

2005 Legislative Policy Statements

Funding

GARDC request that the Governor and the Georgia General Assembly restore the budgets of Regional Development Centers (Legislative line item, Contracts to RDCs) to the 2002 funding level and restore the Supplement Funds appropriated to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for RDCs to implement the Georgia State Planning Act to a funding level sufficient to fulfill state-mandated requirements.

GARDC calls upon the Georgia Congressional Delegation to oppose any EDA planning rules that no longer allow grant funds to be spent on technical assistance or grant writing as such provisions would require state and local expenditures for such assistance.

GARDC encourages the Georgia Department of Community Affairs to review the Development of Regional Impacts (DRI) procedures for consideration of fee-based implementation.

Environment

GARDC supports the development of a statewide, comprehensive water management plan that involves RDCs as the primary planning entities involved in the creation of such plans as mandated by the Georgia Planning Act of 1989.

GARDC encourages state funding for greenspace acquisition by local governments with planned regional coordination and encourages greenspace set-asides by local governments through subdivision and other local ordinances.

GARDC encourages state funding of initiatives designed to encourage the development of regional recycling efforts for Georgia's communities.

Regionalism

GARDC encourages all state departments to utilize the Regional Development Centers, as mandated by the Georgia State Planning Act, as statewide delivery vehicles and to organize activities and services in partnership with Regional Development Centers.

GARDC encourages a continued strong regional collaboration and coordination with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs' staff and Team Georgia.

GARDC encourages the Georgia Department of Transportation to designate the RDCs as Rural Planning Organizations as provided by Federal transportation law.

GARDC encourages strong regional collaboration and coordination with all state government departments including, but not limited to, the Departments of Economic

Development, Human Resources (specifically the office of Aging), Labor, Community Health (specifically the office of non-emergency transportation), Georgia Emergency Management (Homeland Defense) and Natural Resources.

2005 Association Work Plan

Funding

GARDC will work to increase funding for the RDCs in the state budget.

Legislative

GARDC will develop a 12-month outreach/education campaign for the Governor, Legislators, and state department heads. Examples include arranging meetings with appropriate legislative committee chairs and key legislators and providing newly elected legislators and new state department and agency heads with orientations on the operations of Regional Development Centers.

GARDC will annually develop a set of legislative policy statements.

GARDC will notify and establish an understanding with the Governor's Office, the Legislature, the heads of key state and federal departments and agencies, ACCG, and GMA that the Board of Directors of the GARDC, operating within its committee structure, is the official authority for requests on all matters that have a potential impact on other RDCs and that requests from individual RDCs on matters that have a potential impact on other RDCs shall be invalid.

Visibility

GARDC will develop an annual work program.

GARDC will develop a 12-month public relations/education campaign on behalf of RDCs and the GARDC. Examples include a website, a newsletter, press releases, etc.

GARDC will invite state department heads and key staff of the state departments to quarterly meetings of the Board of Directors.

GARDC will educate and encourage RDC Policy Officials to represent RDCs at meetings of GMA, ACCG, and other statewide organizations and to serve as advocates for GARDC policy positions.

GARDC will immediately Reorganize/Revitalize GARDC committees to better partner with and be more responsive to State Legislative, GMA, and ACCG committees.

GARDC encourages CVIOG to develop a training program on the powers, duties, and responsibilities of RDCs as a part of the GMA/ACCG newly elected officials programs and any other training programs for elected city and county officials.

GARDC encourages CVIOG to develop a training program on the powers, duties, and responsibilities of RDCs as part of its Biennial Institute for Legislators.

GARDC will institute a staff-training program designed to upgrade and enhance staff capabilities.

Transportation

GARDC will pursue the designation of RDCs as Rural Planning Organizations (RPO's).

Environment

GARDC will work with DNR, ACCG, and GMA to ensure that RDCs have a role in the preparation of the statewide water plan.

Emergency Management/Homeland Security

GARDC will work with GEMA to ensure that the RDCs have an active role in planning for Hazard Mitigation, Homeland Security, and other emergency management initiatives.