



# Rural Georgia Initiatives

Georgia Department of Economic Development

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# Meet my team!



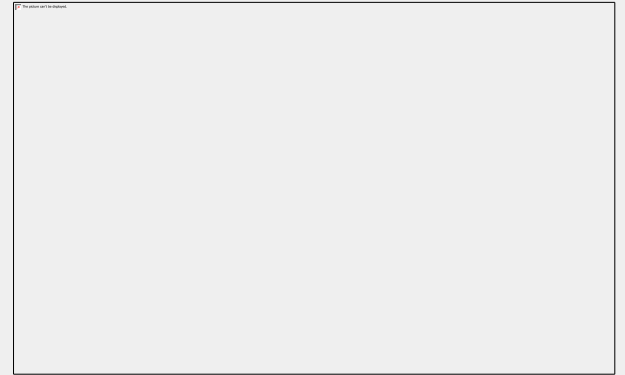
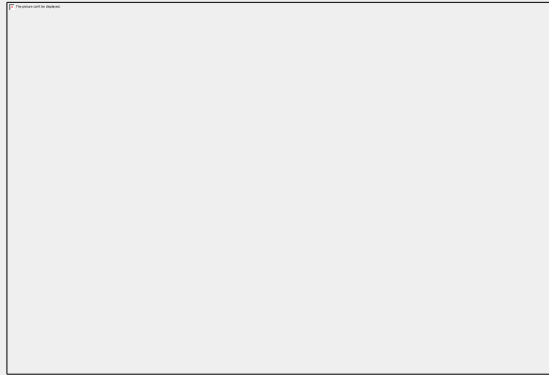


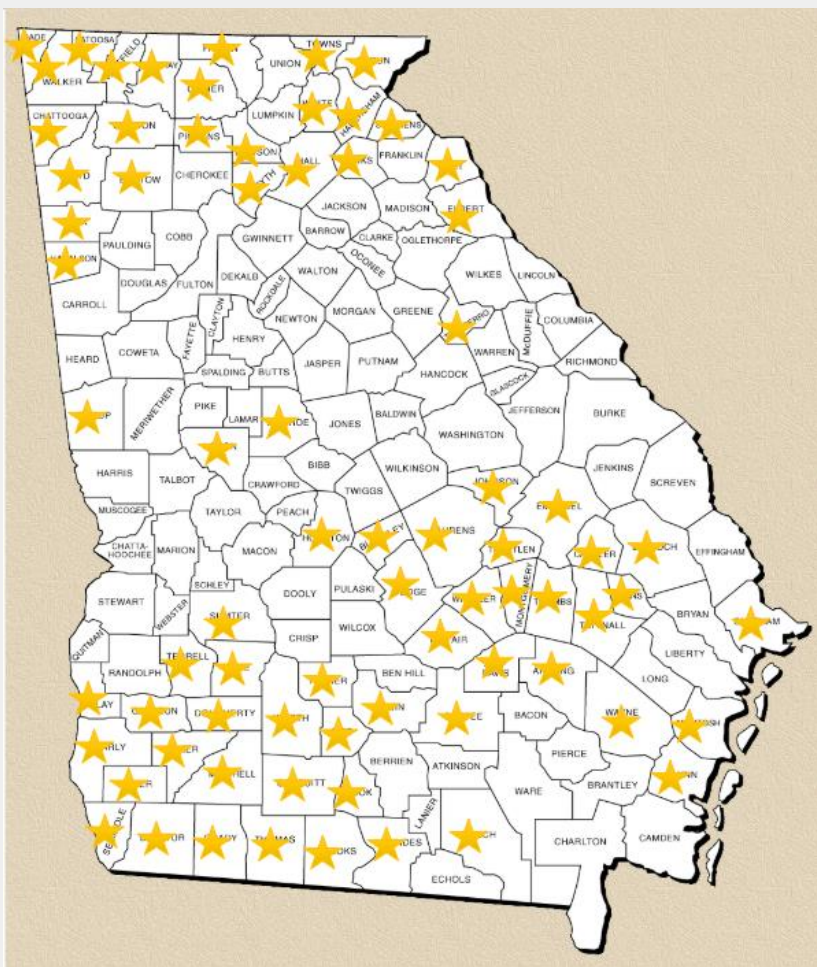
## Global Commerce in FY 2018

- 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

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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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