MIDDLE GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
THE REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF MIDDLE GEORGIA

2019 ANNUAL REPORT
mgrc council
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*Executive Committee
DID YOU KNOW?

In 1967, Georgia state senator Jimmy Carter was the keynote speaker at the first annual meeting of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission, known at that time as the Middle Georgia Area Planning Commission.

GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS
MR. JAMES VAUGHN*
MS. NANCY NASH
MR. CHARLES SIMS

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR APPOINTMENT
MR. BUBBER EPPS

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE APPOINTMENT
VACANT

2019 MEETING DATES
REGULAR MEETINGS ARE AT 6:00PM ON THE SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, EXCEPT JULY AND DECEMBER.

JANUARY 10
FEBRUARY 14
MARCH 14
APRIL 11
MAY 9
JUNE 13
AUGUST 8
SEPTEMBER 12
OCTOBER 12 (ANNUAL MEETING)
NOVEMBER 14

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Council Members</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Message from the Chairman</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards and Recognitions</td>
<td>6-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aging Services</td>
<td>8-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Administration</td>
<td>10-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology Services</td>
<td>12-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workforce Development</td>
<td>14-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
<td>16-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGRC Services</td>
<td>20-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Region Map</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenes Around Middle Georgia</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On behalf of the Council and staff of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission, I am pleased to present the 2019 Annual Report.

This report highlights the projects, programs, and accomplishments of the Regional Commission for the past fiscal year. We worked alongside the City of Centerville as it completed a series of firsts by joining the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) and earning the designation as a PlanFirst Community in 2019. We helped member governments throughout the region secure over $9 million in grant funding from a variety of state and federal sources. We completed the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) and Participant Statistical Area Program (PSAP), two major Census initiatives designed to improve the accuracy of the 2020 enumeration. Our WorkSource Macon-Bibb program continued successful operation of the Comprehensive OneStop, receiving 32,000 visitors and hosting 45 hiring events this past year. Lastly, in Aging we expanded our case management services by contracting with Preferred Community Health Partners (PCHP) to help mitigate and resolve service gaps for individuals at-risk for hospitalization or related medical crises.

The work of the Regional Commission was recognized by several organizations for its financial excellence and program innovation. For the twenty-fourth year, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. The Regional Commission was also recognized by the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) with three Impact Awards and by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) with an Achievement Award.

I am certain the year ahead will present its share of new opportunities and challenges for the region. And, I am confident that our Middle Georgia Regional Commission is well-positioned to address them into the future.
The Regional Commission is funded by federal, state, and local governments. For FY 2019, the total budget was $12,128,463, of which $5,741,424 was pass-through funding for the Aging and Transportation programs and other agencies. Dues from local government accounted for the smallest percentage of revenue received by the Regional Commission. The operating budget for the Regional Commission was $6,387,039, which covers personnel and operating expenses, such as supplies, telecommunications, training, and contracts for professional services.

The Budget, Audit and Personnel Committee of the Regional Commission provides leadership and oversight for the financial management of the organization. This standing committee develops the annual budget, monitors performance, and reports regularly on the Regional Commission’s financial condition.

REVENUES

- Federal Grants $4,070,822
- Pass-Through Aging $3,851,449
- Pass-Through Other $308,850
- Pass-Through Transportation $1,581,125

Local Government Dues $645,174
State Grants & Appropriations $1,163,115
Local Grants & Appropriations $507,928

Total Revenue $12,128,463

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DUES $645,174

Pass-Through $5,741,424

5%

FEDERAL GRANTS $4,070,822

47%

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DUES $645,174

34%

STATE GRANTS & APPROPRIATIONS $1,163,115

4%

LOCAL GRANTS & APPROPRIATIONS $507,928

10%

EXPENDITURES

- Personnel Related Expenses $3,262,298
- Other Operating Expenses $3,124,741
- Pass-Through Aging $3,851,449
- Pass-Through Transportation $1,581,125
- Pass-Through Other $308,850

Each year, the Regional Commission produces a comprehensive financial report, which is audited for compliance with Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. The Regional Commission continues to operate in a fiscally responsible manner and received an Unmodified Audit Opinion with no audit exceptions for FY 2019. Additionally, for the past 24 years, the Regional Commission has been recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada with the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.
In late 2018, the Regional Commission assisted the City of Perry and the Perry Downtown Development Authority with an assessment of the city’s parking inventory within the downtown area. This study was spurred by local concerns about parking availability. To determine the availability of spaces, the Regional Commission conducted a total of 48 downtown Perry surveys in the early morning, late morning, early afternoon, and late afternoon time blocks. Given the survey data collected, the Regional Commission concluded that the parking inventory of Perry is adequate to meet the current needs of the community. This project was notable for its impact because it revealed transportation challenges along a major downtown corridor and provided recommendations for new types of downtown development that would add parking in hours when it is currently underused.

The study was also innovative in the Regional Commission’s integration of satellite imagery into the inventory process for identifying parking spaces.

The Monroe County Sheriff’s Online Crime Mapping project evolved from a need for law enforcement to have a better way to seamlessly communicate crime data and statistics to the public. The Regional Commission was approached and subsequently suggested the development of an online map as the most timely and efficient means to display crime data in Monroe County and the cities of Culloden and Forsyth.

The Regional Commission used GIS mapping technology to create an online mapping system specific to Monroe County. A series of data overlays, including road centerlines, patrol districts, and political boundaries, were incorporated into the map for use as base map reference layers. The new mapping system is 100% digital and improved upon the manual system previously used by the Sheriff’s office. Crime data can be displayed 24/7 and is accessible via an internet web browser. The new system also eliminated the need to use hardcopy (paper-based) maps using color-coded push pins.

In addition to providing the public with valuable crime information, the Monroe County Online Crime Mapping system also improved the ability to visualize crime trends by type, frequency, and geographic cluster—better enabling the Sheriff to anticipate and potentially mitigate future crime.
In FY 2019, DHS Coordinated Transportation clients indicated the need for safer, larger capacity food storage and delivery options for their scheduled grocery store group trips. Passengers had very limited storage space and no refrigeration for their groceries on return trips. Despite the popularity of the grocery store group trip, these constraints were limiting trip volume. Realizing the need for improvement, the Regional Commission and the Region 6 DHS Regional Transportation Office (RTO) initiated the Impacting Senior Hunger - Grocery Access with Safe Food Transport Pilot Project in May 2019.

The Regional Commission selected Crawford County, Georgia as the location for the new pilot program because it lacks a full-service grocery store. The sole grocery store, Piggly Wiggly, closed in December 2016, effectively creating a food desert for Crawford County citizens. The Regional Commission partnered with the Crawford County Senior Center, an existing human services participant in the DHS Coordinated Transportation Program. The grocery store group trip was restructured to become a monthly trip to one of several full-service grocery stores located in an approximately 30-minutes drive-time from the Senior Center. The Regional Commission hired a new subcontractor, Golden Gourmet, to provide refrigerated storage and transport of groceries for seniors on their monthly grocery store trip. During grocery store trips, the food transport provider meets the seniors at their selected store, waits for them to finish shopping, helps them load their groceries, and then follows their group transport vehicle as it delivers them back to their respective homes, helping them to unload their groceries at their residences.

The Regional Commission was pleased to receive a National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) Achievement Award for Dialysis Transportation Services. The Dialysis Transportation program, initiated in 2017, promotes access to healthcare and continued independent living of older adults through the provision of transportation services to and from regularly scheduled dialysis treatments. The program began with four participant riders and doubled to eight riders by the end of FY 2019.

Research indicates that dialysis treatments provided in a clinic setting cost an average of $500 per treatment. Hospital costs incurred for emergency room care are an estimated $9,900 per service. Through the provision of access to regularly-scheduled, clinic-based treatments significant overall healthcare costs decrease significantly.
**AGING SERVICES**

The Regional Commission is designated through the Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services as the Area Agency on Aging (AAA). In this role, staff are responsible for planning, coordinating, contracting, and monitoring publicly-funded services that meet the needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities.

**PREFERRED COMMUNITY HEALTH PARTNERS (PCHP) CASE MANAGEMENT**

The Regional Commission contracted with PCHP to serve members of a national health insurance program who are identified as at risk of hospitalization or in a medical crisis. Through this program, the Regional Commission provides each participant with case management services while in the hospital or in their to reduce their at-risk status and resolve gaps in service needs. In the first six months of the program, fifteen individuals were served.

**SENIOR FARMER’S MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM**

The Senior Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program provides older adults with access to locally-grown fruit and vegetables from approved farmers. Each participant receives a $20 voucher funded by the United States Department of Agriculture to purchase produce from the farmer on site. Since its inception, this program has grown significantly in older adults served, and funds provided to the local farmers. In FY2019, Middle Georgia hosted 11 Farmer’s Markets across the region and distributed 1,385 vouchers to older adults totaling a financial impact of $27,700 reaching local farmers.
To celebrate Older Americans Month, the Regional Commission hosted its annual Senior Day Expo on May 30, 2019 at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry, Georgia. The event was well attended by seniors throughout Middle Georgia communities and beyond. Over 1,000 attended this year’s event to celebrate the national theme of “Connect. Create. Contribute”.

This year, the Regional Commission and Soldiers Empowerment Group Assisting Military Individuals (SEGAMI) collaborated to provide a health and wellness fair for the benefit of veterans and older Americans. Throughout the day, participants and special guests, ranging from local elected officials to members of the Georgia General Assembly, were treated to a wide range of physical activities, socialization, information and door prizes.

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<th>Caregiver Services</th>
<th>Transition Programs</th>
<th>Wellness Programs</th>
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<td><strong>16 clients</strong></td>
<td>received</td>
<td>140 caregivers</td>
<td>28 clients</td>
<td>Over 312</td>
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<tr>
<td>received</td>
<td>assistive technology</td>
<td>received</td>
<td>transitioned</td>
<td>participants in</td>
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<td>education classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>devices</td>
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<td>and/or supplies</td>
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<th>Support Options</th>
<th>Home &amp; Community-Based Services</th>
<th>Resource Connection Assistance</th>
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<tr>
<td>11 clients</td>
<td>Over 229,000 meals served</td>
<td>Over 8,200 disabled, older</td>
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<tr>
<td>received</td>
<td>32K+ hours of in-home services</td>
<td>adult and/or caregivers</td>
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<tr>
<td>in home,</td>
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<td>contacted</td>
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<tr>
<td>consumer-direct</td>
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<tr>
<td>care services</td>
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The Public Administration department provides a variety of professional assistance to the local governments of Middle Georgia, such as community and economic development, transportation, planning, and local government administrative services.

DOD-FUNDED INDUSTRY RESILIENCE WORK CONTINUES

In 2017, the Regional Commission received grant funding from the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) to undertake activities in support of defense industry diversification and resilience across the region. The Regional Commission contracted with a variety of organizations and community partners to deliver the activities promoted through the grant. Notably, Central Georgia Technical College (CGTC) completed a profile of in-demand jobs throughout the region. Over the past two years, CGTC studied 55 jobs profiles and administered 500 National Career Readiness Assessments. This work provided additional insight into the workforce demand and supply within the region. CGTC also worked to develop a Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) portal that would allow veterans across the State of Georgia to receive transfer credit for previous work and training they received while serving in the military. In total, 281 students benefit from this work.

In the field of aerospace, the Regional Commission was also able to provide grant assistance to the community. Local makerspaces, SparkMacon and FireStarter Fab Lab, received funding to develop their entrepreneurial skills training and support, including classes on advanced topics, such as robotics, 3D printing, and unmanned aerial systems (drones). In addition, the Regional Commission was able to support the Middle Georgia Regional Airport with an update to their air strategic plan. The plan laid out a variety of aeronautical and non-aeronautical opportunities for further economic development at the airport. The study also examined future air service development for the Middle Georgia Regional Airport to expand its footprint in commercial air service. The Regional Commission is continuing work under this OEA grant for a master plan of potential sites for an intermodal hub within the region. Such a facility would improve the efficiency of freight transportation through the region and would support additional growth in the logistics industry.

CENTERVILLE JOINS GICH AND PLANFIRST PROGRAMS

FY 2019 marked the first year of participation for the City of Centerville in the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) program. GICH communities undergo a three-year program of collaboration and technical assistance related to housing and community development provided by the University of Georgia. Centerville became the 10th local government in Middle Georgia to become a GICH participant. The Regional Commission also assisted Centerville with receiving its designation as a PlanFirst Community in 2019. PlanFirst is a planning excellence designation from DCA that provides incentives to qualifying communities for state grant and loan programs.
The Regional Commission continued to assist communities across the region with securing vital grant funding for their community needs in FY 2019.

Middle Georgia communities received over $9.5 million in state and federal grant funding through applications prepared by the Regional Commission.

Under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, crucial infrastructure and public facility improvements were funded in Crawford and Peach Counties and the Cities of Danville, Irwinton, Ivey, and Roberta benefitting 5,607 residents of the region. The six successful applications developed by the Regional Commission, through the CDBG annual statewide competition, is the most received within the past decade.

Funding was also provided through the OneGeorgia EDGE and REBA funding programs for projects in the City of Hawkinsville, Macon-Bibb County, and Monroe County. Macon-Bibb County also received funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) for road and rail improvements to service a manufacturing facility for Irving Consumer Products.

The Regional Commission continued to assist communities across the region with securing vital grant funding for their community needs in FY 2019.

**FOURTH COHORT OF MIDDLE GEORGIA REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CHAMPIONS**

The Middle Georgia Regional Leadership Champions program kicked off its fourth cohort in January 2019. This year’s class consisted of 23 participants from 9 different counties in Middle Georgia. The commissioning ceremony occurred in July 2019 with each participant identifying their own individual call to action for a ‘Thriving Middle Georgia’. The program once again represented a diverse cross-section of the region, with a majority of participants coming from either the private or nonprofit sectors. The fourth cohort also welcomed the first participants from Robins Air Force Base. Planning is already underway for a fifth cohort to launch in early 2020.
The Regional Commission provides a wide variety of technology-based services to member governments, including the use and analysis of geospatial (GIS) data and services, global positioning system (GPS) data collection, multi-media and web development, graphic design, printing, and general systems administration support.

WEB DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

The Regional Commission provides web development, maintenance and hosting services to over 40 websites. In 2019, the Regional Commission developed a new website for the I-75 Central Corridor Coalition and redesigned seven existing websites for local governments. Additional support services include domain name registration, backup and recovery, server security, website maintenance training, and plug-in customization.

TAX PARCEL MAINTENANCE

For over 20 years, the Regional Commission has provided tax parcel maintenance services for counties. GIS mapping technology is used to accurately update tax parcels, compile annual Forest Land Protection Act (FLPA) reports and provide Conservation Use Valuation Assessments (CUVA). The Regional Commission provides additional tax parcel mapping support services, including mylar hardcopy print production and updates to soils, landcover, and related maps.

MOVING AHEAD FOR PROGRESS IN THE 21ST CENTURY (MAP-21) PROGRAM

During 2019, the Regional Commission continued work on the MAP-21 program for Middle Georgia. MAP-21 is an intergovernmental partnership between the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) – Office of Transportation Data (OTD), the University of Georgia’s Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG) - Information Technology Outreach Service (ITOS) and the state’s 12 regional commissions. The MAP-21 program is helping the state comply with federal mandates to validate and map local road characteristics like road names, surface type, traffic direction, medians, lanes and signalization. The Regional Commission also serves as the statewide MAP-21 Project Manager. In this capacity, it assists the other 11 regional commissions with their MAP-21 efforts, hosts technical training workshops and serves as the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC) liaison for quarterly MAP-21 Stakeholder meetings.

PEACH COUNTY E911 DATA UPDATE

In 2019, the Regional Commission provided GIS-based upgrades to existing Peach County 911 map data to improve the accuracy and responsiveness of its emergency dispatch services. The 911 system upgrade involved multiple phases, including the geospatial correction of road centerlines to improve location accuracy, creation of tax parcel ‘point-of-entry’ address structures points and the attribution of Census-style address ranges on all road centerlines. During project implementation, the Regional Commission set up operational dashboards for Peach County managers to view upgrades being completed in real-time for each work phase. Ultimately, these updates will help Peach County transition its Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) into a Next Generation 911 (NG911) compliant dispatch system.
In 2019, the Regional Commission continued its participation in the U.S. Census Bureau's Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program. The LUCA process is the only opportunity a local government is given to review the master address database to be used by the federal government in preparation for the decennial Census. LUCA's last phases, feedback and sensitive data destruction, will complete the LUCA program in FY 2020. Census feedback has been received, researched, and provided to the local governments to determine if they want to appeal addresses not processed by the Census.

The Regional Commission completed submissions for the Participant Statistical Area Program (PSAP). The PSAP process is the opportunity local governments have to review statistical areas (tracts and block groups) and make recommendations in preparation for the decennial Census. Statistical area changes are based on housing units and/or population.

HAZUS MULTI-HAZARD RISK ASSESSMENTS

In FY 2019, the Regional Commission completed a HAZUS-MH II risk assessment for the following member governments: Jones, Peach, Pulaski, Twiggs, and Wilkinson Counties. HAZUS is a supplemental report to the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan (PDMP) that combines tax parcel and essential facilities data into model scenarios for various natural disasters, including hurricane winds, storm surges, floods, and tornados.
WorkSource Macon-Bibb works to ensure a strong and vital economy by developing a regional workforce that connects employers with skilled talent and connects job seekers with the education and training necessary for successful employment. The program delivers high-quality services to help job seekers access the tools and resources they need to manage their careers and to meet the needs of employers by developing sustainable workforce solutions. Workforce Development is funded by grants from the US Department of Labor, through the State of Georgia, to the Middle Georgia Regional Commission. This allows services to be provided at no cost to the job seeker or employer.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

1. The Comprehensive OneStop had record breaking numbers between July 2018 – June 2019
   - over 32,000 visitors
   - over 700 attended the weekly orientation session
   - over 45 hiring events

2. Since the inception of the Manufacturing Fundamentals Program, 118 individuals have graduated from the program with 86% being placed in direct hire positions or work experience. The 12-week intensive program is designed to prepare individuals for employment in the Middle Georgia region. Participants obtain five certifications through Central Georgia Technical College, employment readiness training, and an 8-week paid internship with a manufacturing company.

3. Three new participants enrolled in the Electrician Apprenticeship Program. The four-year program is a partnership between WorkSource Macon-Bibb and Macon Electrical J.A.T.C/IBEW program. One of this year’s graduates was placed into full-time employment at Robins Air Force Base.
PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

WORK EXPERIENCE (WX) AND ON-THE-JOB-TRAINING (OJT)

Work Experience (WX) is a work-based training program that is determined by the employer’s needs. Prior to being placed at a work site, all participants receive training, either in a classroom setting or one-on-one workplace expectations.

Work experience opportunities are offered to participants after a comprehensive assessment identifies the participant benefit from this activity. They can also help to determine other specific needs, including additional training. Public sector, private non-profit and for-profit employers are all considered acceptable work experience placements.

NUMBER OF WX/OJT PARTICIPANTS WITH INDUSTRY SECTOR JOB PLACEMENTS

- 32 Community Based
- 9 Government
- 30 Manufacturing

1,210 YOUTH SERVED

- 80% Employed 12 Months After Ending Services
- 187 Youth Received Direct Services

4,138 Adults Served

- Employed 1 year after ending services: 84%
- Earned a Credential: 41
- Received Direct Services: 855
- Active Participants: 213

$35,360 Adults Average earnings

www.middlegeorgiarc.org
Each year, the Regional Commission holds an annual meeting to promote and disclose the business operations of the past year to its governing council, the business community, and the public at-large. The event is catered and typically averages 250 in attendance. This year’s meeting was held on Thursday, October 11, at the Anderson Conference Center with a reception beginning at 5:00 p.m. and dinner at 6:00 p.m.

The Regional Commission does not use appropriated funds to host its Annual Meeting. In order to cover expenses, the Regional Commission seeks sponsorships from existing business partners and related organizations. If you are interested in sponsoring future Annual Meetings for the Regional Commission, please contact us at (478) 751-6160.
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MGRC SERVICES

Area Agency on Aging

**Chronic Disease Self-Management**, Senior Farmers Market, **Medication Management**, Tai Chi Exercise, **Matter of Balance** Fall Protection, **Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals**, **In-Home Services**, Care Consultation, **Elder Abuse and Fraud Prevention**, Outreach and Education, **Information and Assistance**, Caregiver Closet, **Assistive Technology Devices**, Caregiver Support, Options Counseling, **Money Follows The Person**

Economic Development

**Incentive Development**, **Deal Structuring**, Prospect Inquiries, Strategic Planning, **Site Visits**, Site Certifications, **Small Business Financing**, Local Area Economic Impact Analysis, **Demographic Statistics and Analysis**, EB-5 Program, **Foreign Trade Zone**, comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS), Development and Industrial Authority Assistance

Public Administration

The Regional Commission is the regional planning and development agency serving the communities of Middle Georgia. Services are provided in a wide variety of areas including Aging Services, Economic Development, Public Administration, Technology Services, Transportation, and Workforce Development.

**Technology Services**


**Transportation**

- Rural Public Transportation, Coordinated Human Services, Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning, Regional Mobility Management, Complete Streets Planning, River Corridor Planning, WRATS and MATS Assistance, Transit Development Plans, Transportation, Sidewalk Inventories and Plans, Safe Routes to Schools

**Workforce Development**

- Business and Industry Services, Workforce Needs Analysis, Labor Market Information, Talent Identification, Customized Training, Youth Programs, Career Pathways, Dual CTAE Enrollment, Graduation and GED Attainment, Employment Preparation Workshops, Adult Programs, Education and Training, Industry Certifications, Employment Workshops, Targeted Job Fairs, Re-employment Services
Serving the cities and counties of Middle Georgia since 1965
Feature your community here in the future! Send photos to info@mg-rc.org, subject “feature my photo”.
The objectives of the Regional Commission are to develop, promote, and assist in establishing coordinated and comprehensive planning in Georgia; to provide local governments, on both an individual and regional basis, with professional technical assistance to improve local government service programs; to provide information technology-based services; to function as the designated Area Agency on Aging (AAA), responsible for services, advocating on behalf of older persons in need, and contracting with a network of agencies to provide direct services to the elderly in the middle Georgia region; and to provide workforce development services in Area 10.