

# NORTHEAST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

The Focal Point for Regional Solutions



## FY24 Annual Report

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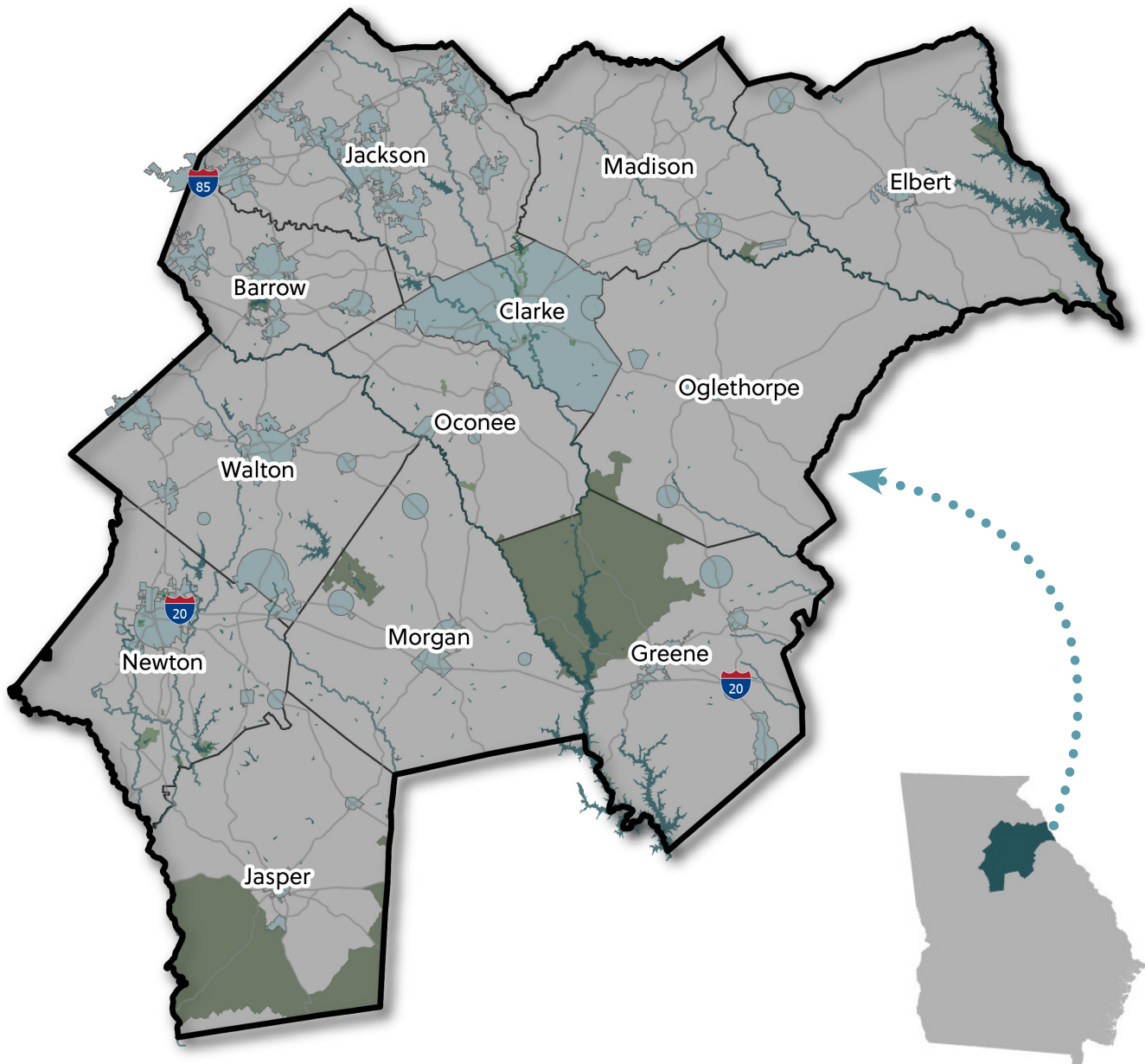
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# The Northeast Georgia Region



-  City Limits
-  Major Roads
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# Message from the Executive Director

I'm very pleased, as Executive Director of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC), to present our "NEGRC Annual Report" that covers fiscal year 2024 (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024). This report lists accomplishments from our programs and services and their impacts on our region's communities. These include the NEGRC's four service divisions including: Administration, Aging Services, Workforce Development, and Planning & Government Services. All of these divisions are financially supported by both state and federal partners as well as from fees and local-government dues paid each year. Local dues, in fact, enable us to match these partnership grants and provide a (dues to program funds) return-on-investment (ROI) of \$1 to \$20. I hope you will review the report's numerical totals for funding information, people served, and project totals that impacted our communities.

Please also use this report to reference programs your local government participated in as well as to explore other types of assistance available to your community. The NEGRC is guided by its elected and appointed Council members. Council membership is the same for all twelve counties that includes the county chairperson, a mayor, and one non-public member. The State also appoints five Council members. The Council's three officers currently include Chairman John Daniell (Oconee), Chairperson, Mr. Shane Short (Walton), Vice Chairperson, and Mayor Dodd Ferrelle (Winterville), Secretary. The NEGRC, over the year, benefitted from both its collaborative partnerships and guidance of community leaders representing Northeast Georgia.

For next year, we look forward to continuing to serve our local governments in making a positive impact for all our communities in Northeast Georgia. Our organization is made strong by its thirty-five dedicated staff whom look forward to working with you and your community during the next fiscal year.

Burke Walker  
Executive Director

(Please note: This report and additional information about the NEGRC's programs can be found on our website at [www.negrc.org](http://www.negrc.org).)





# NEGRC TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENDITURES \$15,343,731

## Administration

Overseeing service delivery to the twelve Northeast Georgia counties and fifty-four cities. This includes financial management, program management, human resources, administration of the Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority, and administration of the NEGRC Council.



2%

## Aging

Improving the quality-of-life for Northeast Georgians sixty years of age or older, their caregivers, and disabled adults through connections to services and resources to help achieve maximum levels of health, independence, and productivity.



64%

## Workforce

Providing workforce preparation and educational opportunities through the federal Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA), which may include tuition assistance to prepare individuals for the workforce.



23%

## Planning

Providing member local governments with assistance within two broad service categories: Community & Economic Development and Local & Regional Planning. This assistance is intended to improve a community's living and economic conditions while achieving long-range, community goals.



5%

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The remaining 6% of expenditures is dedicated through the Internal Service Fund which is allocated through indirect costs across all departments.





# Area Agency on Aging

The Northeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is a non-profit agency designated by the state to address the needs and concerns of older adults, people with disabilities, caregivers, people living with dementia, and others who want to live with optimal health, well-being, independence, and dignity in their own homes and communities. The AAA ensures that all people can age well by developing, coordinating, and delivering in-house services such as information, referral and assistance, case management services, nursing home transition, money follows the person, and EmpowerLine Pro (a massive database of resources / services offered throughout the state of Georgia). Additionally, the AAA contracts with county governments and service providers to deliver a wide range of home and community-based services including congregate and home-delivered meals, in-home services (respite, personal care, and homemaker), transportation, GeorgiaCares, elderly legal assistance, and evidence-based health and wellness programs to make independent living a viable option.

The Northeast Georgia Aging Services Advisory Council (NEGASAC) serves as an advisory council whose responsibilities are to advise and assist the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission and the staff of the AAA. The purpose of the NEGASAC is to serve as the official council for the Northeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging, as required by law (i.e. Older American Act), with advisory assistance to:

1. Develop and administer the area plan for aging programs;
2. Review and provide input on the Area Plan on Aging and its amendments;
3. Participate in public hearings and/or community forums;
4. Represent and advocate for the interests of older individuals and individuals with disabilities and their caregivers;
5. Review and comment on community policies, programs, and actions that impact older persons with the intent of assuring maximum coordination and responsiveness to older and disabled individuals; and
6. Ensure maximum coordination of services to assist oversight of staff activities, including those related to finances.

Representatives of NEGASAC are senior center participants, local elected officials, and the general public. One member is appointed by the county governing authority in each of the twelve member counties and one member is appointed by the local senior center advisory council. Each year the NEGASAC secretary submits vacancies to local county governments and senior centers for appointment.



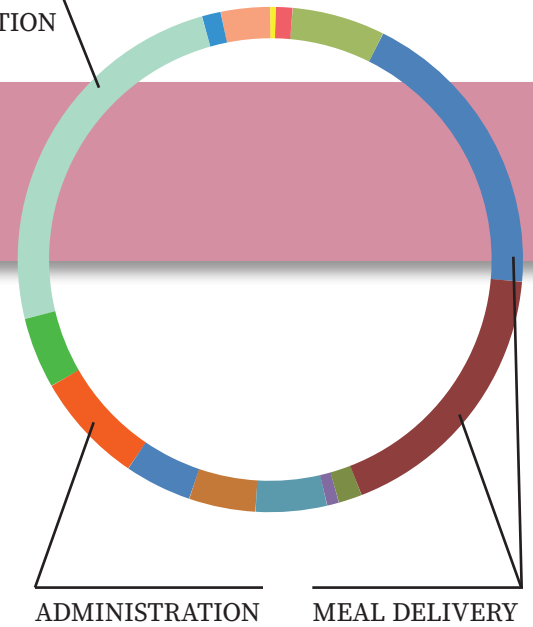
# \$10,777,007

Service delivery funds under the Older Americans Act

## SFY2024 SERVICES AND COST

The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is a steward of Older American Act and other funding allocated to the Northeast Georgia Planning and Service Area (PSA). The funding is utilized to keep older individuals, and persons with disabilities out of nursing homes and in their homes or neighborhoods of choice. Funding is allocated among 14+ different services that make-up the pool of resources offered by this agency. Services such as meal delivery, human-services transportation, and administration make up approximately 70% of funding. A complete list of services can be found at [www.negrc.org](http://www.negrc.org).

TRANSPORTATION



## 2024 NORTHEAST GEORGIA SENIOR NUTRITION FARMER MARKET PROGRAM

The Northeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Senior Nutrition annual USDA Senior Nutrition Farmer Markets were held in each of the 12 counties of the PSA during the week of July 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024. This year's farmers markets provided access to locally grown fruit and vegetables to 2,200 senior center participants and the general public aged 60 and older. This year, additional funding received from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) supplemented the markets which allowed more people to be served.

Name of Service	Units Served	Funding Spent (Federal, State, and Match)
Adult Day Care	4,950	\$188,545.50
Case Management	1,051	\$32,507.73
Congregate Meals	150,994	\$1,815,189.12
Emergency Home Delivered Meals	172,079	\$2,074,763.62
Home Delivered Meals	8,355	\$208,875.00
Homemaker	4,970	\$4,970.00
Material Aid-Assistive Technology	596	\$3,027.68
Nutrition Education	8,048	\$201,206.25
Outreach	11,007	\$275,168.75
Personal Care	1,305	\$49,707.45
Respite Care In-Home	6,971	\$230,407.44
Respite Care Out-of-Home	82,909	\$82,909.01
Senior Recreation	3,982	\$64,021.34
Telephone Reassurance	3,510	\$22,097



# Workforce Development

Northeast Georgia



Connecting Talent with Opportunity  
A proud partner of the American Job Center network

The Northeast Georgia Workforce Development Board (WDB) is the entity responsible for the oversight of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs operated in the 12-county Northeast Georgia service region of Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Jasper, Madison, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe and Walton counties. In FY2024, the Workforce Division provided Career Guidance Information to approximately 10,000 persons throughout our region. Information on available programs can be found at [www.negrc.org](http://www.negrc.org).

# 761

Persons received training services  
July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024

# 221

Employers that hired persons who  
received WIOA funded training

# \$3,609,591

Funds expended



The NEGRC Workforce Division received a NADO Aliceann Wolhbruck Impact Award for the region's NEGA Connects Educator Externships. The Educator Connects initiative provided 90 Northeast Georgia educators the opportunity to job shadow for a week during the summer with 23 employers. The educators will share what they learned about the employers job opportunities and job and training requirements with their students and their colleagues during the next school year.





## Youth Program

Performance Measure	Level Achieved	Goal / Outcome
Employment Rate 2nd Quarter	91.80%	82%
Employment Rate 4th Quarter	84.90%	78%
Median Earnings	\$5,101	\$3,475
Credential Rate	86.30%	76%
Measurable Skills Gain	72.30%	74%



## Adult Program

Performance Measure	Level Achieved	Goal / Outcome
Employment Rate 2nd Quarter	80.20%	78%
Employment Rate 4th Quarter	79.60%	76%
Median Earnings	\$8,177	\$7,440
Credential Rate	84.30%	80%
Measurable Skills Gain	56.50%	51%



## \*Dislocated Worker Program

Performance Measure	Level Achieved	Goal / Outcome
Employment Rate 2nd Quarter	90.90%	70%
Employment Rate 4th Quarter	90.90%	68%
Median Earnings	\$8,507	\$9,558
Credential Rate	75.80%	75%
Measurable Skills Gain	61.10%	56%

\*A DISLOCATED WORKER IS SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN LAID OFF OR TERMINATED AND IS UNLIKELY TO RETURN TO THEIR PREVIOUS JOB OR INDUSTRY. THEY MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS AND HAVE LOST THEIR JOB THROUGH NO FAULT OF THEIR OWN.



# PLANNING & GOVERNMENT SERVICES

The Planning & Government Services (PGS) Division provides member local governments with assistance under two broad service categories: Community & Economic Development and Local & Regional Planning. This assistance is intended to improve a community's living and economic conditions by achieving long-range, community goals.



Athens, Georgia





### Funding Sources

- Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)
- Economic Development Administration (EDA)
- Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA)
- Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT)
- Southern Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC)
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Local Dues
- Fee-Based Projects



### Priorities

- Planning & Development Assistance
- Community & Economic Development
- Grant Writing & Administration
- GIS Services

# \$1,758,500

## Funding Secured for Local Governments

### DIVISION OVERVIEW

Project Types	Quantity
Project Requests	16
Project Closeouts	27
Grant Applications	7
Grant Awards	5
Funding Secured	\$1,758,500
Comprehensive Plans Completed	14
Regional Plans and Studies	2
DRI Reviews	21

### HIGHLIGHTS

**City of Winterville Blacksmith Shop | Funding Secured: \$398,500**

Community Development Block Grant Redevelopment Fund (CDBG-RDF) Set-Aside

**Jasper County Food Bank | Funding Secured: \$350,000**

Southern Crescent Regional Commission SEID Grant

**City of Hoschtown City Park Development | Funding Secured: \$500,000**

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)



## Northeast Georgia Regional Commission

305 Research Drive  
Athens, Georgia 30605  
(706) 369-5650  
[www.negrc.org](http://www.negrc.org)

### Serving the counties and cities of :

**Athens-Clarke County**  
City of Winterville

**Barrow County**  
City of Auburn  
Town of Bethlehem  
Town of Carl  
City of Statham  
City of Winder

**Elbert County**  
City of Bowman  
City of Elberton

**Greene County**  
City of Greensboro  
Town of Siloam  
City of Union Point  
City of White Plains  
City of Woodville

**Jackson County**  
City of Arcade  
Town of Braselton  
City of Commerce  
City of Hoschton  
City of Jefferson  
City of Nicholson  
City of Pendergrass  
City of Talmo

**Jasper County**  
City of Monticello  
City of Shady Dale

**Madison County**  
City of Carlton  
City of Colbert  
City of Comer  
City of Danielsville  
City of Hull  
City of Ila

**Morgan County**  
City of Bostwick  
Town of Buckhead  
City of Madison  
City of Rutledge

**Newton County**  
City of Covington  
City of Mansfield  
Town of Newborn  
City of Oxford  
City of Porterdale

**Oconee County**  
Town of Bishop  
Town of Bogart  
Town of North High  
Shoals  
City of Watkinsville

**Oglethorpe County**  
City of Arnoldsville  
City of Crawford  
City of Lexington  
City of Maxeys

**Walton County**  
Town of Between  
City of Good Hope  
Town of Jersey  
City of Loganville  
City of Monroe  
City of Social Circle  
City of Walnut Grove