

2016 COMMUNITY BLOCK DEVELOPMENT GRANT (CDBG) UPDATE

The Planning and Government Services (PGS) Division staff are preparing for the next "Annual Competition" for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications. NEGRC Project Specialist, **Jordan Shoemaker**, and Planner **Theresa Owen** attended the 2016 CDBG Applicants' Workshop December 2nd - 4th in Pine Mountain.

The Georgia CDBG program is divided into four components: Annual Competition, the Immediate Threat and Danger Program (ITAD), the Employment Incentive Program (EIP), and the Redevelopment Fund (RDF). While the Applicants' Workshop addresses each of these programs, it is focused most heavily on the Annual Competition. Applications for the regular round, Annual Competition are due to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) on April 1, 2016.

Eligible activities must meet at least one of the three U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) National Objectives:

- Benefitting low and moderate income persons,
- Preventing or eliminating blight,
- Meeting other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health and welfare of the community, and other financial resources are not available to meet such needs

Examples of eligible activities include:

- Public facilities and improvements such as water and sewer facilities, transportation facilities, parks, homeless shelters, community and senior centers
- Housing rehabilitation, reconstruction, and code enforcement
- Economic development in the form of direct loans to businesses or public infrastructure to support new or expanded businesses

Does your community have a project in need of funding support? A good place to look for eligible activities is your community's comprehensive plan and work program. Comprehensive plans and work programs are posted at georgiaplanning.com under the "Your Plan" tab.

NEGRC can provide assistance with your CDBG application. The PGS Division is eager to identify interested local governments from the region as soon as possible to allow ample time for application development. For further information, please contact PGS Division Director, **Burke Walker**, at bwalker@negrc.org or (706) 369-5650.

2016 CLG GRANTS ANNOUNCED

Applications for the next cycle of Certified Local Government (CLG) grants were recently announced by the the Historic Preservation Division (HPD) of the Department of Natural Resources. Eligible applicants include communities designated as CLGs. There are currently 13 CLGs in the NEGRC region. A CLG is a community that has adopted a historic preservation ordinance, designated a local historic district, and participates in design review by an appointed Historic Preservation Commission.

A range of eligible grant activities exist including historic resource surveys, National Register district nominations, local designation reports, design guidelines, public information brochures, websites, conditions assessment reports or preservation plans for buildings and

sites, and bricks-and-mortar rehabilitation for a specific building or site. Historic sites may include, but are not limited to, cemeteries, parks, gardens, landscapes, and battlefields.

Applications must be postmarked on or before **February 1, 2016**. Grant awards will be announced in April 2016, and projects may begin in May 2016. Additional information can be found on HPD's website under "Economic Incentives" then "Grants" at www.gashpo.org.

For additional information or application development assistance, please contact Ms. Shoemaker at **(706) 369-5650** or jshoemaker@negrc.org.

REMINDER

The next meeting of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council will be held on **January 21, 2016 at Noon at the Athens Holiday Inn**. Information on the meeting will be forthcoming.

DOVE ELECTED TO NADO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Director **Jim Dove** was elected to the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) 2015 – 2016 Board of Directors at NADO's Annual Business Meeting. The meeting was held in conjunction with the association's 48th Annual Training Conference in New Orleans in October. This will be Dove's seventh term on the NADO Board.

"We are honored to have Jim serve on NADO's Board of Directors. He brings a wealth of expertise, knowledge, and leadership on regional communities and economic development issues to the national level," stated **Joe McKinney**, NADO Executive Director. "Most importantly, Jim is focused on helping our nation's local communities pursue comprehensive regional strategies for remaining economically competitive in today's rapidly changing global environment."

NADO was founded in 1967 to provide training, information and representation for the regional development organizations throughout the United States. Today, NADO member organizations serve local governments and the public within their regions through various programs focused on diversifying local economies, assisting businesses, creating jobs, and providing social services. The NADO Board of Directors oversees the association's budget and operations, and develops policy on issues affecting regional development organizations. NADO's Board of Directors represent member organizations from a broad section of the United

States, including the Eastern, Midwestern, Central, Southeastern, Southwestern and Western regions.

Building on nearly five decades of experience, the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) serves as the national voice of regional development organizations. The association is an advocate for federal community and economic development programs and policies that help local communities improve their local economy and quality of life. For additional information about NADO and the NADO Research Foundation, visit www.nado.org.



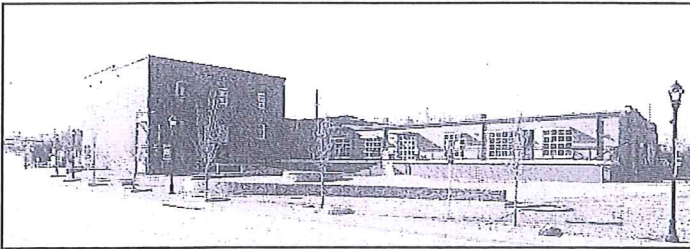
Dove and McKinney

NEGRC RECEIVES INNOVATION AWARD

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission was awarded a 2015 Innovation Award by the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for the Braselton Brothers Store Rehabilitation project at the Annual Training Conference held in late October in New Orleans. The NADO Annual Innovation Awards Program has been acknowledging creative approaches to regional community and economic development since 1986.

The Town of Braselton is a historic community listed in the National Register of Historic Places. For most of its history, it has served as a rural, commercial center serving a largely agrarian economy. In 2002, leaders grew concerned with the remaining historic properties, their condition, and their potential reuse. Some of this concern was prompted by the proposed realignment of a state route that ran through the downtown. The need to address the downtown's historic properties led to the development of the Braselton Downtown Revitalization Plan and later creation of the Braselton Urban Redevelopment Agency. One property identified in the Plan was the Braselton Brothers Store complex. It was constructed in 1904 and used historically as a crossroads grocery and mercantile center. It, however, existed in a deteriorated condition and offered limited potential in attracting and accommodating new retail and commercial tenants. To provide for both economic development opportunities and historic preservation, the Town sought to rehabilitate the complex. The NEGRC assisted the Town in three ways: 1) project concept development and strategic planning, 2) grant writing, and 3) project management and administration. The project resulted in

the sensitive rehabilitation of a 29,000 SF historic property that created/retained 45 jobs.



Braselton Bros. Store

TRAININGS FOR PLANNING & ZONING OFFICIALS OFFERED

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) is partnering with UGA's **Carl Vinson Institute of Government** (CVIOG) to host two professional planning workshops: "Planning 101" and "Planning 201." The trainings are intended for appointed Board and Commission members, local government staff, and elected officials involved in planning and zoning functions.

Planning 101 will be provided in March 2016, and Planning 201 will follow in April 2016 (dates & locations announcement forthcoming). The instructor for both trainings is **Chrissy Marlow**, Public Service Assistant with the CVIOG. Registration costs for each workshop are \$155.

These trainings have been provided previously in two other Regional Commission areas. The upcoming March and April sessions give local governments in Northeast Georgia the opportunity to receive these trainings with minimal travel costs. Flyers for the training will be available in January 2016 and also available on the NEGRC's website at www.negrc.org under "News" in the Planning & Government Services tab.

For further information, please contact **Mr. Walker** at (706) 369-5650 or email: bwalker@negrc.org.

2016 GEORGIA ACADEMY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CLASSES

Each year, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) provides a four-day training to enhance the skills of community

leaders involved in economic-development efforts. Recommended participants can be elected officials, local government staff, and others that seek to improve their communities through economic development.

The trainings are held throughout the state in each of the twelve respective Regional Commission regions. The NEGRC region (Region V) trainings will take place on February 3, March 2, April 6 and May 4, 2016. Classes are held on these days from 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and include class materials, meals and breaks. The cost for tuition is \$225. The trainings are also supported by over 20 statewide organizations with direct involvement from Georgia EMA, Georgia Power, and DCA. Space is limited.

For further information or to register, please contact Beth Eavenson at beth.eavenson@dca.ga.gov before **January 31, 2016**.

GREENE COUNTY WORKPLACE FUNDAMENTALS PROGRAM GRADUATES 3RD CLASS

The Greene County Workplace Fundamentals course held graduation ceremonies on December 4th for 6 persons who completed the 6 week training program. This program is offered in conjunction with the Northeast Georgia Workforce Development Board (WIOA funds), Athens Technical College, Greene County Board of Commissioners and the Greene County Economic Development Authority.

The instruction was delivered by Athens Technical College instructors Monday – Friday for 8 hours each day for 6 weeks. Students were provided instruction in computer literacy and usage, OSHA 10 certification, Forklift Certification and the basics of manufacturing.

Plans are underway to start a 4th cycle of the class in Greene County in February 2016. For further information on this course, contact **Athens Technical College** at (706) 369-5763 or the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission's **Workforce Development Division** (706) 369-5703.



Program Graduates



305 Research Drive
Athens, GA 30605

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSRT. STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ATHENS, GA
PERMIT NO. 502

Update

REGIONAL MEETINGS
JANUARY

| | | | |
|----|-----------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 12 | 8:30 a.m. | Workforce Development Board | E.H. Culpepper Conference Room |
| 13 | 1:00 p.m. | Solid Waste Management Authority | E.H. Culpepper Conference Room |
| 20 | 1:30 p.m. | Aging Advisory Council | E.H. Culpepper Conference Room |
| 21 | Noon | NEGRC Council | Athens Holiday Inn |
| 21 | 3:30 p.m. | Firefly Trails Advocacy Group | E.H. Culpepper Conference Room |
| 27 | 9:30 a.m. | Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority | E.H. Culpepper Conference Room |



Sincerely & Respectfully,

