



**Georgia  
Health  
Initiative**

Presentation to House  
Rural Development  
Council

October 25, 2023

# About Georgia Health Initiative



# About the Initiative

## Our Mission

To inspire and promote collective action that advances health equity for all Georgians

## Our Vision

A Georgia in which all people have the opportunity to attain their fullest potential for health

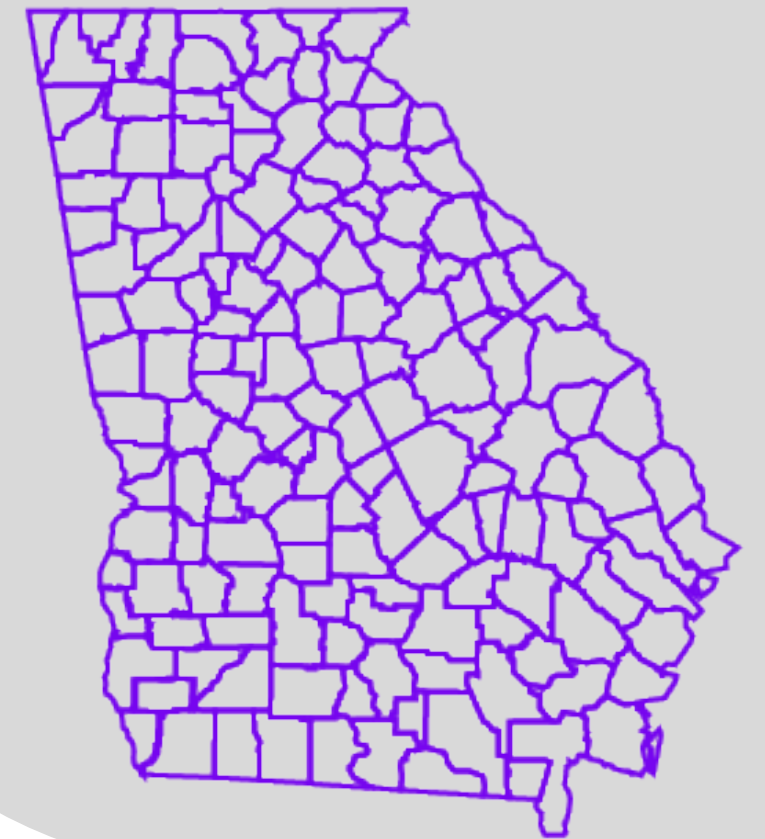
## Our Values

- Courageous Leadership
- Trust
- Equity
- Partnership

# We Believe in Georgia!

Georgia Health Initiative works for the good of all Georgians; a diverse population of 10.8 million people living in cities and towns across 696 zip codes in 159 counties.

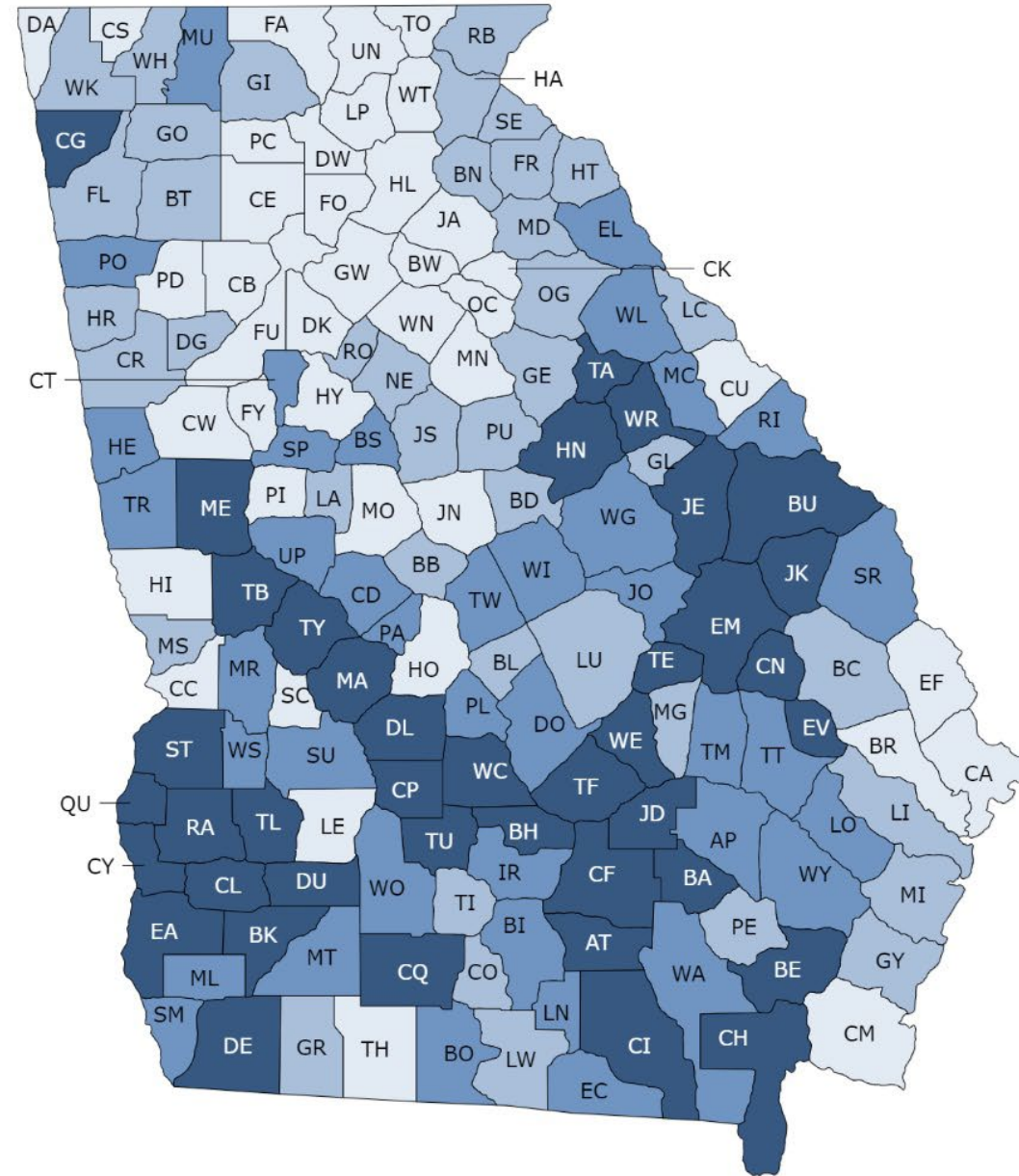
As connectors, bridge-builders, and partners, we are working alongside all who are committed to the future Georgians deserve.



*House Rural Development Council  
Presentation*

# Rural Health Indicators

# 2023 Health Factors - Georgia



Health Factor Ranks 1 to 40 41 to 80 81 to 119 120 to 159

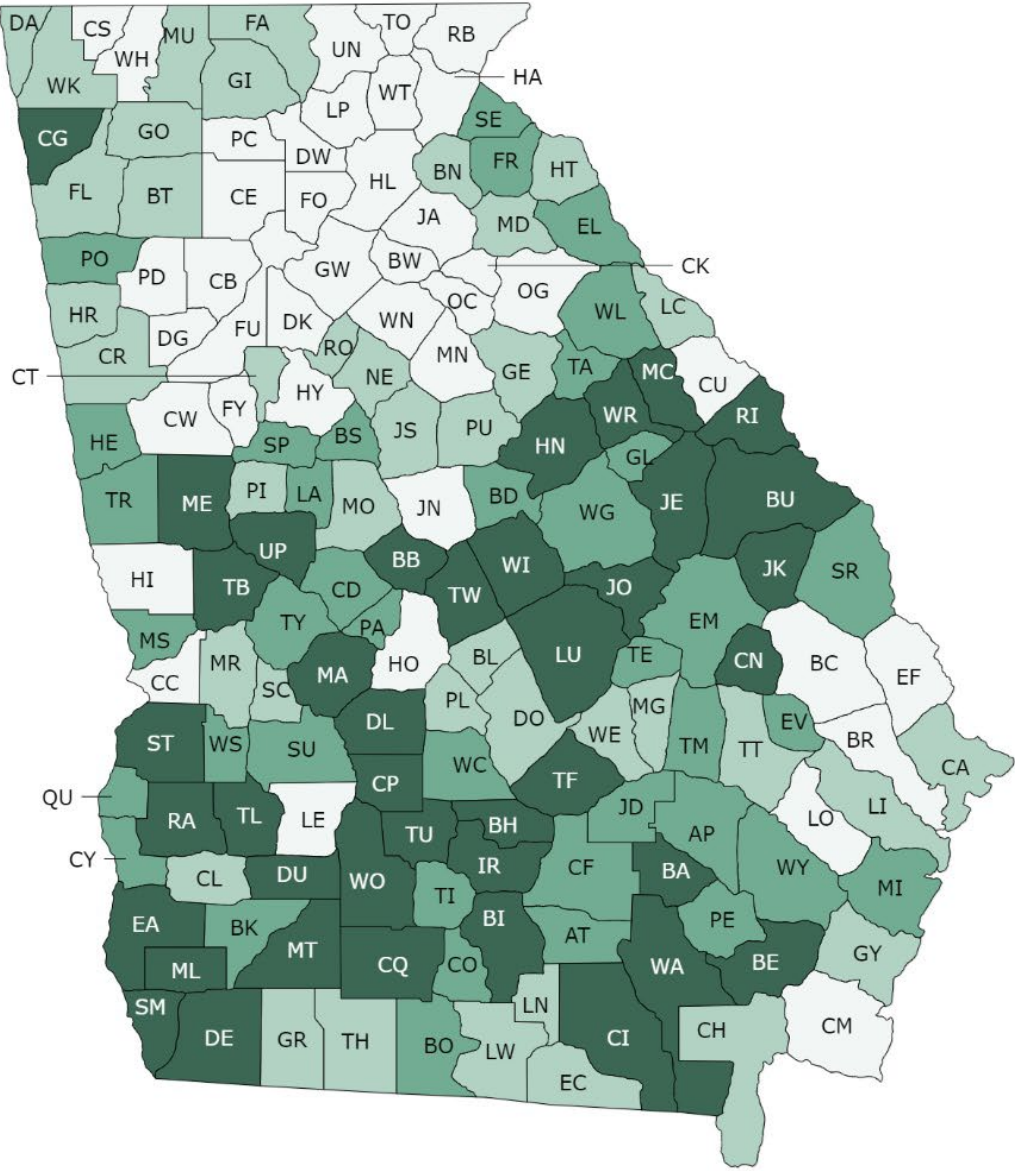
County Health  
Rankings & Roadmaps  
Building a Culture of Health, County by County

Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2023.  
[www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org).

County  
Health  
Rankings:  
Health  
Factors



# 2023 Health Outcomes - Georgia



Health Outcome Ranks 1 to 40 41 to 80 81 to 119 120 to 159



Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2023. [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org).

County Health Rankings: Health Outcomes



## County Health Rankings: Rural v Nonrural Counties

- About **three in five rural counties were ranked in the bottom half** for health outcomes and health factors
  - *Among the 120 rural counties in Georgia, 73 were in the bottom half of counties for health outcomes (61%) and 74 were in the bottom half of counties for health factors (62%)*
- Fewer than **one in five nonrural counties were ranked in the bottom half** for health outcomes and health factors.
  - *Among the 39 nonrural counties in Georgia, only 6 were in the bottom half of counties for health outcomes (15%) and only 5 were in the bottom half of counties for health factors (13%).*





## Selected Health Indicators


- Life Expectancy
- Uninsured Adults
- Uninsured Children
- Diabetes Prevalence
- HIV Prevalence
- Cancer Incidence
- Cancer Mortality
- Health Professional Workforce

# Fact Sheets

# District Fact Sheets

- These fact sheets provide county-level indicators for all counties in your district and are meant to serve as a “snapshot.”
- If there are other indicators you would like to see, please let us know!

GEORGIA HEALTH FACT SHEET



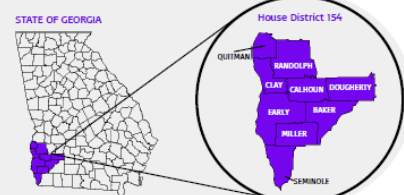
**Georgia Health Initiative**

## House District 154

Representative Gerald Greene

This factsheet is intended to provide a snapshot of the health of residents of your district. We have selected a few key indicators, but there are many more that should be considered when seeking an overall picture of health.

Each of these indicators is complex, and understanding why the numbers are what they are is necessary when crafting solutions. Many across the state are working hard to improve opportunities for health for Georgians. The Initiative is happy to partner with many of them and with you to create the Georgia we all deserve.



STATE OF GEORGIA

HOUSE DISTRICT 154

**LIFE EXPECTANCY**

Life expectancy is an important indicator of overall population health and longevity. Geographic differences in life expectancy between counties, zip codes, and racial and ethnic groups, for example, can reveal disparities across numerous factors that influence health.

STATEWIDE: 77.3

Source: County Health Rankings

	YEARS
BAKER	79.8
CALHOUN	77.2
CLAY	73.5
EARLY	71.8
MILLER	69.5
QUITMAN	70.6
RANDOLPH	74.7
SEMINOLE	73.5
DOUGHERTY (PT)	72.8

**PROVIDER WORKFORCE**

Physicians per 100,000 residents  
Statewide: 232

All counties in HD 154 are classified as Health Professional Shortage Areas for primary care, mental health, and dental care.

	INDICATOR
BAKER	68
CALHOUN	51
CLAY	37
EARLY	60
MILLER	88
QUITMAN	42
RANDOLPH	30
SEMINOLE	220
DOUGHERTY (PT)	400

Source: Bureau of Health Workforce

**HEALTH COVERAGE**

Health insurance can facilitate access to care and provide financial protection against high health care costs.

Uninsured Adults (Age 18-64)  
Statewide: 18%  
U.S.: 12.1%

	COVERAGE
BAKER	21%
CALHOUN	21.3%
CLAY	22.5%
EARLY	18%
MILLER	18.1%
QUITMAN	24.9%
RANDOLPH	20.3%
SEMINOLE	20.3%
DOUGHERTY (PT)	21%

Uninsured Children (Under 18)  
Statewide: 6.6%  
U.S.: 5.3%

	COVERAGE
BAKER	7%
CALHOUN	6.6%
CLAY	8.1%
EARLY	5.7%
MILLER	8.2%
QUITMAN	8.5%
RANDOLPH	8.1%
SEMINOLE	6.4%
DOUGHERTY (PT)	5.7%

**HEALTH INDICATORS**

Diagnosed Diabetes Prevalence (ages 13+)  
Statewide: Metro - 10.0%  
Non Metro - 11%  
National: Metro - 9.9%  
Non Metro - 10.8%

	INDICATOR
BAKER	10.7%
CALHOUN	9.7%
CLAY	1.5%
EARLY	10.4%
MILLER	9.9%
QUITMAN	11.7%
RANDOLPH	11.5%
SEMINOLE	11.6%
DOUGHERTY (PT)	14.5%

HIV Prevalence per 100,000 (ages 13+)  
Statewide: Metro - 644  
Non Metro - 314  
National: Metro - 394  
Non Metro - 187

	INDICATOR
BAKER	262
CALHOUN	608
CLAY	525
EARLY	284
MILLER	356
QUITMAN	600
RANDOLPH	654
SEMINOLE	296
DOUGHERTY (PT)	985

Cancer Incidence Rates (All cancer sites/stages, 2016-2020)  
Statewide: 483.8 National: 442.3

	INDICATOR
BAKER	386.5
CALHOUN	424.9
CLAY	393.7
EARLY	470.7
MILLER	422.2
QUITMAN	442.5
RANDOLPH	424.9
SEMINOLE	408.7
DOUGHERTY (PT)	476.2

Cancer Mortality (All cancer sites, 2016-2020)  
Statewide: 183.4 National: 149.4

	INDICATOR
BAKER	150.9
CALHOUN	145.3
CLAY	172.1
EARLY	170.6
MILLER	168.0
QUITMAN	209.3
RANDOLPH	157.1
SEMINOLE	202.5
DOUGHERTY (PT)	166.3

# Life Expectancy

- Life expectancy is the **average number of years a person can expect to live** and is a **population health** outcome measure.
- Average life expectancy in Georgia is 77.3 years; this ranges from 69.5 years in Miller County to 82.3 years in Forsyth County
- **Rural counties:** average is **74.4** years\*
- **Nonrural counties:** average is **76.9** years\*

Source: County Health Rankings (life expectancy data from the National Center for Health Statistics - Mortality Files, 2018-2020)

\* Treats each county as an equal value (not population adjusted)



## Uninsured Adults

- Among adults **18-65** in Georgia (statewide), **18 percent are uninsured.**
- Health insurance facilitates **access to care** and provides **financial protection** against high medical costs.
  - **Rural** counties: average is **21 percent\***
  - **Nonrural counties**: average is **18.5 percent\***

Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates

\*Represents the average of each category of counties (not adjusted for population)



## Uninsured Children

- Among children under age 19 in Georgia (statewide), **6.6 percent are uninsured**.
- Health insurance for children facilitates regular access to **screening, prevention, and treatment** services.
  - **Rural** counties: average is **7.7 percent**\*
  - **Nonrural counties**: average is **6.6 percent**\*

Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates

\*Represents the average of each category of counties (not adjusted for population)



# Population Health Indicators

## Diabetes Prevalence

- Statewide in Georgia, **diabetes prevalence is 11.3 percent.**
- Diabetes is a chronic condition that can impact health and well-being; prevalence data can help inform efforts to prevent and control diabetes.
  - There are **racial and ethnic disparities** statewide in diabetes prevalence
    - **Non-Hispanic Black: 15.1 percent**
    - **Hispanic: 10.4 percent**
    - **Non-Hispanic White: 9.5 percent**
  - Metro counties: **10.6 percent**
  - Nonmetro counties: **11.0 percent**

## HIV Prevalence

- Statewide in Georgia, **HIV prevalence is higher in metro counties (644 per 100,000 for metro counties v 314 per 100,000 in nonmetro counties)**
- While Fulton and DeKalb Counties have the highest prevalence rates, several counties in SW Georgia are among the highest in the state (for example, Dougherty County has a prevalence of 985 per 100,000)
- HIV is a major public health issue – **prevention, detection, and treatment** are critically important.



## Cancer Incidence and Mortality

- **Statewide** in Georgia, the age-adjusted **incidence** rate for cancer (all sites, all stages) is **463.8 per 100,000** and **cancer mortality** is **153.4 per 100,000**
- Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the US; evidence-based cancer screenings and prevention strategies can help reduce cancer deaths.
- Cancer incidence is **slightly lower in rural counties** but **cancer mortality is higher in rural counties**
  - Cancer incidence in rural counties is 462.8 v 468.4 in nonrural counties\*
  - Cancer mortality in rural counties is 169.7 v 159.5 in non-rural counties\*

Source: National Cancer Institute, State Cancer Profiles

\* Represents the average county values; not adjusted for population



# Health Professional Workforce

- Statewide, there are 232 physicians per 100,000 residents
  - The average ratio in **rural counties is 73 physicians per 100,000** residents versus **217 per 100,000 residents in non-rural counties**
- **All rural counties are Health Professional Shortage Areas for mental health** and most are Health Professional Shortage Areas for primary care and dental care
- **Nine counties in Georgia (all rural) have no physician at all**
  - Chattahoochee, Echols, Montgomery, Schley, Talbot, Taliaferro, Treutlen, Turner, Webster



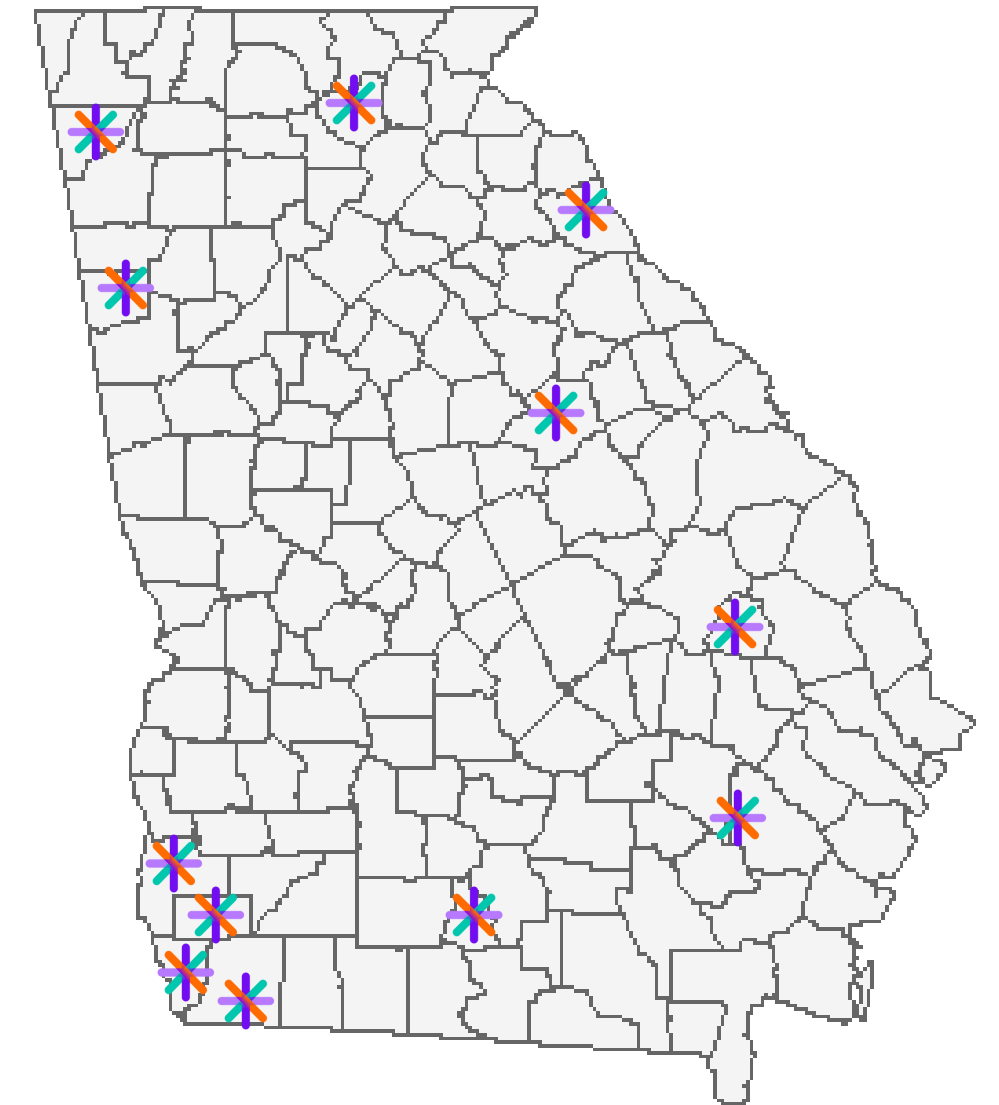


Learnings from Rural  
Community Engagement

# Two Georgias Initiative

# Two Georgias Initiative

- Appling County Health Department (Appling County)
- Clay County Community Health Center (Clay County)
- Community Helping Place (Lumpkin County)
- Cook County Family Connection (Cook County)
- Elbert Memorial Hospital Foundation (Elbert County)
- Horizons Community Solutions (Early County)
- Memorial Hospital and Manor Foundation (Decatur County)
- North Central Health District (Hancock County)
- Northwest Georgia Regional Cancer Coalition (Chattooga County)
- Tanner Medical Center (Haralson County)
- Spring Creek Health Cooperative (Miller County)



# Two Georgias Initiative

## About Two Georgias

- 5-year, \$10 million commitment
- 11 rural community coalitions
- Community coalitions identified health issues to work on and led their efforts locally while The Initiative provided structure, funding, and resources to support them
- Coalitions had both unique priorities and shared challenges (such as transportation barriers)
- Accomplishments in the areas of behavioral health, health education and prevention, community gardens, food distribution, and more
- Demonstrates potential for public-private partnerships in rural communities
- Funding served as a catalyst for communities to seek support from additional funders: participating communities have received state and federal grants exceeding \$7.3 million since 2017
- Evaluation process identified five key factors for change

# Five Key Factors for Change

- Changes in Mindsets
- Stronger Collaboration
- Shared Vision
- Community Capacity
- Leveraging Resources

Measuring Success

Thank you!



Georgia  
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Initiative

## Contact Us

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