

# **Georgia Association of Regional Development Centers (GARDC) 2006 Policy Statement**

## **Funding**

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

GARDC calls upon the Georgia Congressional Delegation to oppose any proposed EDA planning rules that would 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 urges the Georgia Congressional Delegation to oppose the Strengthening America Communities Initiative, which drastically reduces Community Development Block Grant and Economic Development funding.

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

## **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 strongly opposes any efforts to broaden the concept of Inverse Condemnation and urges the General Assembly to reject any such proposal.

GARDC encourages 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 and Medicaid Waiver

Program), Natural Resources, and the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (Homeland Defense).

### **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 supports the continued funding of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) implementation planning to ensure full compliance with Judge Shoob's federal court order.

GARDC supports increased 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 supports state funding of initiatives designed to encourage the development of regional recycling efforts for Georgia's communities. GARDC strongly urges state appropriators to appropriate all collected program fees back to the specific program intended by its enabling legislation.

### **Human Services**

GARDC urges support for the Area Agency on Aging's request for increased funding for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. As more and more older adults live in a community setting utilizing long-term care services, it is critical to monitor the delivery of those services.

GARDC encourages the funding of an increase in the Personal Needs Allowance for nursing home Medicaid recipients. The Personal Needs Allowance is vital to help residents meet incidental needs that contribute to their quality of life. The current rate of \$30 per month, which is the minimum set by the federal government in 1988, is not adequate. Almost one-third of the states have set their Personal Needs Allowance at \$40 or more.

GARDC supports legislation to increase the penalties for criminal neglect of vulnerable adults.

August 15, 2005