



Focus on Outreach: *Georgia Initiative on Community Housing*

Do you know about GICH?

Launched in 2004, the Georgia Initiative on Community Housing (GICH) helps Georgia communities improve quality of life and economic vitality through the development of local housing opportunities and community revitalization strategies.

A FACS outreach program, housed under the department of Financial Planning, Housing and Consumer Economics, GICH offers participating communities a three-year program



GICH Partners:
Georgia Municipal Association
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
UGA Public Service and Outreach
Georgia Power
 The UGA Archway Partnership
 UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government
 UGA Extension
 Georgia EMC

whereby community leaders identify needs, learn about best practices in housing and community development and then produce an action plan to address the unique housing needs in their community.

Participants in the program gain a better understanding of their local housing needs, learn about housing and community development tools, and acquire information on available funding

What is GICH accomplishing in **Madison**?

The Madison GICH team has focused its efforts on two themes - education and awareness. To address these goals the team has developed a webpage titled "Our GICH Experience" at www.madisonga.com/GICH, along with developing a mission statement. Additionally, workgroups have been established to lead efforts centered on neighborhood engagement activities and future land use planning.

The Madison GICH team garnered financial support through the approval of a 2016 Community Development Block Grant to address housing issues. A series of eight educational workshops were held last year, which aided in establishing contacts with local housing providers. In turn, these relationships are providing much needed support in dollars, materials, and labor for the target area.

To learn more, contact Monica Callahan, Planning Director with the City of Madison via phone at (706) 342- 1251 x 207 or by email at mhcallahan@madisonga.com.

Georgia Housing Conference: Celebrating 10 Years of GICH

In October 2015, FACS hosted an inaugural week of events known as “FACS Week.” During this week, the 2015 Housing Conference took place, where we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the GICH program. The event included the recognition of excellence in housing improvements and community revitalization accomplishments of current and past GICH communities. Eight communities were recognized.



Attendees learned about best practices and strategies on how to address affordable housing, homeownership, neighborhood revitalization, adaptive reuse and community involvement. The keynote speaker, featured in the photo above, was Carol Naughton, President of Purpose Built Communities.

Want to learn even more about GICH and your community?

First, please visit the GICH website at fcs.uga.edu/fhce/gich-about-us.

Secondly, attend a GICH Retreat to learn more about how GICH and your community are working together to improve the quality of housing and over-all community health in Georgia! If you're interested mark your calendars to attend our fall retreat September 20-22, 2016.

For general inquiries or for more information regarding the retreat, please contact Karen Tinsley at (706) 542-4949 or by email at klt@uga.edu.



How YOU can support GICH programming

As you've read, GICH is doing great work in both your community as well as countless communities across the state. However, there are still many, many more communities that GICH can help in Georgia.

As GICH celebrates its 10th anniversary, you can help make the next ten even more successful! To accomplish this task GICH needs your help. By supporting GICH programming, through the University of Georgia, you're not only supporting your community, but you're expanding the depth and reach of GICH's positive impact on the housing needs of those living in Georgia.

To make a donation towards GICH programming use the enclosed form or go online to fcs.uga.edu/giving-back to donate. Or to give back directly to your community's efforts contact your local GICH team.

