

January 22, 2026

Georgia Department of Community Affairs
Office of Planning and Environmental Management
60 Executive Park South, NE
Atlanta, GA

RE: Regional Plan FY25 Annual Implementation Program Report Submittal

The Southern Georgia Regional Commission has completed an update of its regional plan and is submitting it with this letter for review by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

I certify that we have held one required public hearing on January 22, 2026 and, at a minimum, have involved regional stakeholders in development of the annual report in a manner appropriate to our region's dynamics and resources and in accordance with the Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning, Chapter 110-12-6. Documentation of the required public hearings has been included with our submittal.

I certify that appropriate regional staff and decision-makers have, at a minimum, reviewed the following planning documents and taken them into consideration in formulating our plan update:

- Georgia's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan,
- 2023 Suwanee-Satilla Regional Water Plan,
- 2022 - 2026 Southern Georgia Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy,
- Valdosta-Lowndes MPO 2045 Transportation Vision Plan

If you have any questions concerning our submittal, please contact James Horton, Planning Director at [229.333.5277](tel:229.333.5277)/jhorton@sgrc.us

Sincerely,



K. Neal Bennett,
Southern Georgia Regional Commission Council Chair

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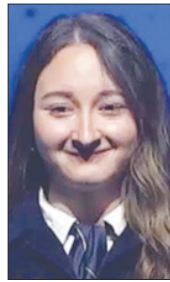
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WCHS has national FFA winner

'25 graduate Lindsay Moore honored for proficiency in queen bees

Special to the WJH
 Lindsay Moore, a 2025 Ware County High School honor graduate, has been cited by the Future Farmers of America for Speciality Animal Production. Moore, whose specialty is queen



Lindsay Moore works with Brad Sanders, one of the owners of Sanders Honey Company, as part of her Supervised Agricultural Experience with the Waycross business.

SPECIAL PHOTO

bee production, was awarded first place in the category at the FFA National Convention & Expo in Indianapolis in November.

She is the first Ware County High representative to win a national proficiency award, Ware County FFA Advisor Annabelle Jarrett said.

"Lindsay's dedication, knowledge, and work ethic truly set her apart," Jarrett said. "Her passion for agriculture and willingness to overcome obstacles exemplifies the very best of FFA."

Moore earned the prestigious honor through her exceptional Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) in advanced beekeeping, showcasing both technical skill and dedication to agricultural excellence. Through the Work-Based Learning program at WCHS, she has worked with Sanders Honey Company in Waycross, where she specializes in queen bee production, one of the most skilled and vital areas of the beekeeping industry, Jarrett said.

What makes Moore's accomplishment even more remarkable is her perseverance in the face of personal challenges. Despite being allergic to bees, she continues to work hands-on in beekeeping because of her strong belief in their importance.

Since beginning the



Lindsay Moore carries a tray of bees from a hive while working in her SAE program at Sanders Honey Company.

SPECIAL PHOTO

SAE program in 2021, Moore has played a key role in managing more than 3,000 beehives.

Her responsibilities include creating and evaluating queen cells, monitoring the health of the colony, and preparing queens for shipment to beekeepers across the nation.

Her work helps ensure strong, healthy colonies that are essential to pollination and agricultural productivity nationwide, Jarrett said.

The advisor said Moore is passionate about educating others on the critical role bees play in

pollination, food production, and ecosystem health, and she is committed to helping others better understand their value.

"Moore's national FFA win is a testament to her hard work, perseverance, and commitment to excellence," Jarrett said. "She proudly represented Ware County FFA on the national stage, bringing home a national title and leaving a lasting legacy for future agricultural students."

Jarrett accompanied Moore to the national convention along with fellow WCHS member Jose Gomez and Laine Gill.

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SATURDAY, FEB. 14, 2026

The Southeast Georgia Health System Foundation Bridge Run across the scenic Sidney Lanier Bridge in Brunswick, Georgia, has been certified by U.S.A. Track and Field as **"the toughest 5K in Georgia."**

The Bridge Run also includes a walk and a family-friendly festival, featuring vendors, food and drinks, entertainment and children's activities. Proceeds benefit the Health System's cancer and cardiac care programs.

THE-BRIDGE-RUN.ORG

10K DOUBLE PUMP | 5K RUN | 5K WALK
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SOUTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEM
 Foundation



Community News

SGRC has hearing, meeting Jan. 22

The Southern Georgia Regional Commission will hold a public hearing and a meeting Thursday, January 22, at the SGRC office in Valdosta, 1937 Carlton Adams Drive.

The hearing on annual implementation of the regional plan Annual Implementation will be at 11 a.m. followed by a meeting of the SGRC Council.

Both sessions are open to the public.

For additional details, visit www.sgrc.us.

Satilla Riverkeeper sets benefit gala

The Satilla Riverkeeper will hold a Spring Gala at 5 p.m., Saturday, March 28, at the Blueberry Hill Event Venue, 385 Lynn Holly Lane, Hoboken.

The evening will include dinner, music, an open bar, and both a live auction and a silent auction. Tickets are \$150 per person.

All proceeds will support the Satilla Riverkeeper's mission to protect the Satilla River.

Visit www.satillariverkeeper.org for information and to purchase tickets.

MSH has classes for child birth

Memorial Satilla Health has scheduled bi-monthly maternity classes and monthly tours of its Birthing Center.

Tours and classes are held from 5 to 7 p.m. in

the MSH Birthing Center Conference Room, 1900 Tebeau Street.

Those interested can register at memorialsatillahealth.com/calendar.

Classes will be held beginning Monday, January 19 followed by others March 23, May 18, July 20, September 21 and November 16.

Birthing Center Tours remaining are February 8, March 6, April 7, May 6, June 11, July 10, August 9, September 6, October 12, November 10 and December 11.

Class topics will include breastfeeding, Cesarean sections (C-sections), diet and exercise, preparing for labor and delivery, relaxation techniques and vaginal deliveries.

OHC writer's group meets January 20

The Okefenokee Heritage Center's OHC Writers group meets monthly from 4 to 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month at 1460 N. Augusta Avenue.

The Next meeting is January 20.

Writers of all experience levels and genres are welcome.

For more information, call (912) 285 4260, visit OHC Writers on Facebook or send an email to okeheritage@gmail.com.

Diabetes group meets first Sat.

The Talki Foundation's monthly support group 912 Diabetes Initiative for

people with diabetes and their caregivers holds meetings the first Saturday of each month.

The support group will meet at 11 a.m., in the Memorial Satilla Health Annex Classroom, 1800 Alice Street.

Remaining dates for the first half of the year are February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2 and June 6.

The group provides educational resources and a chance to connect with others.

Call (844) 630-5295 to register.

Unison directors meet January 29

The Unison Behavioral Health Board of Directors meets at noon, Thursday, January 29 in the Ware C&A Training Room, 1003 Mary Street.

The meeting is open to the public. Call (912) 449-7101 for more information.

Chamber seeks hosts for events

The Waycross-Ware County Chamber of Commerce is compiling its list of hosts for its Rise 'n' Shine and Business After Hours meetings for 2026.

Rise 'n' Shine is held at 7:45 a.m. and Business After Hours at 5 p.m., each once every month.

Businesses interested in being a host for one or both of the events in the coming year can email chamber@waycrosschamber.org.

SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION



FY2025 REGIONAL PLAN ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN REPORT

Government		Date of most Recent Assessment	<p>Achieved Standard of Excellence</p> <p>Note: Minimum standards must first be achieved prior to being designated Community of Excellence</p> <p>Achieved Minimum Standards</p> <p>11. Maintain QLG by submitting all required reports, certifications, and other updates as needed by DCA.</p> <p>10. Participate in trainings, conferences, and workshops to maintain knowledge.</p> <p>9. Foster a sense of community through participation and promotion of activities which support and enrich the community's social capital. *</p> <p>8. Update the local Community Work Programs as necessary for successful implementation of community goals.</p> <p>7. Participate in comprehensive planning efforts including the development of Community Work Programs and the maintenance of the Service Delivery Strategy (SDS).</p> <p>6. Develop, update, maintain and implement at a minimum the International Building Code including applicable administrative procedures, and put a program in place that a certified Building Inspector does all inspections.</p> <p>5. Develop, update, maintain and implement zoning standards or land development regulations.</p> <p>4. Update and adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan as required by State guidelines.</p> <p>3. All Planning Commissioner Board members must attend planning commission training within one year of appointment.</p> <p>2. All County and City Clerks obtain certification through UGA Carl Vinson Institute or equivalent Certification Program.</p> <p>1. All elected City and County Officials must obtain minimum certification by Regional Commission through UGA Carl Vinson Institute or an equivalent Certification Program.</p>											Action to assist governments not meeting minimum standards	
Ray City			Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Brantley County	October 2025		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Hoboken			Y	Y	NA	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Nahunta			Y	Y	NA	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Brooks County	Brooks January 2024		Y	Y	IP	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Barwick			Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Morven			Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Pavo			Y	Y	NA	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Quitman	Barwick, Morven, Pavo, Quitman November 2024		Y	Y	IP	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	IP	N		Technical Assistance
Charlton County	September 2024		Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Folkston			Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Homeland			Y	IP	NA	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Clinch County	September 2024		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Argyle			Y	Y	NA	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	IP	IP		Technical Assistance

<p>Action to assist governments not meeting minimum standards</p>	
<p>Achieved Standard of Excellence</p> <p>Note: Minimum standards must first be achieved prior to being designated Community of Excellence</p>	
<p>Achieved Minimum Standards</p>	
<p>11. Maintain QLG by submitting all required reports, certifications, and other updates as needed by DCA.</p>	
<p>10. Participate in trainings, conferences, and workshops to maintain knowledge.</p>	
<p>9. Foster a sense of community through participation and promotion of activities which support and enrich the community' s social capital. *</p>	
<p>8. Update the local Community Work Programs as necessary for successful implementation of community goals.</p>	
<p>7. Participate in comprehensive planning efforts including the development of Community Work Programs and the maintenance of the Service Delivery Strategy (SDS).</p>	
<p>6. Develop, update, maintain and implement at a minimum the International Building Code including applicable administrative procedures, and put a program in place that a certified Building Inspector does all inspections.</p>	
<p>5. Develop, update, maintain and implement zoning standards or land development regulations.</p>	
<p>4. Update and adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan as required by State guidelines.</p>	
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<p>2. All County and City Clerks obtain certification through UGA Carl Vinson Institute or equivalent Certification Program.</p>	
<p>1. All elected City and County Officials must obtain minimum certification by Regional Commission through UGA Carl Vinson Institute or an equivalent Certification Program.</p>	
<p>Date of most Recent Assessment</p>	
<p>Government</p>	



SGRC
Annual Regional
Work Program
Update FY2025

Regional Work Program 2023 – 2028

NOTE: Text in this Blue Color indicates New Addition of Information. No existing wording was struck.

Priority Need/Opportunity	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	FY25 Accomplishments Underway, Completed, Postponed, Cancelled/Deleted
ED-1: Broadband accessibility throughout the Region is not consistent.	Study existing Broadband services in the Region to understand where gaps exist.	Develop a comprehensive GIS Inventory of broadband infrastructure in the Region to be utilized in Broadband planning for local comprehensive plan updates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local governments ▪ Utility companies ▪ Broadband providers ▪ GTA 	Yr. 1-5 \$30,000		Underway
N/C-1: The Region's lakes and rivers have a lack of safe, clean public access points such as boat ramps, landings, and public beaches.	Study existing public water access facilities in the Region and locate areas where new ones are needed.	Develop a comprehensive GIS inventory of existing public water access facilities such as boat ramps, landings, and public beaches/swimming areas in the Region and determine future locations of new developments of such facilities throughout the Region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local governments ▪ DNR ▪ DCA ▪ EDA ▪ Nonprofit organizations ▪ USFWS 	Yr. 1-5 \$30,000		Underway
N/C-2: The Region has a severe lack of funding for preserving historic and cultural resources, which further restricts the marketing of these resources as another part of the Region's high quality of life.	Increase the number of local historic and cultural resource projects.	Develop an electronic Historic Resources Guide/Story Map for the Region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local governments ▪ DCA ▪ Nonprofit organizations 	Yr. 1-5 \$30,000		Postponed at this time due to a lack of funding and/or staff time.
		Host workshops on the acquisition of vacant/underutilized or abandoned property that could be adaptively reused.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local governments ▪ DCA ▪ Main Streets 	Yr. 2 and 4 \$5,000		Underway

Priority Need/Opportunity	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	FY25 Accomplishments Underway, Completed, Postponed, Cancelled/Deleted
N/C-A: A regional eco-tourism marketing program for natural resources (such as the Okefenokee Swamp, Grand Bay, various water bodies, and state parks) could help to increase the utilization and funding of these resources.	Increase the utilization and funding of eco-tourism resources in the Region.	Promote and maintain the existing Eco and Agri – tourism story maps and brochures to areas beyond this Region through participation and attendance at events such as the Sunbelt Ag Expo in Moultrie.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local governments ▪ DNR ▪ Nonprofit organizations ▪ USFWS 	Yr. 1-5 \$15,000		Underway
N/C-B: Any possibility that provides the Region with expanded public outdoor recreation—such as greenway trails, canoe trails, and other amenities—should be explored.	Increase the number of recreational opportunities in the Region.	Create and manage a list of funding and opportunities for expanded public outdoor recreation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local governments ▪ DNR ▪ USFWS ▪ NPS 	Yr. 1-5 \$10,000		Underway
CFS-1: Many communities in the Region have aging infrastructure (water, sewer, roads, bridges), but lack funding to address those problems.	Increase the number of grant-funded infrastructure projects in the Region.	CFS-1A Create a regional list of priority infrastructure projects to target for funding identification.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local governments ▪ DCA ▪ GDOT ▪ EDA ▪ EPA ▪ USDA ▪ GEFA 	Yr. 1-5 \$2,000	Yr. 6-10 \$2,000	Underway

		<p>CFS-1A Action Step</p> <p>CFS-1B Apply for infrastructure grants in order to address aging infrastructure, growth, economic development and other issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local governments ▪ DCA ▪ GDOT ▪ EDA ▪ EPA ▪ USDA ▪ GEFA ▪ HUD 	<p>Yr. 1-5 \$1 million each grant</p> <p>*Funding amount was changed to \$1 million</p>	<p>Yr. 6-10 \$1 million each grant</p> <p>*Funding amount was changed to \$1 million</p>	<p>List of Grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fargo Water Well through GA DCA CDBG NOT AWARDED • EPA Drinking Water Resiliency Grant for Fargo Water Well - \$570,000 RETURNED • OneGA Equity Workforce Housing Grant for Blackshear Infrastructure - \$2,450,000 UNDERWAY • NEW BELOW • OneGA Equity Workforce Housing Grant for Douglas-Coffee County IA Infrastructure - \$2,500,000 UNDERWAY • SFRF Homerville Water Infrastructure - \$1,921,392 UNDERWAY • SFRF/GEFA EPA Folkston Water Infrastructure - \$25,000,000 UNDERWAY
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						<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EPA Blackshear Water Infrastructure - \$1,600,000 UNDERWAY• HUD Blackshear Road Infrastructure - \$2,500,000 UNDERWAY• CDBG Charlton County Road Infrastructure - \$211,857 UNDERWAY• OneGeorgia-DR Valdosta City UNDERWAY• City of Nicholls- Water Infrastructure- \$1,000,000 AWARDED• City of Nahunta- Water Infrastructure- \$1,000,000 AWARDED• Irwin County 2025 CDBG-Street Paving and Drainage- \$1,000,000 AWARDED• Coffee County 2025 CDBG-
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Priority Need/Opportunity	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	FY25 Accomplishments Underway, Completed, Postponed, Cancelled/Deleted
						<p>Street Paving & Drainage- \$1,000,000- AWARDED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cook County 2025 CDBG-\$905,768- Street Paving & Drainage AWARDED
H-1: More housing in downtown areas is needed.	Increase the number of housing units in downtown areas.	Develop a fact sheet for downtown housing identifying funding resources, benefits, desired amenities (including walkability and bike/ped safety), and types of downtown housing options.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local governments ▪ DCA ▪ GDOT 	Yr. 2-3 \$20,000		Postponed at this time due to a lack of funding and/or staff time.
H-2: There is a loss of historic landmark homes due to lack of investment in renovating historic housing.	Increase the number of historic homes preserved and reduce the number of historic homes lost.	Provide staff to promote the concepts of Historic Preservation and assist local governments in adopting Historic Preservation Ordinances, designating historic districts, and implementing Historic Preservation Commissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local governments ▪ DCA 	Yr. 1-5 \$25,000		<p>Underway</p> <p>Completed on an as-needed basis paid for by the requesting government and/or DCA HP Contract</p>
H-B1: Develop programs, and maximize use of existing programs, to assist homeowners in the maintenance and upkeep of homes and properties to	Reduce the number of blighted properties in the Region.	H-B1A Develop a fact sheet for code enforcement staff and jurisdictions to assist homeowners in the maintenance and upkeep of homes and properties to support the quality of housing in downtowns and in areas of neglect.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DCA ▪ Local Governments 	Yr. 4 \$5,000		Postponed at this time due to a lack of funding and/or staff time.

Priority Need/Opportunity	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	FY25 Accomplishments Underway, Completed, Postponed, Cancelled/Deleted
avoid/minimize blight.		<p>H-B1B: Action Step</p> <p>HB-1B Utilize grant funding to reduce the number of blighted properties in the Region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DCA ▪ Local Governments 	Yr. 1-5 \$5,000 each grant	Yr. 6-10 \$5,000 each grant	<p>Underway</p> <p>List of Grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeland awarded CHIP for reconstruction of 5 mobile homes: \$500,000 • Waycross awarded CHIP for rehabilitation of 8 homes: \$500,000 • Douglas awarded CDBG for rehabilitation of 6 homes: \$877,225
H-6: The Region is vulnerable to natural disasters; public safety must be responsive and well-	Provide the relevant technology, equipment and critical information to public safety professionals.	H-6A Develop GIS maps to bring first responders into compliance with NexGen 911 criteria.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DCA ▪ Local Governments ▪ GTA ▪ FEMA ▪ GEMHSA 		Yr. 6-10 \$50,000	Underway

Priority Need/Opportunity	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	FY25 Accomplishments Underway, Completed, Postponed, Cancelled/Deleted
equipped to ensure safe communities.		<p>H-6 Action Step</p> <p>H-6B Apply for Grants to provide technology, equipment and critical information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DCA ▪ Local Governments ▪ GTA ▪ FEMA ▪ GEMHSA 	Yr. 1-5 \$5,000 each grant	Yr. 6-10 \$5,000 each grant	<p>Underway</p> <p>List of Grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackshear ARPA Public Safety Grant for FLOCK Cameras: \$113,520 UNDERWAY • Pierce Count ARPA Public Safety Grant for FLOCK Cameras UNDERWAY • Blackshear FEMA AFG Grant for SCBAs and Air Charging Unit: \$211,146 UNDERWAY

Priority Need/Opportunity	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	FY25 Accomplishments Underway, Completed, Postponed, Cancelled/Deleted
LUT-1: The Region is experiencing increasing development pressures on environmentally sensitive lands and farmland; new development needs to be steered more into the urban areas.	Reduce the acreage of environmentally sensitive land and farmland that is developed each year.	Develop a GIS application for Land Use, which will provide information such as conservation, affordable housing, lots suitable for development, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DCA ▪ Local Governments 	Yr. 1-3 \$35,000		Postponed at this time due to a lack of funding and/or staff time.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ▪ 			
LUT-K: Analyze best practices and make recommendations regarding rail safety.	Produce studies and plans to analyze the current situation and recommend best practices to increase rail safety.	Complete a report analyzing rail safety in the VLMPO and/or Region and making recommendations to increase rail safety if deficiencies are noted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GDOT ▪ Local Governments 	Yr. 3-4 \$40,000		Underway
IC-1: Insufficient coordination and information sharing between local governments.	Initiate events that lead to information sharing and coordination between local governments and other relevant stakeholders.	Host annual or semi-annual SGRC 101 learning sessions to increase networking and information sharing amongst new leaders and introduce new leaders to the services provided by SGRC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local Governments 	Yr. 1-5 \$20,000	Yr. 6-10 \$20,000	Underway

Priority Need/Opportunity	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	FY25 Accomplishments Underway, Completed, Postponed, Cancelled/Deleted
		IC-1a: Host an annual Local Government Officials Appreciation Event to increase networking and information sharing amongst local leaders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local Governments ▪ GEMA ▪ FEMA ▪ Businesses ▪ SGRC Council 	Yr. 1-5 \$50,000	Yr. 6-10 \$50,000	UNDERWAY EACH YEAR NEW - Christmas Appreciation Dinner – Homerville Depot – December 11, 2025 COMPLETED
IC-A: Lack of periodic regional intergovernmental training to support a consistent knowledge base and forge connections.	Initiate periodic intergovernmental training events for local leaders.	Host biennial model ordinance workshops and planning commission trainings, pre-update comprehensive plan workshops, and grants training workshops in strategic locations within the Region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local Governments ▪ Carl Vinson Institute ▪ DCA 	Yr. 1-5 \$20,000	Yr. 6-10 \$20,000	UNDERWAY EACH YEAR COMPLETED Projects Completed FY25 Planning and Zoning 101 -invited entire region planning commission members to participate July 20, 2025 COMPLETED

Priority Need/Opportunity	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	FY25 Accomplishments Underway, Completed, Postponed, Cancelled/Deleted
<p>IC-B: Local governments can take advantage of the resources available through the Regional Commission for joint regional projects.</p>	<p>Provide resources to local governments to promote information sharing and maintain compliance with State mandates.</p>	<p>Conduct plan implementation assistance meetings with each local government in the Region no less than once every thirty months and assist local governments with completing required reports and with submittal of applications and certifications.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local Governments 	<p>Yr. 1-5 \$30,000</p>	<p>Yr. 6-10 \$30,000</p>	<p>Underway</p> <p>Projects Completed FY25-26</p> <p>Plan Implementation meetings have been conducted with the following between December 2024 through November 1, 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irwin County City of Ocilla Lowndes County City of Dasher City of Hahira City of Lake Park City of Remerton City of Valdosta Turner County City of Ashburn City of Rebecca City of Sycamore Ware County City of Waycross Brantley County City of Hoboken City of Nahunta Lanier County City of Lakeland

Priority Need/Opportunity	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	FY25 Accomplishments Underway, Completed, Postponed, Cancelled/Deleted
EDU-3: There is insufficient coordination between the education sector and other local governments and agencies.	Develop programs in partnership with the education sector and local governments and agencies to further educational opportunities and career readiness for students.	Partner with University Agricultural programs and County Cooperative Extension offices to develop hands on, outdoor classrooms for agricultural and natural resource and conservation education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local Governments ▪ University System of Georgia ▪ GDA/Georgia Grown ▪ Library System ▪ Cooperative Extension offices ▪ 4-H ▪ FFA 	Yr. 1-5 \$30,000	Yr. 6-10 \$30,000	<p style="text-align: center;">Underway</p> <p>The Sector Partnership programs that are offered by Workforce Development address these needs. Currently we have created the South Georgia Healthcare Alliance made up of business/industry, partner agencies and secondary and post-secondary education. This has been on-going for 5 years.</p>
EDU-A: Increase accessibility of schools.	Reduce the number of crashes that occur in school zones.	Conduct a study of transportation safety in and around school zones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GDOT ▪ Local schools ▪ Local governments 	Yr. 1-5 \$15,000		<p style="text-align: center;">Underway</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMPLETED FY25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">UNDERWAY FY26</p>

Priority Need/Opportunity	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	FY25 Accomplishments Underway, Completed, Postponed, Cancelled/Deleted
EDU-A: Increase accessibility of schools.	Increase the number of students who walk or bike to school.	Promote National Bike to School Day through events in the Region during the month of May.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DCA ▪ Local Governments ▪ Local BOEs ▪ GDOT/SRTS 	Yr. 1-5 \$10,000		<p style="text-align: center;">Underway</p> <p>Projects Completed FY25</p> <p>1. Bike and Pedestrian Safety Campaign monthly through Instagram and Twitter COMPLETED</p> <p>2. Created Bike and Pedestrian Safety Trifolds and distributed throughout the SGRC 18-county Region COMPLETED</p> <p>3. Conducted a Pedestrian Crash Report for the City of Douglas COMPLETED</p> <p>4. Conducted a Pedestrian Crash Report for the City of Ashburn COMPLETED</p>

Priority Need/Opportunity	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	FY25 Accomplishments Underway, Completed, Postponed, Cancelled/Deleted
EDU-B: More workforce training programs could be established through coordination with businesses and industries.	Increase the number of businesses or industries involved in regional workforce development programs.	Hold bi-monthly meetings of the Southern Georgia Workforce Development Board to promote increased coordination of businesses and industries for workforce training programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workforce Development Board ▪ Private sector 	Yr. 1-5 \$10,000	Yr. 6-10 \$10,000	<p style="text-align: center;">Underway</p> <p>Workforce Board Meetings (WDB) are held at least quarterly – but on average 5 times per year. The WDB is by federal law made up of at least 51% private sector members. Our Business Services Manager works directly with business and industry in our 18 counties to ensure that our training programs focus on demand occupations for our region.</p>
SA-1: The senior population continues to grow rapidly, which produces a greater demand for services. The housing, transportation, recreation, and health needs of this population are not adequately addressed.	Increase the number of recreational opportunities available to seniors.	Develop community gardens at senior centers throughout the Region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AAA ▪ Local Governments ▪ AARP ▪ Non-Profits 	Yr. 1-5 \$10,000	Yr. 6-10 \$10,000	<p style="text-align: center;">Underway</p> <p>Utilizing senior center volunteers, a community garden was established at the City of Willacochee Senior Center in 2024 and is ongoing.</p>

Priority Need/Opportunity	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	FY25 Accomplishments Underway, Completed, Postponed, Cancelled/Deleted
		<p>SA-1 Action Step</p> <p>SA-1B Apply for grants to increase recreational opportunities for seniors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AAA ▪ Local Governments ▪ AARP ▪ Non-Profits ▪ DNR ▪ NPS ▪ OPB 	<p>Yr. 1-5 \$5,000 each grant</p>	<p>Yr. 6-10 \$5,000 each grant</p>	<p>Underway Grant for Banks Lake water quality improvement and recreation COMPLETED</p> <p>Douglas Eastside Park LWCF Project awarded: \$500,000 UNDERWAY</p> <p>Blackshear City Park LWCF Project – application COMPLETED</p> <p>NEW - INODIC Douglas Huckaby Park project \$1,629,210 UNDERWAY</p> <p>NEW - INODIC Douglas Roundtree Park project \$693,640 UNDERWAY</p> <p>NEW - INODIC Coffee County Premier Soccer project \$2,200,000 UNDERWAY</p> <p>NEW - Pierce County Tiger Field Rehabilitation \$686,00– UNDERWAY</p>

Priority Need/Opportunity	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	FY25 Accomplishments Underway, Completed, Postponed, Cancelled/Deleted
SA-A: Participate in the AARP Livable Communities initiative to support the efforts of neighborhoods, towns, cities and rural areas to be great places for people of all ages by working toward providing safe, walkable streets; age-friendly housing and transportation options; access to needed services; and opportunities for residents of all ages to participate in community life.	Encourage the provision of safe, walkable streets; age-friendly housing and transportation options; access to needed services; and opportunities for residents of all ages to participate in community life.	Amend the Area Plan on Aging to incorporate necessary activities to support the mission of the AARP Livable Communities initiative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AAA ▪ Local Governments ▪ AARP ▪ Non-Profits 	Yr. 2 \$50,000		<p style="text-align: center;">Underway</p> <p>AAA Applied for AARP Community Challenge Grant and was awarded a grant of \$6,000 for Age-Friendly improvements to Bazemore Park in Waycross, Georgia</p>
SA-B: Health transportation providers could provide greater access to services.	Increase utilization of health transportation providers.	Develop a program with Medicare to provide additional transportation for medical trips for seniors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GDOT ▪ FTA ▪ AARP ▪ AAA 	Yr. 1-5 Staff Time	Yr. 6-10 Staff Time	<p style="text-align: center;">Underway</p> <p>Currently our transportation provider (RMS) has a large contract with Modivcare, a provider of Non-Emergency Medical Transport. This includes transportation for our aging population throughout the region.</p>