

## GREENE COUNTY WELD READY GRADUATES

Congratulations to the graduates of the recent Weld Ready class that was held in Greene County. Through this 4-week training program, participants earned their AWS Welding Certification and other certifications, including OSHA 10, Forklift, and Lean Six Sigma White. For information on this and other occupational training programs, please call the **WorkSource Northeast Georgia/NEGRC** office at **(706) 369-5703**.



*Weld Ready graduates pictured: Left to Right: Chance Williams - Workforce Innovators Welding Instructor, Evan Andrews - WeldReady Student - United Way Funded, Jamarvon Nesbitt - WeldReady Student - WIOA Funded, Shermarcus Barnes - WeldReady Student - WIOA Funded, Octravivs Shelton - WeldReady Student - WIOA Funded, Robert Johnson - Workforce Innovators Instructor, Rymell McCommons - WeldReady Student - United Way Funded, Pete McGill - Workforce Innovators*

## WINTER WORKSHOPS PREPARE YOUTH FOR THE NEXT STEPS

Students currently enrolled in the WIOA/ACTION High School youth program and prior year program graduates participated in a Winter Workshop in December 2022. Graduates from the WIOA/ACTION program advised current students about the College application process, scholarships, time management, and college life. In addition, students from 7 counties participated in mock interviews, learned how to research career pathways, and were presented with scholarship application information.



For information on this and other programming provided through WorkSource Northeast Georgia/NEGRC WIOA funding, please contact the NEGRC **Workforce Development Division** at **(706) 369-5703**.



## U.S. CENSUS “URBAN AREA” STATUS CHANGES IN SOME NEGRC COMMUNITIES

On December 29, 2022, the United States Census announced they had changed the criteria for qualifying urban areas. Previously, under the old criteria, urbanized areas needed at least 50,000 people, and urban clusters had a threshold of at least 2,500 people. Under the new criteria, the threshold to be considered an urban area is a minimum population of 5,000 or at least 2,000 housing units. Also, the distinction between an urbanized area and an urban cluster has been eliminated. The US Census has released the updated list of urban areas based on the new criteria and the 2020 decennial data. NEGRC urban areas and areas that lost urban status are listed in the table below:

### U.S. Census Classified Urban Areas in the NEGRC

Name	Status in 2010	Status in 2020
Athens-Clarke County	Urban	Urban
Commerce	Rural	<b>Urban</b>
Elberton	Urban	Urban
Greensboro	Urban	<b>Rural</b>
Jefferson	Urban	Urban
Madison	Urban	Urban
Monticello	Urban	<b>Rural</b>
Monroe	Urban	Urban
Social Circle	Urban	<b>Rural</b>
Winder	Urban	Urban

The US Census now primarily uses housing-unit density over population density when delineating urban areas. There are now noncontiguous urban areas as the census no longer includes low-density hop-and-jump corridor blocks in urban areas. Boundaries of urban areas are also being drawn considering Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (LODES) commuting data.

The new urban area boundaries can be viewed via the **TIGERweb** application. In addition, TIGER/Line Shapefiles and Geodatabases of the new urban area boundaries will be available for download by the end of the month.

If you have any questions about your communities urban or rural status per the U.S. Census definition, please contact Sara Kaminski, NEGRC Community Planner, at [skaminski@negrc.org](mailto:skaminski@negrc.org) or **(706) 369-5650**.

## CITY OF COVINGTON AND CITY OF OXFORD UPDATE COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

The City of Covington and the City of Oxford recently received approval from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs regarding the five-year update of their local comprehensive plans. The two communities share a boundary but are very distinct in character. The NEGRC’s Planning & Government Services Division (PGS), assisted both communities with their comprehensive-plan updates. In total, input from over 200 people and various local government departments was compiled to determine needs and opportunities and a vision that will guide growth in the years to come.



*The City of Covington staff hosted a community event to gather public input for the plan update.*

A comprehensive plan is a locally adopted document that serves as a long-term guide to growth and development for the local government to use and implement. The Georgia Planning Act requires the document (O.C.G.A. 45-12-200, et seq., and 50-8-1, et seq.) for all local governments and must be updated every five (5) years. Any questions regarding assistance for comprehensive-plan updates by the NEGRC should be directed to **Mark Beatty**, PGS Director, at [mbeatty@negrc.org](mailto:mbeatty@negrc.org) or by phone at **(706) 369-5650**.

The AAA holds public hearings to inform and educate the community on services offered through the AAA and to get input from the community to ensure the services offered meet the community's needs.

There were 103 persons in attendance at the public hearing. Anyone unable to attend the Public Hearing was provided input on Aging Services by completing a Needs Assessment survey published in each of the 12 county newspapers or online at [www.negrc.org](http://www.negrc.org).

For information about the NEGRC's AAA program or services, please contact **Peggy Jenkins**, NEGRC AAA Director, at **(706) 369-5650**.

**GEORGIA'S HIGH DEMAND CAREER INITIATIVES PROGRAM**

**BUILD YOUR FUTURE WORKFORCE TODAY THROUGH APPRENTICESHIPS!**

- \$** Apply for an award of **up to \$10,000** per apprentice!
- Person icon** Companies involved in an active registered apprenticeship in Georgia may apply
- Georgia map icon** Open to occupations aligning with Georgia's high-demand industries

**PROGRAM APPLICATIONS HAVE RE-OPENED!**

Eligible Employers must submit an online application at [www.TCSG.edu/HDCI](http://www.TCSG.edu/HDCI)

**APPLICATION WINDOW:**  
January 19, 2023 at 10:00AM  
thru March 6, 2023 at 5:30PM

Technical College System of Georgia | APPRENTICE GEORGIA

All applications received during the application window will be evaluated by a selection committee and award recipients will be notified. For eligibility and program details, please visit [TCSG.edu/HDCI](http://TCSG.edu/HDCI)

## NEGRC NEWSLETTER GOES ELECTRONIC

Starting on July 1, 2023, "Update," the NEGRC's monthly newsletter, will convert to a digital format. Distribution of the digital newsletter will also change to electronic distribution or sent by email. Current subscribers will not receive hard copies after June 2023.

To allow this conversion, anyone receiving the current "Update" is asked to provide the NEGRC with their email address. Also, other, non-subscribers, wishing to receive the newsletter are also invited to submit their email address to receive our publication. This change is intended to provide a more efficient and effective method for publication and delivery while expanding distribution to our local governments, agency partners, and expanded community.

**Please email your name, title, and current email address to: [frontdesk@negrc.org](mailto:frontdesk@negrc.org)** to subscribe to electronic "Update."

Next month too, a postcard reminder will be (regular) mailed to current subscribers asking for their information to receive the new, electronic version starting in July 2023.

## NEGRC'S AREA AGENCY ON AGING (AAA) CONDUCTS PUBLIC HEARING

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission's Area Agency on Aging (AAA) held its annual Public Hearing at the Elbert County Senior Center, 134 Mobley Hill Road, Elberton, GA 30635, on Monday, December 12, 2022, from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. The AAA is responsible for planning and administering aging and disability services offered in the Northeast Georgia Planning Service Area.



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# Update

## REGIONAL MEETINGS FEBRUARY

2 <sup>nd</sup>	10:00 a.m.	GARC Policy Member Meeting	Middle GA Regional Commission
14 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 a.m.	NEGA Workforce Development Board	Athens Department of Labor
16 <sup>th</sup>	Noon	NEGRC Council Meeting	Trumps Catering
17 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Senior Center Directors' Meeting	NEGRC