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Georgia Mountains Regional Commission Receives Funding for Disaster Recovery Assistance

Gainesville, GA – Today, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross announced that the Department’s Economic Development Administration (EDA) is awarding \$400,000 in CARES Act Recovery Assistance grant funding to the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission (GMRC) to update economic development plans and fortify programs to assist communities in responding to the coronavirus pandemic.

“This grant funding will enable us to effectively assess and respond to the needs of our region,” said Heather Feldman, GMRC Executive Director. “As a result of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, the Georgia Mountains Region has been negatively impacted by job losses and sharp declines in tax revenues for local governments. Moreover, the decline in visitors to the Region will have a lasting profound effect on the tourism and hospitality industry. Additionally, our healthcare systems have experienced unparalleled stressors because of this crisis.”

Key components of the recovery efforts will include: (1) the development of an economic recovery and resilience plan, tied to the Georgia Mountains Region’s approved Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), to address the economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, (2) the deployment of disaster recovery coordinators to orchestrate the region’s response to the pandemic, (3) the provision of technical assistance, as necessary, to local governments, businesses, and other stakeholder organizations, and (4) the funding of appropriate technology and staff support for these pandemic-response activities.

About the Economic Development Administration:

The mission of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting competitiveness and preparing the nation's regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. An agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce, EDA makes investments in economically distressed communities in order to create jobs for U.S. workers, promote American innovation, and accelerate long-term sustainable economic growth.

About the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission:

The Georgia Mountains Regional Commission (GMRC) serves 51 local governments, which include 13 counties and 38 municipalities. The GMRC works with these entities to formulate goals and strategies for area growth and development. Upon request, the GMRC provides a variety of technical assistance that will improve community services and the quality of life for Georgia Mountains residents.

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