

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2025

NORTHEAST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

The Focal Point for Regional Solutions



NEGRC
NORTHEAST GEORGIA
REGIONAL COMMISSION

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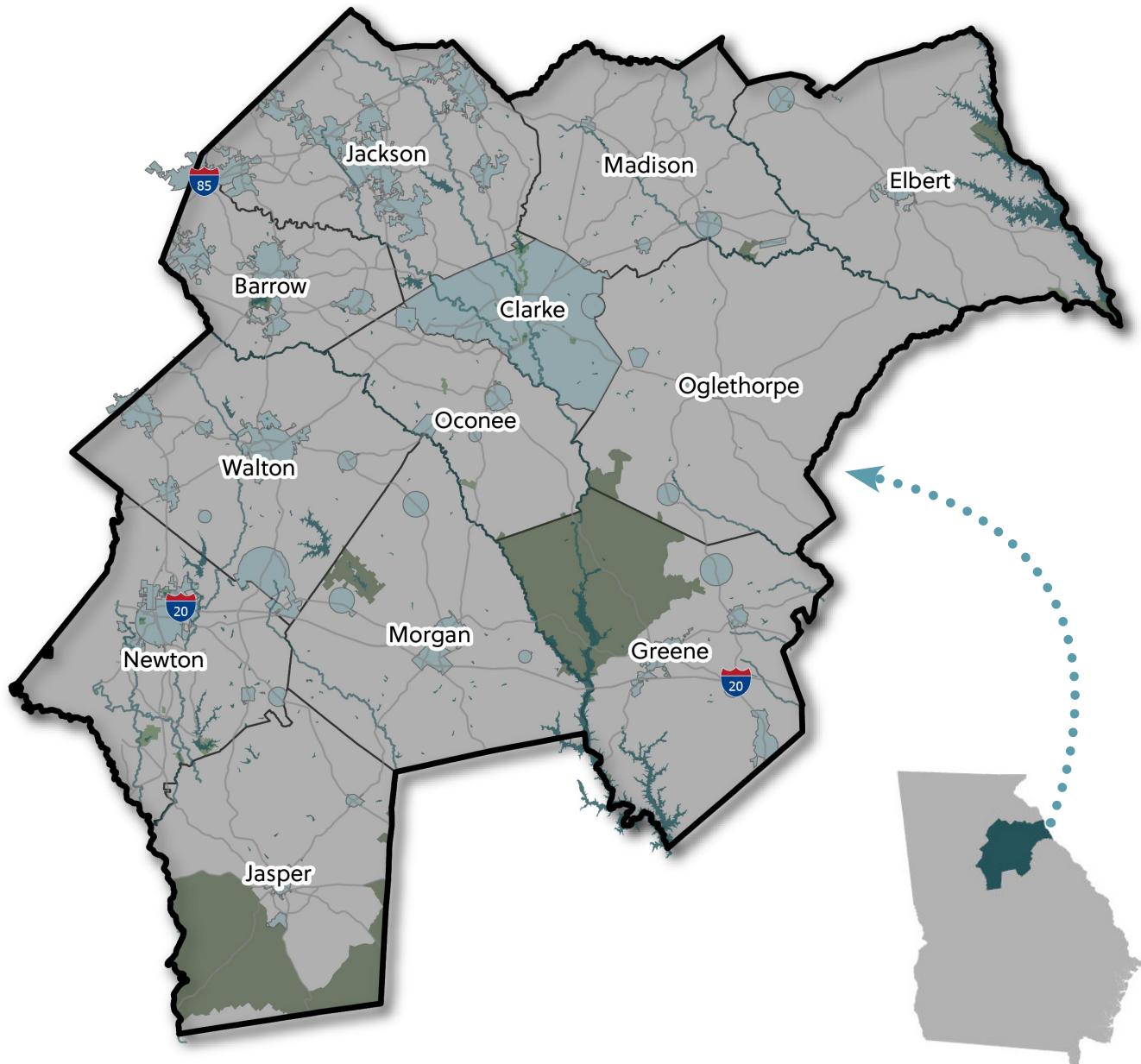
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- City Limits
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Message from the Executive Director

"Our greatest blessings come when we are able to improve the lives of others, and this is especially true when those others are desperately poor or in need." -President Jimmy (James) Earl Carter, Jr.

President Carter passed away less than a month after I began my journey as Executive Director of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission one year ago. While I was no stranger to his work, his source of seemingly endless energy and unwavering dedication had remained somewhat of a mystery. As I read stories, and quotes, and accounts of his life, it became clear that, despite the negative feelings we often experience in public service (exhaustion, lack of appreciation, frustration), there is an unmatched elevation in spirit that comes through working together to serve others. It is with this in mind that I present our FY2025 Annual Report:

During FY2025, the NEGRC delivered nearly **\$13.5M** in programs and services across Northeast Georgia. That assistance took a wide variety of forms, from our Area Agency on Aging's provision of essential services and immediate care, to WorkSource Northeast Georgia's focus on building our future labor force, to Planning & Government Service's support for community planning and funding acquisition. Through these combined services, the NEGRC delivered a **\$21 return for each local government dollar invested in FY25**.

These life-changing initiatives would not be possible without the combined effort of our member cities and counties, state and federal partners, dedicated staff, and the greater Northeast Georgia community. I encourage you to check out the special initiatives highlighted herein as well as our quarterly newsletters to get to know the individuals and communities behind the numbers. (Newsletters are posted on our website, accessible via the QR code on the next page.)

I am amazed each day by the levels of selflessness and dedication that I see in our staff, our Council members, and leadership throughout the region. I look forward to working alongside each of you as we continue improving the lives of others in the coming year.

Eva Kennedy
Executive Director



NEGRC HEADQUARTERS, ATHENS, GEORGIA

NEGRC TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENDITURES **\$13,484,603**

2%

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.

67%

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.

24%

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.

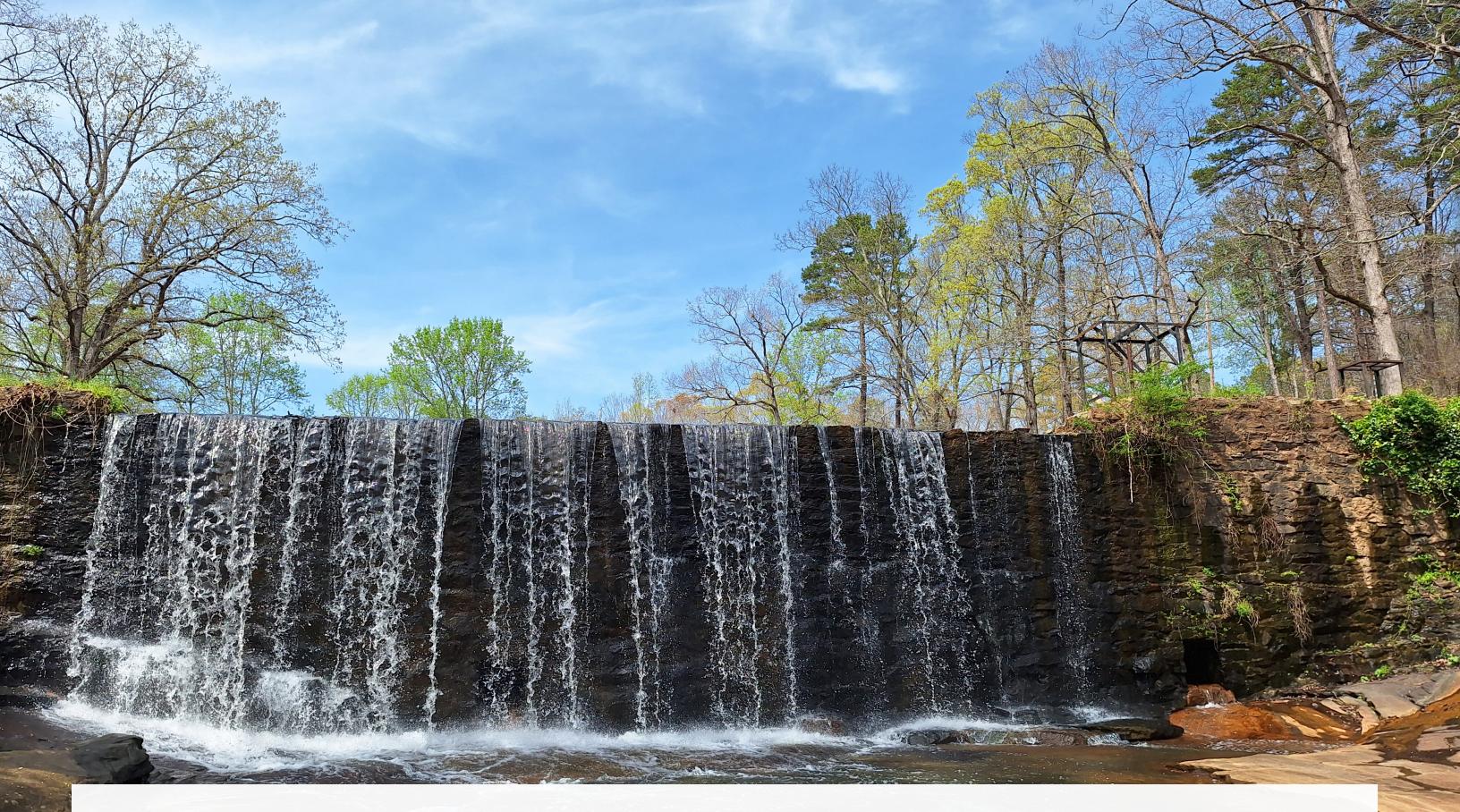
7%

Planning

Providing member local governments with assistance in Community & Economic Development, Local & Regional Planning, and GIS services.



This report and additional information about the NEGRC's programs can be found on our website by scanning the QR code or visiting NEGRC.org



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), GeorgiaCares, elderly legal assistance, and evidence-based health and wellness programs to make independent living a viable option.

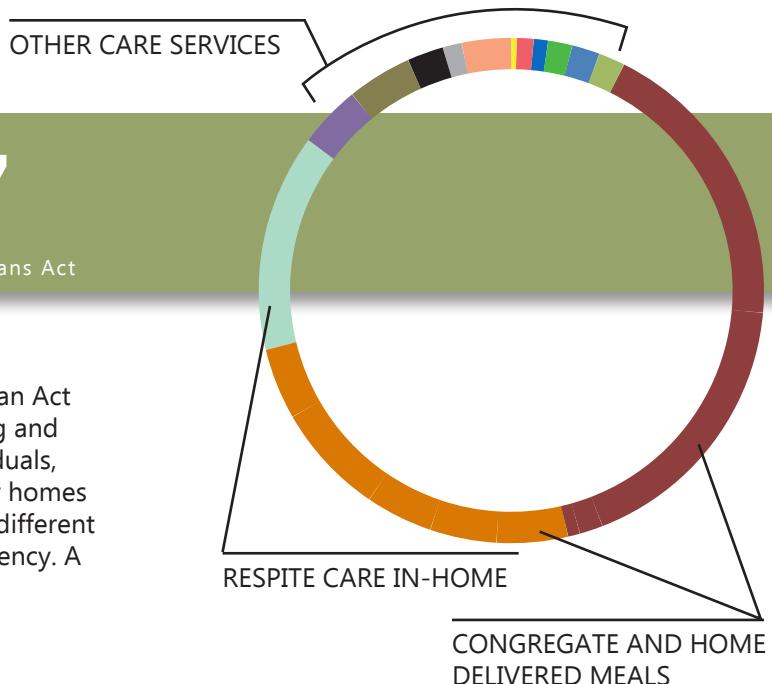
The Northeast Georgia Aging Services Advisory Council (NEGASAC) serves as an advisory council whose responsibilities are to advise and assist the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission and the staff of the AAA. The purpose of the NEGASAC is to serve as the official council for the Northeast Georgia Area 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.

\$4,875,557

Service delivery funds under the Older Americans Act



SFY2025 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. A complete list of services can be found at NEGRC.org.

2025 AAA SERVICE METRICS

Name of Service	Units Served	Funding Spent (Federal, State, and Match)
Adult Day Care	7,315	\$185,521
Case Management	3,335	\$96,935
Congregate Meals	148,993	\$1,635,012
Home Delivered Meals	187,383	\$1,844,722
Homemaker	8,102	\$183,427
Kinship Care	42	\$31,621
Material Aid	9,689	\$9,689
Nutrition Education	580	\$12,282
Personal Care	8,919	\$190,910
Respite Care In-Home	13,814	\$353,878
Respite Care Out-of-Home	2,902	\$91,747
Senior Recreation	16,702	\$150,295
Support Options	74,235	\$74,235
Telephone Reassurance	2,458	\$15,283

NORTHEAST GEORGIA DEMENTIA CARE EVENTS

The Northeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Dementia Care Specialist started a new initiative in October 2024: Memory Connections ("Connecting Memories, Connecting Lives"), a monthly memory café designed for individuals living with dementia or cognitive impairments and their caregivers. Each month, attendees enjoy two hours of engaging activities, social connection, and educational opportunities in a safe and welcoming environment. Local partners and volunteers provide interactive sessions focused on wellness and creativity. Bi-monthly Senior Day at the Mall events are also held for seniors in the Northeast Georgia region. This event, through a partnership with Georgia Square Mall, expands opportunities for seniors to connect with community resources provided by local service providers while participants enjoy a lively, social, and interactive experience.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



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 FY2025, the Workforce Division provided Career Guidance Information to approximately 10,000 persons throughout our region. Information on available programs can be found at NEGRC.org.

642

Persons received training services
July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

114

Employers that hired persons who received WIOA funded training

\$3,305,245

Funds expended



Sid Jessup and Vickie Scotland work closely with the 12 counties we serve to strengthen partnerships and build deeper relationships with local employers. Their goal is to better connect skilled workers with employers while identifying opportunities to provide business solutions that support their current and future workforce needs. One of the most impactful events they worked on in 2025 was the operation of a five-month-long Transition Center and supplemental two-day job fair, offering services such as training opportunities, résumé assistance, and job-search support for over 600 employees affected by the Chico's closure in Barrow County.

Youth Program



Performance Measure	Level Achieved	Goal / Outcome
Employment Rate 2nd Quarter	89.1%	83.4%
Employment Rate 4th Quarter	82.9%	81.6%
Median Earnings	\$4,878.00	\$4,619.00
Credential Rate	77.5%	78.9%
Measurable Skills Gain	73.5%	60.0%

Adult Program



Performance Measure	Level Achieved	Goal / Outcome
Employment Rate 2nd Quarter	84.7%	78.4%
Employment Rate 4th Quarter	75.7%	76.1%
Median Earnings	\$8,486.00	\$7,750.00
Credential Rate	76.9%	80.8%
Measurable Skills Gain	47.8%	51.0%

*Dislocated Worker Program

Performance Measure	Level Achieved	Goal / Outcome
Employment Rate 2nd Quarter	92.3%	72.0%
Employment Rate 4th Quarter	84.6%	71.0%
Median Earnings	\$10,761.00	\$9,775.00
Credential Rate	61.5%	73.4%
Measurable Skills Gain	57.1%	56.0%

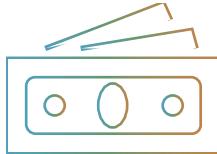
*A dislocated worker is someone who has been laid off or terminated and is unlikely to return to their previous job or industry. They may be eligible for unemployment benefits and have lost their job through no fault of their own.

PLANNING & GOVERNMENT SERVICES

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



ELDER MILL BRIDGE, OCONEE COUNTY, 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

\$2,000,000
Funding Secured for Local Governments

DIVISION OVERVIEW

Project Types	Quantity
New Projects Initiated	21
Project Closeouts	18
Grant Applications	9
Grant Awards	2
Funding Secured	\$2,000,000
Comprehensive Plans Completed	3
Regional Plans and Studies	2
DRI Reviews	28

HIGHLIGHTS

Madison County Water System Improvements | Funding Secured: \$1,000,000
Community Development Block Grant

Greene County Senior Center Expansion | Funding Secured: \$1,000,000
Community Development Block Grant

Jackson County Comprehensive Plan Update
1,445 Public Survey Responses



CRICKET FROG TRAIL, MANSFIELD, GEORGIA

**Northeast Georgia
Regional Commission**
305 Research Drive
Athens, Georgia 30605
(706) 369-5650
NEGRC.org

Serving our member communities of:

Athens-Clarke County
City of Winterville

City of Bostwick
Town of Buckhead
City of Madison
City of Rutledge

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

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

Elbert County
City of Bowman
City of Elberton

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

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

Oglethorpe County
City of Arnoldsburg
City of Crawford
City of Lexington
City of Maxeys

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

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

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