



Rural Georgia Initiatives

Georgia Department of Economic Development

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Meet my team!





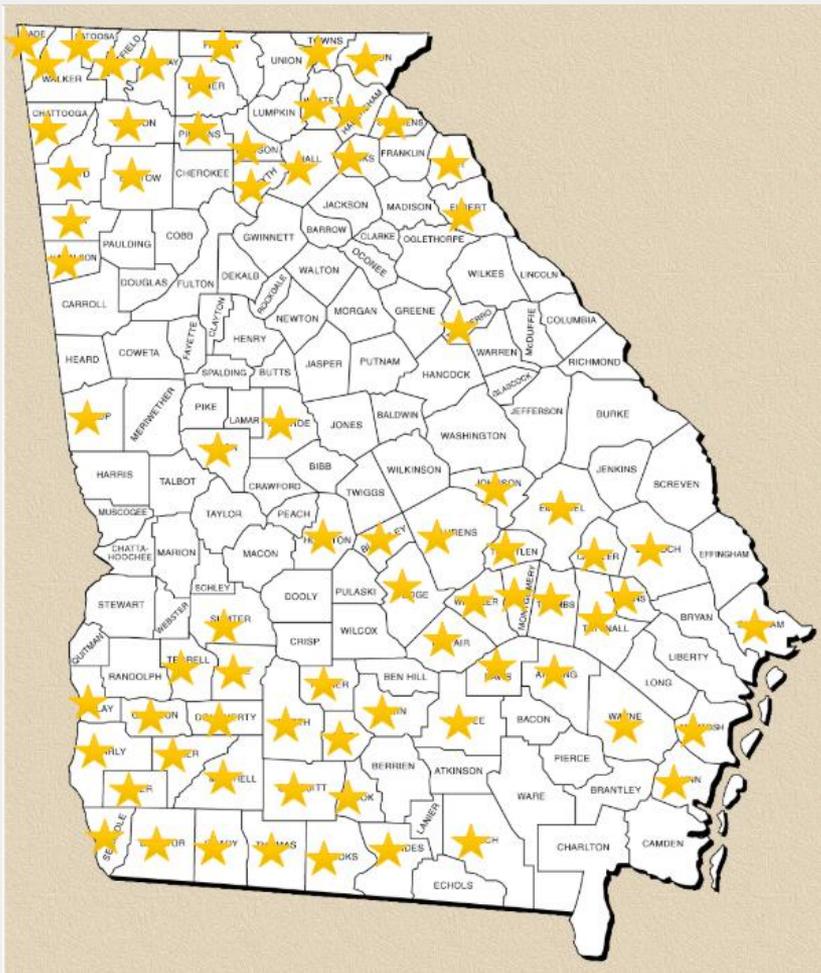
Global Commerce in FY 2018

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

Rural Georgia Initiatives – Our Mission

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





Rural Georgia Initiatives – Where we've been (all of Regions 1, 9, 10, and most of 2)

60 “Community Visits” plus visits
to counties where our assistance
has been needed

What We've Heard So Far

Visited with every community in Regions 1, 9, 10, and most of 2 = **60 community visits**

Rank	Major Challenges and Issues Raised
1	Workforce
2	Healthcare (lack of healthcare options/struggling hospitals, physician recruitment/shortage of healthcare professionals)
T3	Broadband/cell phone coverage
T3	Local leadership
T3	Education and apathy for education
6	Infrastructure (roads, water/sewer, etc.)
7	Brain drain
8	Generational poverty, poor downtown/lack of community activity, transportation
9	Housing (lack of affordable housing for various income levels)
10	Drugs

What We've Heard So Far

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Community Ideas and Potential Solutions

State money for developing economic development product

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

State assistance/money for website design and development

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

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

GDEcD Legislative Ideas for Job Tax Credits

- In Tiers 1 & 2, base qualifying wage on percentage of Georgia's minimum wage
- Promote regionalism with alternative \$1,000/job JDA bonus for multi-county agreements that enable project-specific cost and revenue sharing
- In Tiers 1 & 2, offer \$500/job bonus for manufacturing projects

County Ranking/Tier	Proposed Wage Threshold (wage per hour)
40 Least-Developed Counties	\$9.06 (\$7.25 x 1.25)
Balance of Tier 1 (counties ranked 41st - 71st) and Tier 2 (counties ranked 72nd - 106th)	\$10.88 (\$7.25 x 1.5)
Tiers 3 and 4	\$12.10 (2017 Glascock County avg)

Rural Georgia Initiatives–Our Goal

Long-term, it is our goal to see Rural Georgia grow and become more competitive for economic development activity. It could be many years before we actually see the fruits of our labors.

Questions?

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