 2 & 5

P O Box 3116
Gainesville, GA 30503
Lanier Technical College
2990 Landrum Education Drive
Bldg. 500
Oakwood, GA 30566-3405
P: 770-535-5757 F: 770-535-5732
C: 678-640-4355
csmith@georgia.org
Banks, Barrow, Dawson, Elbert, Forsyth, Franklin,
Habersham, Hall, Hart, Jackson, Lumpkin,
Madison, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, White

SOUTHERN RIVERS

Maggie Potter – Presidential Pathways

P O Box 2768
Columbus, GA 31902
900 Front Avenue
Columbus, GA 31901
P:706-649-1306 F:706-649-1303
C:404-556-5764
mpotter@georgia.org

Special Interest: Nature Based Tourism
Chattahoochee, Crisp, Dooly, Harris, Heard, Macon,
Marion, Meriwether, Muscogee, Pike, Schley,
Spalding, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taylor, Troup,
Upson, Webster

Jeff Stubbs – Plantation Trace - Regions – 10 & 11

102 S. Church
Hahira, GA 31632
P: 229-794-4672 F: 229-794-8591
C:404-274-1405
jstubbs@georgia.org
Baker, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brooks, Calhoun, Clay,
Colquitt, Cook, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Echols,
Grady, Lanier, Lee, Lowndes, Miller, Mitchell,
Quitman, Randolph, Seminole, Terrell, Thomas, Tift,
Turner, Worth

ATLANTA SUPPORT STAFF

75 Fifth Street, N.W. Suite 1200 - Atlanta, Georgia 30308
Mail: P. O. Box 1776 - Atlanta, Georgia 30301-1776

Vacant, Director

Regional Project Managers-EIR

Mary Ellen McClanahan, Director Governor's

Entrepreneur & Small Business Office
404 962-4820w
404 962-4829f
memclanahan@georgia.org

Dara Barwick, Director

Regional Project Managers-ESB
229 735-5343w
229 735-4738f
480 Magic Road
Boston, GA 31626
dbarwick@georgia.org

Becky Basset, Director of Tourism Representatives

706 649-7228w
706 649-1302f
bbasset@georgia.org

INTERNATIONAL TRADE DIVISION

75 5th Street, NW
Suite 1200
Atlanta, GA 30303

Kathe Falls

Director, International Trade
404 962-4120
kfalls@georgia.org

Kathy Oxford

International Trade Representative
404 962-4119
koxford@georgia.org

Renee Rosenheck

International Trade Representative
404 962-4117
rosenheck@georgia.org

Ben Izaguirre

International Trade Representative
404 962-4128
bizaguirre@georgia.org

Valerie Gannon

International Resource Specialist
404 962-7127
vgannon@georgia.org

Georgia Department of Economic Development Entrepreneur & Small Business Support

The Small Business & Innovation Division within the Global Commerce Division of the Department of Economic Development houses three units whose efforts focus on entrepreneur and small business development:

- 1) The Governor's Entrepreneur & Small Business Office (ESBO) manages the Entrepreneur & Small Business (ESB) Coordinating Network, a working team of state and federal ESB resource-providers charged with coordinating statewide efforts for Georgia's entrepreneurs and small businesses that include advocacy, policy, entrepreneur education, access to capital and resource awareness. ESBO facilitates strategic planning for "Entrepreneur Friendly" communities, houses the Governor's Mentor Protégé Program and partners with Georgia's minority communities.
- 2) The Entrepreneur & Small Business Regional Program conducts the "Entrepreneur Friendly" Initiative that helps communities build an entrepreneur culture and sustainable programs through a proven set of key methods that encourage entrepreneur and small business growth and help communities recognize the opportunities they have right at home. These 10 Regional Managers also call on companies with under 20 employees to bring resources, assist with market research and global outreach.
- 3) The Innovation & Technology Office is the business development arm for innovation and technology companies, exposing them to resources and technical assistance.

For more information, please contact:

Greg Torre, Director
Small Business & Innovation Division
Georgia Department of Economic Development
75 Fifth Street, Suite 1200
Atlanta, GA 30308
(404) 962-4173
gtorre@georgia.org
www.georgia.org

Mary Ellen McClanahan, Director
Governor's Entrepreneur & Small Business Office
Georgia Department of Economic Development
75 Fifth Street, Suite 1200
Atlanta, GA 30308
(404) 962-4820
memclanahan@georgia.org
www.georgia.org/business/smallbusiness

Dara Barwick, Director
Entrepreneur & Small Business Regional Program
Georgia Dept. of Economic Development
480 Magic Road
Boston, Georgia 31626
229-735-5343 office
dbarwick@georgia.org

Carol Henderson, Director
Innovation & Technology Office
Georgia Department of Economic Development
75 Fifth Street, Suite 1200
Atlanta, GA 30308
(404) 962-4031
chenderson@georgia.org
www.georgia.org

United States Export Assistance Center (USEAC)

The Sunbelt U.S. Export Assistance Center (USEAC) is a multi-agency office providing export assistance. Partners in the Sunbelt USEAC include U.S. Department of Commerce, Georgia Department of Economic Development, University of Georgia Business Outreach Services, and the Small Business Administration. The center, located in downtown Atlanta, has been open since 1995 and provides a variety of export assistance programs.

The mission of the USEAC is to:

- Increase the number of successful U.S. exporters and their expansion into existing and new markets.
- Create new jobs in Georgia through exports.
- Increase the international competitiveness of U.S. industry by providing a single point of contact for the export assistance programs.

The Sunbelt USEAC (Atlanta office) provides export assistance programs in the areas of market research, marketing, and export financing. Research resources include a resource center with both printed and electronic materials; personnel are available to give a brief tour and orient the visitor to the center's materials. Marketing programs vary from trade missions led by state program managers to catalogue shows where state employees represent your company's sales materials to foreign buyers. The USEAC staff also assists companies with the export finance programs of the Export-Import Bank of the U.S. (ExIm Bank) and the Small Business Administration.

For more information contact:

Ray Gibeau, Export Development Regional Manager
Sunbelt U.S. Export Assistance Center
75 Fifth Street, NW Suite 1055
Atlanta, GA 30308
404-897-6089w
404-897-6085f
raymond.gibeau@sba.gov

Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority
(GEFA)

www.gefa.org

Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA)

The Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA), created by the Georgia General Assembly, assists local governments in constructing and rehabilitating water, sewer and solid-waste facilities necessary for public purposes and for commercial, residential, and industrial development. GEFA also finances the acquisition of lands (by conservation easement or fee simple purchase) for putting significant land into a permanent conservation status.

Of these programs, the **Georgia Fund Program** is the most suited for economic development projects because of its flexibility and quick turnaround time. It can be used for water and sanitary- sewer construction. The **Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF)** is available for sanitary sewer and stormwater management projects at a more favorable interest rate but with a longer application review period.

Georgia Fund Program

Eligible Applicants

Cities, counties, and water and sewer authorities

Eligible Projects/Program Requirements

Any water or sewer capital improvements projects, with the exception of storm water work.

Loan Conditions

The interest rate charged is based on the rate of the most recent sale of Georgia's general obligation bonds. In August 2007 the rate is 4.4%. One Georgia-Authority-Eligible Counties are eligible for lower interest rates - as low as 2.0% - if they are already charging high water or sewer rates and the system customers have a low average income. The maximum loan term is 20 years except for loans over \$35 million. No application, closing or administrative fees. These are simple interest loans with no prepayment penalties.

Maximum Funds Available

The amount of loans committed varies each year, but averages \$50 million per year.

On average \$20 million is appropriated to the program from the General Assembly and additional funds are provided from the repayment of outstanding loans. The maximum amount of funds that can be loaned to one community annually is on a population-based scale (see below). Multiple projects may be submitted and funded.

Deadline

Applications may be submitted at any time. Availability is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Maximum loan amount available in each calendar year from these three programs - Georgia Fund, CWSRF and DWSRF - is determined by the population of the applicant:

0	to	3,000	up to	\$10,000,000
3,001	to	25,000	up to	\$15,000,000
25,001	to	100,000	up to	\$25,000,000
100,001	to	300,000	up to	\$35,000,000
300,001	and	over	up to	*\$50,000,000

* Maximum loan term for all borrowed amounts is 20 years. However, for amounts in excess of \$35 million, repayment term can be extended to 30 years.

For further information contact:

Arlene Durrah, Program Manager
(404) 584-1023
arlene@gefa.ga.gov or

Dan Clarke, Project Development Manager
(404) 584-1059
dan@gefa.ga.gov

Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority
233 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Harris Tower, Suite 900
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-1911
www.gefa.org/water_and_sewer.html

Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund

Eligible Applicants

Cities, counties, and water and sewer authorities

Eligible Projects/Program Requirements

Virtually all types of wastewater treatment and sewer collection capital improvements are eligible, including new treatment plants or treatment plant expansions, combined sewer overflow corrections, sewer lines and sewer rehabilitation projects and projects to correct infiltration/inflow problems. Eligible non-point source projects include the construction and rehabilitation of municipal storm sewer systems, purchase of street and storm sewer cleaning equipment, acquisition of buffer zones and wetlands, construction of storm water control structures such as detention and retention ponds (particularly on a regional basis) and restoration of stream banks. Also eligible are land conservation projects resulting in a water quality benefit such as protecting the water quality of rivers, streams and lakes, flood protection, wetland protection, reduction of erosion through protection of steep slopes, erodible soils and protection of riparian buffers or other natural habitats for native plants and animal species.

Loan Conditions

The interest rate is 3.0%. A closing fee of 2.0% is charged. The maximum loan term is 20 years except for loans over \$35 million (up to 30 years for loans over \$35 million). These are simple interest loans with no prepayment penalties. Because the source of funds is federal, the projects must include facility planning, environmental review, public participation, project inspection, and minority/women's business participation.

Maximum Funds Available

The maximum amount of funds that can be loaned to one community annually is on a population-based scale (see below). Multiple projects may be submitted and funded.

Maximum loan amount available in each calendar year from this program is determined by the population of the applicant

0	to	3,000	up to	\$10,000,000
3,001	to	25,000	up to	\$15,000,000
25,001	to	100,000	up to	\$25,000,000
100,001	to	300,000	up to	\$35,000,000
300,001	and	over	up to	*\$50,000,000

* Maximum loan term for all borrowed amounts is 20 years. However, for amounts in excess of \$35 million, repayment term can be extended to 30 years.

Deadline

Applications may be submitted at any time. Applicants must send a short written request to be placed on a list of potential loan recipients. This request must contain the name of the community, a short description of the project and the project value. No project can be funded if it is not listed on the List of Potential Loan Recipients

For further information contact:

Jason Bodwell, SRF Program Manager

(404) 584-1011

jason@gefa.ga.gov

Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority

100 Peachtree Street

Harris Tower – Suite 900

Atlanta, Georgia 30303

www.gefa.org

Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund

Eligible Applicants

Cities, counties, and water and sewer authorities

Eligible Projects/Program Requirements

The primary purpose of the DWSRF program is to maintain public health and compliance. Applicants that are out of compliance may use funds from the DWSRF program to return to compliance or to maintain compliance. Allowable activities include public water system improvements which:

1. Maintaining compliance with existing or proposed standards and regulations;
2. Rehabilitate or replace aging infrastructure;
3. Rehabilitate or develop sources to replace contaminated sources of drinking; water, including replacing contaminated private wells with public water supply;
4. Install or upgrade treatment facilities to improve drinking water quality;
5. Install or upgrade storage facilities to prevent microbiological contamination;
6. Install or replace transmission and distribution pipes to prevent contamination;
7. Consolidation of under-performing systems;
8. Installing or upgrading storage facilities to prevent microbiological contaminants from entering system; and,
9. Implementation of security measures such as fencing, surveillance equipment, backflow prevention devices, and enhanced filtration/disinfection treatment.

Loan Conditions

The interest rate is 3.0%. A closing fee of 2.0% is charged. The maximum loan term is 20 years except for loans over \$35 million (up to 30 years for loans over \$35 million). These are simple interest loans with no prepayment penalties. Because the source of funds is federal, the projects must include facility planning, environmental review, public participation, project inspection, and minority/women's business participation.

DWSRF Interest Rate

The interest rate for GEFA-DWSRF funds will be fixed at 3% interest. Only those communities that meet the criteria for "disadvantaged communities" will be eligible to receive loans at a lower interest rate or a portion of the project in the form of a subsidy. To receive loans at a lower interest rate or a portion of the project in the form of a subsidy the applicant must:

1. Not be able to afford a market rate loan.
2. Charge at least 1.25% of the community's 2000 MHI for 6000 gallons of water per month. For example, if the community's 2000 MHI is \$30,625, 1.25% is equal to \$31.90 per month for 6,000 gallons of water. If the current charge for 6,000 gallons of water is below \$31.90, the community is not eligible for a lower interest rate or a portion of the project in the form of a subsidy. If the community increases its rates to \$31.90 for 6,000 gallons of water or greater it would become eligible. All additional revenue generated as a result of the increase will be factored into GEFA's financial analysis thus potentially generating sufficient revenue to afford the entire project at the market rate.
3. Be in good financial stating on any previous loans with GEFA.

Disadvantaged Community Subsidy Maximum

No community may receive more than 50% of the project cost in the form of a subsidy. Communities must receive at least 50% of the project cost in the form of a loan at 0% interest. The subsidy portion of a project may not exceed \$500,000 per community per calendar year.

Maximum Funds Available

The maximum amount of funds that can be loaned to one community annually is on a population-based scale (see below). Multiple projects may be submitted and funded.

Maximum loan amount available in each calendar year from this program is determined by the population of the applicant

0	to	3,000	up to	\$10,000,000
3,001	to	25,000	up to	\$15,000,000
25,001	to	100,000	up to	\$25,000,000
100,001	to	300,000	up to	\$35,000,000
300,001	and over		up to	*\$50,000,000

* Maximum loan term for all borrowed amounts is 20 years. However, for amounts in excess of \$35 million, repayment term can be extended to 30 years.

Deadline

Applications may be submitted at any time. Applicants must send a short written request to be placed on a list of potential loan recipients. This request must contain the name of the community, a short description of the project and the project value. No project can be funded if it is not listed on the List of Potential Loan Recipients

For further information contact:

Jason Bodwell, SRF Program Manager
(404) 584-1011
jason@gefa.ga.gov

Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority
100 Peachtree Street
Harris Tower – Suite 900
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
www.gefa.org

Solid Waste Facilities Loan Program

Eligible Applicants

Georgia local governments and Solid Waste Authorities looking to finance recycling and solid- waste management facilities.

Eligible Projects

For the purposes of collecting, treating, recycling, composting, or disposing of solid waste, including, but not limited to, trucks, dumpsters, intermediate reception stations or facilities, transfer stations, incinerators, shredders, treatment plants, landfills, landfill equipment, barrels, binders, barges, alternative technologies and other plant structures, equipment conveyances, improvements, real or personal property or rights therein, and appurtenances, furnishings, accessories, and the devices thereto necessary or useful and convenient for the collection, treatment, or disposal of solid waste.

Composting and/or recycling proposals as well as methane gas collection systems will receive higher priority for these loans.

Loan Conditions

The interest rate is based on the rate of the most recent general obligation bond sale. The maximum loan term is 20 years.

Maximum Funds Available

This loan program has a maximum of \$3 million per loan for recycling and solid waste management needs.

For further information contact:

Arlene Durrah, GA Fund Program Manager
(404) 584-1023
arlene@gefa.ga.gov

or

Dan Clarke, Project Development Manager
(404) 584-1059
dan@gefa.ga.gov

Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority
100 Peachtree Street
Harris Tower – Suite 900
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
www.gefa.org

Environmental Emergency Loan Program

Eligible Applicants

Cities, counties, and water and sewer authorities

Eligible Projects/Program Requirements

Water or sewer capital improvement projects that are needed to address emergency situations that have occurred within the last eighteen months and that could threaten the community's health or safety. A water supply or sewer project may be designated as an emergency if existing facilities fail or are destroyed by a natural disaster or accident, and lack of such facilities contributes to actual or potential public health hazards or violations of environmental regulations.

Loan Conditions

The interest rate is 2.0%. The maximum loan term is 10 years. No application, closing or administrative fees. These are simple interest loans with no prepayment penalties.

Maximum Funds Available

Funding comes from the same source as the Georgia Fund. This loan program has a maximum of \$200,000 per year per community. On average \$600,000 is committed annually under this program.

Deadline

Applications may be submitted at any time. Availability is on a first-come, first-served basis.

For further information contact:

Arlene Durrah, Program Manager

(404) 584-1023

arlene@gefa.ga.gov

or

Dan Clarke, Project Development Manager

(404) 584-1059

dan@gefa.ga.gov

Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority

233 Peachtree Street, N.E.

Harris Tower, Suite 900

Atlanta, Georgia 30303-1911

www.gefa.org

***U.S. Small Business Administration
(SBA)***

www.sba.gov/ga

U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

Your Business and the S.B.A.

The U.S. Small Business Administration is a small independent federal agency created by Congress in 1953 to assist, counsel and champion the millions of American small businesses. The mission of SBA is to help people get into business and stay in business. To do this, SBA acts as an advocate for small business. At the direction of Congress, the Agency promotes the cause of small business, explains small businesses role and contributions to our society and economy and advocates policies that help small business. The agency also provides new and established small business owners with financial assistance, management counseling and training. SBA helps small firms get a fair share of government contracts and assists in the bonding process. Web site: www.sba.gov

Advocacy:

Congress specified these basic statutory duties for SBA's Office of Advocacy:

- Serve as a focal point for feedback concerning the policies and activities of any part of the executive branch of the federal government which affects small business.
- Counsel small businesses in dealing with the federal government.
- Represent small businesses before other federal agencies.
- Enlist the help of government and private groups to disseminate information about the federal government.
- Contact the SBA Southeast Regional Advocate at (404) 331-3081. Web site: www.sba.gov/ADVO

Financial Assistance:

SBA offers a variety of loan programs to eligible small business concerns which cannot borrow on reasonable terms from conventional lenders without government help. There are two types of regular business loans:

- The 7(a) Guaranty Loan Program on loans up to \$2 million. Under this program, the SBA guarantees up to 85% of the loan to the bank or other private lender to encourage them to finance start-up businesses.
- The 504 Loan Program provides long-term, fix-rate financing for growing businesses for major fixed assets such as land and buildings. The maximum loan under this program can go to \$2 million under certain criteria with a maximum of \$4 million for "small manufacturers." These loans cannot be used for working capital.

Regular 7(a) business loans may be used for:

- Building construction, expansion, or conversion
- Purchase of machinery and equipment, furnishings, and fixtures
- Inventory
- Working Capital

Surety Bonding:

The SBA can guarantee bonds for contracts up to \$2 million covering bid, performance and payment bonds for small and emerging contractors who cannot obtain surety bonds through regular commercial channels.

SBA's guarantee gives bonding companies an incentive to provide bonding for eligible contractors. For further information go to

the following Web site: www.sba.gov/osg/

Small Business Investment Companies (SBIC):

SBA licenses, regulates and provides financial assistance to privately owned and operated small business investment companies. Their major function is to make “venture” or “risk” investments by supplying equity capital and by extending unsecured loans and loans not fully collateralized to small business enterprises. SBIC’s are privately capitalized and obtain financial leverage from SBA. They are intended to be profit-making corporations. Web site: www.sba.gov/INV/

Business Development:

Statistics show that most small business failures are due to lack of good management. For this reason, SBA places special emphasis on improving the management ability of small business owners and managers. The Agency’s Business Development program includes free individual counseling, courses, conferences, workshops, problem clinics and a wide range of publications.

SCORE:

SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) volunteers help current and prospective small business owners solve their business problems and make long range plans by providing free counseling and conducting low cost workshops and seminars. To reach SCORE in Atlanta call (404) 331-0121, ext. 805 Web site: www.SCOREAtlanta.org

Small Business Development Center (SBDC):

SBDC, headquartered at the University of Georgia in Athens, provides free managerial and technical counseling, management training programs, research studies and other types of specialized assistance to small businesses. There are 19 centers located throughout Georgia to provide these services. Web site: www.sbdc.uga.edu

Contracting Assistance:

Each year the federal government contracts to purchase billions of dollars worth of goods and services from private companies. SBA helps businesses obtain a fair share of this governmental business, as required by law. Contracting specialists in the Atlanta Area III Office counsel small businesses on how to prepare bids and obtain prime contracts and subcontracts, direct them to government agencies that buy the products or services small firms supply, help get their names on bidders lists and assist in obtaining specifications for proposed purchases. For more information call the Area Office of Government Contracting at (404) 331-7587, ext. 202. Web site: www.sba.gov/gcbd

SBA’s SUB-Net:

Prime contractors use SUB-Net, an internet-based system, to post subcontracting opportunities. These may or may not be reserved for small business, and may include notices of sources sought for teaming partners and subcontractors on future contracts. The web site may also be used by Federal agencies, state and local governments for the same purpose. For more information on SUB-Net, call the SBA’s contracting office at (404) 331-7587. Web site: www.sba.gov/subnet/

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR):

Under the SBIR Program, small businesses propose innovative ideas in competition for Phase I and Phase II awards representing specific R & D needs of the participating 15 federal agencies. Research that goes through the first two phases can result in commercialization of the effort at the Phase III level. The participating agencies, each with \$100 million in extramural R & D budgets, make up the program which resulted in more than 4,000 SBIR awards during FY 1994 for a total of nearly \$700 million in research funding. For more information call (404) 331-7587. Web site: www.sba.gov/sbir/

Special Emphasis Areas:

SBA makes special efforts to help Veterans, Women and Minorities to get into business and become successful business owners and managers. The SBA Georgia Office has managers who cover these specific areas of small business:

Veterans call 404/331-0100, ext. 609

Minorities call 404/331-0100, ext. 504

Women call 404/331-0100, ext. 405

For further information contact:

The Small Business Administration Georgia District Office

233 Peachtree Street, Harris Tower, Suite 1900

Atlanta, Georgia 30303

(404) 331-0100, extension 215

(800) 733-2894

<http://www.sba.gov/ga>

Small Business Development Centers

The SBA and/or its resource partners can provide additional information on preparing a business plan including a number of web sites that offer this data. Several sites offer programs for calculating start-up costs and cash-flow.

Headquarters: University of Georgia at Athens

Small Business Development Centers (SBDC's) are one of the ways that Georgia attempts to meet the needs of small business owners and prospective business owners when they have questions about the fundamentals of business operations. Examples of the kind of assistance provided include: business plan development, market research, record keeping and accounting, cash flow analysis, financing alternatives and international trade. The University of Georgia System also provides specialized information and assistance to businesses on topics ranging from agriculture to industrial engineering. The SBDC's are referral sources for this specialized assistance. Listed below is the contact information for the SBDC's in Georgia. They are funded by both the University System and the U.S. Small Business Administration.

State Director's Office

Allan Adams - Director
(706) 542-2762
Fax: (706) 542-6776

Small Business Development Center
Beth Melnik - Assistant Director

Albany

The University of Georgia SBDC
(229) 420-1144
Fax: (229) 430-3933
Sue Ford – Regional/Area Director

The University of Georgia SBDC
(912) 264-7343
Fax: (912) 262-3095
David Lewis – Regional/Area Director

Athens

The University of Georgia SBDC
(706) 542-7436
Fax: (706) 542-6803
Carol McDonell – Area Director

Carrollton

University of West Georgia SBDC
(678) 839-5082
Fax: (678) 839-5083
Jennifer Clendenin, Area Director

Atlanta

Georgia State University SBDC
(404) 413-7830
Fax: (404) 651-1035
Bernie Meineke – Regional/Area Director

Columbus

The University of Georgia SBDC
(706) 569-2651
Fax: (706) 569-2657
Lori Canterbury – Regional/Area Director

Augusta

The University of Georgia SBDC
(706) 737-1790
Fax: (706) 731-7937
Debra McKenzie, Area Director

Dalton

The University of Georgia SBDC
(706) 272-2707
Fax: (706) 272-2701
Jerry Sims – Area Director

Brunswick

Decatur

The University of Georgia SBDC

(404) 371-7399
Fax: (404) 371-7484
Sharon Macaluso – Area Director

Gainesville

The University of Georgia SBDC
(770) 531-5681
Fax: (770) 531-5684
Ron Simmons – Regional/Area Director

Gwinnett

The University of Georgia SBDC
(678) 407-5385
Fax: (678) 407-5386
Robert Andoh – Regional/Area Director

SBDC International Trade Center
(678) 407-5389
Charles Boyanton - ITC
Job Dieleman - ITC
Dimitris Kloussiadis - ITC

Kennesaw

Kennesaw State University SBDC
(770) 423-6450
Fax: (770) 423-6564
Lydia Jones – Area Director

Macon

The University of Georgia SBDC
(478) 751-6592
Fax: (478) 751-6607
Donald Rhodes – Area Director

Morrow

Clayton College University SBDC
(770) 961-3440
Fax: (770) 961-3428
Cecil McDaniel – Area Director

Rome

Georgia Highlands College SBDC
(706) 295-6326
Fax: (706) 295-6732
Peter Matthews – Area Director

Savannah

The University of Georgia SBDC
(912) 651-3200
Fax: (912) 651-3209
Lynn Vos – Area Director

Statesboro

Georgia Southern University SBDC
(912) 681-5194
Fax: (912) 681-0648
Lori Durden – Area Director

Valdosta

Valdosta State University SBDC
(229) 245-3738
Fax: (229) 245-3741
Suzanne Barnett – Area Director

S C O R E

Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE)
Sponsored by U.S. Small Business Administration

SCORE is

- Free counseling for small businesses
- A non-profit association of retired executives with years of counseling experience along with other skills and ideas.
- Volunteers ready to share their skills, insight and knowledge of resource availability
- Low cost workshops

Georgia SCORE Chapters

Atlanta Area

Steve Bloom, Chairman
233 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Suite 1900, Harris Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 331-0121
Fax (404) 331-0138
www.scoreatlanta.org

Experienced counselors are available 24 hours a day, through SCORE's free "eCounseling" service. After you go on the SCORE website, just click on the link for free "eCounseling" by email.

Alpharetta Branch

North Atlanta National Bank
10500 Old Alabama Road Connector
Alpharetta, Georgia 30022
(678) 277-8437

Augusta Branch

3140 Augusta Tech Drive
Augusta, Georgia 30906
(706) 793-9998

Cobb/Marietta Branch

Cobb Chamber of Commerce
240 Interstate North Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30339
(770) 859-2321

Coweta/Newnan Branch

Newnan-Coweta Chamber
23 Bullsboro Drive
Newnan, Georgia 30264
(770) 253-2270, ext. 31

Gwinnett/Duluth Branch

Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce
6500 Sugarloaf Parkway
Duluth, Georgia 30097
(770) 232-5390

Henry/McDonough Branch

Henry County Library
1001 Florence McGarity Blvd.
McDonough, Georgia 30252
(770) 954-0021

Rockdale/Conyers Branch

Rockdale Conyers Chamber
1186 Scott Street
Conyers, Georgia 30012
(770) 483-7049

Athens

Gerald Rucker
340 Weatherly Woods Drive
Winterville, Georgia 30683
(706) 548-5968

Brunswick

501 Gloucester St.
Suite 210
Brunswick, Georgia 31520
(912) 262-5329

Columbus

Wachovia Building
101 13th Street
Columbus, Georgia 31904
(706) 596-8331

Dalton

Dalton-Whitfield Chamber
890 College Drive
Dalton, GA 30720
(706) 279-3383

Savannah

111 E. Liberty Street, Suite 103
Savannah, Georgia 31401
(912) 652-4335

U.S. Small Business Administration 7(a) Guarantee Loan Program

Small Business Administration (SBA) loans and loan guarantees are available to businesses which cannot borrow on reasonable terms from conventional lenders. Two major programs exist: the 7(a) or regular loan guarantee program and the 504 or Certified Development Company program. Currently, the limit of SBA assistance (maximum guaranty) to any one borrower participating in the 7(a) program is \$1.5 million. The loan limit on the 504 program can go up to \$2 million if it meets a public policy goal and up to \$4 million for "Small Manufacturers." Total project costs can be much higher with private and other public sources providing additional financing.

Business Eligibility

- Eligible businesses include for-profit businesses only.
- Ineligible businesses include: Non-profit organizations, Passive-income and real-estate companies, Developer/landlord deals, financial institutions, Religious institutions

Business Size Standards

- Manufacturing businesses cannot employ more than 500 people, unless otherwise specified in the North American Industrial Classification Standards (NAICS) code.
- Retail and service businesses cannot have more than \$5 million in sales, unless otherwise specified in the NAICS code.
- Wholesale business cannot employ more than 100 people unless otherwise specified in the NAICS code.

Type of Financing

- Borrower must be the user of the loan proceeds.

Loan Amount - 7(a)

- Up to \$1.5 million total SBA exposure per small business concern. SBA can guarantee up to 85% of loans for \$150,000 or less and up to 75% of loans for more than \$150,000, up to a maximum of \$1.5 million. The percentage SBA guarantees depends on the project.

Use of Loan Proceeds

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| • Land and Building Acquisition | • Renovation of Building |
| • Inventory | • Accounts Receivable |
| • Machinery and Equipment | • Leasehold Improvement |
| • Working Capital | • Refinancing of Current and Secured Debt |

Repayment Term

- The bank sets the loan term from 1 to 25 years depending on the purpose, use of proceeds, ability to repay, and the useful life of the assets being purchased.

Participants in the U.S. Small Business Administration's Preferred Lender Program (PLP)

All banks are eligible to participate in SBA's Guaranteed Loan Programs. Preferred lenders have the ability to originate, process and service loans backed by SBA guarantees. Contact SBA at www.sba.gov for a complete list of participants.

Section 504 Program

The Certified Development Company (504) loan program provides long-term, fixed-rate financing for healthy and expanding small businesses as well as start-ups. Debentures guaranteed by SBA are pooled and sold in the private market in order to fund loan proceeds. Typically a 504 project will include 50 percent of the funds from a private-sector bank or other lender, 40 percent of the loan provided by a Certified Development Company (backed by a 100 percent SBA guaranteed debenture) and at least 10 percent equity from the small business borrower.

The maximum SBA debenture is \$1.5 million when meeting the job creation criteria of the 504 Program. The maximum SBA debenture can be \$2 million if the project meets certain public policy goals such as rural development or a project in a business district revitalization.

The 504 loan program was recently changed to provide a maximum \$4 million SBA debenture to "Small Manufacturers." These firms carry a primary business classification in sector 31, 32 or 33 of the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) and all of their production facilities are located in the United States.

Eligible Businesses

- Must be a for-profit corporation, partnership, or proprietorship;
- Net worth must not exceed \$7 million;
- The small business applicant must be the user of the fixed assets financed;
- The project financed should stimulate economic development and create one job per \$50,000 of the SBA debenture amount;
- Meet industry-specific definitions of a small business as determined by SBA.

Eligible Use of Proceeds

Proceeds from 504 loans must be used for fixed asset projects such as: purchasing land and improvements, including buildings, grading, street improvements, and landscaping; construction of new facilities or modernizing, renovating or converting existing facilities; purchasing long-term machinery and equipment. The 504 program cannot be used for working capital or inventory, consolidating or repaying debt, or refinancing.

Rate of Interest

Fixed, below commercial. Determined on date of debenture sale. Tied to U.S. Treasury Bonds of 5 and 10 year terms.

Private Sector Lender Portion/Maximum Loan Amount

No maximum-Bank share must be at least equal to or greater than the SBA portion.

Incentives to the Small Business Concern

- Long Term (10 or 20 years)
- Low down payment (10-15%) on fixed asset purchase
- Reasonable and fixed rate
- Loan can be prepaid with no penalty after half the term

Advantages to Financial Institutions

- Private sector lenders make their own credit decisions
- Improves their loan quality by providing 50% of the loan amount and receiving 100% first collateral mortgage position
- Set their own rates and fees

For more information contact:

The local Certified Development Company on the following page.

Georgia Certified Development Companies

Capital Partners Certified Development Company

6445 Powers Ferry Road, Suite 210

Atlanta, Georgia 30339

(404) 475-6002

Barbara Benson, Contact Person

Coastal Area District Development Authority

501 Gloucester Street, Suite 201

Brunswick, Georgia 31520

(912) 261-2500

Lawton Johnson, Contact Person

CSRA Local Development Corporation

3023 Riverwatch Parkway, Suite A

Augusta, Georgia 30907

(706) 210-2010

Randy Griffin, Contact Person

Economic Development Corporation of Fulton County

5534 Old National Highway, Building H-Suite 300

College Park, Georgia 30349

(404) 836-7731

Gene Merriday, Contact Person

Georgia Certified Development Corporation

950 East Paces Ferry Road NE

Atlanta Plaza, Suite 3250

Atlanta, Georgia 30326

(404) 442-2480

Ronald W. Tigner, Contact Person

Georgia Mountains Regional Economic Development Corporation

460 S. Enota Drive

Gainesville, Georgia 30503

(770) 536-7839

Lorra Lee, Contact Person

Georgia Resource Capital Inc.

2000 First Drive, Suite 200

Marietta, Georgia 30062

(678) 560-2656

Jennifer Davis, Contact Person

Georgia Small Business Capital

114 New Street, Suite I-1

Decatur, Georgia 30030

(404) 373-8601

Miguel Alandete, Contact Person

Georgia Small Business Lender Inc.

175-C Emery Highway
Macon, Georgia 31217
(478) 751-6160
Clayton Black, Contact Person

North Georgia Certified Development Corporation

503 West Waugh Street
Dalton, Georgia 30720
(706) 272-2300
Jennifer Whorton, Contact Person

Small Business Assistance Corporation

111 E. Liberty Street, Suite 100
Savannah, Georgia 31401
(912) 232-4700
Tony O'Reilly, Contact Person

South Georgia Area Development Corporation

327 West Savannah Avenue
Valdosta, Georgia 31601
(229) 333-5281
Michele Frey, Contact Person

SBA Express Loan Program

The SBA Express

- Makes it easier and faster for selected Preferred Lender Program and non-Preferred Lender Program lenders to provide small business loans of \$350,000 or less.
- Allows lenders to use their own forms and procedures to approve service and liquidate loans of up to \$150,000.
- The SBA guarantees up to 50 percent of each loan to the bank, therefore encouraging lenders to make small business loans.
- SBA Express lenders can also offer revolving lines of credit to borrowers.

Who's Eligible

- Entrepreneurs starting, growing or building a business.
- Businesses whose average annual sales for the preceding twelve months do not exceed SBA's size standards for specific industrial classifications.

Interest Rates

- Applicants negotiate terms with the lender.
- Interest rates are tied to the Prime rate and may be fixed or variable.

Maturity

- May not exceed 25 years for fixed assets or generally 5 to 10 years for all other uses.

Collateral

- All loans are to be adequately secured.
- Normally business assets are pledged and occasionally personal assets.
- SBA Express lenders may approve unsecured lines of credit up to \$25,000.

See <http://www.sba.gov/localresources/district/ga/index.html> for additional information.

SBA PATRIOT EXPRESS Program

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) began accepting applications in June of 2007 from lenders on behalf of borrowers in its new Patriot Express Pilot Loan Initiative for military community entrepreneurs. Patriot Express is a streamlined loan product based on the agency's highly successful SBA Express Program, but with enhanced guaranty and interest rate characteristics.

Patriot Express is available to military community members including veterans, service-disabled veterans, service members leaving active duty, Reservists and National Guard members. In addition, current spouses of any of the above, and the widowed spouse of a service member or veteran who died during service, or of a service-connected disability, are eligible.

Under the program, Loans are available up to \$500,000 and qualify for SBA's maximum guaranty of up to 85 percent for loans of \$150,000 or less and up to 75 percent for loans over \$150,000 up to \$500,000. For loans above \$350,000, lenders are required to take all available collateral to secure the loan and may obtain collateral for smaller loans depending upon individual bank requirements.

Interest rate maximums for Patriot Express loans are the same as those for regular 7(a) loans: a maximum of prime + 2.25 percent for maturities under 7 years; prime + 2.75 percent for 7 years or more. Interest rates can be higher by 2 percent for loans of \$25,000 or less; and 1 percent for loans between \$25,000 and \$50,000.

The Patriot Express Pilot Loan Initiative can be used for most business purposes. Details on the initiative can be found at www.sba.gov/patriotexpress.

Atlanta Women's Business Center

The Atlanta Women's Business Center is a major new resource for women who want to start a business or for those who already operate a business. The center offers assistance with various aspects of business operations including cash flow and profit-margin projections. The center has a well organized information section stocked with computers, manuals, books and audio and video tapes on various business topics.

Counselors from the SBA's Atlanta SCORE Chapter offer one-on-one counseling to women entrepreneurs.

Workshops and seminars are offered throughout the year and cover such topics as the basics of starting a business, developing a business plan, marketing, sources of business capital, and technology as a business tool.

For further information please contact:

Georgia Women's Business Centers:

The Edge Connection Women's Business Center
3333 Busbee Drive, Suite 415
Kennesaw, GA 30144
Patricia Harris, Executive Director
(770) 499-3228
www.theedgeconnection.com

Women's Economic Development Agency
Metropolitan Lofts
675 Metropolitan Parkway S.W., Suite 2026
Atlanta, GA 30310
Carolina Ramon, WBC Manager
(678) 904-2201
www.weda-atlanta.org

SBA 8(a) Business Development Program

The 8(a) Program promotes equal access for certified companies, owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, to participate in the business sector of the nation's economy. These individuals may include Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian Pacific Americans and subcontinent Asian Americans. Individuals not members of these minority groups, who can demonstrate they are socially and economically disadvantaged, may also be eligible for the program.

SBA may provide 8(a) firms with contracting, marketing, financial, management or other technical assistance. Resources available include counseling, SBA financial assistance through agency guaranteed loans, management training, and surety bond guarantees.

The SBA, as part of the program, may enter into prime contracts with other federal agencies and departments to provide goods and services, and subcontract the actual performance on the contracts to approved 8(a) firms. The agency will also offer marketing tools to 8(a) firms to help them successfully compete in the private-sector market. The SBA assigns a Business Opportunity Specialist (BOS) to each certified firm in the program to help it fulfill its business goals.

SBA cannot guarantee any specific amount of government business for each 8(a) firm. However, SBA officials do maintain data on government requirement trends to anticipate the nature and volume of business opportunities.

The 8(a) program conducts monthly workshops for prospective participants. A company, once approved, can be an 8(a) program participant for nine years.

You can download and fill out the application for 8(a) and SDB certification on the SBA website. GO TO: www.sba.gov. Under "Resources" on the left side of the page, select "8(a) SDB Applications."

(REQUIRED FORMS)

SBA Form 1010 – 8(a) Application

SBA Form 355 – Application for small business size determination.

(SDB APPLICATION ONLY)

SBA Form 912 – Statement of Personal History (2) copies

SBA Form 413 – Personal Financial Statement (2) copies

SBA Form 1623 – Certification Regarding Debarment (1) copy

FORM 4506T – Request for Copy or Transcript of Tax Form

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You can submit the 8(a) application and forms electronically

GO TO: www.sba.gov/8abd

SBA Electronic application hotline number
(415) 744-6784

For Additional General 8(A) Information

GO TO: www.sba.gov/ga/8ainformation.html

Contact the 8(a) GA District Office At:
(404) 331-0100, ext. 504

Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB) Certification

This certification program will categorize a firm as a small disadvantaged business (SDB) only if a SBA review finds it is owned and controlled by someone who is socially and economically disadvantaged. Companies participating in the SBA 8(a) program are already considered SDB's and do not undergo a second review.

Once a firm is certified SDB, it will be eligible for preference under new federal procurement regulations. The main preference is a price evaluation adjustment of up to 10 percent for SDB's bidding as prime contractors. The preference applies only to those industries where disadvantaged companies are underutilized.

The SBA's Office of Small Disadvantaged Business Certification will certify the ownership and control of all small companies that apply, and decide protests and appeals. Revised federal rules make it easier for business owners who are not members of minority groups to become SDB's by demonstrating their disadvantage. Applications for SDB status are available online at www.sba.gov. Details on applying online are listed in the 8(a) Business Development section.

For additional information contact the SBA at:

(404) 331-0100, ext. 504.

SBA Government Contracting - Area III

The federal government is the largest buyer in the world and small businesses are often at a disadvantage when trying to win federal contracts, but the SBA can help overcome the barriers. Working closely with federal agencies and the nation's leading contractors, the SBA works to ensure that small businesses obtain a fair share of government contracts and subcontracts. The SBA has a number of programs to help small firms do business with the federal government.

The Area III Government Contracting Office in Atlanta provides procurement assistance to small businesses principally through the following SBA programs:

- Prime Contracts Assistance
- Subcontracting assistance
- Certificates of Competency (COC)
- PRO-NET
- Size Determinations

For further information contact the SBA at:

(404) 331-7587, ext. 202 or 203

www.sba.gov/gc

SBA Microloan Programs in Georgia

Microloan Programs in Georgia

The Microloan Program was developed to increase the availability of very small loans to prospective small business borrowers. Under this program, the SBA makes funds available to non-profit intermediaries, who in turn make loans to eligible borrowers in amounts that range from under \$500 up to \$35,000. For further information, contact one of the following Microloan Programs:

Albany Community Together Inc. (ACT)

230 S. Jackson Street, Suite 154
Albany, GA 31701
Contact: Thelma Adams Johnson
(229) 420-4600
Fax : (229) 420-8311
www.albanycommunitytogetherinc.com

Appalachian Community Enterprises

3173 Highway 129 North
Cleveland, GA 30528
Contact: Grace Fricks
(706) 348-6609
www.ace loans.org

DeKalb Enterprise Business Corporation (DEBCO)

250 E. Ponce de Leon Avenue, Suite 415
Decatur, GA 30030
Contact: Charles Blackmon
(404) 378-1899
www.debco.org

Small Business Assistance Corporation

111 E. Liberty Street
Suite 100
Savannah, GA 31401
Contact: Tony O'Reily
(912) 232-4700
Fax : (912) 232-0385
www.sbacsav.com

Atlanta Micro fund

100 Flat Shoals Avenue S.E.
Lang Carson Community Center
Atlanta, GA 30316
Contact: Marvin Bryant
(678) 539-6900

Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) Program

The Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) Program fills the gap between the availability of venture capital and the needs of small businesses that are either starting or growing. Licensed and regulated by the SBA, the privately owned and operated SBICs use their own capital and funds borrowed from the Small Business Administration (SBA) to finance small businesses in the form of equity securities and long-term loans. SBICs are for-profit and select small businesses to be financed within the regulations set by SBA.

SBICs invest in a broad range of industries. Some SBICs seek out small businesses with known products or services because of the strong growth potential of such firms. Some SBICs specialize in the field in which their management has special competency.

Only firms defined by the SBA as “small” are eligible for SBIC financing. The SBA defines a company as small when its net worth is \$18 million or less, and its average net (after tax) income for the preceding two years does not exceed \$6 million. In determining whether a business qualifies, all of the business’ subsidiaries and affiliates are considered.

Listed below are active SBICs in Georgia. Other SBICs located in other states might be able to serve the needs of small businesses in Georgia.

EGL/Nat West Equity Partners USA

3495 Piedmont Road
Building 11, Suite 412
Atlanta, Georgia 30305
(404) 949-8303
Salvatore Massaro, Manager

Global Capital Funding Group, L. P.

106 Colony Park Drive, Suite 900
Cumming, Georgia 30040
(678) 947-0028
Brad Thompson

First Growth Capital, Inc.

P. O. Box 815,
Best Western Plaza
I-75 & GA 42
Forsyth, Georgia 31029
(478) 994-9260
Vijay Patel, President

For additional information contact:

SBIC Operations
409 Third Street, S.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20416,
(202) 205-6519
or www.sba.gov/Inv/

Surety Bond Guarantee Program

What is a Surety Bond?

A SBA surety bond guarantees bid, performance and payment bonds for contracts up to \$2 million for eligible small businesses that cannot obtain surety bonds through regular commercial channels. By law, prime contractors to the federal government must post surety bonds on federal construction projects valued at \$100,000 or more. In addition, many state and local government projects and subcontracts require surety bonds. Contractors must apply through a surety bonding agent, since the SBA's guaranty goes to the surety company.

Who is eligible to apply for a Surety Guarantee?

Any contractor meeting SBA's size standard requirement can apply for an SBA surety guarantee. In general, a firm is classified as "small" if the company's average annual receipts over the last three fiscal years do not exceed \$6 million.

You need to consider the following before applying:

- The face value of a SBA Guarantee contract cannot exceed the sum of \$2 million.
- SBA will guarantee a surety 70-90 % of the face value of a contract depending on the program and the social/disadvantaged status of the applicant.

What costs are involved?

- The premium charged by the surety.
- A SBA charge of \$6.00 per every \$1,000 of the contract amount (final bonds only).

For further information contact:

SBA Surety Bond Division
(404) 331-0100, ext. 702 or 703

For Surety Bond information on the SBA web site, go to: www.sba.gov/osg

***United States Department of
Agriculture (USDA)
Rural Development (RD)***

www.usda.gov

Intermediary Relending Program (IRP)

The purpose of the IRP is to finance business facilities and community development projects in rural areas. This is achieved through loans made by USDA Rural Development (RD) to intermediaries. The intermediaries relend the funds to ultimate recipients for business facilities or community development. Intermediaries establish revolving loan funds, so that collections from loans made to ultimate recipients, in excess of necessary operating expenses and debt payments, will be used for more loans to ultimate recipients.

Who may borrow?

Intermediaries may be cooperatives, private nonprofit corporations, public bodies, and Indian tribes. Intermediaries must:

- Be bonded.
- Have legal authority to carry out the proposed loan purposes and to incur and repay the debt.
- Have a record of successfully assisting rural business and industry, normally including experience in making and servicing commercial loans.
- Provide adequate assurance of repayment.

An ultimate recipient may be any type of legal entity, including individuals and public and private organizations.

At least 51 percent of the owners or members of both intermediaries and ultimate recipients must be United States citizens or admitted for permanent residence. Both intermediaries and ultimate recipients must be unable to obtain the proposed loan elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms.

How may funds be used?

All of the IRP loan funds received by an intermediary must be relented to ultimate recipients. Interest income and fees may be used for administrative costs, technical assistance to borrowers, or debt retirement. All collections from the operation of the IRP revolving loan fund that are not used for the above authorized expenses, must be made available for relending to eligible ultimate recipients for the establishment of new businesses, the expansion of existing businesses, creation of employment opportunities, saving existing jobs, or community development projects.

What are the loan terms?

Loans to intermediaries are scheduled for repayment over a period of up to 30 years. The term of loans from intermediaries to ultimate recipients is set by the intermediary.

What is the interest rate?

The interest rate on loans to intermediaries is one percent per annum. The interest rate charged to ultimate recipients is set by the intermediary.

Is collateral required?

Yes, all loans to intermediaries must be adequately secured. Intermediaries are asked to provide a proposal for securing the loan, for RD's consideration, in addition to the application. Intermediaries are also required to provide written policies for loans to ultimate recipients.

If the ultimate recipients fail to repay the loans from the intermediary, what happens to the intermediary's loan from RD? When the intermediary accepts the IRP loan, it is incurring a

debt, just as if it obtained a loan from a bank. It is hoped and expected that the collections from the loans to ultimate recipients will be sufficient to repay the RD loan on schedule. However, even if the collections from ultimate recipients are not sufficient, the intermediary is fully responsible for repaying RD.

Applications should be filed with the Georgia State Office at the following address:

USDA, Rural Development, 355 E. Hancock Avenue, Stop 305, Athens, Georgia 30601

If you need further assistance with this program, please contact Toni Grimes, Business Programs Technician, at (706) 546-2154 or visit our website: www.rurdev.usda.gov/ga/rbs.htm

Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEGr)

The RBEGr program is a grant program used to support development of small emerging private business enterprises in rural areas. Rural areas include all territory of the state not within the outer boundary of any city having a population of 50,000 or more and its immediately adjacent urbanized and urbanizing areas with a population density of more than one hundred persons per square mile. Small and emerging private businesses are those that employ 50 or fewer new employees and have projected gross revenues of less than \$1,000,000.

These grants can be made to public bodies and private nonprofit corporations that serve rural areas. Funds are limited, applications will be scored and ranked for competition based on RD established priorities related to population, economic conditions, experience, commitment of business or industry to the proposal, substantial commitment of non-federal funds to the project, and existence of stress factors which would be mitigated if the project were funded.

These grant funds may be used to finance and develop small and emerging private business enterprises in rural areas, including but not limited to the following:

1. Acquisition and development of land, easements, and rights-of-way.
2. Construction, conversion, enlargement, repairs or modernization of buildings, plants, machinery, equipment, access streets and roads, parking areas, utilities, and pollution control and abatement facilities.
3. Loans for start-up operating cost and working capital.
4. Technical assistance for existing businesses.
5. Reasonable fees and charges for professional services necessary for the planning and development of the project including packaging. These services must be provided by individuals licensed through an appropriate state accreditation association.
6. Refinancing of debts exclusive of interest incurred by or on behalf of an association before an application for a grant when all of the following exist:
 - A. The debts were incurred for the facility or part thereof or service to be installed or improved with the grant.
 - B. Arrangements cannot be made with the creditors to extend or modify the terms of the existing debt.
7. Providing financial assistance to third parties through a loan.
8. Training, when necessary, in connection with technical assistance.
9. Creation, expansion, and operation of rural learning programs that provide educational or job training instruction related to potential employment or job advancement for adult students.

These grant funds cannot be used:

1. To produce agriculture products through growing, cultivation, and harvesting either directly or through horizontally integrated livestock operations except for commercial nurseries, timber operations, or limited agricultural production related to technical assistance projects.

2. To finance comprehensive area-wide planning. This does not preclude using grant funds to plan a given project.
3. For loans by grantees when the rates, terms and charges for these loans are not reasonable or would be for purposes not eligible as described above.
4. For programs operated by cable television systems.
5. To fund a part of a project that is dependent on other funding unless there is a firm commitment of other funding to ensure project completion.

If the grant funds are to be used to provide financial assistance to third parties either through revolving loans or lease of facilities by grantee, at least 51 percent of the outstanding interest in the entity must have membership or be owned by those who are either citizens of the United States or reside in the United States after having been legally admitted for permanent residence.

Grants will only be made when there is a reasonable assurance that the project will result in job creation. Application should be made at the RD Office. Staff will be glad to discuss services available from the RD and explain how to prepare a written application.

For further information, please contact one of our Area Offices or visit our website:

Monroe	(770)267-1413
Baxley	(912)367-3603
Cartersville	(770)386-3393
Macon	(478)752-8121
Tifton	(229)382-0273
Waynesboro	(706)554-7001

www.rurdev.usda.gov/ga/rbs.htm

Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG)

The RBOG program promotes sustainable economic development in rural communities with exceptional needs through provision of training and technical assistance for business development, entrepreneurs, and economic development officials and to assist with economic development planning.

How much are the grants? The maximum grant for a project serving a single state is \$50,000. The maximum grant for a project serving two or more states is \$150,000.

Who is eligible? Rural public bodies, rural nonprofit corporations, rural Indian tribes, and cooperatives with primarily rural members that conduct activities for the mutual benefit of the membership are eligible provided they have sufficient financial strength and expertise to carry out the activity to be funded.

Define Rural: Any area other than a city or town with a population of greater than 50,000 and the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to such a city or town according to the latest decennial census. In addition certain communities are given high funding priority including those suffering from natural disaster, fundamental economic structural change, persistent poverty, long term population decline or job deterioration.

What types of projects are eligible? The RBOG program is primarily a training and technical assistance program. Funds may be provided for development of export markets; feasibility studies; development of long term trade strategies; community economic development planning; business training and business based technical assistance for rural entrepreneurs and business managers; establishment of rural business incubators; and assistance with technology-based economic development. The types of projects that may be funded might include identification/analysis of business opportunities that will utilize local material and human resources; provision of leadership development training to existing or prospective rural entrepreneurs and managers; business support centers; centers for training, technology and export trade; and, economic development planning;

Availability of funds: In FY2007, approximately \$3 million was available nationwide.

How to Apply? Contact one of our Area Offices or visit our website:

Monroe	(770)267-1413
Baxley	(912)367-3603
Cartersville	(770)386-3393
Macon	(478)752-8121
Tifton	(229)382-0273
Waynesboro	(706)554-7001

www.rurdev.usda.gov/ga/rbs.htm

Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program

Description:

The Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program guarantees loans made by commercial lenders against a portion of loss resulting from borrower default. Rural Development guarantees the commercial loan rather than lending the money directly. The B&I program is lender-driven. A commercial lender requests the B&I guarantee, and, if approved, will make and service loan. The lender always retains the responsibilities for servicing the loan and for notifying the Agency of any violations of the Loan Agreement, Conditional Commitment, and Lenders Agreement. The purpose of the guarantee authority is to improve the economic climate in rural communities in “partnership” with the existing private credit sources by increasing the local lender’s legal lending limit and allowing “increased” benefits to return to the lender via sale of both the guaranteed and non-guaranteed portions of the loan. The loan is made by commercial and other recognized lenders; generally, authorized lenders include Federal and State chartered banks, credit unions, insurance companies, savings and loan associations, Farm Credit System institutions with direct lending authority, or a mortgage company that is part of a bank holding company, plus the National Rural Cooperative Finance Corporation, eligible Rural Utilities Service borrowers, and other nontraditional lenders approved by the Agency who have met specific commercial lending criteria.

Eligibility Criteria:

Virtually any legally organized entity including a cooperative, corporation, partnership, trust or other entity organized and operating on a profit or nonprofit basis, Indian Tribe or Federally-recognized Tribal group, municipality, county, or other political subdivision of a State, or an individual. There is no test for credit elsewhere requirement.

Other Criteria:

Collateral must be sufficient to protect the interest of the lender and the Government and usually includes personal and/or corporate guarantees. The business must have tangible balance sheet equity position at loan closing of 10 percent or more for existing businesses and 20% or more for new businesses. The proposed operation must have realistic repayment ability based on documented assumptions. New businesses will be asked to obtain a feasibility study by a recognized independent consultant. All applicants must provide an acceptable business plan. Personal or corporate guaranties are required if ownership interest is 20% or more. The Business and its owners must have acceptable credit history. Loans may only be made in rural areas of the state that are not within a city having a population of 50,000 or more or an area that is urban or urbanizing. The maximum aggregate B&I Guaranteed Loan amount is \$25 million to any one borrower. Maximum maturities are 7 years for working capital, 15 years for machinery and equipment, and 30 years on real estate. Loans up to \$5 million may receive a guarantee of up to 80%. Loans from \$5 - \$10 million are eligible for guarantees up to 70%. Any loan over \$10 million is limited to a 60% guarantee. The RBS Administrator may, at his/her discretion, grant an exception allowing guarantees up to 90% on loans of \$10 million or less if certain conditions exist. A guarantee fee of 2% of the principal loan amount multiplied by the percent of guarantee is due when the Loan Note Guarantee is issued.

For further information, please contact Eddie Douglas, Business Programs Specialist, in the Georgia State Office at (706)546-2154 or visit our website, www.rurdev.usda.gov/ga/guarrbs.htm

Financing For Small Municipal and Rural Community Facility Projects

Rural Development (RD) is an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture. Guaranteed Loans and Direct Loans are available through RD. Rural communities and small incorporated towns/cities not larger than 20,000 based on the latest decennial population census of the United States are eligible to apply.

To qualify applicants must be unable to obtain the financing from other sources and/or their own resources at rates and terms they can afford. Public bodies and nonprofit corporations can be eligible applicants.

Funds can be used for construction, land acquisition, legal fees, architect fees, capitalized interest, equipment, initial operation and maintenance costs, project contingencies, and any other cost that is determined by RD to be necessary for the completion of the project. The attached list shows many of the kinds of projects that can be financed with Community Facility loans.

Interest Rates:

Interest Rates for Guaranteed Loans

As negotiated by private lender and applicant and determined by RD to be reasonable. May be a fixed or floating rate.

Interest Rates for Direct Loans

Three categories (Two percent increase in interest rate may be assessed when project is built on prime farmland. This can be waived for public bodies when there are no suitable alternate sites.)

Market Rate:

Available to applicants whose Median Household Income (MHI) of service area is greater than the non- metropolitan MHI of Georgia (\$44,159).

Intermediate Rate:

Available to applicants whose MHI is not more than the non-metropolitan MHI (\$44,159) of Georgia and who otherwise do not qualify for the poverty rate.

Poverty Rate:

Available to applicants whose MHI is below the latest established nationwide poverty level MHI (\$20,650) or below 80 percent of the non-metropolitan MHI of Georgia (80% of \$44,159 = \$35,327) and there are existing health/sanitation conditions that would be alleviated with the proposed project so as to comply with regulatory agencies' established standards. The health/sanitation provisions do not apply to health care and related facilities that provide direct health care to the public.

Rates are subject to change quarterly (January 1, April 1, July 1, October 1). The market rate is based on the performance of the Bond Buyer Index. The intermediate rate is set halfway between the poverty and market rates but not to exceed 7 percent. Rates are fixed and the maximum rate is established at the time the loan is approved. If rates drop by the time the loan is closed, the applicant is afforded the opportunity to receive the lower rate.

Present Rates:

Check with RD area representatives.

Repayment Terms:

Up to 40 years for both direct and guaranteed loans based on applicant’s authority and life expectancy of the system.

Security:

Guaranteed and Direct Loans:

Public Bodies:

Revenue Bonds, General Obligation Bonds, Special

Non-Profit:

Assessment bonds, Promissory Notes, Real Estate

Corporations:

Mortgages, Financing Statements, Security Agreements, Security instruments for guaranteed loans must be taxable issues.

Maximum Amounts:

Direct Loans:

May be obtained for 100 percent of eligible project costs subject to adequate security, ability to repay, applicant’s authority to borrow, and availability of funds.

Guaranteed Loans:

Same as for direct loans as determined by private lender and approved by RD. However, the RD guarantee cannot exceed 90 percent of the loan and the Agency normally prefers that it not exceed 80 percent.

Grant Funds:

There are limited grant funds available for small projects.

Eligibility of an applicant can be determined by filing a pre-application package with the appropriate RD Area Office. Eligible applicants will be invited to file application dockets subject to the availability of funds. Personnel will directly assist the applicant in the preparation of the loan/grant application docket. After eligibility is determined but prior to the development of the application docket, we must be able to satisfactorily:

1. Review and approve the preliminary architectural report.
2. Review and approve the architectural agreement.
3. Complete the environmental review and assessment of the project impact on the human environment to include the applicant’s required advertisements and notification to interested parties.
4. Any other item that is related to the above three items or is pertinent in being able to determine project feasibility.

Application should be made at the RD Area Office. The Area Office staff will be glad to discuss services available from the RD and explain how to prepare a written application.

Georgia has District Offices in:

Cartersville	770-386-3393
Athens	706-546-2471
Macon	478-752-8121
Waynesboro	706-554-7001
Tifton	229-382-0273

Baxley 912-367-3603

Georgia State Office 706-546-2171

TYPES OF SERVICE TYPE /FACILITY ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

Community Health Care

Physicians Clinics, Dental Clinic (in conjunction with the Nursing Home Department of Health Outpatient Care and Human Services)

Cultural & Educational

All Purpose Building - College Campus
Educational Camp for Physical/Mentally Handicapped
Library Museum Nursery School
Open Air Theater
Public School
School Maintenance & Equipment Service Center
Senior Citizen Center
Vocational School

Energy Transmission & Distribution

Electrical Equipment Maintenance Building
Electrical Service
Low Head-Hydroelectric Plants
Natural Gas Distribution

Fire Rescue & Public Safety

Civil Defense Building
Communications Center
Fire Department, Fire Trucks
Jail
Mobile Communications Center Multiservice –
Fire/Rescue Police Station
Rescue & Ambulance Service
Rescue & Ambulance Service Equipment Building

Health Care

Boarding Home for Elderly (Ambulatory Care) Dental Clinic
Hospital (General & Surgical) Medical Rehabilitation Center Nursing Home
Outpatient Care
Physicians Clinics
Vocational Rehabilitation Center

Other Facilities

Agricultural Fairgrounds
Animal Shelter Bridges-Roads Cemetery
County Canning Facility
Dike
Oceanfront Protection
Parking Lot
Social Services Building

Sprinkler System

Public Building & Improvements

Adult Day Care Center

Child Care Center

City Hall

Community Health Department Office Building

Community Center County Courthouse Courthouse Annex

Data Processing Center

Heating Plant for Public Buildings

Home for Delinquents

Public Maintenance Building

Recreational

Family oriented recreation (Guaranteed Program Only)

Transportation

Airport Hanger

Bridge

City Airport

Municipal & County Garage

Off Street Parking School Buses Sidewalks

Street Improvement

Street Maintenance Equipment

USDA Section 9006 Energy Grant Program

The Section 9006 Grant Program provides grants for agricultural producers and rural small businesses to purchase and install renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements. The emergence of viable renewable energy markets represents a historic opportunity for job and wealth creation in rural America.

How much are the grants?

The grants are awarded on a competitive basis and can be up to 25% of total eligible project costs. Grants are limited to \$500,000 for renewable energy systems and \$250,000 for energy efficiency improvements. Grant requests as low as \$2,500 for renewable energy systems and \$1,500 for energy efficiency improvements will be considered.

Who is eligible?

The program is designed to assist farmers, ranchers and rural small businesses that are able to demonstrate financial need. All agricultural producers, including farmers and ranchers, who gain 50% or more of their gross income from the agricultural operations are eligible. Small businesses that are located in a rural area can also apply. Rural electric cooperatives may also be eligible to apply.

What types of projects are eligible?

Most rural projects that reduce energy use and result in savings for the agricultural producer or small business are eligible as energy efficient projects. These include projects such as retrofitting lighting or insulation, or purchasing or replacing equipment with more efficiency units. Eligible renewable energy projects include projects that produce energy from wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, and hydrogen-based sources. The projects can produce any form of energy including, heat, electricity, or fuel.

For all projects, the system must be located in a rural area, must be technically feasible, and must be owned by the applicant.

How to Apply:

The Agency's primary representative is Craig Scroggs, in our Monroe Office, (770)267-1413, extension 113. If Mr. Scroggs is unavailable, contact Eddie Douglas, Business Programs Specialist, in the Georgia State Office at (706)546-2154.

Information can be obtained at the website: www.rurdev.usda.gov/ga/rbs.htm.

USDA Section 9008 Biomass Research and Development Initiative

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Development jointly solicit applications for financial assistance addressing research and development of biomass-based products, bioenergy, biofuels and related processes. The Program is intended to promote innovation and development related to biomass. It supports the Biomass Research Development Act of 2000, Section 9008 of the 2002 Farm Bill, the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003, the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and stated Federal policy.

How much are the grants?

Grants may be awarded in a range of \$250,000 to \$2 million. Grants are highly competitive and require successful completion of a two-phase pre-application and application process. Based on a technical merit review of the pre-applications, full applications are submitted by invitation only.

Who is eligible?

Individual eligible entities or consortia of eligible entities include the following types of organizations:

- Institutions of higher education (colleges and universities beyond secondary education level)
- National Laboratories
- Federal and State research agencies
- Private sector entities (companies, corporations, farms, ranches, cooperatives, and others that compete in the marketplace)
- Nonprofit organizations (other than 501(c)(4) lobbying organizations)

What types of projects are eligible?

As mandated by the 2005 EPACT, there are four research and development technical topic areas considered eligible for Section 9008 funding. These include:

- Feedstock Production through the development of crops and cropping systems relevant to production of raw materials for conversion to biobased fuels or biobased products.
- Overcoming Recalcitrance of Cellulosic Biomass through developing technologies for converting cellulosic biomass into intermediates that can subsequently be converted into biobased fuels and biobased products.
- Product Diversification through technologies relevant to production of a range of biobased products (including chemicals, animal feeds, and co-generated power) that eventually can increase the feasibility of fuel production in a biorefinery.
- Analysis that provides strategic guidance for the application of biomass technologies in accordance with realization of improved sustainability and environmental quality, cost effectiveness, security, and rural economic development, usually featuring system-wide approaches.

How to Apply

The Agency primary representative is Craig Scroggs, Business and Cooperative Programs Specialist, in our Monroe Office, (770)267-1413, extension 113. If Mr. Scroggs is unavailable, contact Eddie Douglas, Business Programs Specialist, in the Georgia State Office at (706)546-2154.

Information can be obtained at the website: www.rurdev.usda.gov/ga/rbs.htm.

The Agency's primary representative for the following programs is Craig Scroggs, Business and Cooperative Programs Specialist, in our Monroe Office, (770)267-1413, extension 113. If Mr. Scroggs is unavailable, contact the Georgia State Office at (706)546-2154.

Cooperative Services – User-owned cooperatives process and market products, purchase production supplies or consumer goods, provide housing by credit, build and operate rural utilities and provide other needed services. By working together in cooperatives, residents are often able to reduce costs, obtain services that might otherwise be unavailable and achieve greater returns for their products. The Cooperative Service programs of Rural Development help residents form new cooperative businesses and improve the operations of existing cooperatives. To accomplish this, Cooperative Services assists in cooperative development, assists with technical matters, conducts cooperative-related research, and provides cooperative training programs and educational materials.

Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program (RCDG) – These grants are for establishing and operating centers to improve the economy. Their purpose is to promote or enhance cooperatives. Non-profit institutions, including institutions of higher learning, are eligible applicants. Applications are solicited annually and scored according to defined selection criteria, including the proven ability to foster economic growth, to provide technical assistance, and to provide cooperative development to communities seriously impacted by economic downturns.

Value-Added Producer Grants (VAPG) – Established in FY02, VAPG is designed to help producers earn more by processing the products they produce. To qualify as a “value added” product, the original product must be changed in some way. The applicant must be a producer or a producer owned and controlled business entity. Grant funds can be used for planning or for working capital.

Financing for Small Municipal and Rural Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste Systems

Rural Development (RD), a mission area of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), administers loans and grants on behalf of the Rural Utilities Service (RUS). Guaranteed Loans, Direct Loans and Grants are available through RUS. Rural communities and small incorporated towns/cities not larger than 10,000 based on the latest decennial population census of the United States are eligible to apply. To qualify applicants must be unable to obtain the financing from other sources and/or their own resources at rates and terms they can afford. Public bodies and nonprofit corporations can be eligible applicants. Funds can be used for construction, land acquisition, legal fees, engineering fees, capitalized interest, equipment, initial operation and maintenance costs, project contingencies, and any other cost that is determined by the RD to be necessary for the completion of the project. Projects must be primarily for the benefit of rural users.

Interest Rates for Guaranteed Loans: As negotiated by private lender and applicant and determined by RD to be reasonable. May be a fixed or floating rate.

Interest Rates for Direct Loans: Three categories:

1. **Market Rate** - Available to applicants whose Median Household Income (MHI) of service area is greater than the non-metropolitan MHI of Georgia (\$44,159).
2. **Intermediate Rate** - Available to applicants whose MHI is not more than the non-metropolitan MHI (\$44,159) of Georgia and who otherwise do not qualify for the poverty rate.
3. **Poverty Rate** - Available to applicants whose MHI is below the latest established nationwide poverty level MHI (\$20,650) or below 80 percent of the non-metropolitan MHI of Georgia (80% of \$44,159 = \$35,327) and there are existing health/sanitation conditions that would be alleviated so as to comply with regulatory agencies established standards.

Grant Funds:

There are limited grant funds available. The maximum percentage of grant is based on the following:

Up to 75 percent of eligible project costs for applicants who qualify for the Poverty Rate of interest.

Up to 45 percent of eligible project costs for applicants who do not qualify for the 75 percent category and their MHI is not greater than the non-metropolitan MHI of Georgia (\$44,159). Applicants with MHI in excess of the above criteria would not qualify for grant consideration.

The actual amount of grant funds awarded to the applicant will be determined based on the grant dollars required to reduce the user rates for users to a reasonable level up to the maximum amount of 45 or 75 percent. Grant funds cannot be used to pay project costs related to interest refinancing, purchase of existing systems, and initial operations and maintenance.

Eligibility

Eligibility of an applicant can be determined by filing an application package with the appropriate RD Area Office. Eligible applicants will be invited to file application dockets subject to the availability of funds. Personnel will directly assist the applicant in the preparation of the loan/grant application docket. After eligibility is determined but prior to the development of the application docket, we must be able to satisfactorily:

1. Review and approve the preliminary engineering report
2. Review and approve the engineering agreement
3. Complete the environmental review and assessment of the project impact on the human environment to include the applicant's required advertisements and notifications to interested parties.
4. any other item that is related to the above three items or is pertinent in being able to determine project feasibility.

Application should be made at the RD Area Office. The Area Office staff will be glad to discuss services available from the RUS and explain how to prepare a written application.

Georgia has Area Offices in:

Cartersville	770/386-3393
Athens	706/546-247 1
Macon	478/752-812 1
Waynesboro	706/554-700 1
Tifton	229/382-0273
Baxley	912/367-3603
Georgia State Office	706/546-2171

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAM (REDLG)

The REDLG program provides funding to rural projects through local utility organizations. Under the REDLoan program, USDA provides zero-interest loans to local utilities which they, in turn, pass through to local businesses (ultimate recipients) for projects that will create and retain employment in rural areas. The ultimate recipients repay the lending utility directly. The utility is responsible for repayment to the Agency. Under the REDGrant program, USDA provides grant funds to local utility organizations which use the funding to establish revolving loan funds. Loans are made from the revolving loan fund to projects that will create or retain rural jobs. When the revolving loan fund is terminated, the grant is repaid to the Agency.

How much are the grants?

The grants are awarded on a competitive basis, and for FY2007, can be up to \$300,000.

Who is eligible?

To receive funding under the REDLG program (which will be forwarded to selected eligible projects) an entity must:

- Have borrowed and repaid or pre-paid an insured, direct, or guaranteed loan received under the Rural Electrification Act or,
- Be a not-for-profit utility that is eligible to receive assistance from the Rural Development Electric or Telecommunication Program
- Be a current Rural Development Electric or Telecommunication Programs Borrower

What types of projects are eligible?

REDLG grantees and borrowers pass the funding on to eligible projects. Examples of eligible projects include:

- Capitalization of revolving loan funds
- Technical assistance in conjunction with projects funded under a zero interest REDLoan
- Business Incubators
- Community Development Assistance to non-profits and public bodies (particularly job creation or enhancement)
- Facilities and equipment for education and training for rural residents to facilitate economic development
- Facilities and equipment for medical care to rural residents
- Telecommunications/computer networks for distance learning or long distance medical care

Availability of Funds

During FY 2007, approximately \$25.2 million was available for loans and approximately \$10 million was available for grants nationwide.

For further information, contact David Mull, Business Programs Specialist, in the Georgia State Office or visit our website:

USDA, Rural Development
355 E. Hancock Avenue, Stop 305
Athens, Georgia 30601
(706) 546-2154

www.rurdev.usda.gov/ga/rbs.htm

*Georgia Department of Natural
Resources Historic Preservation
Division*

www.gashpo.org

State Historic Preservation Tax Incentives

During its 1989 session, the Georgia General Assembly passed a preferential property tax assessment program for “rehabilitated historic property.” This incentive program is designed to encourage rehabilitation of historic residential and commercial buildings. These rehabilitated buildings not only increase property values for owners but increase tax revenues for local governments after the abatement period.

Rehabilitated Historic Property Tax Assessment Freeze:

The law provides an owner of historic property which has undergone substantial rehabilitation an eight-year freeze on property tax assessments. For the ninth year, the assessment increases by 50% of the difference between the recorded first year value and the current fair market value. In the tenth and following years the tax assessment will then be based on the current market value.

The preferential assessment and classification of rehabilitated historic property include the rehabilitated building, and not more than two acres of real property surrounding the building.

To Be Eligible:

- The property must be eligible for or listed in the Georgia Register of Historic Places.
- Work must meet DNR’s Standard’s for Rehabilitation and be completed within two years.

Requirements for Preferential Assessment:

- The rehabilitation project must meet a substantial rehabilitation test. The county tax assessor makes this determination. If the property is:
 - Residential:** (owner-occupied residential property) - rehabilitation must increase the fair market value of this building by at least 50%.
 - Mixed-use:** (primarily residential and partially income-producing property) - rehabilitation must increase the fair market value of the building by at least 75%.
 - Commercial And Professional Use:** (income producing property) rehabilitation must increase the fair market value of the building by at least 100%.
- The property owner must obtain preliminary and final certification on the project from the Historic Preservation Division (HPD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Certification Process:

This incentive program is carried out by the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and by the county tax assessor. The application process has two parts. Part A (preliminary certification) documents that the building is historic property and that the proposed work meets DNR Standards. Part A preferably should be filed before the work begins. Part B (final certification) documents the finished work.

The DNR-approved Part A application must be filed with the county tax assessor to begin the assessment freeze period. From that filing date, an applicant has 24 months to complete the work and file DNR-approved Part B application with the county tax assessor to continue the property assessment freeze.

HPD can provide technical assistance and encourages communication with our office. Additional information, tax application forms, and instructions are available from HPD upon request.

Please Note:

The Historic Preservation Division of DNR serves as the state historic preservation office. Working in partnership with the U.S. Department of the Interior, the state preservation office carries out the mandates of Georgia law and the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and works with local communities to preserve the historic, architectural and archaeological resources of Georgia.

For more information on Georgia's historic preservation programs, please contact:

Tax Incentive Coordinator

Historic Preservation Division/DNR

34 Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 1600, Atlanta, GA 30303

(404) 651-5566 and (404) 651-5567

www.gashpo.org

Georgia's State Historic Preservation Office - Tax Credits

Georgia State Income Tax Credit Program for Rehabilitated Historic Property

In May 2002, the Georgia state income tax credit program for rehabilitated historic property was signed into law (O.C.G.A. Section 48-7-29.8). The Georgia Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Division (DNR-HPD) and the Georgia Department of Revenue are administering the program. Owners of historic residential and commercial properties who started a substantial rehabilitation on or after January 1, 2004 are eligible to apply for the credit. The program provides property owners of historic homes who complete a DNR-approved rehabilitation the opportunity to take 10% of the rehabilitation expenditures as a state income tax credit up to \$5,000. If the home is located in a target area, as defined in O.C.G.A. Section 48-7-29.8, the credit may be equal to 15% of rehabilitation expenditures up to \$5,000, and for any other certified structure, the credit may be equal to 20% of rehabilitation expenditures up to \$5,000. The credit is a dollar-for-dollar reduction in taxes owed to the State of Georgia and is meant to serve as an incentive to those who own historic properties and wish to complete a rehabilitation. The credit will not exceed \$5,000 for any single project in any 120-month period. Rehabilitation projects started before January 1, 2004 are ineligible for the credit.

What Properties Are Eligible?

The property must be eligible for or listed in the Georgia Register of Historic Places. To find out if a property qualifies, please contact the Historic Preservation Divisions National Register specialist at 404-651-5911.

Does the rehabilitation have to be reviewed and approved?

Yes, the rehabilitation must meet DNR's Standards for Rehabilitation. The Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Division reviews all projects to certify that the project meets the Standards according to DNR Rules 391-5-14. The rehabilitation project must start on or after January 1, 2004.

How much does a project have to cost to qualify?

Every project must meet the substantial rehabilitation test and the applicant must certify to the Department of Natural Resources that this test has been met. The substantial rehabilitation test is met when the qualified rehabilitation expenses exceed the following amounts:

- 1) For a historic home used as a principal residence, the lesser of \$25,000 or 50% of the adjusted basis of the building
- 2) For a historic home used as a principal residence in a target area, \$5,000
- 3) For any other certified historic structure, the greater of \$5,000 or the adjusted basis of the building

At least 5% of the qualified rehabilitation expenditures must be allocated to work completed to the exterior of the structure.

Acquisition costs and costs associated with new construction are not qualified rehabilitation expenses.

Department of Revenue Substantial Rehabilitation Worksheet

Since it is the applicant's responsibility to certify that the substantial rehabilitation test has been met when a project is complete, it is recommended that the applicant determine if this test will be easily met before a project starts. The Georgia Department of Revenue developed a worksheet, included in the application packet, in order to help applicants determine if a rehabilitation project

will meet the substantial rehabilitation test. After the project is complete, applicants will officially certify on the Part B application that the substantial rehabilitation test has been met.

Application Process

The Rehabilitated Historic Property Application is a two-part process: Part A and Part B, with supplemental information and amendments when necessary. The program is designed to review Part A Preliminary Certification applications before rehabilitation work begins; therefore, the earlier application materials are submitted to HPD for review, the better. Early submission of projects allows HPD to consult with the applicant if necessary and to comment on projects in a meaningful way in hopes of bringing them into conformance with the Standards.

Upon request, HPD will offer technical assistance to rehabilitation tax projects by meeting with individuals at HPD's office or on-site of the project to discuss specific rehab issues. HPD encourages early communication with our office.

For more information, please contact:

Tax Incentive Coordinator

Historic Preservation Division/DNR

34 Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 1600, Atlanta, GA 30303

(404) 651-5566 and (404) 651-5567

www.gashpo.org

Historic Preservation Federal Investment Tax Credit

The Historic Preservation Federal Investment Tax Credit (RITC), is an economic incentive that encourages the rehabilitation and reuse of historic buildings for income-producing purposes. Because many qualifying buildings will be found in downtown areas, the credit also is an incentive that promotes downtown revitalization. Georgia has several thousand buildings that are eligible or potentially eligible for this tax credit. These will be found in cities of all sizes in all parts of the state. The majority will be found within downtown historic districts.

How It Works

The rehabilitation tax credit provides a dollar-for-dollar reduction of Federal income taxes due for those taxpayers who can use the credit. The amount of the credit is equal to 20% of the qualifying costs of rehabilitating a historic building for income-producing purposes. Acquisition costs and cost of new building enlargements are not eligible.

To Be Eligible For The 20% Tax Credit:

- The building must be listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places, either individually or as a contributing building within a historic district.
- The project must meet the “substantial rehabilitation test,” where the amount of money to be spent on the rehabilitation is greater than the adjusted basis of the building and is at least \$5,000. Generally, projects must be finished within two years.
- After the rehabilitation, the building must be used for an income-producing purpose for at least five years, and not sold.
- The rehabilitation work itself must be done according to The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation. These are common-sense guidelines for appropriate and sensitive rehabilitation.

How Are Projects “Certified?”

Certification requests should be made through the Historic Preservation Division (HPD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The HPD can assist you with certification procedures for both the building and the rehabilitation work. The National Park Service (NPS) also reviews the projects under this program. NPS makes final decisions in the certification process.

Please note: This information sheet provides only general guidance regarding the 20% investment tax credit. Professional tax advisors or the IRS should be consulted for detailed information.

For further information contact:

Tax Incentive Coordinator
Historic Preservation Division/DNR
34 Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 1600,
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 651-5566
www.gashpo.org

*City and Community
Development*

*Note the Opportunity Zone initiative under
programs offered by DCA on page 33*

DDA Financing Tools

I. Downtown Development Authorities in Georgia

(O.C.G.A. §36-42-1 et seq)

In 1981, O.C.G.A. §36-42-1 et seq was enacted to create for every municipality in Georgia a downtown development authority. The steps to enact a DDA are as follows and must be ratified by a resolution of the municipal council:

1. Designate the downtown area boundaries within the city
2. Appoint the initial seven (7) directors of the authority
3. Create and pass a resolution declaring the need for a DDA
4. File copies of the resolution with the Secretary of State and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

From GMA:

“The DDA Law indicates that each authority shall consist of a board of seven directors. These directors must be taxpayers residing in the county in which the authority is located. At least four of the directors must also be owners or operators of downtown businesses. Directors of authorities created under the DDA law are appointed by the governing body of the municipality. Directors appointed after January 1, 1992 are required to attend and complete at least eight hours of training on downtown development and redevelopment programs.

Each authority can undertake commercial, business, office, industrial, parking, or public projects where these will have a benefit for the downtown. (Certain public projects such as the construction of government buildings and streets are not permissible DDA projects. A 1988 amendment added hospitals, skilled nursing homes, and intermediate care homes where such facilities are operated on a not-for-profit basis.

The following are powers that are specifically provided to the DDA created under the Downtown Development Authorities Law of 1981:

1. To sue and be sued.
2. To adopt and to change as necessary a corporate seal.
3. To make and execute contracts and other agreements, such as contracts for construction, lease or sale of projects or agreements to finance projects.
4. To purchase and own property, real or personal and to sell or otherwise dispose of property, lease or rent property. The authority’s property is tax-exempt.
5. To finance projects by loan, grant, lease or otherwise.
6. To finance projects using revenue bonds or other obligations of authority.
7. To borrow money.
8. To apply for and receive government grants, loans, loan guarantees or other financial assistance.
9. To receive and use city tax monies. (The City can levy a tax up to three mills for the support of the authority. See Official Code of Georgia Annotated 48-5- 350).
10. To employ an executive director for the downtown revitalization efforts.
11. To prepare plans for the downtown area or to hire others to prepare plans.
12. To exercise any power of public or private corporations under state law, which does not conflict with the authority’s public purpose.

The 1992 Amendments (Act No. 1334) added the following powers:

1. To serve as an urban redevelopment agency under the Urban Redevelopment Law
2. To serve as a redevelopment agency under the Redevelopment Powers Law.
3. To contract with a city government to carry out City Business Improvement District services in a downtown.
4. To acquire real property through eminent domain (subject to the approval of the City and the meeting of other requirements.)

These amendments also gave cities the express authorization to create special tax, fee, or assessment districts within the area of operation of downtown authorities. This authorization is pursuant to Article IX, Section II, Paragraph VI of the Georgia Constitution.”*

*Excerpted from the Georgia Municipal Association’s DDA Training Manual. For more information contact GMA. at (404) 688-0472 or visit their web site at <http://www.gmanet.com>.

II. OCGA Article 6 Municipal taxation section 48-5-350: Power to levy and collect tax to provide funds for municipal development authorities. This code section gives a municipal government the power to levy (from a fraction of a mil up to three mils maximum) an ad valorem tax upon all taxable property throughout the corporate city limits to fund the development authority. Note the section does not use the word downtown development authority specifically. (May be used to fund operation of DDA but may not be used for improvements to streets, curbs, building or rehabilitation of city hall, etc.)

III. Georgia Constitution Article 9, Section 2, paragraph 6: Special districts may be created and fees, assessments and taxes may be levied and collected within such district to pay wholly or partially the cost of/ for the provision of local government services within such district. (May be used to fund operation of DDA.)

IV. Business Improvement District (BID) (O.C.G.A. §36-43-1 et seq)

City Business Improvement Districts, often called BIDs or CBIDs, were designed for use in traditional downtown business districts. BIDS are special districts in which property owners agree to be taxed at a higher rate than the rest of the community in order to pay for expanded services that are not already being provided to the city as a whole. BIDs may be administered by local governments, DDAs and non-profits.

A BID is created by petition within the area designated which must include:

1. Plan for the area, which includes:
 - a. Map and description of boundaries
 - b. Description of the supplemental services includes but not limited to: advertising, promotion, sanitation, security, and business recruitment and development)
 - c. Proposed maximum millage (1 to 3 mill max OCGA 48-5-350) to be levied and /or the % of business license surcharge
 - d. Budget
 - e. Time frame for carrying out the plan
 - f. Optional- design guidelines or rehabilitation standards

2. Agreement in writing of 51% of the taxpayers listed on the digest for the area outlined or, those taxpayers who own (by dollar value) 51% of the assessed property (both real and personal) within the area.

- Residential property is not excluded from millage assessment
- 10-year sunset on the BID, but can be renewed by same process. Local governments may also set shorter sunset periods at their option.

BID funds must be used for:

- advertising
- promotion
- sanitation
- security
- business recruitment and retention

IV. Community Improvement District (CID)

(Georgia Constitution Article IX, Section 7)

Community Improvement Districts (CIDs) are special districts where property owners agree to a self imposed tax to be used for improving the district. CIDs are a good way to leverage state and federal tax dollars for roads and other major infrastructure. As authorized under the Georgia Constitution, creation of a CID requires a local act of the General Assembly. The governing body of each CID is designated by the Legislature and may be City, County, or administrative body that shall include representation of each county and city within the CID.

In addition to a local act of the General Assembly, a CID requires a resolution of the applicable City and County consenting to the creation of the CID and written consent by a majority of the owners of real property within the CID and consent of the owners within the CID who constitute (represent) at least 75% by value of all real property which will be subject to taxes, fees and assessments.

Through a CID, a special taxing district is created to pay for exceptional infrastructure needs such as:

- Street/road construction and maintenance;
- Parks and recreation facilities;
- Storm water and sewage collection and disposal systems;
- Water development, storage, treatment, purification and distribution facilities; public transportation;
- Terminal and dock facilities; and parking facilities; and
- “Such other services and facilities as may be provided for by general law.”

Property used for residential, agricultural or forestry purposes may not be assessed.

Assessments cannot exceed 2.5% of the assessed value of the real property, i.e. 25 mills.

Bonded debt is permitted but such debt may not be considered an obligation of the State or any other government other than the CID.

V. Tax Allocations Districts / Urban Redevelopment Powers Act
(O.C.G.A. §36-44-1 et seq)

Tax Allocation Districts or TADs, often called Tax Increment Financing (TIFs) in other states, are a popular mechanism for revitalizing blighted or underutilized areas such as brownfields, declining commercial corridors and industrial sites. The process involves designating a Tax Allocation District, establishing its current tax base floor and then dedicating future taxes over and above that floor for a given period of time to pay the costs (often but not always through issuing bonds) of the infrastructure, buildings or other improvements needed to spur new, higher density development. TAD funds may be used for a wide range of development activities. Cities, counties and school systems may all decide independently whether to participate in a TAD. City or County participation in a TAD requires a jurisdiction-wide referendum. TADs may be administered by local governments, DDAs, Housing Authorities or Redevelopment Agencies.

Implementation:

- A member of the General Assembly must introduce local legislation that authorizes the use of the Georgia Redevelopment Powers Law. If the local legislation passes, then:
 - Local voters must hold a special referendum for approval.
 - A local redevelopment agency is created by resolution of the City or County or both in the case of a multi-jurisdictional TAD boundary.

The redevelopment agency must identify a specific area in need of redevelopment that meets the criteria for designation. A determination of blight is required. The public improvements needed to help the area attract new private development must be identified with a projected cost estimate.

A Tax Allocation District may be created and approved in public hearings. The plan shall include the boundaries of the district and specify the initial tax allocation increment base.

All TAD revenues set aside may not cumulatively exceed 10% of the local tax base.

Cities, counties and school systems within a proposed TAD must individually agree in writing to assign their tax revenues to a TAD.

Funds are set aside from the district to finance redevelopment costs either through local financing or through the issuance of bonds. Maximum maturity of such bonds shall be 30 years.

As the public and private improvements are made the area should realize a significant increase in taxable value. The increased property tax revenues are utilized to pay off the bonds that financed the public improvements. The Redevelopment Powers Act also allows any other such revenues from the district, including Local Option Sales Tax revenue to be used to offset the indebtedness.

TADs are intended to be used in urbanized or developed areas exhibiting “blight”, to promote redevelopment or preservation of historic or natural assets. They work well in brownfield or grayfield situations but are not intended for undeveloped rural property.

Uses include:

- renovate, construct, preserve, restore expand or demolish buildings for business, commercial, industrial, government, education, public or private housing, social activity, governmental services;

- historic properties
- green spaces
- mass transit and pedestrian facilities
- telecommunications infrastructure
- water and sewer lines; streets; sidewalks; parking facilities; public parks; building construction; building rehabilitation, housing, and land assembly.

VI. Land Bank Authorities

Ga. Laws 1990, page 1875

Senate Bill 545 which passed in the 1996 General Assembly allows one or more cities and the county containing such cities to enter into an intergovernmental cooperative agreement for the purpose of establishing a single Land Bank Authority (LBA).

A Land Bank Authority may acquire tax-delinquent properties through direct purchase of property or upon obtaining judgment against a tax-delinquent property at a tax sale whereupon a bid may be submitted. The Tax Commissioner is required to accept the LBA's bid if there are no other bids.

LBA may manage, maintain, protect, rent, lease, repair, insure, alter, sell, trade, exchange or otherwise dispose of any property on any terms and conditions determined in the sole discretion of the LBA.

LBA may cause all county, city, and school district taxes to be extinguished at the time it sells or disposes of the property. Must consider benefits to be gained by tax forgiveness with primary consideration given to purchasers who intend to build or rehabilitate low income housing.

LBA composed of four members, two appointed by mayor of the party city; two appointed by county commission. For further information contact:

For further information contact the Georgia Municipal Association and your local attorney.

V. OCGA Article 6 Municipal taxation section 48-5-350: Power to levy and collect tax to provide funds for municipal development authorities. This code section gives a municipal government the power to levy (from a fraction of a mil up to three mils maximum) an ad valorem tax upon all taxable property throughout the corporate city limits to fund the development authority. Note the section does not use the word downtown development authority specifically. (May be used to fund operation of DDA but may not be used for improvements to streets, curbs, building or rehabilitation of city hall, etc.)

VI. Georgia Constitution Article 9, Section 2, paragraph 6: Special districts may be created and fees, assessments and taxes may be levied and collected within such district to pay wholly or partially the cost of/ for the provision of local government services within such district. (May be used to fund operation of DDA.)

VII. Business Improvement District (BID) OCGA 36-43-1

Created by petition within the area designated

Petition must include:

1. Plan for the area, which includes:
 - a. Map and description of boundaries
 - b. Description of the supplemental services includes but not limited to: advertising, promotion, sanitation, security, and business recruitment and development)
 - c. Proposed maximum millage (1 to 3 mill max OCGA 48-5-350) to be levied and /or the % of business license surcharge
 - d. Budget
 - e. Time frame for carrying out the plan
 - f. Optional- design guidelines or rehabilitation standards

2. Names of 51% of the taxpayers listed on the digest for the area outlined or, those taxpayers who own (by dollar value) 51% of the assessed property (both real and personal) within the area.
 - Residential property is not excluded from millage assessment
 - 10-year sunset but can be renewed by same process.

IV. Community Improvement District (CID)
 Georgia Constitution Art. IX, Sect. 7

Requires a local act of the General Assembly and a resolution of the applicable City and County consenting to the creation of the CID and written consent by a majority of the owners of real property within the CID and consent of the owners within the CID who constitute (represent) at least 75% by value of all real property which will be subject to taxes, fees and assessments.

The governing body is designated by the Legislature and may be City, County, or administrative body that shall include representation of each county and city within the CID.

A special taxing district created to pay for exceptional infrastructure needs such as:

- Street/road construction and maintenance;
- Parks and recreation facilities;
- Storm water and sewage collection and disposal systems;
- Water development, storage, treatment, purification and distribution facilities; public transportation;
- Terminal and dock facilities; and parking facilities

Property used for residential, agricultural or forestry purposes may not be assessed.

Assessments cannot exceed 2.5% of the assessed value of the real property, i.e. 25 mills.

Bonded debt is permitted but such debt may not be considered an obligation of the State or any other government other than the CID.

V. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) OCGA 36-44-1

Implementation:

- A member of the General Assembly must introduce local legislation that authorizes the use of the Georgia Redevelopment Powers Law. If the local legislation passes, then:
- Local voters must hold a special referendum for approval.
- A local redevelopment agency is created by resolution of City or County.

The redevelopment agency must identify a specific area in need of redevelopment that meets the criteria for designation. The public improvements needed to help the area attract new private development must be identified with a projected cost estimate.

A Tax Allocation District may be created and approved in public hearings. The plan shall include the boundaries of the district and specify the initial tax allocation increment base.

Funds are set aside from the district to finance redevelopment costs either through local financing or through the issuance of bonds. Maximum maturity of such bonds shall be 30 years.

As the public and private improvements are made the area should realize a significant increase in taxable value. The increased property tax revenues are utilized to pay off the bonds that financed the public improvements. The Redevelopment Powers Act also allows any other such revenues from the district, including Local Option Sales Tax revenue to be used to offset the indebtedness.

Examples of Projects: water and sewer lines; streets; sidewalks; parking facilities; public parks; building construction; building rehabilitation and land assembly.

VI. Land Bank Authorities

Ga. Laws 1990, page 1875

Senate Bill 545 which passed in the 1996 General Assembly allows one or more cities and the county containing such cities to enter into an intergovernmental cooperative agreement for the purpose of establishing a single Land Bank Authority.

A Land Bank Authority may acquire tax delinquent properties through direct purchase of property or upon obtaining judgment against a tax delinquent property at a tax sale whereupon a bid may be submitted. The Tax Commissioner is required to accept the LBA's bid if there are no other bids.

LBA may manage, maintain, protect, rent, lease, repair, insure, alter, sell, trade, exchange or otherwise dispose of any property on any terms and conditions determined in the sole discretion of the LBA.

LBA may cause all county, city, and school district taxes to be extinguished at the time it sells or disposes of the property. Must consider benefits to be gained by tax forgiveness with primary consideration given to purchasers who intend to build or rehabilitate low income housing.

LBA composed of four members, 2 appointed by mayor of the party city; 2 appointed by county commission. For further information contact:

For further information contact your local attorney.

Atlanta Development Authority (ADA)

The Atlanta Development Authority (ADA) is a public authority created by the City of Atlanta to promote the revitalization and growth of the City through a comprehensive and centralized program focusing on community development and redevelopment. It represents a consolidation of the City's economic and community development efforts in real estate, finance, marketing and employment, for the purpose of providing a focal point for improving Atlanta's neighborhoods and the quality of life for all of its citizens.

The Atlanta Development Authority is comprised of the Urban Residential Finance Authority, Downtown Development Authority and the Atlanta Economic Renaissance Corporation.

The ADA offers the following programs to promote economic development:

Business Improvement Loan Fund (BILF)

The City of Atlanta and the Atlanta Development Authority (ADA) sponsor the Business Improvement Loan Fund (BILF) Program. The BILF is designed to encourage the revitalization of targeted business districts in the city of Atlanta and to support commercial and industrial development in other eligible areas.

Targeted Areas of (BILF):

Auburn Avenue	Kirkwood
Donald L Hollowell Pkwy.	Memorial Drive
Campbellton Road	MLK/Ashby
Cascade Road	Pryor Road
East Atlanta	Metropolitan/Lakewood
Empowerment Zones	Sylvan/Dill
Georgia Avenue	Techwood
Heart of Georgia	West End/West View
(including Underground Atlanta)	

The Phoenix Fund

The Phoenix Fund assists small and medium-sized businesses with affordable loans. It provides financial assistance for the construction or renovation of privately-owned commercial buildings; equipment purchases needed to operate a business, inventory and, in some cases, working capital.

Small Business Loan (SBA 504)

ADA works with the Certified Development Company program of the Small Business Administration (SBA) for 504 Debenture financing in the City of Atlanta. ADA provides financial assistance to small, minority and female-owned businesses to expand and/ or relocate in the city.

Industrial Revenue Bonds

The Atlanta Development Authority (ADA) issues taxable and tax-exempt industrial revenue bonds in the City of Atlanta. Tax-exempt bonds called Private Activity Bonds (PAB) can be used to finance the acquisition, construction, improvement or modification of plants, factories, mills, sewage, solid waste facilities, machinery, equipment, or any other property which an industrial concern might desire to acquire or lease in connection with the operation of such a facility anywhere within the city of Atlanta.

For more information on the Phoenix Loan Fund and other financing programs, please contact:

ADA, Loan Department
86 Pryor Street, Suite 300
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 880-4100
www.atlantada.com

“Freeport” Inventory Tax Exemptions for Georgia Industries

Originally enacted in 1976 and subsequently amended several times, Georgia’s Freeport law offers manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, and warehouse operations an attractive inventory tax exemption.

Three classes of property are eligible:

1. **Manufacturer’s raw materials and goods-in-process.**

The freeport law defines these as “goods in the process of manufacture or production which shall include all partly finished goods and raw materials held for direct use or consumption in the ordinary course of the taxpayer’s manufacturing or production business....” The exemption applies “only to tangible personal property which is substantially modified, altered or changed in the ordinary course of the taxpayer’s manufacturing, processing or production operations in this state.”

2. **Finished goods held by the original manufacturer**

These are defined in the law as finished goods manufactured or produced within Georgia “in the ordinary course of the taxpayer’s manufacturing or production business when held by the original manufacturer or producer.... The exemption...shall be for a period not exceeding 12 months from the date such property is produced or manufactured.”

3. **Finished goods held by distributors, wholesalers, and manufacturers destined for out-of-state shipment.**

The law states that such goods are those “...which, on January 1, are stored in a warehouse, dock or wharf, whether public or private, and which are destined for shipment to a final destination outside this state and inventory of finished goods which are shipped into this state...and stored for transshipment to a final destination outside this state.”

The law further defines finished goods as “goods, wares, and merchandise of every character and kind, but shall not include unrecovered, unextracted, or unsevered natural resources, or raw materials, or goods in the process of manufacture or production, *or the stock-in-trade of a retailer.*”

Elsewhere in the law, **stock in trade of a retailer** is defined as “finished goods held by one in the business of making sales of such goods at retail in this state...when such goods are held or stored at a business location from which such retail sales are regularly made. *Goods stored in a warehouse, dock, or wharf, including a warehouse or distribution center which is part of or adjoins a place of business from which retail sales are regularly made, shall not be considered stock in trade of a retailer* to the extent that the taxpayer can establish, through a historical sales or shipment analysis, either of which utilizes information from the preceding calendar year, or other reasonable documented method, the portion or percentage of such goods which is reasonably anticipated to be shipped outside this state for retail purposes.”

Thus *warehoused* retail inventory can qualify for freeport tax exemptions.

Raw materials, according to the statute, are “any material whether crude or processed that can be converted by manufacture, processing, or combination thereof into a new and useful product, but shall not include unrecovered, unextracted, or unsevered natural resources.”

Flexibility of Administration

Georgia's law gives local governing authorities, whether counties or cities, complete control of implementation, inventory categories, and levels of exemption. A voter referendum is required to implement freeport and to establish the one, two, or three categories to be exempted. Local officials may then set the levels of inventory (from 20% to 100%) to be exempted and, if desired, defer or phase in implementation in 20% increments. (Exemption levels may also be reduced, but only following a 10-year process.) **Simplicity of Filing and Required Record-keeping** A 1992 amendment to the freeport law stipulated that the books and records documenting inventory status shall not be required as part of the application for a freeport tax exemption. The 1992 law also stipulated that historical sales or shipping records are sufficient documentation for determining inventory status, without a requirement that goods be labeled individually. Further, it is not required that the goods' final destination be known on January 1 in order to qualify for the exemption.

For further information contact:

Georgia Department of Revenue
1800 Century Center Blvd.
Atlanta, GA 30345
404-417-4477
1-877-602-8477
www.dor.ga.gov

Note: Sixty percent of Georgia's counties and cities have passed a referendum to facilitate some form of Freeport inventory tax exemption.

Adult Education and Training

Quick Start

Quick Start develops and delivers customized training at no charge to eligible new, expanding and existing companies as a job-creation and retention incentive. Quick Start is recognized by leading companies from around the world for the high quality of its training services and the results produced for each company's Georgia operations. Administered by Georgia's Department of Technical and Adult Education, Quick Start services include a comprehensive needs analysis, program design, customized training material development, and instruction.

The heart of Quick Start's service is job-specific training customized to each company's processes, equipment, procedures and standards. Quick Start enhances this with training in safety, automation, quality systems, productivity improvement, employee involvement, instructor skills, and leadership. Examples include Lean Manufacturing, Statistical Process Control, Programmable Logic Controllers, Customer Service, Computer Skills, and Team Skills Training.

In addition to manufacturing operations, Quick Start provides comprehensive training for distribution centers, and service operations such as corporate headquarters, billing and remittance centers, and technical support centers. Quick Start's performance-based training equips employees with the technical and interpersonal skills that companies need to achieve their quality and productivity goals in the shortest possible time.

For further information contact:

Mike Grundmann
Marketing Director
Georgia Quick Start
75 Fifth Street NW, Suite 400
Atlanta, GA 30308
(404) 253-2822
mgrundmann@georgiaquickstart.org
www.georgiaquickstart.org

Intellectual Capital Partnership Program (ICAPP)

Georgia's Intellectual Capital Partnership Program (ICAPP) is the economic development program of the University System of Georgia.

Georgia businesses can contact ICAPP to tap into the resources of Georgia's 34 public colleges and universities for:

- College-educated employees
- Access to the latest research
- Access to technology transfer
- Access to business and operations advice

ICAPP Advantage provides customized, accelerated education for knowledge workers in high demand but short supply. ICAPP Advantage meets a company's hiring needs through an expedited curriculum designed by the company and a college or university.

GeorgiaHire.com is a free recruiting service that helps employers find the college-educated talent that they need. Companies can use an easy nine-point search engine to scan more than 10,000 resumes of college- educated students and alumni.

For further information, contact:

Terry Durden

Director of ICAPP Operations

404-657-0832

Terry.Durden@usg.edu

www.icapp.org

Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

Local business-led workforce investment boards have developed strategic plans that focus on a variety of federal workforce development resources to meet the needs of businesses for skilled workers and the needs of individuals for training, education, and employment. The State is divided into twenty workforce areas, each with a local workforce investment board responsible for deciding what type of training they will support in their workforce investment area.

Cynthia R. Robinson
Director, Workforce Development
Georgia Department of Labor
Suite 650
148 Andrew Young International Blvd., N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-1751
(404) 232-3775
(404) 232-3771 - Fax
cynthia.robinson@dol.state.ga.us
www.dol.state.ga.us/wp/wia_services.htm

Georgia Department of Revenue
Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education
Georgia Tax Credit for Adult Basic Skills Education

The Georgia Tax Credit for Adult Basic Skills Education is designed to encourage businesses to provide or sponsor basic skills education programs for their employees. The program provides tax credits under Article 2 of Chapter 7 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, 48-7-41. Business enterprises may benefit by providing or sponsoring for their employees basic education skills that enhance reading, writing, or mathematical skills up to and including the 12th grade level.

Calculating the Credit

The law provides as follows: The amount of tax credit shall be equal to one-third of the costs of education per full-time equivalent student, or \$150.00 per full-time equivalent student, whichever is less, for each employee who has successfully completed an approved adult basic skills education program. The tax credit granted to any employer pursuant to the Code shall not exceed the amount of the taxpayer's income liability for the taxable year as computed without regard to this Code section.

Definitions

Full-time student is defined as an employee who attends class for 4 hours per week for 44 weeks in a year, thus generating at least 176 classroom hours per year. In calculating the tax credit, use 176 hours to calculate "full-time equivalent student" (FTE).

Employee means any worker who resides in this state, is employed at least 24 hours a week, and has been continuously employed by the employer for at least 16 consecutive weeks.

Approved Adult Basic Skills Education means employer-provided or employer-sponsored education which enhance reading, writing, or mathematical skills up to and including the 12th grade level for employees who are otherwise unable to function effectively on the job due to deficiencies in those areas or who might otherwise be displaced because such skill deficiencies would inhibit their training for new technology.

Cost of Education means direct instructional costs, including salaries of instructor's aides, instructional materials, supplies, computers, computer software, and textbooks.

Program Management

The Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education is charged with administration of the Basic Skills Education Program. The Georgia Department of Revenue is charged with administration of the resulting tax credit. Contact information within each agency is as follows:

State Office of Adult Literacy
(404) 679-1625
www.dtae.org/adultlit

Pamela Goshay
Georgia Department of Revenue
1800 Century Boulevard, Room 15311
Atlanta, Georgia 30345-3205

(404) 417-2441
http://www.etax.dor.ga.gov/inctax/info_taxcredits.aspx#1

(Portions reprinted from information provided by Georgia Department of Revenue and Technical and Adult Education)

The primary local source of information about the program is the Director of Adult Literacy Services at one of the 37 Service Delivery Areas (SDA). The SDA is the basic organizational structure through which adult education programs are provided in the 159 counties in Georgia.

Service Delivery Areas and Counties Served

- | | |
|--|---|
| #1 Northwestern Technical College
(706) 764-3564
Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, Walker | (404) 756-5153
Fulton |
| #2 Dalton State College
(706) 226-4402
Murray, Whitfield | #11 West Central Technical College
(770) 836-4713
Carroll, Coweta, Douglas, Haralson |
| #3 Appalachian Technical College
(706) 253-4500
Cherokee, Fannin, Gilmer, Pickens | #12 West Georgia Technical College
(706) 845-4323, ext. 5709
Heard, Meriwether, Troup |
| #4 North Georgia Technical College
(706) 754-7781
Franklin, Habersham, Rabun, Stephens,
Towns, Union, White | #13 Flint River Technical College
(706) 646-6127
Talbot, Taylor, Upson |
| #5 Lanier Technical College
(770) 531-6388
Banks, Barrow, Dawson, Forsyth, Hall,
Jackson, Lumpkin | #14 Muscogee County Schools
(706) 683-8742 Ext. 102
Chattahoochee, Harris, Muscogee, Quitman,
Stewart |
| #6 Gwinnett Technical College
(770) 962-7580
Gwinnett | #15 South Georgia Technical College
(229) 931-2565
Crisp, Macon, Marion, Schley, Sumter,
Webster |
| #7 North Metro Technical College
(770) 975-4082
Bartow | #16 Albany Technical College
(229) 430-2751
Baker, Calhoun, Clay, Dougherty, Early, Lee,
Randolph, Terrell |
| #8 Cobb County Public Schools
(678) 594-8011, ext. 241
Cobb, Paulding | #17 Decatur County Schools
(229) 248-2210
Decatur, Miller, Seminole |
| #9 Coosa Valley Technical College
(706) 295-6972
Floyd, Gordon, Polk | #18 Southwest Georgia Technical College
(229) 225-5074
Grady, Mitchell, Thomas |
| #10 Atlanta Public Schools | #19 Athens Technical College
(706) 355-5026 |

Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Hart, Madison,
Oconee, Oglethorpe, Taliaferro, Walton,
Wilkes

- #20 Augusta Technical College
(706) 771-4134
Burke, Columbia, Lincoln, McDuffie,
Richmond
- #21 Swainsboro Technical College
(478) 289-2257
Candler, Emanuel, Jenkins, Johnson,
Trentlen
- #22 Southeastern Technical College
(912) 538-3165
Montgomery, Tattall, Toombs
- #23 Ogeechee Technical College
(912) 871-1645
Bulloch, Evans, Screven
- #24 Savannah/Chatham Co. Board of Education
(912) 201-7668
Bryan, Chatham, Effingham, Liberty
- #25 Altamaha Technical College
(912) 427-5822
Appling, Jeff Davis, Long, Wayne
- #26 Coastal Georgia Community College
(912) 267-4115
Camden, Glynn, McIntosh
- #27 DeKalb Technical College
(404) 297-9522, ext. 4001
DeKalb, Morgan, Newton, Rockdale
- #28 Clayton County Schools
(770) 473-2700
Clayton, Henry
- #29 Griffin Technical College
(770) 229-3177
Butts, Fayette, Jasper, Lamar, Pike, Spalding
- #30 Central Georgia Technical College
(478) 757-6667
Baldwin, Bibb, Crawford, Jones, Monroe,
Putnam, Twiggs, Wilkinson
- #31 Heart of Georgia Technical College
(478) 274-7849
Bleckley, Dodge, Laurens, Telfair, Wheeler
- #32 Middle Georgia Technical College
(478) 988-6851
Dooly, Houston, Peach, Pulaski
- #33 East Central Technical College
(229) 423-8200
Atkinson, Ben Hill, Coffee, Irwin, Wilcox
- #34 Moultrie Technical College
(229) 217-4183
Colquitt, Tift, Turner, Worth
- #35 Valdosta Technical College
(229) 333-2125
Berrien, Brooks, Cook, Echols, Lanier,
Lowndes
- #36 Okefenokee Technical College
(912) 287-6662
Bacon, Brantley, Charlton, Clinch, Pierce,
Ware
- #37 Sandersville Technical College
(478) 553-2080
Glascock, Hancock, Jefferson, Warren,
Washington

***U.S. Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
(EDA)***

www.eda.gov

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration (EDA)

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) was established under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, to generate new jobs, to help protect existing jobs and to stimulate commercial and industrial growth in economically distressed areas of the United States.

Summary of Programs

Public Works

The Public Works Program empowers distressed communities to revitalize, expand, and upgrade their physical infrastructure to attract new industry, encourage business expansion, diversify local economies, and generate or retain long-term, private sector jobs and investment.

Economic Adjustment Assistance Program

The Economic Adjustment Program assists state and local interests to design and implement strategies to adjust or bring about change to an economy. The program focuses on areas that have experienced or are under threat of serious structural damage to the underlying economic base.

Research and National Technical Assistance

The Research and Technical Assistance Program supports research of leading edge, world class economic development practices as well as funds information dissemination efforts.

Local Technical Assistance

The Technical Assistance Program helps fill the knowledge and information gaps that may prevent leaders in the public and nonprofit sectors in distressed areas from making optimal decisions on local economic development issues.

Partnership Planning

EDA's Partnership Planning programs help support local organizations (Economic Development Districts, Indian Tribes, and other eligible areas) with their long-term planning efforts and their outreach to the economic development community on EDA's programs and policies.

University Center

The University Center Program is a partnership of federal government and academia that makes the varied and vast resources of universities available to the economic development community.

Trade Adjustment Assistance

EDA uses a national network of twelve Trade Adjustment Assistance Centers to help manufacturers and producers affected by increased imports prepare and implement strategies to guide their economic recovery.

For more information contact:

Director, Atlanta Region
Economic Development Administration (EDA)
401 West Peachtree Street, N.W., Suite 1820
Atlanta, Georgia 30308-3510
(404) 730-3002
www.eda.gov

EDA Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program

Summary

The United States Department of Commerce, through the Economic Development Administration (EDA), has established revolving loan funds in a number of Georgia's Regional Development Centers (RDCs) throughout the State. Within those regions funded and for those counties eligible for EDA assistance, the revolving loan funds are used to help businesses expand and create jobs. Each revolving loan fund is operated by a local board of directors and has slightly different operating procedures and requirements. Currently in Georgia, there are nine revolving loan funds (RLF) operating through RDCs. RLF's are located at the following RDCs:

- North Georgia RDC
- Georgia Mountains RDC
- Central Savannah River Area RDC
- South Georgia RDC
- Southwest Georgia RDC
- Southeast Georgia RDC
- Lower Chattahoochee RDC
- Middle Flint RDC
- Middle Georgia RDC

(Some of the revolving loan funds are operated by a sister agency with different board composition than that of the RDC.)

Eligibility

For-profit businesses may use loan proceeds to acquire land or fixed assets, or for construction, renovation or working capital. Projects must usually have private sector participation.

Maximum Loan Amount

Maximum loan amounts will vary from one RLF to another. Amounts financed generally range from \$25,000 to \$300,000. Loan-to-value ratios accepted by each RLF vary depending upon local policy.

Terms

Terms vary depending upon local policy. Usually terms are favorable in comparison to private lending institutions. Interest rates are at or below the current market rate. Rates may be fixed or floating. RLFs do not normally require concessions on rate and term from participating lenders.

Program Requirements

- cash flow must exceed debt service
- adequate collateral is required
- personal guarantees are usually required
- particular kinds of industries may be ineligible due to local or EDA policy

For further information contact your local Regional Development Center or:

Director, Atlanta Region
Economic Development Administration (EDA)
401 West Peachtree Street, N.W. Suite 1820
Atlanta, Georgia 30308-3510
(404) 730-3002
www.eda.gov

***U.S. Department of the Treasury
Community Development Financial
Institutions Fund (CDFI)***

www.cdfifund.gov

Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI)

The CDFI Fund was created for the purpose of promoting economic revitalization and community development through investment in and assistance to community development financial institutions (CDFIs). The CDFI Fund was established by the Reigle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994, as a bipartisan initiative.

CDFIs are specialized financial institutions that work in market niches that have not been adequately served by traditional financial institutions. These CDFIs provide a wide range of financial products and services, including mortgage financing for first-time home- buyers, financing for needed community facilities, commercial loans and investments to start or expand small businesses, loans to rehabilitate rental housing, and financial services needed by low-income households and local businesses. In addition, these institutions provide services that help ensure that credit is used effectively, such as technical assistance to small businesses and credit counseling to consumers. CDFIs include community development banks, credit unions, loan funds, venture capital funds, and micro enterprise loan funds, among others.

The CDFI Fund achieves its purpose by promoting access to capital and local economic growth in the following ways:

1. through its CDFI Program by directly investing in, supporting and training CDFIs that provide loans, investments, financial services and technical assistance to underserved populations and communities;
2. through its New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) Program by providing an allocation of tax credits to community development entities (CDEs) which enable them to attract investment from the private-sector and reinvest these amounts in low-income communities;
3. through its Bank Enterprise Award (BEA) Program by providing an incentive to banks to invest in their communities and in other CDFIs; and
4. through its Native Initiatives, by taking action to provide financial assistance, technical assistance, and training to Native CDFIs and other Native entities proposing to become or create Native CDFIs.

For further information on all CDFI programs, contact:

CDFI Fund Program

601 13th Street, NW - Suite 200 South

Washington DC 20005

(202) 622-8662

Fax: (202) 622-7754

cdfihelp@cdfi.treas.gov

www.cdfifund.gov

New Market Tax Credit (NMTC) Program

The New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) Program permits taxpayers to receive a credit against Federal income taxes for making qualified equity investments in designated Community Development Entities (CDEs). Substantially all of the qualified equity investment must in turn be used by the CDE to provide investments in low-income communities. The credit provided to the investor totals 39 percent of the cost of the investment and is claimed over a seven-year credit allowance period. In each of the first three years, the investor receives a credit equal to five percent of the total amount paid for the stock or capital interest at the time of purchase. For the final four years, the value of the credit is six percent annually. Investors may not redeem their investments in CDEs prior to the conclusion of the seven-year period.

Throughout the life of the NMTC Program, the Fund is authorized to allocate to CDEs the authority to issue to their investors up to the aggregate amount of \$16 billion in equity as to which NMTCs can be claimed, including \$1 billion of special allocation authority to be used for the recovery and redevelopment of the Gulf Opportunity Zone.

The following organizations have been awarded an allocation of NMTC and have targeted Georgia as a service area for NMTC activity. Contact the CDEs below for more information.

Organization Name	Award Amount	Contact Name & Number
Wachovia Community Development Enterprises, LLC	\$143 million	Eric D. Schlotterbeck (704) 374-4353 eric.schlotterbeck@wachovia.com
Stonehenge Community Development, LLC	\$75 million	Thomas J. Adamek (225) 408-3000 tjadamek@stonehendgecapital.com

For further information on the NMTC process, visit the CDFI website at:

http://www.cdfifund.gov/what_we_do/programs_id.asp?programID=5

(202) 622-2455 (CDFI HelpDesk)

***Georgia Tech Enterprise Innovation
Institute (EII)***

<http://www.innovate.gatech.edu/>

Georgia Tech Enterprise Innovation Institute (EII)

Georgia Tech's Enterprise Innovation Institute offers an array of services with a common objective: helping enterprises improve their competitiveness through the application of science, technology and innovation. Whether the goal is attracting new companies to Georgia, helping develop new technology companies, expanding existing enterprises, providing technical expertise to help Georgia's industry, or helping communities plan for growth, EII helps keep the state's economy moving forward. EII assists company managers and business owners, entrepreneurs, city and county government officials and economic development professionals.

For Georgia business and industry, EII provides technical assistance, management training and other assistance designed to improve productivity and help companies become more competitive in world markets. With a staff of more than 150 professionals on campus and in regional offices around Georgia, EII offers services to business and industry in:

- Quality and International Standards
- Lean Enterprise
- Energy Management
- Environmental Management
- Strategic Planning
- Information Technology
- Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms
- Government Procurement Assistance
- Developing New Products
- Economic Development Research
- Community Services
- Economic Development Training
- Tourism
- Minority Business Development
- Technology Business Incubation
- Technology Commercialization

Georgia Tech's Enterprise Innovation Institute supports Georgia's economic development efforts by conducting specialized professional development courses, performing economic development research, helping Georgia communities prepare for growth and connecting relocating or expanding companies with resources at Georgia Tech. EII's economic development specialists help Georgia's economic and community development professionals expand their skills and keep current with new trends and technologies.

EII provides its services through a statewide network of regional offices, backed up by campus-based skill centers and the resources of Georgia Tech's nationally-ranked academic and research faculty.

Georgia Institute of Technology
Enterprise Innovation Institute
Technology Square
760 Spring Street NW Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30332-0640
Phone: 404-894-7700
chris.downing@innovate.gatech.edu

For further information contact the EII office in your area.

South Metro Atlanta
Larry Alford, Region Manager
404-895-5237
larry.alford@innovate.gatech.edu

West Georgia
Derek Woodham, Regional Manager
706-881-0535
derek.woodham@innovate.gatech.edu

Central Georgia
Alan Barfoot, Regional Manager
478-275-5125
alan.barfoot@innovate.gatech.edu

Northeast Georgia
Karen Fite, Regional Manager
706-542-8901
karen.fite@innovate.gatech.edu

South Georgia
Art Ford, Regional Manager
229-430-6195
art.ford@innovate.gatech.edu

Coastal Georgia
Orjan Isacson, Regional Manager
912-963-2519
orjan.isacson@innovate.gatech.edu

Augusta
Elliot Price, Regional Manager
706-737-1415
elliot.price@innovate.gatech.edu

North Metro Atlanta
Craig Cochran, Regional Manager
678-699-1690
craig.cochran@innovate.gatech.edu

Northwest
David Apple, Regional Manager
770-387-4002
david.apple@innovate.gatech.edu

Southeast Trade Adjustment Assistance Center (SETAAC)

The Southeast Trade Adjustment Assistance Center (SETAAC), operating through Georgia Tech's Economic Development Institute, helps companies that have lost sales and employment because of import competition. Under contract with the U.S. Department of Commerce, SETAAC assesses company operations and recommends changes to make the firm more competitive. Changes recommended are then cost-shared with qualified firms on a 50/50 basis, up to \$150,000.

Typical improvement projects funded by SETAAC include:

- Developing new products
- Reducing production inefficiencies, lean manufacturing
- Installing ISO certification, CE mark, QS certification
- Enhancing/designing company information systems
- Market research
- Machine design/automation
- Developing distribution channels
- Sales lead generation
- Product cost development
- Export assistance

For more information on SETAAC contact:

Marla Gorges

Director

Southeastern Trade Adjustment Assistance Center

760 Spring Street, N.W., Suite 333

Atlanta, GA 30332-0640

Phone: 404-894-6787

Fax: 404-894-8194

marla.gorges@innovate.gatech.edu

Minority Programs

Minority Small Business Resource Organizations

These organizations provide a variety of technical assistance and counseling to minority small business.

Atlanta Business League
931 Martin Luther King Drive
Atlanta, Georgia 30314
(404) 584-8126
Fax: (404) 584-0445
support@theabl.org
<http://www.atlantabusinessleague.org/>

Georgia Minority Business Development Center
Georgia Tech Economic Development Institute
760 Spring Street N.W., Suite 319
Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0640
(404) 894-2096
Fax: (404) 894-1192
donna.ennis@innovate.gatech.edu
www.georgiambec.org
www.mbd.gov

Also refer to the following programs in the SBA section:

- Atlanta Women's Business Center
- SBA 8(a) Business Development Program
- Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB) Certification

Other useful links:

www.georgia.org
www.ghcc.org
<http://www.innovate.gatech.edu/>
www.gmsdc.org
www.nwbc.gov

***Other Organizations and Programs Offering
Financial and Technical Assistance In
Georgia***

Regional Development Centers

Regional Development Centers (RDCs) are multi-county planning and development agencies serving municipal and county governments.

Atlanta Regional Commission

40 Courtland Street, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 463-3100
Fax: (404) 463-3205
www.atlantaregional.com

Central Savannah River Area RDC

3023 Riverwatch Parkway, Suite A
Augusta, Georgia 30907
(706) 210-2000
Fax: (706) 210-2006
www.csrardc.org/

Chattahoochee Flint RDC

13273 Georgia Highway 34 East
P.O. Box 1600
Franklin, Georgia 30217
(706) 675-6721
(770) 854-6026 (Atlanta line)
Fax: (706) 675-0448
www.cfrdc.org

Coastal Georgia RDC

127 F Street
P.O. Box 1917
Brunswick, Georgia 31521
(912) 264-7363
Fax: (912) 262-2313
www.coastalgeorgiardc.org

Coosa Valley RDC

#1 Jackson Hill Drive
P.O. Box 1793 (Mailing Address)
Rome, Georgia 30162-1793
(706) 295-6485
Fax: (706) 295-6665
www.cvrdc.org

Georgia Mountains RDC

1310 West Ridge Road
P.O. Box 1720 (mailing)
Gainesville, Georgia 30503
(770) 538-2626
Fax: (770) 538-2625
www.gmrdc.org

Heart of Georgia-Altamaha RDC

Headquarters:
5405 Oak Street
Eastman, Georgia 31023
(478) 374-4771
Fax: (478) 374-0703
www.hogardc.org

Branch Office:

331 West Parker Street
Baxley, Georgia 31515
(912) 367-3648
Fax: (912) 367-3640

Lower Chattahoochee RDC

1428 Second Avenue
P.O. Box 1908
Columbus, Georgia 31902-1908
(706) 256-2910
Fax: (706) 256-2908
www.lcrdc.org

McIntosh Trail RDC

120 North Hills Street
P.O. Box 818
Griffin, Georgia 30224-0818
(770) 227-6300
Fax: (770) 227-6488
www.mtrdc.org

Middle Flint RDC

228 West Lamar Street
Americus, Georgia 31709
(229) 931-2909
Fax: (912) 931-2745
www.middleflintrdc.org

Middle Georgia RDC

175-C Emery Highway
Macon, Georgia 31217
(478) 751-6160
Fax: (478) 751-6517
www.mgrdc.org

North Georgia RDC

503 West Waugh Street
Dalton, Georgia 30720
(706) 272-2300
Fax: (706) 272-2253
www.ngrdc.org

Northeast Georgia RDC

305 Research Drive
Athens, Georgia 30605-2795
(706) 369-5650
Fax: (706) 369-5792
www.negrdc.org

South Georgia RDC

327 West Savannah Avenue
Valdosta, Georgia 31603
(229) 333-5277
Fax: (229) 333-5312
www.sgrdc.com

Southeast Georgia RDC

1725 South Georgia Parkway, West
Waycross, Georgia 31503
(912) 285-6097
Fax: (912) 285-6126
www.segardc.org

Southwest Georgia RDC

30 W. Broad Street
P.O. Box 346
Camilla, Georgia 31730
(229) 522-3552
Fax: (229) 522-3558
www.swgrdc.org

<http://www.cviog.uga.edu/Projects/gainfo/regionmaps/rdc.htm>

Brownfield Redevelopment

The state's Environmental Protection Division (EPD) assists interested parties in the redevelopment of abandoned, or underutilized contaminated commercial and industrial sites throughout Georgia. With the passing of the Hazardous Site Reuse and Redevelopment Act, buyers of these types of properties are offered a limitation of liability for certain preexisting environmental conditions during redevelopment. Additional incentives and assistance are also available for Brownfield redevelopment projects.

For further information on these unique economic development opportunities, contact:

Georgia Environmental Protection Division
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Suite 1152 East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
(404) 657-5947 or
(888) 373-5947
Fax: (404) 651-5778

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is the nation's largest public power provider, generating electricity that serves 8.7 million people through local power companies.

TVA does much more than generate power. It also works to support economic development and serves as an environmental steward of the nation's fifth-largest river system.

Economic development is at the heart of TVA's mission of making the Valley a better place to live today, and into the future. A thriving economy means quality jobs and investments. TVA's goal is to build regional, state, business and community partnerships that bring and retain jobs to provide opportunities to North Georgia and the region.

TVA's economic development efforts help the communities it serves by:

- attracting new investments and quality jobs
- supporting the retention and growth of existing businesses
- preparing communities for economic growth
- providing financial and technical services.

Economic Development Contact:

Steven E. Moore, Regional Development Specialist

TVA Southeast Valley Office

1101 Market Street, SP3A

Chattanooga, TN

(423)751-2833:w

(706)483-8619:c

(423)751-2835:f

semoore@tva.com

Georgia Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

Small businesses with less than 100 employees can take advantage of the free and confidential environmental assistance that is available through the Georgia Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (GA SBEAP). Housed within the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (EPD), the non-regulatory GA SBEAP can help businesses stay environmentally compliant, whether the need is in air quality, water quality or hazardous waste. The GA SBEAP supports the quest for compliance by offering free permitting and compliance assistance, as well as notification of regulatory requirement changes that may affect small businesses. Individual, personalized, confidential assistance is available, at your place of business or theirs.

Some of the services that SBEAP offer are:

- Permitting assistance (e.g. requirements, preparation, review of application, reporting tools)
- Compliance assistance (e.g. site visits to provide an evaluation of potential compliance issues, assistance in responding to enforcement by the regulatory agencies, compliance tools)
- Notification of new or changes in regulatory requirements
- Training (e.g. speaking engagements at your event and topic specific workshops)

Listed below is a partial listing of industries that SBEAP has assisted:

- Auto Body Shops
- Cultured Marble Manufacturers
- Chemical Plants and Distributors
- Furniture Manufacturers
- Gasoline Service Stations
- General Contractors
- Laboratories
- Printing Operations
- Dry Cleaners
- Car Washes
- Metal Finishers
- Aluminum Sweat Furnaces
- Composite Fabricators
- Concrete Plants
- Chrome Plating Businesses
- Alternative Fuel Facilities
- Painting Operations
- Salvage Yards

Give GA SBEAP a call and see if they can help your small business.

For further information contact:

Small Business Environmental Assistance Program
4244 International Parkway, Suite 120
Atlanta, Georgia 30354
(404) 362-4842
(877) 427-6255
www.gasmallbiz.org

Coastal Area District Development Authority (CADDA)

The Coastal Area District Development Authority (CADDA) offers financial assistance through a variety of loan programs for the purpose of improving economic conditions by creating and/or retaining employment opportunities.

For further information contact:

Brunswick Office
501 Gloucester Street, Suite. 201
Brunswick, GA 31520
(912) 261-2500
Fax: (912) 261-0032

Savannah Office:
1 Bull Street, Suite. 301
Savannah, GA 31402
(912) 236-9566
Fax: (912) 236-9562
www.cadda.com

Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project

The Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc. (Southeast RCAP) is an organization whose mission is to promote the development of affordable water and wastewater facilities, activities, technical assistance and resources to improve the quality of life for low-income rural residents.

Southeast RCAP was created in the 1960s and now serves the states of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. The Southeast RCAP has brought safe water and other facilities to more than 400,000 residents in the seven-state network.

For more information contact:

Winfred E. Owens, Director
Office of Regional Services
Local Government Assistance Division
Department of Community Affairs
225 West Broad Street
Athens, Georgia 30601
(706) 583-2731
wowens@dca.state.ga.us
www.sercap.org

Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta

The Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta provides a number of products and services to its financial institution members. Among the products offered are the Economic Development and Growth Enhancement (EDGE) and Economic Development (EDP) programs. EDGE and EDP provide below market financing for eligible economic development activities. Program funds may be used for a variety of community development projects including, but not limited to economic development, public facilities, and job creation and services for low- or moderate-income persons.

For further information contact:
Deborah D. Miller
Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta
1475 Peachtree Road N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30309
404-888-8451
www.fhlbatl.com

Georgia Development Authority (GDA)

What GDA Does:

The Georgia Development Authority (GDA) insures farm and agribusiness loans in the State of Georgia. Many lenders participate in the GDA insured program.

Eligibility

- First mortgage on farm real estate as collateral
- You do not have to live on the farm to qualify
- Loans are made to full- or part-time farmers
- Loans made on timber or crop land

Loan Purposes

- Buy land
- Irrigation equipment and wells
- Build or repair farm buildings
- Purchase machinery and equipment
- Build farm ponds
- Education of children
- Establish permanent pastures
- Establish beef, dairy or swine herds
- Refinance debts
- Specialized buildings for dairy, poultry, swine or beef enterprises

Repayment Plans

- Fixed or variable rate
- Up to 30-year amortization, variable interest rate based on prime
- Simple interest charged only for the days that you use the money
- Payments scheduled to fit farm income
- Extensions may be granted if needed
- Loans may be refinanced if necessary

For additional information contact:

David Skinner, Executive Director
2200 Parklake Drive, Suite 150
Atlanta, Georgia 30345
(770) 414-3400
1-800-376- 3276
www.gdaonline.com

Export-Import Bank

The Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank) is an independent U.S. Government agency that helps finance the sale of U.S. goods and services to foreign buyers. Ex-Im Bank supports export sales by making it easier for overseas buyers to purchase U.S. goods and services on credit. It does this in two ways:

1. Ex-Im Bank provides loans directly to foreign buyers; and
2. It encourages U.S. suppliers or their banks to extend credit terms to foreign buyers by providing credit risk protection, and in some cases, fixed-rate funding support.

Ex-Im Bank also helps U.S. exporters obtain pre-export financing through its Working Capital Guarantee Program.

Ex-Im Bank will support the sale of U.S. goods or services to a creditworthy foreign buyer when private financing cannot be arranged. To qualify for Ex-Im Bank support, the product or service must have at least 51% U.S. content, and cannot be military related. All transactions also must be economically viable and must not affect the U.S. economy adversely. There must be a reasonable assurance of repayment

Ex-Im Bank can assist in three ways:

1. By guaranteeing 100% of the principal and interest on commercial loans to small and medium-sized companies that need funds to produce or market U.S. goods and services for export.
2. By providing competitive, fixed-interest rate loans to foreign buyers of U.S. capital equipment and services, or through an intermediary lender.
3. By providing credit insurance policies for single or repetitive export sales or leases to foreign buyers.

To encourage small businesses to sell overseas, Ex-Im Bank offers a special toll free number (800) 565-3946 to provide information on these services.

For further information contact:

Ex-Im Bank Regional Office - Southeast

Miami Regional Office

5835 Blue Lagoon Drive, Suite 203

Miami, FL 33126

(305) 526-7436

Fax: (305) 526-7435

www.exim.gov

Entrepreneurial Training and Funding Opportunities

The Georgia Micro Enterprise Network (GMEN) was founded in 1997 and is a state member-based association dedicated to microenterprise development. Microenterprise is generally defined as a business employing five (5) or fewer individuals and requiring financing needs of \$35,000 or less.

For further information please view the GMEN website:

www.georgiamicroenterprise.org

Listed below are GMEN-affiliated members that provide technical and financial assistance in Georgia.

Business Development Training & Technical Assistance

AMEN, Inc.

Art Druckenmiller, Executive Director
P O Box 76956
Atlanta, GA 30358
Phone: (404) 875-7677 Fax: (404) 875-3541
e-mail: artdruck@aol.com
website: www.ameninc.org
Area covered: Metro Atlanta

Center for Black Women's Wellness

Jemea Dorsey, President/CEO
477 Windsor Street SW, Room 309
Atlanta, GA 30312
Phone: (404) 688-9202 Fax: (404) 880-9435
e-mail: jemea@cbww.org
website: www.cbww.org
County covered: DeKalb, Gwinnett & Cobb

Antioch Micro Enterprise Network

Andrew Hines, Program Director
1148 Oakton Trail
Evans, GA 30809
Phone: (706) 627-0009 Fax: (706) 651-1016
e-mail: Cecil1212@knology.net
website: www.antiochmicroenterprises.org
County covered: Columbia, McDuffie,
Richmond

Cornerstone Association, Inc.

Gwendolyn Smith, CEO
1421 Iron Gate Blvd
Jonesboro, GA 30238
Phone: (404) 444-3012 Fax: (770) 478-7568
e-mail: gjsmith100@bellsouth.net
website: www.acornerstone.org
County covered: Baldwin, Bibb, Crawford,
Houston, Jasper, Jones, Monroe, Peach, Putnam,
Twiggs, Wilkerson

Bronner Business Institute

Alfred Watkins, PhD, Executive Director
212 Riverside Pkwy
Austell, GA 30168
Phone: (404) 344-3182
e-mail: alwatkins@vartechservices.com
website: www.nhbbi.org
County covered: Cobb

DeKalb Microenterprise Institute

Roderick Wallace, Executive Director
150 East Ponce de Leon Ave, Suite 400
Decatur, GA 30030
Phone: (678) 904-3465 Fax: (404) 687-2733
e-mail: rodw-dmi@debco.org
website: www.gpc.edu/ce/dmi.html
County covered: DeKalb & Metro Atlanta

Early County Community Development Corporation

Nancy Wright, Executive Director
987 North Church Street
Blakely, GA 39823
Phone: (229) 724-7552 Fax: (229) 724-7552
e-mail: earlycocdc06@windstream.net
website: www.earlycocdc.org
County covered: Early, Seminole, Clay, Calhoun

East Athens Development Corporation

Winston Heard, Executive Director
410 McKinley Drive
Athens, GA 30601-3270
Phone: (706) 208-0048 Fax: (706) 208-0015
e-mail: wheard0822@aol.com
website: www.eadcinc.com
Counties covered: Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Madison, Morgan, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Walton

The Edge Connection

Patricia Harris, Executive Director/CEO
Kennesaw State University
1000 Chastain Road, Mailbox #3305
Kennesaw, GA 30144-5591
Phone: (770) 499-3228 Fax: (770) 499-3636
e-mail: theedge@kennesaw.edu
website: www.theedgeconnection.com
Area covered: Metro Atlanta

Ellenwood Academy

John Payton, President
Ellenwood Academy
P O Box 360782
Decatur, GA 30036
Phone: (404) 840-6940 Fax: (404) 381-9067
e-mail: jpaytonent@bellsouth.net
website: www.ellenwoodacademy.com
Area covered: Metro Atlanta

Georgia SBDC Network

Allan Adams, State Director
University of Georgia Business Outreach Services/SBDC
1180 E Broad Street
Athens, GA 30602-5412
Phone: (706) 542-6762 Fax: (706) 542-7935
e-mail: aadams@sbdc.uga.edu
website: www.sbdc.uga.edu
Area covered: Statewide

Goodwill of North Georgia/BusinessNOW

Yvonne Days-Cuffie, Program Manager
1295 Columbia Drive
Decatur, GA 30032
Phone: (404) 728-8631
e-mail: ydayscuffie@ging.org
website: www.ging.org
Counties covered: Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett

Greater Rome Area Community Enterprise

Karen Dublin, Executive Director
1 South Broad Street
Rome, GA 30161
Phone: (706) 248-6495
e-mail: karen_dublin@msn.com
County covered: Floyd, Polk, Chattooga, Bartow, Paulding, Haralson, Walker, Whitfield, Carroll

Latinos for Education and Justice Organization

Roberta Warmack, Executive Director
310 West Line Street
P O Box 936
Calhoun, GA 30703
Phone: (706) 625-0658 Fax: (706) 625-0298
e-mail: rwarmack@frontiernet.net
County covered: Bartow, Gordon, Whitfield

Partnership for Community Action

Vanessa Rush, Program Operations Director
3597 Covington Hwy
Decatur, GA 30032
Phone: (404) 929-2448 Fax: (404) 298-9759
e-mail: vanessa.rush@pcaction.org
website: www.pcaction.org
County covered: Dekalb, Rockdale, Gwinnett

Refugee Women's Network

Dilwonberish Aberra, Microenterprise Program
Coordinator
4151 Memorial Dr, Suite 103-F
Decatur, GA 30032
Phone: (404) 299-0180 x227 Fax: (404) 296-
9118
e-mail: microenterprise@riwn.org
website: www.riwn.org
Area covered: Metro Atlanta

South Metro Microenterprise Coalition

Denny Danylchak, Program Director
107 Westridge Industrial Blvd
McDonough, GA 30253
Phone: (770) 487-9554 Fax: (770) 687-9554
e-mail: djdanylchak99@yahoo.com
website: www.smmcga.org
County covered: Henry, Clayton, Butts,
Spaulding, Lamar, Pike

Women's Employment Opportunity Project

Antionette Ball, Executive Director
2818 East Point Street, Suite 2-D
East Point, GA 30344
Phone: (404) 765-0922 Fax: (404) 765-0629
e-mail: info@weop.org
website: www.weop.org
County covered: Fulton, Fayette

Micro Loan Fund**Albany Community Together**

Thelma Adams Johnson, President/CEO
230 S. Jackson Street, Suite 154
Albany, GA 31701-2816
Phone: (229) 420-4600 Fax: (229) 420-8311
e-mail: taact@bellsouth.net
website: www.albanycommunitytogetherinc.com
County covered: Baker, Calhoun, Colquitt,
Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Grady, Lee, Miller,
Mitchell, Seminole, Terrell, Thomas, Worth

Appalachian Community Enterprises

Grace Fricks, President/CEO
54 Twin Lakes Road
Cleveland, GA 30528
Phone: (706) 348-6609 Fax: (706) 219-4976
e-mail: fricks@aceloans.org
website: www.aceloans.org
Counties covered: Banks, Barrow, Bartow,
Carroll, Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, Dawson,
Elbert, Fannin, Floyd, Franklin, Gilmer, Gordon,
Gwinnett, Habersham, Hall, Haralson, Hart, Heard,
Jackson, Lumpkin, Madison, Murray, Paulding,
Pickens, Polk, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union,
Walker, White, Whitfield

Atlanta Micro Fund Inc

Marvin Bryant, Loan Fund Manager
P O Box 89285
Atlanta, GA 30312
Phone: (678) 539-6900 Fax: (404) 221-0616
e-mail: mbryant@ahand.org
website: www.ahand.org
County covered: Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas,
Fulton

Dekalb Enterprise Business Corporation

Charles Blackmon, Executive Director
150 E. Ponce de Leon Ave, Suite 400
Decatur, GA 30030
Phone: (404) 378-1899 Fax: (404) 378-8880
e-mail: charles.blackmon@debco.org

website: www.debco.org
County covered: Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb,
Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton,
Rockdale

Small Business Assistance Corporation
Tony O'Reilly, Executive Director
111 East Liberty Street, Suite 100
Savannah, GA 31401
Phone: (912) 232-4700 Fax: (912) 232-0385
e-mail: toreilly@sbacsav.com
website: www.sbacsav.com

Area covered: Southeast Georgia

**Southwest Georgia Business Development
Center**

Robert Cooke, Executive Director
1150 Industrial Dr, Suite 201
Vienna, GA 31092
Phone: (229) 268-7592 Fax: (229) 268-8980
e-mail: rcooke@sowega.net
website: www.crispdooly.org
Counties covered: Crisp, Dooly

GMEN's mission is to create opportunities and support for microenterprise development as an avenue for economic self-sufficiency in Georgia.

The Center for Rural Entrepreneurship

The Center for Rural Entrepreneurship (Center) is a Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) with major support from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation of Kansas City. The mission of the Center is to enable every rural resident to achieve his or her full entrepreneurial potential. This mission will be achieved by collaborating with individuals and organizations engaged in the study, practice and policy of rural entrepreneurship.

For further information contact:

Center for Rural Entrepreneurship

P.O. Box 83107

Lincoln, NE 68501

(402) 323-7339

www.ruraleship.org

or

Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation

4801 Rockhill Road

Kansas City, Missouri 64110

(816) 932-1000

www.emkf.org

The Abilities Fund

The Abilities fund is the first and only nationwide community developer targeted exclusively to advancing entrepreneurial opportunities for Americans with disabilities. The Abilities Fund offers training, technical assistance, and advisory support to individuals with disabilities and the organizations that support them.

For further information contact the Abilities Fund at:

Centerville Office

410 N 18th St
Centerville, IA 52544-1823
Telephone: 641-856-2173
Toll Free: 888-222-8943
Fax: 641-856-3101

Iowa City Office

332 South Linn Street STE #17
Iowa City, IA 52240
Telephone: 319-338-2521
Toll Free: 866-720-3863
Fax: 319-338-2528

Plattsmouth Office

P.O. Box 394
Plattsmouth, NE 68048
Telephone: 402-296-2146
Toll Free: 877-518-0802
Fax: 402-296-0265

info@abilitiesfund.org
www.abilitiesfund.org

Georgia Community Loan Fund, Inc.

The Georgia Community Loan Fund, Inc. (GCLF) is a non-profit corporation dedicated to nurturing economic development, community development, environmental sustainability, and social justice throughout the state. The GCLF is modeled after other revolving loan funds which offer loans, grants, and on-going technical support to low-income individuals and groups who are generating economically and environmentally sustainable individual and community development.

For more information contact:

Georgia Community Loan Fund
999 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 2300
Atlanta, GA 30309
404-407-5093
Email: admin@gacfl.org
www.gacfl.org

Business Incubators

Business incubation is the process of business development. Incubators help to nurture young businesses from the startup stage when they are most vulnerable. An incubator program's main goal is to produce financially viable and freestanding businesses. To meet this goal, incubators help businesses by providing:

- Seminars
- Individual Consultations
- Mentors
- Conference room availability
- Computer access
- Other support services

Below is a listing of some of the business incubators in Georgia:

Advanced Technology Development Center

Georgia Institute of Technology
75 Fifth Street, N.W.
Suite 100
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
(404) 894-3575
Fax: (404) 894-4545
www.atdc.org

The Georgia BioBusiness Center

111 Riverbend Road
Athens, GA 30605
(706) 583-8209
Fax: (706) 583-0881
E-mail: biobiz@uga.edu
www.biobusiness.uga.edu

Intelligent Systems Corporation

Bonnie L. Herron
Vice President & Chief Financial Officer
4355 Shackelford Road
Norcross, Georgia 30093
(770) 381-2900
Fax: (770) 381-2808
e-mail: bherron@intelsys.com
www.intelsys.com

South Dekalb Business Incubator

1599-A Memorial Drive
Atlanta, GA 30317
(404) 329-4568
Fax: (404) 378-0768
<http://www.sdbusinc.net/>

Augusta-Richmond County Small Business Incubator

Augusta, Georgia
3140 Augusta Tech Drive
Augusta, Georgia 30906-3381
(706) 792-9044
Fax: (706) 792-9905
www.arcsbi.com

Medical College of Georgia Office of Technology Transfer and Economic Development

Augusta, Georgia 30912
(706) 721-9822
Fax: (706) 721-2917
mgabridge@mail.mcg.edu
www.mcg.edu/research/techtransfer/

Southwest Georgia Business Development Center

1150 Industrial Drive

Vienna GA 31092

(229) 268-8944

foster2@sowega.net

<http://www.crispdooly.org/>

Technology and Telecommunications Research in Georgia

One of the goals of the State of Georgia is to develop a broadband technology and telecommunications infrastructure system and become a world leader in the 21st century. Listed below are some organizations that are assisting the state in meeting this objective.

Advanced Technology Development Center (ATDC)

ATDC accelerates the formation and growth of technology based companies in Georgia. www.atdc.org

Georgia Center for Advanced Telecommunications Technology (GCATT)

GCATT is a telecommunications technology and development partnership of government, universities, and the advanced telecommunications industry. www.gcatt.gatech.edu

Georgia Research Alliance

The Georgia Research Alliance manages a partnership among universities, industry and government to perform technology research.

www.gra.org

Economic Development Agencies

There are a variety of agencies that are proud to promote the State of Georgia for economic development and other purposes. Log on and get more information on these agencies and their mission at the following websites:

State of Georgia
www.georgia.gov

Georgia Economic Developers Association
www.geda.org

Georgia Municipal Association
www.gmanet.com

Association of County Commissioners of Georgia
www.accg.org

Georgia Academy for Economic Development
<http://www.dca.state.ga.us/academy/>

Georgia Power
www.georgiapower.com

Oglethorpe Power Corporation
<http://www.opc.com/opccom/>

Georgia Center for Site Selection
www.gcss.opc.com

Georgia Ports Authority
www.gaports.com

Georgia Chamber of Commerce
www.gachamber.com

Georgia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives
www.gacce.org

Georgia GIS Clearinghouse
www.gis.state.ga.us

Better Business Bureau
www.bbb.org

National Federation of Independent Business
www.nfib.com/ga

Georgia Center for Non-Profits
www.gcn.org/