



Impacting Lives. Changing Communities.



Meeting the Challenge of a Growing Region

Lake Lanier Olympic Park - Hall County
Photo Credit: City of Gainesville

For almost 60 years, the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission (GMRC) has been an integral part of assisting communities with growth and development strategies which will improve the overall quality of life in the area. With a population of over 735,000, the Georgia Mountains Region continues to grow at a rate that far exceeds the state rate. The Georgia Mountains Region has seen an 18.3% positive population change since 2010. Land Use, Infrastructure, Housing and Transportation networks are ever changing. The team at GMRC continues to serve our communities through its skilled network of planners, economic developers and workforce development professionals.

Our Vision

The GMRC envisions the Georgia Mountains Region as an area that values its diverse communities and resources, fosters economic vitality and innovation, and provides opportunities to meet local and regional needs. This is accomplished through maximum cooperation between the GMRC staff, council, member governments, and other stakeholders.

Our Mission

To serve the local governments of the Georgia Mountains Region by improving the quality of life through economic development, community planning, information technology, and workforce development to support and enhance the region's prosperity.

Our Values

Collaboration, Service, Trust,
Innovative, Sustainability,
Rewarding



Message From Sam Norton, Chairman Georgia Mountains Regional Commission

I have never been more proud to live in this Region! No one could have predicted how this year would play out, but the COVID-19 pandemic certainly presented all of us with challenges and opportunities. Throughout this pandemic, GMRC never skipped a beat and remained engaged with communities as everyone navigated this unprecedented time. The staff at GMRC continues to excel and deliver results for our member communities. The combined level of experience and knowledge is remarkable, and I'm proud to see our team serving in leadership roles on various boards both statewide and nationally.

We not only perform, but excel to the point of national recognition. The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) awarded three Impact Awards for the following projects: Planning Department - City of Dahlonega Parks and Trails Study; Economic Development Department - Apprenticeship 101; WorkSource – Youth Division - ROUTE 180 Center. This recognition is testimony to the skilled staff and leadership of our organization.

I am also proud to serve with such a vibrant and engaged group of leaders. These Mayors, Commissioners and business leaders guide policy and give valuable direction to the Executive Director. Our Council, which brings diverse perspectives and highly relevant business and community experience, are closely aligned with GMRC's strategic course. There is a unified vision shared among leadership, Councilmembers, the communities we serve and the employees. All of these leaders understand what an important resource the Regional Commission is for our community, and how vital it is for moving the needle in our State.

I'm excited about the opportunities ahead for GMRC! I wish to extend my sincere thanks to all our dedicated Council, our governmental partners, and our engaged GMRC employees for their commitment to this essential organization.

Sincerely,

Sam Norton
Chairman

GMRC Council

Sam Norton | City of Dahlonega | Chairman
George Wangemann | City of Gainesville | Vice-Chairman
Ken Schubring | Habersham County Private Sector | Secretary

Danny Maxwell
Banks County

Jerry Payne
Town of Homer

Vicki Boling
Banks County Private Sector

Billy Thurmond
Dawson County

Mike Eason
City of Dawsonville

Betsy McGriff
Dawson County Private Sector

Laura Semanson
Forsyth County

Jason Evans
City of Cumming

Robert Long
Forsyth County Private Sector

Thomas Bridges
Franklin County

Ralph Owens *
City of Lavonia

Courtney Umbehant *
City of Lavonia

Gerald Voyles
Franklin County Private Sector

Natalie Crawford
Habersham County

Audrey Turner
Town of Alto

Richard Higgins
Hall County

Deborah Mack
Hall County Private Sector

Ricky Carter
Hart County

Tray Hicks
City of Hartwell

William Chafin
Hart County Private Sector

Chris Dockery
Lumpkin County

J.B. Jones
Lumpkin County Private Sector

Greg James *
Rabun County

Kent Woerner *
Rabun County

Debbie Chisholm *
City of Clayton

Michelle Duquette *
City of Clayton

Douglas Wayne
Rabun County Private Sector

Dean Scarborough
Stephens County

David Austin
City of Toccoa

Connie Tabor
Stephens County Private Sector

Cliff Bradshaw
Towns County

Liz Ordiales *
City of Hiawassee

Andrea Gibby *
City of Young Harris

Denise McKay
Towns County Private Sector

Lamar Paris
Union County

Jim Conley
City of Blairsville

Mitch Griggs
Union County Private Sector

Travis Turner
White County

Annie Sutton *
City of Cleveland

Nan Bowen *
City of Cleveland

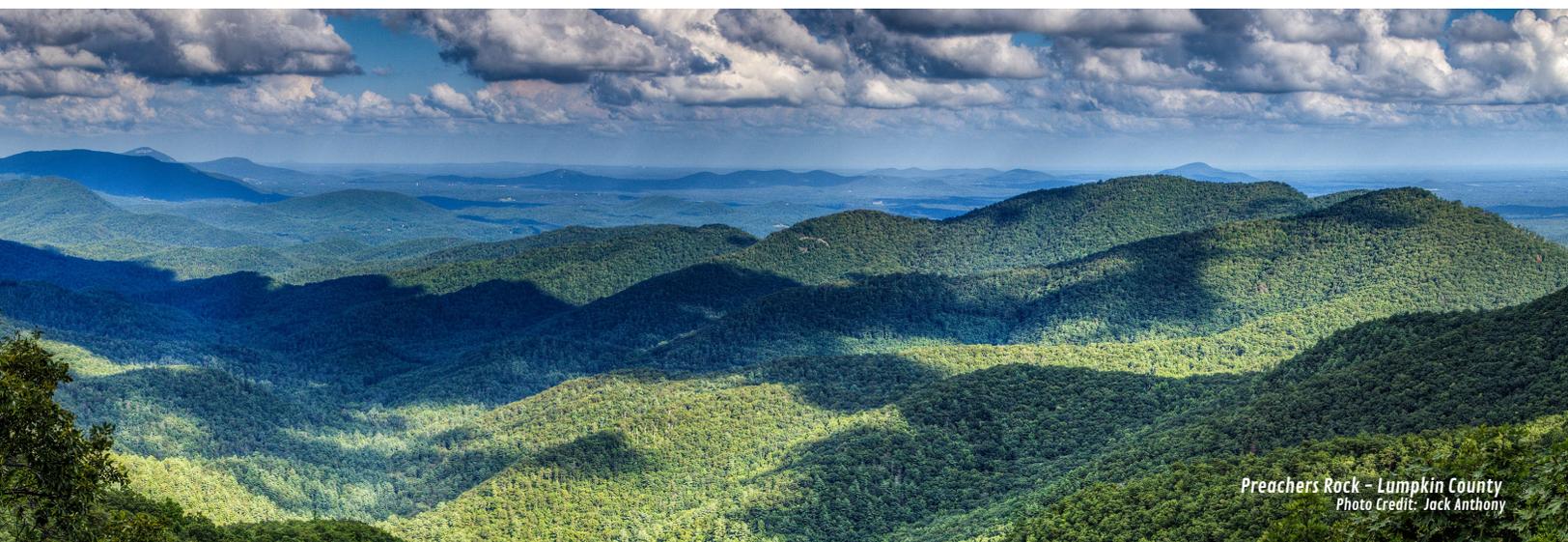
Bill Black
White County Private Sector

Rex Farmer
Governor Appointee

Angela Whidby
Governor Appointee

Will Wade
Governor Appointee

* Served Partial Year



Preachers Rock - Lumpkin County
Photo Credit: Jack Anthony



Message From The Executive Director

To say this year has been unprecedented is an understatement. The chaos resulting from the pandemic has obviously had a severe impact on the counties and cities we serve. We have continued to operate throughout, our expertise more vital than ever. Our staff has not missed a beat - diligently working from home initially and being flexible and patient as we reopened our offices.

This crisis has solidified the importance of leadership and the need for a collaborative, regional approach to shared problems. GMRC has risen to the challenge; applying for and subsequently receiving EDA Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding for both Revolving Loan Funding to assist small businesses in Region 2 as well as economic development funding to update economic development plans and fortify programs to assist communities in responding to the coronavirus pandemic.

The role of the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission will remain important as we face the future. Local governments and development districts will be concerned about the more efficient and economical provision of public services. As state and federal funding sources become constricted, the responsibility for the financing of public services will become more focused at the local level. GMRC's main objective is to assist in setting regional and local priorities for the 13 counties and 38 municipalities. By working together in partnership, we can continue the progress of the past 58 years and can look forward to successfully meeting the challenges of the 21st Century.

It is my privilege to present the work of the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission for FY 20. The coordination between GMRC staff and the communities we serve has resulted in several new projects, many of which are highlighted in this report. These projects highlight the diverse and competent work of the GMRC staff, and I want to express my sincere appreciation to all staff for their professionalism and dedication in meeting the needs of our communities and citizens of this region.

I would also like to thank all Council Members for their support, feedback, guidance, and energy they give to the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission.

Sincerely,

Heather Feldman

Heather J. Feldman
Executive Director

Economic Development

It is the vision of the Economic Development Department to foster a dynamic regional economy by supporting local community efforts that facilitate job growth, business retention, recreational opportunities, sound infrastructure, tourism, and quality healthcare.



19
Grant
Applications
Completed

The GMRC is a proud partner of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The mission of the ARC is to innovate, partner and invest to build capacity and strengthen economic growth in Appalachia. Through the partnership with ARC, our organization is equipped to provide assistance to our communities by packaging grant applications and identifying opportunities to further enhance communities. During FY 20, the Economic Development Department assisted with packaging grant applications for the following three organizations: The **Dahlonega Downtown Development Authority**, **Franklin County Industrial Building Authority**, and the **City of Hiawassee**.

692
Jobs Created in
Region 2

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) is another vital partner for GMRC and the Region. EDA invests in infrastructure, capacity building and business development that attract private capital investments and high quality jobs. The **Banks County Water and Sewer** project is an example of another successful grant which was packaged by the Economic Development Department. This \$1,500,000 grant will further assist the County with expanding needed infrastructure which will serve companies creating jobs in the area.

\$235
Million in Private
Investment

GMRC continues to look for innovative funding solutions for projects throughout the Region. The OneGeorgia program serves as a tool to assist with land acquisition, infrastructure development, machinery purchases, business relocation assistance and entrepreneur support. In FY 20, GMRC assisted with the following successful projects: **Banks County Hwy 59 Improvements** - \$382,869 and the **Gainesville-Hall County Development Authority Fox Factory** - \$2,500,000.

Information Services



The Information Services Department provides the geospatial services that fulfill the needs of our local governments. The GMRC works in partnership to provide accurate, consistent, high quality, affordable and complete geospatial data. While raising the awareness of using GIS as a powerful tool, GMRC educates our local governments regarding technological advancements in software, hardware, and data.

Infrastructure Mapping

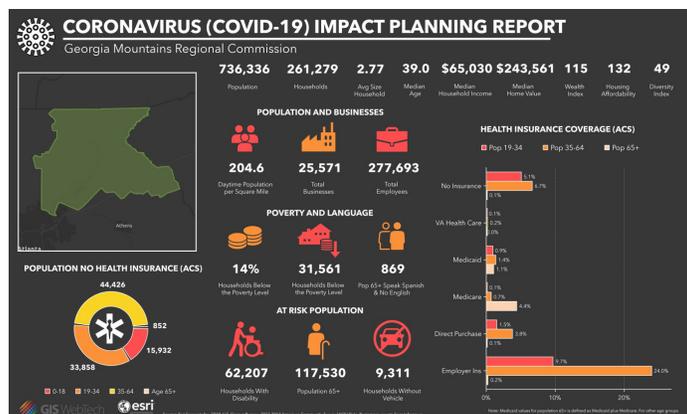
Infrastructure Mapping is an important function of the Regional Commission. The Information Services Department is assisting the **City of Cleveland** with the creation of accurate water and sewer infrastructure maps. The City's service delivery area stretches beyond the municipal boundary and provides water and sewer to not only residents but to industry as well. GMRC staff are creating GIS data layers for fire hydrants, water valves, manholes, customer water meters and all the lines that connect the systems.

MAP 21 Project

As the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions head towards Phase II of the MAP 21 project, the state is in the process of completing Phase I in each respective region. In the GMRC Region, road names, surface type, lanes, median, ownership and traffic control devices were acquired and verified for **Stephens, Franklin, Union, and Rabun** counties during FY 20. All requested features on the region's local roads have been created and or verified including traffic control devices.

GMRC COVID-19 Dashboard and StoryMap

Available to all Georgia Regional Commissions through a state-wide ESRI license agreement, online tools and dashboards were developed to provide the most up-to-date information out to our member governments regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Accessible via the GMRC website, our team provided COVID-19 related information that focused on the GMRC region.



“GMRC brings real value to our region. Our community has benefited from funding opportunities and planning efforts through the dedicated staff at the Regional Commission.”

Dean Scarborough,
Stephens County Commission

Planning

The principal role of the GMRC Planning Department is to assist communities with their long-term planning and compliance with state planning standards. To this end, the department is constantly helping our counties and municipalities in updating or amending Comprehensive Plans, Service Delivery Strategies, Urban Redevelopment Plans, or other documents used to help governments coordinate their resource and growth management policies. Until the pandemic reduced travel the Planning Department facilitated 36 different public meetings in FY 20, and produced online surveys and promotional material behind planning projects for 15 different communities.



7
Comprehensive
Plans
Completed

9
Developments
of Regional
Impact

Transportation Planning

As part of ongoing support to the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), the GMRC provides support to local governments with rural transit planning, assessment of pedestrian sidewalks and trails, and assistance to the Safe Routes to School program. GMRC staff collect data used for GDOT reporting and analysis and work with communities in identifying ways to strengthen and improve the safety of pedestrian infrastructure. During FY 20, the GMRC assisted with three Rural Transit Assessments and began working on updates to two county trail plans.



Forsyth County: Eagles Beak Park Section 106 Environmental Review

GMRC assisted Forsyth County's Park's Department with a Section 106 assessment review through the Historic Preservation Division (HPD) for Phase II development at Eagles Beak Park. This project is included in the current Forsyth County Comprehensive Plan and will serve the residents and visitors of the county as they learn more about the history and natural resources around Eagles Beak and the Etowah River. Planned improvements include walking trails, pavilions, playground equipment, native landscaping, and historical interpretive signage.

Regional Reviews

As one of Georgia's 12 regional commissions, the GMRC must conduct reviews of local plans and certain projects, ensuring compliance with State and federal regulations, identifying ways to improve intergovernmental coordination, and working to minimize negative impacts on local resources and infrastructure.

Review Type	Total
Local Comprehensive Plans	7
Developments of Regional Impact	9
Metropolitan River Protection Act	3
State Intergovernmental (A-95)	2
Natural Resource (Sec. 106)	20

Assisting Local Applications for State Designations

GMRC works with local communities pursuing special state designations that incentivize economic development or provide support for achieving actions identified within a comprehensive plan.

Recognizing that small, rural downtown areas have experienced varying levels of economic distress, DCA's "Rural Zones" program establishes up to 10 zones per year enabling businesses and investors to obtain tax credits for qualified job creation activities within designated districts. During FY 20, the GMRC helped or authored Rural Zone applications for the cities of **Hiawasse** and **Lavonia**.

GMRC also aided PlanFirst applications for three communities seeking this designation to provide bonus points toward state loan applications, additional years of eligibility for CDBG applications, and other support for implementing actions items from their local comprehensive plans. This program champions communities that demonstrate success using their plans to shape new projects such as **Cornelia's** new municipal complex.

Addressing Brownfields

To help the region advance the redevelopment of older sites suspected of some form of environmental contamination, the GMRC worked with Terracon Consulting on a federal EPA Brownfields Assessment grant application and provided an educational webinar on brownfield site mitigation. The GMRC aims to provide economic development assistance for a regional coalition so that grant recipients can inventory and assess brownfield sites, then develop site-specific cleanup plans and ongoing community strategies for reducing environmental hurdles to economic growth.

2020 Multi-County Human Resources Study

In partnership with the Finance Department, the GMRC was asked to develop a peer study of job descriptions, salary levels, and benefits packages for several counties. This effort included data submitted by the counties directly, an online survey of participating Human Resource Directors, and data from the State's annual wage and salary surveys of local governments. The study provides a basis for seeing how participating organizations compare to the prevailing market conditions, and if they risk losing talented employees due to poor paying conditions or may be overpaying and face budgetary consequences as a result. It also allowed the counties to see how their organizational structure and management of responsibilities compares with peer governments, inviting opportunities to learn how things might be improved or affirming that existing models are optimal. The results will help each County evaluate how to best serve their personnel needs in the future.

Hartwell Historic District Design Guidelines

GMRC retains a historic preservation specialist and works with the State Historic Preservation Office to support local efforts to protect, restore, and revitalize historic sites and structures. This can include resource surveys, property assessments, and guidance on restoration and reuse. The purpose of this publication is to assist the **Hartwell Historic Preservation Commission** to make rational and impartial decisions based on the special character found within the Hartwell Historic Districts. The Design Guidelines publication is also designed as a reference tool for a citizen contemplating making changes to a historic building within the district.



ADULT SERVICES

WorkSource Georgia Mountains (WSGM) serves adults and dislocated workers in the region who have been laid off, are unemployed, or underemployed. All participants train in a Growth and Demand Occupation for the Georgia Mountains Region and are working toward earning a certificate, diploma, or degree at a participating college or technical school, GED, or a professional license. WorkSource enrolled 250 new participants in occupational skills training this year. Services received include the cost of tuition, books, and supplies along with supportive services such as a gas and childcare reimbursements while attending classes and job search or follow-up support once training is completed.

All potential participants attend an Overview session before applying for WorkSource assistance. This year, 1,046 potential participants attended an Overview to learn about the benefits and eligibility requirements of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) services before filling out an application. In an effort to better meet the needs of individuals in our region, the Overview is now offered in person, through scheduled online sessions, onboard the Career Coach, or through a self-guided session available on the WSGM public office computers. Application assistance has also been added to help customers; 156 individuals took advantage of this service with 60% of them submitting applications.

Transition Programs

The goal of the Transition Welding and Transition Culinary programs is to allow participants to earn a skill with which they can make a living wage upon prison release and help lower recidivism rates. WorkSource, in partnership with the Hall County Correctional Institution, Arrendale State Prison, Whitworth Women's Facility, Goodwill of Northeast Georgia, Lanier Technical College, North Georgia Technical College, and Athens Technical College offered occupational and job skills training to 65 soon-to-be-released incarcerated individuals in FY 20.

The Workplace Fundamentals program is the result of a partnership between the Hall County Treatment Court, Lanier Technical College and WSGM. Lanier Technical College worked with area manufacturing employers to create a curriculum that would result in a work ready employee. Participants gain above entry level manufacturing skills and also valuable employability skills experience. Eight participants successfully completed the program this year.

BUSINESS SERVICES

On-the-Job Training

This year, three area businesses received reimbursements for their employees through the On-the-Job (OJT) Training Program. These three businesses received a combined amount of \$27,200 to offset new employee wages. OJT provides wage reimbursements to employers which helps compensate for the costs associated with training a new employee while also being a good fit for the job seeker who is not able to or wanting to attend school full-time but is looking for a way to 'earn while they learn'.

Incumbent Worker Training

A total of three companies benefited from the Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) Program this year. Participating employees were trained by their employer increasing the employee's knowledge level and potentially their wages. IWT provides a way for business to upscale their current workforce allowing the company to grow and meet demand while also providing the employee with the possibility for higher wages and promotion opportunities.

Internships

Five area companies participated in the paid internship program this year. Internships are a great fit for a business who wants to offer hands-on experience- while also getting assistance with special projects- to a soon to be graduating student. Student's earn work experience, wages and are exposed to the company culture helping both the student and employer determine if they would be a good fit for a permanent position. Several internship participants credited the experience they received in landing permanent positions quickly after graduation.

Registered Apprenticeships

Registered Apprenticeships normally consist of a combination of On-the-Job or Incumbent Worker training along with a classroom component. WorkSource is currently helping fund training for four Registered Apprentices at four small manufacturing businesses in the Georgia Mountains Region.

Rapid Response

Rapid Response Services are designed to respond to business and existing employee needs prior to a plant closing or company relocation. Four businesses and hundreds of dislocated workers were able to learn about services and programs in the region that may assist or interest them during this employment transition period. When possible, area employers are also included to help those who are being laid off find employment quickly.

"I was newly married when I started the dental hygiene program at Lanier Technical College. The dental program was challenging but so worth it!"

WIOA made it possible for my husband and I to manage our bills without the stress of paying tuition fees as well.

If you are thinking about applying for WIOA assistance, it's so worth it! Being able to complete school without debt is a life saver!"



Alyssa Carter, Dental Hygienist





YOUTH SERVICES

This year, Youth Services Staff hosted or participated in 70 workshops and job/career fairs across the region. This included more than 3,000 students or participants across the Georgia Mountains Region. Topics for workshops included, WorkSource Youth Services overviews, interviewing skills and resume building, time management, dressing for success, future planning, and resource fairs.

The ROUTE (Road to Opportunity Utilizing Training and Enrichment) 180 Center held its grand opening and open house on February 20, 2020. The center is designed as a training and enrichment center particularly geared toward youth and young adults ages 16-24. The center is equipped with a classroom, tutor room, library/study, training room, interview and work clothing closet, etiquette room, and a game room. The purpose of the center is to provide a “safe” place for youth participants and potential participants for growth, future/career planning, specified training, tutoring, workshops, work skills training, entrepreneurship skills development, mentoring, and peer groups.

Occupational Skills Training

Eligible applicants pursuing college or technical school may receive assistance with the cost of books, tuition, and supplies needed to complete their educational programs. Twenty participants graduated from their occupational skills training programs.

Project Search

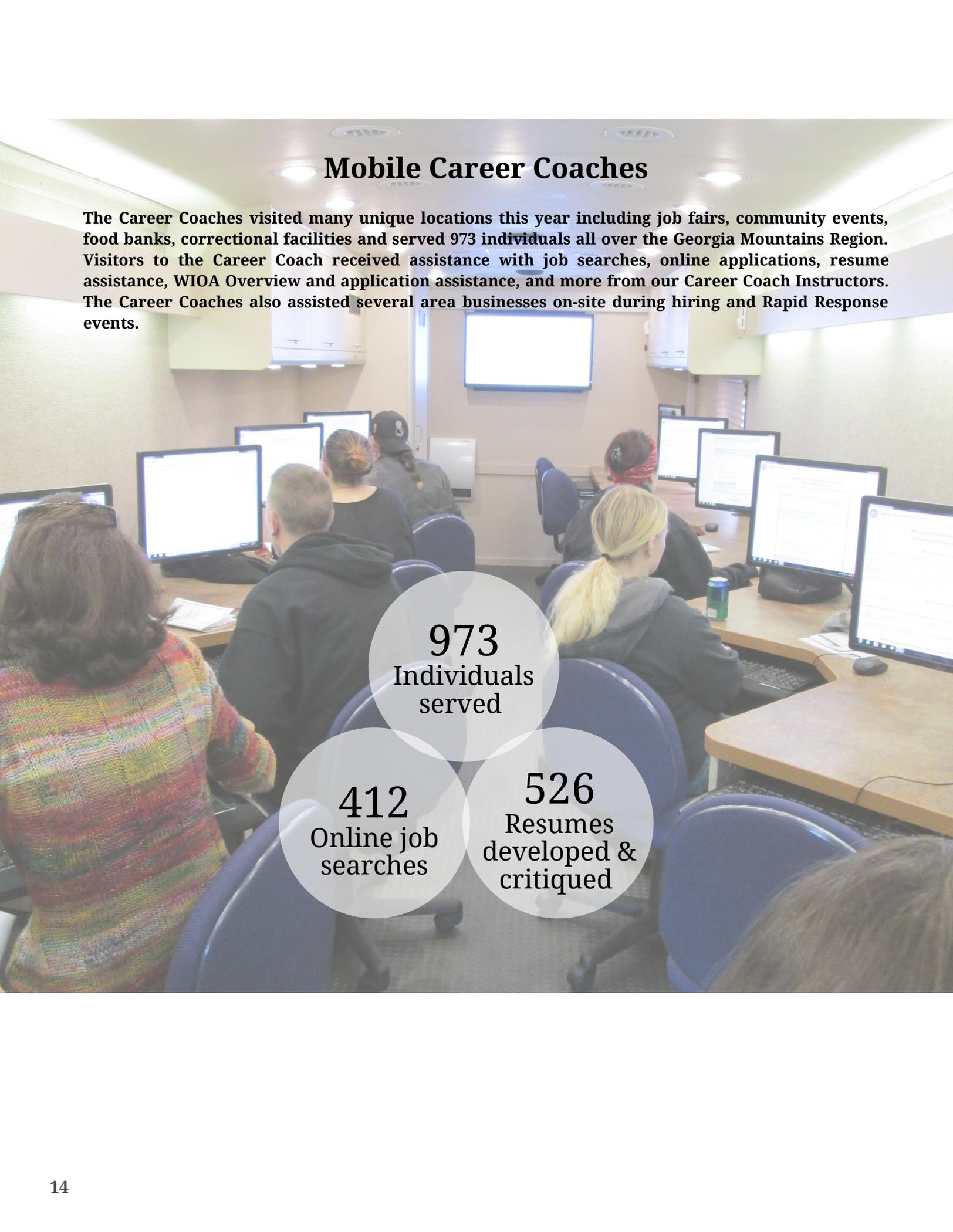
WSGM, in partnership with the Hall County School system, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, and the Northeast Georgia Medical Center, offers the Project Search program to students with disabilities. The program provides real life work experience and helps youth with disabilities transition from school to adult life. Eight students graduated from the Project Search program which is designed to assist participants with disabilities to gain employability skills through classroom and hands on training.

GED/Career Pathways

Eligible applicants ages 16-24 who have dropped out of school or eligible high school graduates may be offered assistance including obtaining a GED through funding for test fees, works skills/employment training and internships. More than 200 GED students participated in the GED/Career Pathways Program and 53 graduated with their GED.

Mobile Career Coaches

The Career Coaches visited many unique locations this year including job fairs, community events, food banks, correctional facilities and served 973 individuals all over the Georgia Mountains Region. Visitors to the Career Coach received assistance with job searches, online applications, resume assistance, WIOA Overview and application assistance, and more from our Career Coach Instructors. The Career Coaches also assisted several area businesses on-site during hiring and Rapid Response events.



973
Individuals
served

412
Online job
searches

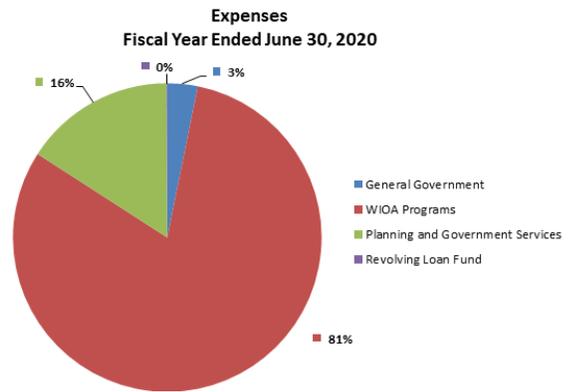
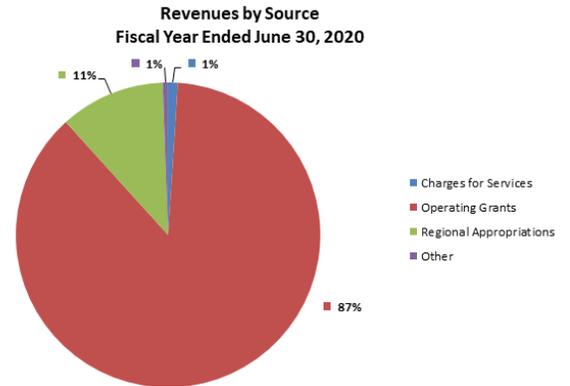
526
Resumes
developed &
critiqued

Finance and Administration

The GMRC is able to assist with all aspects of the personnel recruitment process, from defining the position, through identifying the qualities desired and ultimately finding the right person for your team. GMRC assisted **Franklin County** with advertisement and vetting for the County Clerk position. In addition, GMRC was invited to speak at the Mountain Education Charter High School in **White County**. The students had an interactive program used to train on job searches, interviewing, and employer expectations. Approximately 40 students and staff were in attendance.

The traditional Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) is available to businesses of all sizes and varieties. Borrowers are eligible for 100% or gap financing only when declined from a conventional bank. Since inception the program has loaned out a total of \$5.4 million to 56 businesses throughout the Georgia Mountains Region. Those investments have translated to just over 658 jobs being retained or created. The GMRC RLF Program currently has eight active loans totaling close to \$800,000. In FY 20, the GMRC received numerous inquiries into the RLF Program. In June, GMRC closed a loan with the ownership of Twelve South Artisan Market in downtown **Hartwell**. The market will feature a design studio, classroom, and a gallery. Paintings by Taylor Dubeau will be on display, as well as works from other local artists. Space is also available for vendors to rent individual booths.

In FY 20, GMRC applied for RLF CARES Act funding through EDA to assist businesses that have felt the impact of the pandemic. The funding will be available to all thirteen (13) counties in FY 21. We look forward to continuing the loan program and the success it has brought and will continue to bring to new and expanding businesses as well as the jobs created within the GMRC Region.



FY 20 Financial Highlights

- GMRC's total assets and deferred outflows of resources exceeded its total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources by \$3,774,806 for FY20.
- There was a \$101,127 increase in GMRC's fund balance in the General Fund.
- As of the end of FY20, GMRC's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$2,941,362, an increase of \$101,127 from the prior fiscal year. Of this amount, \$2,860,250 (unassigned fund balance) may be used to meet GMRC's ongoing obligations to the member local governments and creditors.

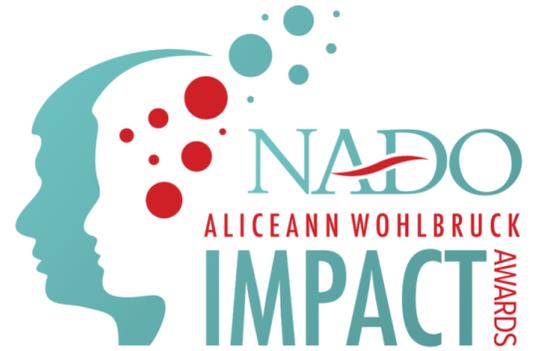


An Award Winning Team

GMRC continues to excel and gain recognition for its work in the region. This year, three projects were recognized for their impact and innovation.

The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award honors significant advances in community and economic development, including but not limited, to small business finance, energy and infrastructure projects, housing and human services, sustainable development, workforce development, and more.

GMRC has been the recipient of 15 NADO awards since 2016.



City of Dahlonega Parks and Trails Study



Updating information from previous planning efforts, the GMRC assessed current facilities and surveyed the public on how best to improve and expand Dahlonega's passive use parks and trails system in a manner that is cost effective and attainable for the City. The final recommendations establish or strengthen pedestrian connections between facilities, utilize art and informational markers to enhance the City's historic charm through a "Gold Rush Heritage" trail, creates new parks, and fosters a new trail system that would expand access along popular Yahoola Creek. These assets are accessible by biking and walking from the historic town square.

Gainesville-Hall County Development Authority Apprenticeship 101



GMRC assisted the Gainesville-Hall County Development Authority in applying for \$300,000 in Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funding to assist with a partial wage offset for participants enrolled in a program known as Apprenticeship 101. The apprentices are full-time paid employees who will also be part-time students at Lanier Technical College. These participants are intended to be at primarily basic operator level personnel without specific manufacturing skills. This project will help create apprenticeships for over 20 program participants whose quality of life will be improved through participation in the program while also benefitting the small manufacturers for whom they work.

WorkSource GA Mountains ROUTE 180 Center



The ROUTE (Road to Opportunity Utilizing Training and Enrichment) 180 Center is designed as a training and enrichment center particularly geared toward youth and young adults ages 16-24. The Center is equipped with a classroom, tutor room, library/study, training room, interview and work clothing closet, etiquette room, and a game room.

The purpose of the Center is to provide a "safe" place for youth participants and potential participants for growth, future/career planning, specified training, tutoring, workshops, work skills training, entrepreneurship skills development, mentoring, and peer groups.

Employee Commitment



Human
Capital...
our
greatest
asset

At GMRC we recognize that our greatest asset is our employees. The organization is committed to the betterment and advancement of its team. The ambition and drive of the GMRC staff is evident in the product deliverables and relationships with its stakeholders. In fact, several employees hold positions on various local, state and national boards.

Through a partnership with the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA), GMRC sponsors a company wide wellness program, featuring regular lunch and learns on various topics, wellness initiatives, and other opportunities to engage and encourage a healthy workforce.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the GMRC team has remained engaged and determined to find new opportunities to better assist the communities we serve. While navigating this pandemic, GMRC responded with virtual opportunities and other resources to assist communities.

“ During my tenure at GMRC, I have witnessed the region grow and evolve into a vibrant, community driven area. It is a pleasure working with the local government staff to assist them in achieving their goals.”

Faith Bryan, Director of Information Services

Annual Award Recipients



Liz Ordiales, Mayor
City of Hiawassee
Elected Official of the Year



Dean Scarborough
Stephens County Commission
Council Member of the Year



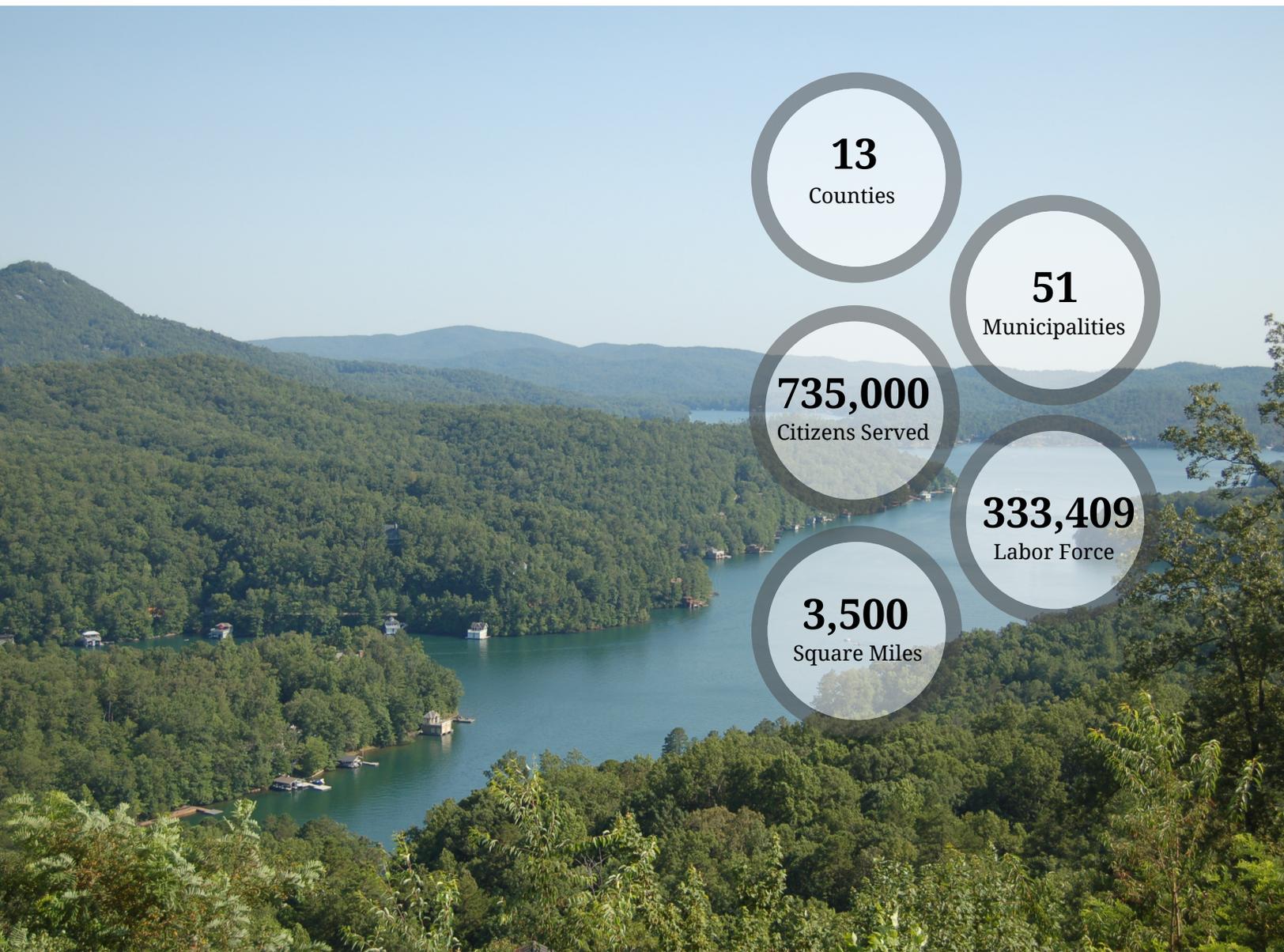
Rex Farmer
Governor Appointee
Chairman's Award



Charles Cawthon, City Manager
City of Lavonia
Appointed Official of the Year



Daniel Martin
Director of Economic Development,
GMRC
Employee of the Year



13

Counties

51

Municipalities

735,000

Citizens Served

333,409

Labor Force

3,500

Square Miles

Mission Statement

To serve the local governments of the Georgia Mountains Region by improving the quality of life through economic development, community planning, information technology, and workforce development to support and enhance the region's prosperity.

Georgia Mountains Regional Commission
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GeorgiaMountainsRC