



Annual Grants Activity Report

2012 Major Accomplishments

Fiscal year 2012 marked the start and/or completion of many projects. Here's a showcase of 2012 initiatives that highlight the County's ability to be innovative and look for alternative funding resources for needed programs in the community:



Community Services

To assist with the needs of an ever increasing senior population in Gwinnett County, the County's Senior Services office received another round of funds from the Federal Transit Administration's New Freedom grant in the amount of \$158,766. This award will allow for an expansion of the Human Services Transportation *Get in Gear* program. The additional funding has enabled ridership to increase from 33 to 57 riders per month. The goal of the program is to provide medical transportation vouchers to those seniors who are deemed "transportation challenged" along with reducing the waiting list, which averages 80 – 100 individuals monthly. Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services, a local nonprofit partner, donated \$98,754 to the program as well.

Fire and Emergency Services and Community Services

Fire and Emergency Services

Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services continue to keep seniors safe through their launch of the *SeniorBSafe* program. The county accepted a \$3,000 grant award from Georgia's Firefighter Burn Foundation. The program's goal is to increase senior awareness in fire and injury hazards and to generate positive behavioral change in their everyday lives. This funding is being used to provide home visits, safety instruction, and outreach programs to seniors. One success of the program is the education of 250 seniors on fire prevention and hazards.

In 2012, Fire and Emergency Services and Community Services – Senior Services engaged in a collaborative effort to provide expanded service for the County's older residents. Both organizations started the *File of Life* program with funding of \$4,000 from the Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services nonprofit organization. One goal of the program is to distribute a magnet and sticker to 200 seniors. The magnet contains critical medical and emergency information for seniors. This information is invaluable to Fire personnel when responding to an emergency at the senior's home. The sticker is placed on an individual's entrance door and alerts the responders to the informational magnet that can be found on the person's refrigerator. So far the program has reached 100 seniors. An additional goal of the partnership is for Senior Services to provide volunteers to assist Fire and Emergency Services with outreach programs.



Sheriff

As the world continues to change, there is a greater need for law enforcement personnel to provide a quicker response and to report and process information in real time. Through a Department of Justice grant of \$112,940, the Sheriff's Sex Offender Registry Unit upgraded its mobile technological capability. The purchase of the new devices allowed the unit's deputies to update the status of an offender on the spot rather than waiting until they returned to their office. This ability enables the unit to spend less time in the office and more time in the field. The mobile device also allows the deputies to update the sex offender registry immediately with the offender's latest photo due to a change in their appearance. This technology is also used to find newly created addresses when their GPS unit is unable to recognize the location.

Support Services – Energy Efficiency

Support Services was awarded a \$3.1 million grant for energy efficiency retrofits from the U.S. Department of Energy, including lighting system upgrades, heating ventilation air conditioning (HVAC) upgrades, energy management system upgrades, and overall building environment upgrades. As a result of the Energy Efficiency Retrofit project, the County was able to modify approximately 40 County buildings such as the general administration offices, fire stations, libraries, detention facilities and parks, which resulted in improvements in temperature and humidity control and increased lighting levels. The energy retrofits' technological improvements also resulted in reductions in energy consumption for these locations. The retrofits are projected to save the county an estimated \$300,000 to \$400,000 per year in energy costs.

District Attorney

Census data revealed that 21 percent of the County's population has been identified as Hispanic or Latino. Now that a significant portion of the Gwinnett County population is primarily Spanish speaking, it has created a communication barrier between staff and individuals who may have fallen victim to crimes. The District Attorney's Office received funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) through the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council of approximately \$100,000. A portion of those funds have allowed the District Attorney's Office to have a Spanish-speaking interpreter on staff. The interpreter has played a critical role in helping Spanish-speaking crime victims understand the U.S. judicial process, which can be very different than what exists in their homeland. The interpreter provides the bridge to the language barrier that can exist within the County's judicial process.

Water Resources – Fats, Oil, and Grease Receiving Station

Implementation of new technology has allowed the County to extend its green energy initiatives. The Department of Water Resources completed the construction of its Fats, Oil, and Grease (FOG) High-Strength Waste Receiving Station at the F. Wayne Hill Water Resources Center with the assistance of a \$3.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. The center's main function is to create renewable energy. This process is accomplished by converting grease trap waste such as fats, oil, and other high strength waste that is collected from commercial businesses into biogas. In turn, this biogas is used to assist in the operation of a 2.1 megawatt generator at the center. This project is expected to eliminate approximately 50,000 gallons of FOG and other high strength waste produced a day that would normally be disposed into landfills or sewer systems, and reduce energy costs as much as 40 percent. Over the long term, staff hopes to increase biogas production for conversion to electricity.



State Route 20 Intelligent Transportation Systems

A grant of more than \$346,000 was awarded through the Georgia Department of Transportation by the Federal Highway Administration to help shorten travel time and improve safety for Gwinnett County commuters. This project expands the County's Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) with the installation of six closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras and a fiber optic communications cable along State Route 20 between Satellite Boulevard to Peachtree Industrial Boulevard. The installed technology now allows traffic engineers at the Gwinnett County Traffic Control Center to monitor the flow of approximately 63,000 vehicles that travel portions of this 2.6 mile corridor each day. When traffic volume builds the County's transportation staff now has the ability to adjust the amount of time it takes for the traffic signals to change at eight of the intersections along the highly traveled road. Additionally, the installation of cameras allow County staff to view potential traffic problems such as accidents or stalled cars, this information is then relayed to the appropriate police traffic response unit so that they can provide assistance.



Transit Program

Gwinnett County Transit offers a safe, clean, and cost-effective transportation alternative for more than 2 million passengers going to work, school, medical, social, and other activities. Funding from the Federal Transit Administration, Georgia Department of Transportation, and Georgia Regional Transportation Authority in the amount of \$12 million has allowed Gwinnett County Transit to keep fares reasonable for riders during the 2012 fiscal year. These funds help cover about one-third of the costs associated with operating the Gwinnett County transit system; the remaining costs are shared between the riders as fees and local funds. Current operations include five local bus routes, seven express commuter routes that originate from various County locations to downtown Atlanta, and complementary Americans with Disabilities Para-transit service to assist those with special needs.

Neighborhood Stabilization Program

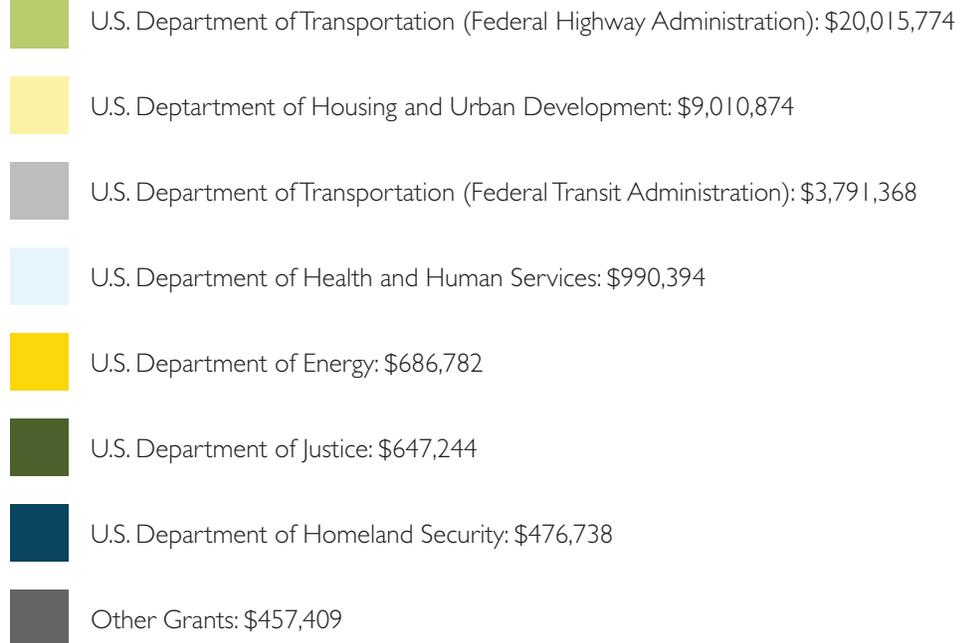
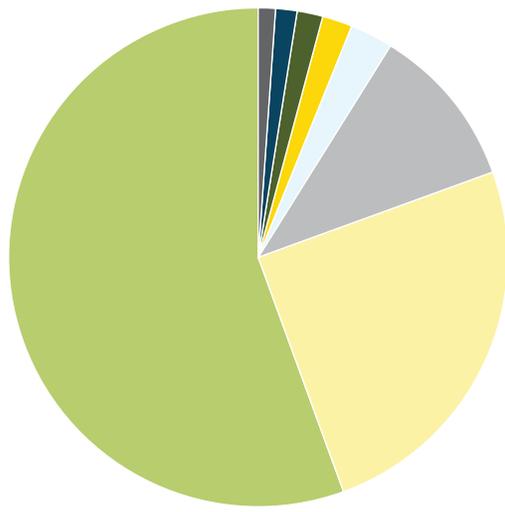
The foreclosure problem continues to plague communities across the nation. The Neighborhood Stabilization Program staff resumed their efforts to concentrate on areas where housing costs and conditions were deteriorating due to the presence of foreclosed and abandoned homes. The County expended over \$2 million dollars in grant and program income in 2012, the funds were used to purchase 32 foreclosed residential properties in the Buford, Lawrenceville, and Snellville areas. Procured vendors were tasked with renovating the damaged properties to ensure a successful resale to qualified home buyers. In addition to acquiring properties, the County successfully sold 40 homes within the existing inventory; this effort encouraged the stabilization of property values in targeted areas.



Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)

In 2009 four local nonprofit organizations, Partnership Against Domestic Violence, the Salvation Army, Norcross Co-Op Ministries, and Mary Hall Freedom House, stepped up to a challenge to deliver homelessness solutions on behalf of the County through funding obtained from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. At a time when economic hardship existed for varying demographics, the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) allowed eligible organizations to provide citizens with temporary and permanent housing relief. The designated agencies were tasked with identifying housing barriers for participants, followed by coordinated comprehensive case management to ensure families secured stabilized lodging. During the initial implementation phase of the program, Gwinnett had projected to serve 81 households. However, upon completion of the program in 2012, the County's nonprofits served an estimated 618 individuals and 204 households around the community with short-term and long-term housing solutions.

2012 Grant Expenditures by Funding Agency



Total Award Amount by Funding Agency for 2012

Funding Agency	Recipient Department	Amount
Atlanta Regional Commission	Community Services	\$ 3,054
Georgia Department of Human Services	Financial Services	45,000
U.S. Department of Justice	Sheriff/Corrections	101,242
	District Attorney	45,703
	Police Services	166,954
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	Courts	744,417
	Community Services	1,084,380
U.S. Department of Homeland Security	Water Resources	2,125,457
	Fire and Emergency Services	20,000
	Police Services	406,766
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Financial Services	5,923,604
U.S. Department of Transportation (Federal Highway Administration)	Courts	29,800
	Transportation	1,098,031
U.S. Department of Transportation (Federal Transit Administration)	Community Services	158,766
	Transportation	9,600,000
Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council	Courts	293,736
Total Grants Received		\$ 21,846,910