ANNUAL REPORT
River Valley Regional Commission
FY 2019
ANNUAL REPORT
Create, Promote, and Foster Orderly Growth...
For more information visit www.rivervalleyrc.org

MISSION
The mission of the River Valley Regional Commission is to create, promote, and foster orderly growth and economic prosperity for our region.

VISION
A region where current and future generations succeed at home, at work, and in their communities.

FY 2018-2019
July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

Pictured Below
These silos located in downtown Shellman, which were painted by an art professor and his students from Andrew College, are a result of the Tourism Product Development Grant from the Georgia Department of Economic Development.
We are pleased to present the Annual Report of the River Valley Regional Commission for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019. Before further exploring the Commission’s many accomplishments and notable developments, please allow me to relay some important commentary illuminating our current state of affairs, our progress, and our direction for the future.

Firstly, I am honored that the council selected me to serve as Chair of the RVRC Council. Thank you for this privilege. I look forward to working with the Executive Committee, other members of Council, and the RVRC staff on many great endeavors over the coming two years. Special thanks are in order for our previous Chair, Clinton Perry, for his direction and support during the last three and one-half years. Mr. Perry’s leadership has been instrumental in the RVRC’s forward momentum.

Speaking of change, another leadership role has seen a recent transition. Patti Cullen, now retired Executive Director, has delivered her title and responsibilities to a new director, Jim Livingston, after assuming the role for a decade. In total, Patti served the RVRC and its communities for 37 years, and it is evident that her guidance has established a strong foundation for continued progress, and we thank her for her dedication and service. Please join in my congratulations of Jim’s new role and in celebration of Patti’s retirement.

On progress — there has been much. The RVRC staff continues to fulfill its mission of regional growth through their steadfast and collaborative efforts of leveraging federal and state agencies’ resources and funding. Our dedicated and talented departments continuously strive to bring results and improvements to the areas of comprehensive planning, workforce development, and aging and disability empowerment. This fiscal year, we have bolstered the return on investment of our annual dues, provided crucial planning services to communities in need, strengthened our regional workforce through initiatives and opportunities, and created a healthier community for the aging and disabled.

Respectively, the RVRC guided the allocation of approximately $12,515,471 in federal and state funding to its communities during FY19. Therefore, every $1 dollar of dues received during the fiscal year saw a return on investment of $93.71 — an increase of 15.8 percent from last year’s ROI. A proportionate breakdown of the funding shows that roughly 86 percent was federal and 14 percent was state funding. This report helps to interpret how those funds were used.

With funding in mind, I would like to note another matter of importance: it is time, once again, to contemplate the continuance of the Transportation Investment Act (TSPLOST) sales tax, which supports the improvement of our region’s infrastructure and will be on the ballot in 2020. Note that 26 percent of taxes collected from the TSPLOST are channeled to each county and city, which enables them to accomplish much, and as $299,872,363 has been collected state-wide as of June, 2019, TIA funding has been pivotal to our region’s continued growth.

Again, thank you all for your support of the RVRC. I look forward to our continued efforts to serve, strengthen, and grow our sixteen counties and thirty-five cities. Thank you Clinton, Patty, and Jim, and as we move forward into the next fiscal cycle, let us remember the importance of creating, promoting, and fostering orderly growth for the benefit of our region and the people who reside therein.

Thank you.

Randy Howard
Council Chair

FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAIR

FY2019 RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

The River Valley Regional Commission, which is comprised of representatives from our 16 counties and 35 cities, meets monthly to review and discuss activities of the RVRC. Individual committees have been formed within the council to discuss issues related to aging, transportation, and economic development. The committees meet as needed to review, discuss, and make decisions on related projects, and to report their findings back to the full Council.

**COUNCIL CHAIR**

Randy Howard
Council Chair

**CITY/COUNTY APPOINTEES**

- **Cusseta—Chattahoochee County**: Damon Hoyte, Commissioner, James Morton, Commissioner
- **Clay County**: Ernest Jenkins, Commission Chair, Barry Waturs, Mayor, Fort Gaines
- **Crisp County**: Sam Farrow, Jr., Commission Chair, Jeannie Barto, Vice Chair, Cordele
- **Dooly County**: Todd Hudson, Commission Chair, Hobby Stripling, Mayor, Vienna
- **Harris County**: John Harry Lange, Commissioner, Rebecca Chambers, Mayor, Hamilton
- **Macon County**: Mickey George, Commission Chair, Bruce Hill, Mayor, Oglethorpe
- **Marion County**: Matt Summa, Commissioner, Ralph T. Brown, Mayor, Buena Vista
- **Muscogee County**: Evelyn Turner-Pugh, Councilor, Columbus-Muscogee County, Jerry “Papa” Barnes, Councilor, Columbus-Muscogee County

**STATE APPOINTEES**

- **Governor’s Appointees**: Maggie McIver, Jumex County, Richard Mccorkle, Marion County
- **Lt. Governor’s Appointee**: A. J. Rivers, Crisp County

**PRIVATE/ NON-PUBLIC APPOINTEES**

- **Edaward Lee**: Cusseta-Chattoochoe
- **Doug Ethridge**: Harris County
- **Jason Griffin**: Macon County
- **Dr. Fred Gordon**: Milledge County
- **Patricia Goodman**: Randolph County
- **Dr. Carole Rutland**: Speaker of the House Appointee
- **Maggie McIver**: Lt. Governor’s Appointee
- **Chip Jones**: Stewart County
- **Randy Howard**: RVRC Vice-Chair, Sumter County

**COUNTIES SERVED IN THE 16-COUNTY REGION:**

- **Clay County**: Crisp, Dooly
- **Harris County**: Marion, Muscogee, Randolph
- **Macon County**: Macon
- **Marion County**: Macon
- **Muscogee County**: Macon
- **Taylor County**: Taylor

**MUNICIPALITIES (35)**

- **Bluffton**: Fort Gaines, Arabi
- **Byron**: Dooly
- **Cordele**: Lodge, Pinehurst
- **Undailla**: Vienna
- **Dallas**: Hamilton Pine Mountain
- **Shish**: Wavelry Hall
- **Montezuma**: Dooly, Buena Vista
- **Shellman**: Ellaville
- **Woodland**: Butler

**For more information about the River Valley Regional Commission, please visit www.rivervalleyrc.org 1.877.819.6348**
RVRC RECOGNITIONS & AWARDS

RVRC STAFF

SERVICE RECOGNITION

Three staff members were recognized for 5, 10, and 15 years of service to the River Valley Regional Commission at the Legislative Luncheon held on May 22. Emily Chambers (10), RVRC Finance Officer; Rick Morris (15), Planning Director; and Jim Livingston (15), Executive Director, of the River Valley Regional Commission received awards.

AAA STAFF

RECEIVES RECOGNITION AT THE 2019 HEALTHY COMMUNITIES SUMMIT

Franetta Miles was recognized with the Amisha Norman Award from the Division of Aging Services for demonstrating excellence in the fields of Wellness and Nutrition over the past year. Due to her efforts, the River Valley AAA was able to offer a special Senior Farmer’s Market in the City of Lumpkin during Thanksgiving week.

RVRC FINANCE

DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the River Valley Regional Commission by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the year ended June 30, 2018. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

RVRC FINANCE OFFICER NEARS END OF CFPO CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Emily Chambers, Finance Officer, has passed the Retirement & Benefits Risk Management and Procurement examination, the fourth of five exams required to obtain the Certified Public Finance Officer (CPF0) designation from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada.

40 UNDER 40

AWARDS

Rural Leader Magazine recognizes leaders from Alabama, Florida, and Georgia. Congratulations to Jarrod McCarthy, RVRC Mobility Manager, who was recognized as one of the 40 Under 40 Award winners.

FY19 RVRC SNAPSHOT

SECURED FUNDING FOR MAJOR PROJECTS

Each year, the RVRC strives to impact the communities it serves by securing and managing funds for our communities as well as facilitating and managing services. Funding may come in the form of federal, state, and local dollars, and services range anywhere from comprehensive planning to workforce development. For FY19, over $126 million in funding was secured for projects and development across the region.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

$3,164,374

▪ Community Development Block Grants
▪ Comprehensive Economic Strategy
▪ Revolving Loan Funds
▪ USDA Grant Funds

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

$3,913,597

▪ Individual Training Accounts
▪ Work Experience Services
▪ General Education Diploma Plus
▪ On-The-Job Training
▪ Workforce Trainings
▪ WIA Grant Awards

PLANNING

$4,495,574

▪ Comprehensive Plans
▪ Pre-Disaster Plans
▪ Zoning Assistance
▪ Environmental Planning
▪ Historic Preservation
▪ Geographic Information Systems
▪ EDRC Administration
▪ Transit Development
▪ Mobility Management
▪ Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning
▪ Transportation/Investment Act

AGING SERVICES

$4,463,563

▪ Elderly Legal Services
▪ Home Delivered Meals
▪ Congregate Meals
▪ Homemaker
▪ Personal Care
▪ Senior Centers
▪ Transportation
▪ Caregiver Respite Services

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

For every $1 of dues received in FY18-19...

...the ROI was $33.71 in Federal and State funding back to our cities and counties.

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PLANNING

REGIONAL PLANNING

The current River Valley Regional Plan was adopted in September 2018. This plan established a regional vision which included minimum standards and standards of excellence for local governance. These standards are goals member governments can accomplish that will help the RVRC achieve the regional vision. Additionally, RVRC planning staff meets with local governments every 24 months to provide assistance to communities in completing local work programs and meeting the established standards criteria. This ensures that member governments have the latest information regarding state statutes and best management practices to provide quality community growth.

LOCAL PLANNING

In total, four comprehensive plans were adopted for fiscal year 2019. By the start of FY19, staff had already spent months updating and finalizing Taylor County’s comprehensive plan, which was adopted in February, 2019. Around the time of Taylor County’s plan completion, the planning workload increased as three more comprehensive plans for Crisp, Harris, and Clay Counties were added to the planning agenda. By FY19’s end, those three comprehensive plans were adopted as two more – Webster and Georgetown-Quitman Counties – began development. Webster and Georgetown-Quitman are scheduled to be completed by October 2019.

PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PLANS

Pre-disaster mitigation plans are a federal requirement. Because of increasing reclamation costs that follow presidential disaster declarations, communities are required to have and implement such plans to be eligible for federal assistance with pre-disaster mitigation and post-disaster recovery. Planning at the county-wide level helps communities identify their most likely disaster threats and determine how best to reduce exposure to them. Financial assistance for the planning effort is available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the community is responsible for determining the most probable threats and how to best protect residents and property from these occurrences. Updates are due every five years.

ZONING

COUNTRIES RECEIVING ZONING ASSISTANCE:

Cusseta-Chattahoochee, Georgetown- Quitman, Stewart, and Talbot Counties, as well as the cities of Hamilton and Richland.

WORK PROJECTS COMPLETED OVER LAST YEAR:

Completed a rezoning request review for a proposed 400 plus lot residential development in Cusseta-Chattahoochee County. Due to its size this development also triggered a Development of Regional Impact (DRI) review.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Activity continued with a multi-year contract verifying road and traffic control data for the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). Because of significant budget and personnel reductions in past years, GDOT was unable to maintain its vast road inventory database of state roads. Using Federal Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) funds, GDOT worked with RVRC to validate:

- Region’s database
- Local roadway ownership
- Operation
- Number of lanes
- Surface type
- Median type
- Road names
- Signalization
- Traffic lights
- Stop and yield signs

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

RVRC staff also attended zoning seminars in an effort to help local governments remain current with evolving zoning case law.

2020 CENSUS UPDATE

In mid-year, staff facilitated local government participation in the Census Bureau’s New Construction Program in order to generate a supplemental list of residences to be added to the address list submitted in FY 2018. This list will consist of new residences labeled “dried-in” by census day, which is April 1, 2020.
In June, RVRC received its first United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Brownfields Assessment Grant award.

The US EPA Brownfields program provides grants and technical assistance to communities to assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse contaminated properties. Funding will be used to conduct site-specific environmental assessments in:

- Crisp County
- Dooly County
- Macon County
- Sumter County

Throughout the three-year duration of the grant, the coalition (River Valley Regional Commission, Okefenokee County Development Authority, City of Vienna, Cordele-Crisp Industrial Development Council, and Macon County Development Authority) will work with local community partners and qualified engineering professionals to conduct community outreach, complete Phase I and Phase II Environmental Assessments, and develop cleanup planning documents. Assessment of these sites will greatly assist communities throughout the four-county region in redevelopment efforts, spurring economic growth and revitalization.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING**

**BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP) INSTALLATIONS AND SAMPLES COLLECTED DURING 2YR PROJECT:**

- 9 Agricultural BMPs installed
- 3 Dry road BMPs installed
- 2 Adopt-A-Stream Workshops
- 71 Samples for E. coli
- 26 Samples for turbidity analysis
- 8 Samples for macroinvertebrate analysis

**AGRICULTURAL BMPS IMPLEMENTED ON A CATTLE FARM IN MARION TO INCLUDE:**

- 7,896 ft. fencing
- 44 acres of forage/biomass planting
- 3,848 sq. ft. heavy use area protection
- 4 watering facilities
- 1 pumping plant
- 1 water well

**ILLEGAL HUNTING SIGNAGE INSTALLATIONS:**

Signage installations to make hunters aware of the illegality of disposing deer carcasses on roadsides and in waterways will be implemented throughout Stewart, Georgetown-Quintana, Randolph, and Clay Counties this fall. Signage will include contact information to report illegal dumping activity to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA DNR).

**WATER QUALITY MONITORING:**

Water quality monitoring for a Regional Water Plan Seed Grant for the Long Cane Creek Watershed located in Harris and Troup Counties is almost complete.

**DIRT ROAD BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE (BMP) INSTALLATIONS**

- **Webster County:** 1 mile segment of Ponders Mill Road to reduce sediment runoff to a tributary of Kinchafoonee Creek.
- **Georgetown-Quintana County:** 2 properties will receive forestry BMPs to include prescribed burning and tree and shrub site preparation and establishment. These practices will reduce soil erosion.
- **Stewart/Randolph Counties:** 2 dirt roads (Philadelphia Church Road and Deer Creek Road) will be targeted for improvement.

**MOUNTAIN OAK CREEK WATERSHED**

A 319(h) grant for Mountain Oak Creek watershed, located in Harris County is one year into the project.
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

TRANSIT ACTIVITIES

RVRC administers the Pataula Transit System in Georgetown-Quitman, Randolph, and Stewart Counties on behalf of the Lower Chattahoochee Regional Authority. Services are delivered by Resource Management Systems, Inc. (RMS), from the Authority’s facility in Springvale (Randolph County). This service delivery structure makes it possible for residents of three of the state’s least populated counties to meet their employment, health care, social interaction, and recreational needs. RVRC staff continues to work with the Department of Human Services (DHS) to enhance coordinated transportation efforts across the region.

MOBILITY MANAGEMENT

Mobility Management staff produces three deliverables each year that support the region’s numerous transit services.

- Existing Conditions Report provides an inventory and extensive mapping of transit entities and their levels of coordination in the area, allowing administrative staff to identify and facilitate opportunities for improvement.

- Regional Transit Directory is maintained and distributed to increase public awareness of accessible transportation.

- The Regional Coordination and Action Plan allows local governments and transit entities to declare their interest in transit improvements. With this information participants can more easily identify the potential for cooperative partnerships. The document also helps determine the overall appeal of transit enhancements in the region.

PROBLEM-SOLVING

Mobility Management staff also presented an innovative idea in Webster County’s Transit Plan: adjusting the urban concept of fixed routes to serve a rural populous. Webster County currently does not have local funds available for the required match of even a one-vehicle public transportation system. The Mobility Manager noticed in the Annual Existing Conditions Report that a private transit company is operating under a federal company in two counties located east and west of Webster County. Staff plan to utilize the already existing private transit system in Webster County to better serve its residents transportation needs.

BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN TRANSPORTATION

RVRC Bicycle and Pedestrian planning staff have had a busy year coordinating events, developing safety and education initiatives, and working with advocacy groups around the region to promote cycling and alternative forms of transportation. Additionally, RVRC staff partnered with various organizations to plan events and programs that promote cycling and walking as healthy forms of transportation.

www.ActiveValley.org

Visit our website for more info!

TECHNICAL ADVISING FOR

RVRC currently holds a SILVER designation from LAB.

RVRC Bicycle and Pedestrian planning staff partner with Safe Kids Columbus to assist in children’s bicycle and walking safety programs. RVRC donated $2,000 to assist with the purchase of bike helmets gifted at two Free Helmet Giveaways on December 20 and 21, 2018. Staff were also instrumental in multiple bike rodeos in Columbus as part of this partnership.

AMERICAN BICYCLIST LEAGUE OF AMERICAN BICYCLIST AWARDS

- Silver Designation: Columbus Police Department Bicycle Patrol recognized as a Bicycle-Friendly Business
- Bronze Designation: Columbus State University Recognized as a Bicycle-Friendly University

CYCLING EVENTS

- Bike to Work Week (Columbus)
- Plains, Trains and Bike Chains (Sumter County)
- Carter Butts Memorial Ride (Lumpkin)
- Prison to Peanuts (Lumpkin)

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Special events like these strengthen our communities’ transportation systems. Clockwise from the top: Columbus Bicycle Friendly Designation awards; Ride with the Mayor; Helmet Giveaway, Safe Kids event.
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS

April 2018: Staff prepared nine (9) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications. The following were approved for funding in August 2018:

- Marion County – Street and Drainage Improvements $260,000
- Randolph County – Street and Drainage Improvements $306,725
- Stewart County – Street and Drainage Improvements $762,000
- City of Cuthbert – Sewer System Improvements $750,000
- City of Richland – Sewer System Improvements $750,000

April 2019: Staff submitted ten (10) applications for various communities for the FY20 CDBG funding cycle. Over the past five years, the RVRC has helped write 32 funded CDBG projects bringing a total of $14,050,000 into the region.

REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Funds Secured From: USDA Rural Development
Loan Recipient: Tire Pro LLC, Americus, Georgia (2018)

COMMENHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS)

RVRC staff continues to work to implement the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Regional Action Plan which is a work item required in our Economic Development Administration (EDA) three-year grant for fiscal years 2018, 2019, and 2020.

Main Initiative: Need for better and faster internet broadband access.

RVRC Response: Developed a 2019 River Valley Broadband Initiative General Survey to reveal problems individuals and businesses experience with internet access in rural counties, worked with the EDA to find potential solutions; recruited experts from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) to recommend solutions.

Future Action Items:
1. Submit comments on Phase 1 plan for Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative
2. At the county levels, assist in 911 address verification for mapping
3. Hold a broadband matchmaking event to focus on funding, training, and technical assistance for startup ISPs (Internet Service Providers) and public, regional, county, and city last mile connectivity efforts.

$10,815 ITAD Grant Funds for Blufton Repairs

$15,598 ITAD Grant Funds for Reynolds Repairs

$25,000 USDA Grant Funds for Butler Firefighter Gear

$72,533 USDA Grant Funds for Crisp/ Dooly JDA Business Center Repairs

NUTRITION SERVICES PROGRAM

The Area Agency on Aging nutrition services program works with 12 senior center sites within the 16-county region to provide congregate and home delivered meals to older adults at a cost of $1,944,191.00 annually, including federal, state, and local dollars.

$1.9M Meal Delivery Services

The River Valley Regional Commission’s AAA provides services and assistance for people 60 years of age and older and persons with disabilities throughout the region by performing assessments, identifying the community’s main concerns, distributing and developing resources, forming public and private partnerships and connecting RVRC residents to aging solutions that are adequate for their needs.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REPORT FY19

At a minimum, RVRC conducts one annual on-site fiscal programmatic and evaluation monitoring of service providers agencies.

4,159 Personal Care Units
64,053 Case Management Units
121,104 Home Delivered Meal Units
13,007 Homemaker Units
12,556 Respite Units

MISSION
To create and sustain a livable community that promotes health and well-being for older adults and persons with disabilities.

VISION
Be Informed, Be Prepared, and Live Well.
HEALTHY LIVING, WELLNESS, AND EXERCISE

AAA provides services that ensure seniors are informed, eating healthy and obtaining some form of physical activity. This is accomplished through partnerships with community and faith leaders, elected officials, fitness instructors, nutritionists, educators, caregivers, evidenced-based programs, and all who recognize and acknowledge that such norms help seniors to remain in their own home or community, which is how most wish to live their lives. Throughout each year, AAA hosts numerous activities and programs for seniors and persons with disabilities. The activities and programs are intended to help individuals to improve their health, increase independence, improve critical thinking, eat healthier, develop muscular strength, and build mobility skills through fitness, exercise and so much more.

CONSUMER EVALUATION

AAA considers findings from a consumers' satisfaction component in the annual evaluation of provider performance, and also provides assistance for the improvement of provider operations and service quality. AAA will provide the Division of Aging Services (DAS) access to evaluation findings if requested.

2019 ANNUAL SENIOR WELLNESS FAIR

The Annual Senior Wellness Fair was held for the first time at the Columbus Ironworks and Trade Center and was a huge success. Over 500 people attended and participated in warm up exercises led by Joanne Cogle of CSG Crossfit. Marie Peterson-Barnes and a group of seniors from the Marion County Senior Center led the audience in Tai Chi warm up exercises. Additionally, JASON Blankenship from the Better Business Bureau served as emcee for the event while Emily Chambers from the RVRC performed on the karaoke machine. With over 200 door prizes and 50+ vendors, this event was a tremendous success.

MAY 1, 2020: Next Senior Wellness Fair!

THANKS MOM AND DAD!

Four senior centers in the River Valley region each received $2,000 grants from the Thanks Mom and Dad Fund this year. The grant was a partnership with the Division of Human Services. Marion County received funds to purchase items for Brain Health to Prevent Alzheimer’s Disease. The Vienna Senior Center purchased sewing machines and fabric tables allowing the seniors to make items for themselves and for the community. Taylor County used the funds to purchase craft and sewing supplies to help promote motor skills. Crisp County used the funds for computers.

SENIOR HUNGER

SENIORS’ FARMERS MARKET

All 16 counties in the River Valley region held a Seniors’ Farmers Market for the fourth year in a row and served 1,414 clients. The Second Annual Community Senior Farmers Market was held in Columbus with 385 seniors attending. At the event, each senior received a $20 voucher, which they exchanged for fresh produce from two local Georgia farmers.

RIVER VALLEY SENIOR HUNGER COALITION

The River Valley Senior Hunger Coalition has met for almost a year and continues to focus on issues such as the health impact of senior hunger, food access, food waste and reclamation, and meeting the community’s needs.

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

FIRST MEETING: OCTOBER 8, 2018

10 CURRENT MEMBERS AND NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME

STRONG PARTICIPATION FOR DHS ANNUAL SENIOR HUNGER SUMMIT (THE ASHS SEEKS TO ELIMINATE SENIOR HUNGER ACROSS THE STATE)

UNUSED COALITION FUNDS PURCHASED MEALS FOR ONE COALITION MEMBER’S NONPROFIT AGENCY

FUTURE GOALS INCLUDE A PARTNERSHIP WITH COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY TO BRING THE CAMPUS KITCHEN PROJECT TO THE AREA.

AA: Thanks to Mom and Dad! above: Seniors participate in Tai Chi with the AAA
WORKFORCE INNOVATION OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA)

RVRC serves as the grant recipient and administrator for the local area WIOA services, which are governed by the Middle Flint Workforce Development Board (MFWDB) that is comprised of local area private and public sector members. The local WIOA area serves an eight-county area consisting of Crisp, Dooly, Macon, Marion, Schley, Sumter, Taylor, and Webster Counties. WIOA services offer educational and training opportunities to eligible individuals age 17 and up within the area to assist and enhance opportunities which will lead to employment, retention in employment and individual self-sufficiency.

Two-Year WIOA Grant Awards Program Year 2018 & Fiscal Year 2019

$1,058,033

SERVICES, INITIATIVES, AND OPPORTUNITIES

INDIVIDUAL TRAINING ACCOUNTS (ITA)

ITAs provide educational and occupational training opportunities to enhance employability. Individuals may choose providers and types of training from an Eligible Training List, and typically train at college campuses and with private training providers.

WORK EXPERIENCE SERVICES (WEX)

WEX provides individuals with limited or no prior work history with hands-on learning opportunities. Individuals gain knowledge on the world of work, explore occupational career options, and build upon existing skills to bridge gaps and enhance employment opportunities.

GENERAL EDUCATION DIPLOMA (GED) PLUS TRAINING SERVICES

These help WIOA eligible customers obtain their GED by offering basic literacy skills remediation. GED remediation training provides an instructor led review of the subject areas of the GED training materials. Work Readiness training is the “Plus” portion of the training, which focuses on resume preparation, job search techniques, interviewing skills, career exploration, work ethics, personal budgeting and finances, youth work experience, dress for success training, job search assistance, post-secondary educational exploration, and workplace skills.

$69,096

Paid in Wages

77

Participants served

101

Enrollments for ITA services

33

Recipients of GED Plus Services

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES THROUGH 3RD QUARTER

Performance Measure

WIOA has 9 Performance Measures Reporting Standards Met thru FY 19 3rd Quarter.

Funding Type

WIOA

Performance Measure

Local area negotiates performance measures annually with the State Workforce Division for their area performance goals.

Entered Employment Rate Q4

Entered Employment Rate Q2

Entered Employment Rate Q1

Credential Rate

Dislocated Worker

Dislocated Worker

Dislocated Worker

Youth

Youth

Youth

Achieved Level

80.0%

75.0%

85.0%

77.0%

80.0%

80.0%

80.0%

60.0%

70.0%

70.0%

Achievement Level

94.5%

84.5%

100.0%

92.9%

100.0%

85.7%

100.0%

91.9%

68.8%

86.7%

CREDENTIALS EARNED

Associate/Bachelor Degrees: 1

Occupational Certificates: 13

Diploma’s Technical College: 25

Total: 67

Educational Diplomas: 11

State Licenses: 17

Businesses & Employers benefited from serving as worksites

81

806x351

86.7%

84.5%

100.0%

92.9%

100.0%

85.7%

100.0%

91.9%

68.8%

86.7%

19

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In 2012, voters in three Georgia regions - River Valley, Central Savannah River Area, and the Heart of Georgia Altamaha - approved a 10-year one cent sales tax to fund regional and local transportation improvements. Prior to the votes, regional roundtables of local elected officials, with significant public input, selected projects for each region’s Approved Investment Lists. Combined, these lists represent 1,023 TIA-funded projects. TIA tax collections will continue through 2022 for the original three regions. GDOT is responsible for the management of the budget, schedule, execution and delivery of all projects contained in the Approved Investment Lists.
RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON

The RVRC’s 10th Annual Legislative Meeting was held in conjunction with the regular RVRC Council Meeting on May 22, 2019, at the South Georgia Technical College Pope Center. It was well attended by many of our area legislators, including Representatives Debbie Buckner (GA District 137), Ed Rynders (GA District 138), and Senators Freddie Powell Sims, (District 12), Greg Kirk (District 13), and Ed Harbison (District 16).

PLANNING AND ZONING TRAINING

On October 17, 2018, the River Valley Regional Commission in conjunction with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the Georgia Planning Association hosted a planning and zoning training at South Georgia Technical College in Americus. Topics covered in the training session included planning essentials, zoning and land development issues, legal issues in planning, zoning, and variances. The event had approximately 100 attendees, showing a considerable demand for this type of training session.

VOLUNTEER AND CAREGIVER APPRECIATION

On August 17, 2018, GeorgiaCares hosted a Volunteer and Caregiver Appreciation Day. Members of the Volunteer program and CareNET were recognized for their outstanding efforts to our programs. Volunteers, family caregivers, professional and former caregivers were treated to a day of pampering, fellowship, and lunch. Virginia College School of Beauty in Columbus sponsored a table for the tracker Pad Century. In partnership with Fort Benning and Ride on Bikes, 385 riders came to cycle 40, 64, or 110 miles. These riders came from as far as Alaska to ride in this event.

ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING

In August, Environmental Planning staff attended a Georgia Adopt-a-Stream macroinvertebrate trainer workshop at the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in Sandy Springs, GA. Staff received training from GA Environmental Protection Division staff on trainer roles and responsibilities as well as learning techniques for teaching volunteers how to correctly identify and sample macroinvertebrates to assess water quality in streams.

SPECIAL EVENTS & RECOGNITIONS

CHANGES TO THE 2020 CENSUS

The US Census Bureau is building a more accurate address list and automating their field operations—all while keeping citizens’ information confidential and safe for the first time, citizens will be able to respond online, by phone, or by mail. The US Census Bureau will use data that the public has already provided to cut down on in-person follow up visits to nonresponding households.

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