

In the REGION

Unison Behavioral Health Hosts Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for New Coffee County Adult Outpatient Clinic

On February 28, Unison Behavioral Health held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the Unison Coffee County Adult Outpatient Clinic in Douglas, Georgia. The new facility will house outpatient and community-based services for adults with mental illness, addictive disease, and co-occurring mental illness and addictive disease. Outpatient in-clinic services will include core services of behavioral health assessment, psychiatric evaluation, nursing assessments and services, prescription of psychotropic medication, medication education and management, assistance with obtaining low or no-cost medication, counseling, and case management.

Unison is partnering with local hospitals and primary care providers in its service area to develop an integrated rural healthcare network. The integration of Unison's Behavioral Health Services with those of other state human service agencies, acute care hospitals, and primary care



Unison CEO Tiffany Henderson cutting the ribbon at the Adult Outpatient Clinic open house.

facilities will be based on an expansion of technology and health information exchange.

The total cost to construct the new facility was \$1,305,280. The City of Douglas received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the

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The Southern Georgia Regional Commission proudly serves Atkinson, Bacon, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brantley, Brooks, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Cook, Echols, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, Pierce, Tift, Turner, and Ware Counties.

Community and Economic Development

Unison Behavioral Health Hosts Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for New Coffee County Adult Outpatient Clinic (continued)

amount of \$750,000 from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs; and the City, Unison Behavioral Health, and Coffee Regional Medical Center each contributed to cover the remaining project costs.

The architect on the project was Suttles & Associates Architects, located in Broxton, and the contractor was Harper and Company Builders, Inc., located in Douglas. The successful grant application was written and submitted by the Southern Georgia Regional Commission. SGRC Community and Economic Development staff administered the project.



Unison Behavioral Health Coffee County Adult Outpatient Clinic in Douglas

Planning & Transportation

SGRC Local Government Services Shares Required Surveys & Reports

Local governments and authorities in Georgia have a series of annual reporting requirements. In order to maintain eligible status for grant funding and to be in compliance with the performance standards established in the Regional Plan, the following information regarding financial, service delivery, and administrative practices must be submitted annually. In addition to updating local government contact information, the following is also required:

GOMI Survey (Required for all local governments)

This survey collects data on local government operations, including financial management practices, service delivery arrangements, public facilities provided, and planning efforts. This information is helpful in identifying trends in local government operations.

RLGF (Required for all local governments)

Georgia law requires local governments to submit an annual Report of Local Government Finances (RLGF) to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). These reports provide important information, used by state and local government policy makers to better understand and evaluate local government operations and service delivery strategies.

Wage and Salary Survey (Voluntary with an annual due date of June 30)

Each year the DCA administers a wage and salary survey to Georgia's local governments. The survey requests the pay range, number of full-time employees, and the number of hours worked each week for over 160 different local government jobs. Information from the survey is used to produce printable reports for use by local governments. The printable reports are available in county and municipal editions for positions in each of four groups: General and Administrative; Public Safety; Public Works; and Elected Officials

Hotel-Motel Excise Tax

Local governments imposing a Hotel-Motel Tax are required by state law (as a condition of continuing authority to impose the tax) to file a Hotel-Motel Tax Report for each fiscal period during which the tax is imposed. The Hotel-Motel Tax Report is due each year within 180 days of your government's fiscal year end date. In addition to the annual report, local governments are required to file a copy of their local Hotel-Motel Tax Ordinance. If any government has adopted a new tax or recently changed the tax rate, it should email the changes to DCA at Research@dca.ga.gov.

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Planning & Transportation

SGRC Local Government Services Required Surveys & Reports (continued)

Debt Issuance Report

State law (O.C.G.A. 36-82-10) requires municipalities, counties, and local government authorities, boards, or commissions that are empowered to enter into debt to report individual debt issuances exceeding \$1 million to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Debt Issuance Reports should be submitted to DCA within 60 days from the date of issue.

Local Government Authorities

Local Government Authorities in Georgia - including Development, Hospital, and Housing Authorities, among many others - are required

to complete annual registration and financial reporting through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, in accordance with OCGA § 36-81-8. All local authorities should complete the Annual Authority Registration and Financial Reporting (AARF) within six months of the conclusion of the authority's fiscal year.

The 2023 Schedule of Surveys & Reports is on page 5 of this publication and online at www.dca.ga.gov/node/7014. Planning staff are available at (229)-333-5277 to answer any questions regarding these required surveys and reports.

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REGIONAL PLAN UPDATE SURVEY AVAILABLE

SGRC is in the process of updating the 5-year Regional Plan for our 18-county region. We encourage anyone who lives, works, and/or plays in our region to complete the survey. The survey can be completed in 5 minutes or less and is designed to gain insight into issues facing the region.

Click the following link to access the survey:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/.../2023RegionalPlan...>

The purpose of the regional plan is to lay out a road map for the Region's future, developed through a process involving regional leaders and stakeholders. The plan includes the region's vision for the future, regional needs and opportunities, and an implementation program for addressing the identified needs.

Visit this page for more information on the Regional Plan:

<https://www.sgrc.us/regional-plan.html>

Planning & Transportation

SGRC Local Government Services Required Surveys & Reports (continued)



Office of Research 2023 Schedule of Surveys & Reports

If you need assistance or have any questions/concerns about DCA local government and authority reporting requirements, please email Research@dca.ga.gov

Local Governments

Municipal, County, and Consolidated Governments

Report/Survey	O.C.G.A. Reference	Primary DCA Contact Person*	Date Due to DCA
Local Government Contact Information Link to DCA Local Government Officials Contact Update	N/A	Research@dca.ga.gov	Annual – June 30, 2023
Government Management Indicators Survey (GOMI) Link to GOMI Survey	§ 36-81-8	(404) 679-3105 Reasearch@dca.ga.gov	June 30, 2023
Wage & Salary Survey Link to Wage & Salary Report	N/A (voluntary)	(404) 679-3105 Research@dca.ga.gov	June 30, 2023
Hotel/Motel Tax Report (FY22/FY23) <i>Only required for Local Governments imposing a Local Hotel-Motel Excise Tax</i> Link to Hotel-Motel Tax Report	§ 48-13-56	Jackson Lilly (404) 679-3105 jackson.lilly@dca.ga.gov	Within six (6) months of local government's fiscal year end
Report of Local Government Finances (FY22/FY23) Link to RLGF Documents	§ 36-81-8	Jackson Lilly (404) 679-3105 jackson.lilly@dca.ga.gov	Within six (6) months of local government's fiscal year end
Debt Issuance Report Link to Debt Issuance Documents	§ 36-82-10	(404) 679-3105 Research@dca.ga.gov	Within 60 days of debt issuance (Applies to all debt issues >\$1M)

*Officials needing a local government's CICOID & Password to access reports should email Research@dca.ga.gov

Local Authorities

Report/Survey	O.C.G.A. Reference	Primary DCA Contact Person*	Date Due to DCA
New Authority Registration <i>*Only Local Authorities registering with DCA for the first time*</i> Link to New Authority Registration	§ 36-80-16	(404) 679-3105 Research@dca.ga.gov	As-Needed – Available year-round, to be updated as Authorities are created
Annual Authority Registration and Financial Report (AARF) (FY22/FY23) Link to Annual Authority Registration and Financial Report	§ 36-81-8	(404) 679 -3105 Research@dca.ga.gov	Within six (6) months of authority's fiscal year end
Debt Issuance Report Link to Debt Issuance Documents	§ 36-82-10	(404) 679-3105 Research@dca.ga.gov	Within 60 days of debt issuance (Applies to all debt issues >\$1M)

*Authority officials needing User ID & Password to access reports should email Research@dca.ga.gov

01/26/2023

Area Agency on Aging

Connie Miss Named 2022 Family Caregiver of the Year

The Southern Georgia Regional Commission's Area Agency on Aging (SGRC-AAA) and the Southern Georgia Care-Net are pleased to announce that Connie Miss was the recipient of the Southern Georgia Care-Net 2022 Caregiver of the Year Award in the Family Caregiver Category. The annual award is given in partnership with the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers, Inc. An extraordinarily dedicated caregiver, Connie has devoted decades of her life to provide care for family members who needed her. She remains a strong advocate for her family members to ensure they receive services as needed.

For those who know Connie, her kindness and compassion seem endless. Despite the stress that inevitably comes along with being a long-term caregiver, Connie consistently maintains a joyful and optimistic outlook. She will often say, "I give God all of the glory and praise, because he has been with me every step of the way." Connie encourages others and always displays a deep and genuine commitment to provide care for those in need. She embodies all that a caregiver should be, and it is with great pleasure that this honor is bestowed upon her. Congratulations, Connie!



Connie Miss



Connie Miss, husband Tom Miss, and daughter Melissa Miss

Small Business Lending

The Small Business Administration receives \$58 Billion Budget for Programs in Fiscal Year 2024

On March 9, the President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2024 was released. The budget outlines funding for various SBA lending programs to support historic lending levels and expand access to capital and other resources for small business owners. Here are the SBA allocations in the Budget:

- Almost \$58 billion in funding for SBA programs including the 7(a) loan program, 504 loan program, Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) program, and the Micro-loan program. The authorized lending level for the SBIC program would be increased by 20% to \$6 billion.
- \$30 million is provided for the Community Navigator Pilot Program to continue its work on reducing barriers to starting a business and expanding access to business counseling and training resources.
- Another \$30 million will support the SBA's Growth Accelerator, Regional Innovation Cluster, and Federal and State Technology Partnership Program. Small business entrepreneurs can receive access to tools, networks, and services they need to commercialize their innovation and bring solutions to the market.
- \$20.5 million is going to the implementation of the Veteran Small Business Certifi-



cation program in order to expand small business contracting opportunities for veterans.

- \$10 million will help small businesses navigate climate change impacts and give small businesses the ability to access and participate in the clean energy economy.

For further information on Southern Georgia Regional Commission's Lending programs, please contact Lance Wilcher at (229) 333-5277 or via email at lwilcher@sgrc.us.



Geographic Information Services (GIS)

GIS Division Shares Information on Software Tools

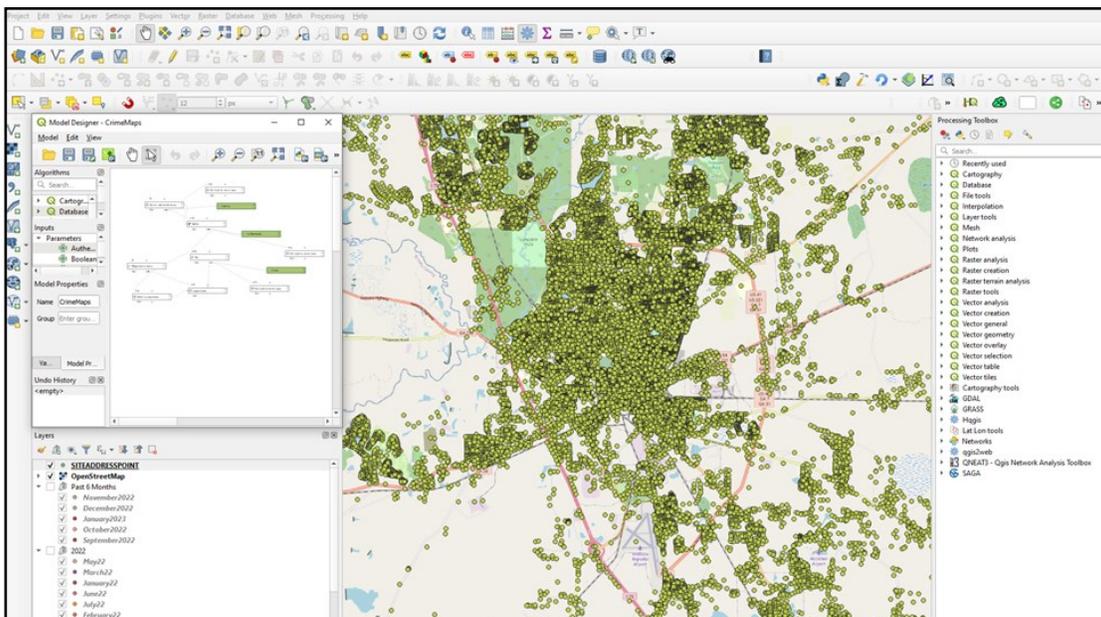
As is the case with most GIS programs, the SGRC-GIS Division primarily uses the industry standard GIS software provided by ESRI, ArcGIS. Although it works well in most cases, the SGRC-GIS Division is always looking to expand its capabilities and the services provided to clients by experimenting with new software. Over time, this approach has yielded not only new products & services, but has also increased efficiency, which saves the region money. Some software currently being evaluated include:

QGIS – an open source free software that is downloadable in multiple versions and has a large variety of abilities similar to that of ESRI. Its processing speed is fast, leading to the partial migrations for map making. Processes like crime requests maps have fully migrated to QGIS.

Global Mapper – an intuitive GIS software with a focus on coordinate conversion, lidar and photogrammetric point cloud processing, geospatial software development, and user-driven product development. GIS has used this to process lidar data and to create contour lines.

Pix4D – a downloadable remote sensing software for drones that allows the processing of aerial imagery. This software can create orthomosaics and 3D models, which then can be analyzed.

For more information on SGRC-GIS services, contact Rachel Strom at rstrom@sgrc.us.

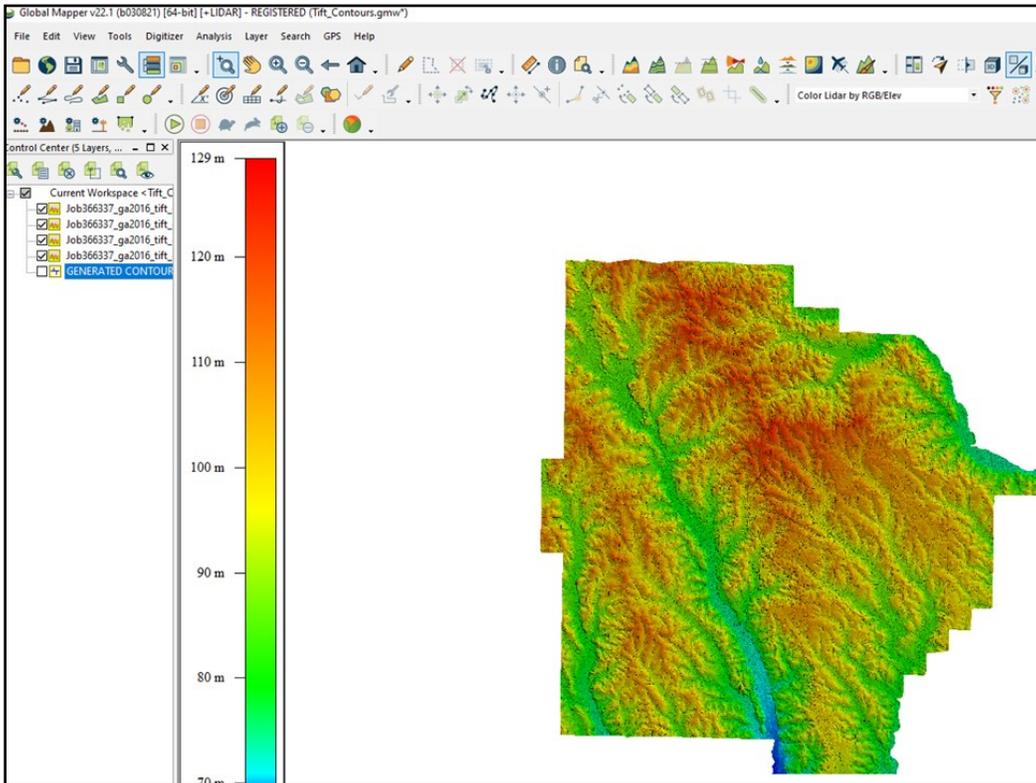


An example of regional crime map data in QGIS software

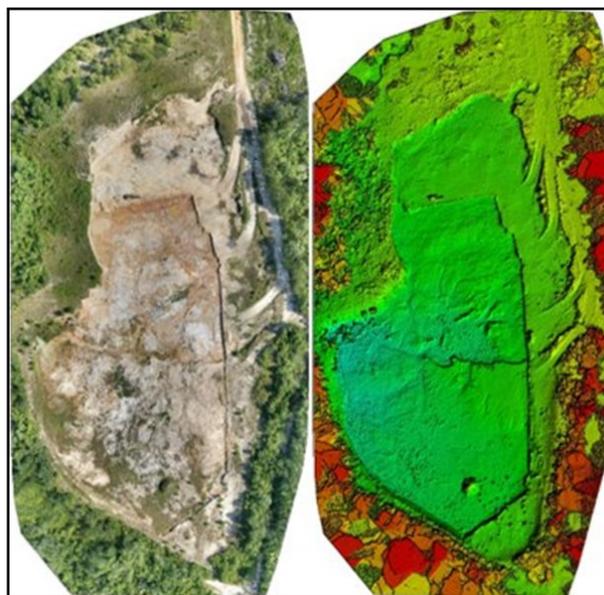
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Geographic Information Services (GIS)

GIS Division Shares Information on Software Tools (continued)



Contour lines on a map in the SGRC region in Global Mapper software



An aerial picture and the corresponding Pix4D software image

Workforce Development

WorkSource Southern Georgia and WorkSource Southwest Georgia Hold Third Annual South Georgia Healthcare Summit

On Wednesday, February 22nd, WorkSource Southern and WorkSource Southwest held the 3rd Annual South Georgia Healthcare Summit at the UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center. This event brought healthcare employers, educators in both secondary and post-secondary, and community partners together with a goal to better understand the healthcare workforce needs in South Georgia.

By creating a space for communication and collaboration, partners work to find solutions to increase the pathway and keep talent in the area. Amy Jones, Business Services/Sector Partnership Coordinator for the SGRC Workforce Development Division said, “It has been an honor to work with a fantastic group of people who not only make this event possible, but make it a success.”

To be part of Region 11’s healthcare sector collaborative, the South Georgia Healthcare Group, please contact Amy Jones, ajones@sgrc.us.



Amy Jones speaking at the 2023 South Georgia Healthcare Summit

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Workforce Development

WorkSource Southern Georgia and WorkSource Southwest Georgia Hold Third Annual South Georgia Healthcare Summit (continued)



Workforce Development Division Staff: Bonnie Howard, Savannah Bennett, Felices' King, Amy Jones, and SGRC Deputy Executive Director of Human Services Roberta Lovett



Audience during a 2023 South Georgia Healthcare Summit session

Contact the SGRC

SGRC Council 2023 Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, April 25, 2023 – 11:00 am

The Venue in Pearson

May 25, 2023 – 11:00 am

SGRC Waycross Office

June 22, 2023 – 11:00 am

The Venue in Pearson

~ July- No Meeting ~

August 24, 2023 – 11:00 am

SGRC Waycross Office

September 28, 2023 – 11:00 am

The Venue in Pearson

~ October- No Meeting ~

*Area Officials Appreciation Dinner

October 26, 2023 (subject to change)

~ November- No meeting ~

(combined with December meeting)

December 7, 2023 – 11:00 am

SGRC Valdosta Office

(subject to change)



**SOUTHERN GEORGIA
REGIONAL COMMISSION**

Valdosta Office

1937 Carlton Adams Drive
Valdosta, GA 31601

You can reach us by phone:

(229) 333-5277

You can reach us by fax:

(229) 333-5312



Waycross Office

1725 South Georgia Parkway West
Waycross, GA 31503

You can reach us by phone:

(912) 285-6097

You can reach us by fax:

(912) 285-6126

Email:

sgrc@sgrc.us

Web Address:

www.sgrc.us

Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/SouthernGeorgiaRC)

[SouthernGeorgiaRC](https://www.facebook.com/SouthernGeorgiaRC)

