# MIDDLE GEORGIA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

## 2009 Annual Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Cities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BALDWIN COUNTY</td>
<td>City of Milledgeville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIBB COUNTY</td>
<td>City of Macon, Town of Payne City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRAWFORD COUNTY</td>
<td>City of Roberta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEACH COUNTY</td>
<td>City of Byron, City of Fort Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PULASKI COUNTY</td>
<td>City of Hawkinsville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUTNAM COUNTY</td>
<td>City of Eatonton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOUSTON COUNTY</td>
<td>City of Centerville, City of Perry, City of Warner Robins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JONES COUNTY</td>
<td>City of Gray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONROE COUNTY</td>
<td>City of Culloden, City of Forsyth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWIGGS COUNTY</td>
<td>Town of Danville, City of Jeffersonville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WILKINSON COUNTY</td>
<td>Town of Allentown, City of Gordon, City of Irwinton, Town of Ivey, City of McIntyre, City of Toomsboro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Message from the Chairman</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Directors</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Region</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Directory</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2009 Budget Information</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Development</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition to Regional Commission</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area Agency on Aging</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Development</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Technology</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Administration</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting Sponsors</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards and Achievements</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I am pleased to present the FY 2009 Annual Report for the Middle Georgia Regional Development Center. This past year, the RDC provided member governments a wide range of assistance in the areas of aging services, economic development, information technology, planning, and public administration.

While this report could not possibly detail all of the ways that the Middle Georgia RDC provided services to our member governments, it does provide an excellent overview of the service areas and highlights significant contributions across the region. I think when you review the Annual Report, you will agree that FY 2009 was filled with great challenges and great successes, and that every member government and community benefited from the RDC programs and received outstanding value from their investment and association with the Middle Georgia Regional Development Center. Specifically, I call your attention to the following accomplishments:

• Through the Area Agency on Aging, received national award recognition for Assessment and Referral Services.
• Secured funding for vital infrastructure improvements to the City of Roberta wastewater treatment facility to support economic development.
• Completed the Participant Statistical Area Program (PSAP) for all local governments in preparation for the 2010 Decennial Census.
• Developed the Regionally Important Resources Plan, which inventories the historic, recreation, and cultural assets of Middle Georgia.
• Received our 12th Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations.
• Through the Georgia Small Business Lender, assisted seven businesses with loans to either start or expand business operations in Georgia.
• Operated in a fiscally responsible manner with a net increase in assets and the reserve fund balance and met all our contractual obligations.

During 2009, the Board of Directors was clearly focused on the future with the implementation of HB 1216. This Bill called for the creation of Regional Commissions to replace Regional Development Centers beginning July 1, 2009. Staff worked diligently to assist the Board of Directors with the transition and to develop our new logo, website, and brand. The Board of Directors completed its work at the June meeting with the adoption of all of the organizational documents for the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.

I look forward to the years ahead and to working together for even greater success.

Sincerely,

Tom McMichael, Chairman
The RDC Board of Directors is responsible for establishing policy and direction of the organization and the component units in accordance with state and federal laws.

**BALDWIN COUNTY**
Commissioner Linda Fussell
Councilman Richard Mullins Jr.
Councilwoman Denese Shinhoister
Mr. William Millians (Bill)*
Ms. Angie Gheesling

**BIBB COUNTY**
Chairman Samuel F. Hart Sr.
Mayor Robert Reichert
Councilman Lonnie Miley*
Mr. Chuck O’Neal
Mr. John Matthew Rogers (Matt)

**CRAWFORD COUNTY**
Chairman Eddie Still
Mayor Becky Smith
Commissioner Benjamin F. Hollis
Mr. Charles Westberry*
Mr. Robert F. Ray

**HOUSTON COUNTY**
Commissioner Tom McMichael*
Mayor Jim Worrall
Councilman Clifford Holmes Jr.*
Mr. Grady Clemonts
Mr. George E. Slappey

**JONES COUNTY**
Chairman Preston Hawkins*
Mayor Jason Briley
Commissioner David C. Gault
Mr. Jimmy Roberts
Mr. Frank Duke

**MONROE COUNTY**
Chairman James Vaughn
Mayor Tye Howard*
Councilman James E. Calloway
Mr. Eric Wilson
Dr. Richard (Dick) Bazemore

**PEACH COUNTY**
Chairman Martin H. Moseley Jr.*
Mayor John Stumbo
Councilman James Richardson
Mr. L. J. Lomax (Stan)*
Mr. Charles Sims

**PULASKI COUNTY**
Sole Commissioner C. Brooks Bailey *
Commissioner Henry E. Cravey III
Commissioner James Colson
Mr. M. A. Hall III (Butch)
Mr. Lee Slade

**PUTNAM COUNTY**
Commissioner Billy Webster
Mayor John Reid *
Councilman James A. Gorley
Mr. Roscoe Cross *
Mr. Melvin Sanders

**TWIGGS COUNTY**
Chairman Ray L. Bennett
Mayor David Rickerson
Mayor Sonja Mallory
Ms. Joyce Mitchum*
Ms. Judith Sherling

**WILKINSON COUNTY**
Chairman Dennis Holder
Mayor Cloyce Pittman
Commissioner Alfred Gibson*
Mr. Larry Reese
Mr. Andrew Ikner

**BOARD OFFICERS**
Commissioner Tom McMichael
Board Chairman

Mayor John Reid
Board Vice Chairman

Mr. L.J. Lomax
Board Secretary

*Executive Committee Member
STAFF DIRECTORY

ADMINISTRATION / CLERICAL

Ralph Nix  
Executive Director  
rnix@mg-rc.org

Chrissy Fuller  
cfuller@mg-rc.org

Sandi Glore  
sglore@mg-rc.org

Katherine Johnson  
kjohnson@mg-rc.org

Carol Payton  
cpayton@mg-rc.org

Brenda Webb  
bwebb@mg-rc.org

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Geri R. Ward  
Area Agency on Aging Director  
gward@mg-rc.org

Natalie Brown  
nbrown@mg-rc.org

Sandra Carson  
scarson@mg-rc.org

Sharon Dawson  
sdawson@mg-rc.org

Oretha Dudley  
odudley@mg-rc.org

Nicole Gaither  
ngaither@mg-rc.org

Julie Hall  
jhall@mg-rc.org

Benae Hogan  
bhogan@mg-rc.org

Selentria Kendrick  
skendrick@mg-rc.org

Brenda Kirkland  
bkirkland@mg-rc.org

Julia McCutchen  
jmccutchen@mg-rc.org

Sheila Milikin  
smilikin@mg-rc.org

Butch Swinney  
bswinney@mg-rc.org

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Brent Lanford  
Director of Information Technology  
blanford@mg-rc.org

Pam Brint  
pbrint@mg-rc.org

Laura Ermine  
ermine@mg-rc.org

Larry Jones  
ljones@mg-rc.org

Amy Saxton  
asaxton@mg-rc.org

LOAN PROGRAMS

Clayton Black  
Director of Program Development  
cblack@mg-rc.org

PLANNING

Bob Rychel  
Manager of Planning Programs  
rrychel@mg-rc.org

Phil Clark  
pclark@mg-rc.org

Kristi Harpst  
kharpst@mg-rc.org

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Laura Mathis  
Director of Public Administration  
lmathis@mg-rc.org

Nick Kouloungis  
nkouloungis@mg-rc.org

Chan Layson  
clayson@mg-rc.org

Mallary Scheer  
mscheer@mg-rc.org
The RDC is funded by federal, state, and local government sources. Local dues support technical assistance to member governments and provide matching resources to assist the RDC in obtaining and matching available federal and state grants and contracts.

During FY 2009, the operating budget for the RDC was $2,707,742. The funding sources ratio for the operating budget was as follows: Local sources, 32 percent; state sources, 27 percent; and federal sources, 41 percent. The total budget for FY 2009 was $9,991,477 of which 73 percent was pass-through funds to support the initiatives of the DHR Aging and Community Care Services Program, DHR Coordinated Transportation program, the Middle GA Economic Partnership, Clean Air/Clean Cities Coalition, and Warner Robins MRO.

The RDC is pleased to report that all financial and program obligations were met for the Year Ended June 30, 2009, and an increase in net assets was realized. The FY 2009 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) will be presented to each member government and the appropriate funding agencies at the November 2009 Regional Council Meeting.

The RDC encourages professional development, keeping current on best practices, emerging trends, and innovations as well as participation in a variety of training programs and opportunities. In addition to the Georgia Association of Regional Development Centers, staff members belong to appropriate discipline-specific professional organizations such as:

- Alliance of Information and Referral Systems (AIRS)
- American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)
- Georgia Academy for Economic Development (GAED)
- Georgia Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (GA URISA)
- Georgia Geographic Information Systems Coordinating Committee (GiSCC)
- Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)
- National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)
- National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP)
On August 10, 1965, five Middle Georgia counties joined together and voluntarily formed the Middle Georgia Area Planning Commission. Two additional counties joined in September of the same year for a total of seven counties - Bibb, Crawford, Houston, Jones, Monroe, Peach, and Twiggs. The stated objective of the Middle Georgia Area Planning Commission was to work toward the total development of the human, economic, and natural resources of the Middle Georgia area. By joining together, the seven counties created an advisory organization to provide member governments with technical services from professional staff in a variety of disciplines important to local government.

In 1973, the Middle Georgia Area Planning Commission transitioned to the Middle Georgia Area Planning and Development Commission to reflect the added activity of economic development. Organizational by-laws underwent substantial changes to alter the membership of the Board, requiring for the first time that two-thirds of the Board membership be elected officials. Additional staff was also added to the organization, primarily in the fields of planning and program development and human resources (which would later become the Area Agency on Aging). In 1983, the Development Authority of Middle Georgia was created as the lending arm of the organization and has since become known as the Georgia Small Business Lender. The purpose of the Middle Georgia Area Planning and Development Commission and the services offered became even more encompassing to meet the needs of the member governments, which has always been a core goal of the organization.

In 1989, the Middle Georgia Area Planning and Development Commission became the Middle Georgia Regional Development Center through the Georgia State Planning Act of 1989. The RDC was tasked with developing, promoting, and assisting in the establishment of coordinated and comprehensive planning in the State, and with assisting local governments in preparing and implementing comprehensive plans to develop and promote essential public interests. In order to meet the changing demands and requirements of its member governments, the RDC continued to expand its professional staff and technical expertise. For the first time since it was established, the boundary of the organization was modified in 1993 to include Baldwin, Jasper, Putnam, and Wilkinson Counties. It was not until 1997 that the current service area was established, when Pulaski County was added and Jasper County was reassigned to the Northeast Georgia RDC.
Once again, the time has come for the organization that began as the Middle Georgia Area Planning Commission to transition. On July 1, 2009, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission was established.

The 2009 transition to a Regional Commission was the result of the Commission for a New Georgia Service Delivery Task Force and subsequent legislation called House Bill 1216 (HB 1216). HB 1216 consolidated the number of regional development centers from 16 to 12, changed the name of the organization, and modified the governing body to include appointments from the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House. For the first time in our 44-year history, HB 1216 authorizes Regional Commissions to provide direct services to local governments, expanding the variety of services that could be offered to member governments at a reduced operating cost.

Although the Middle Georgia Regional Development Center now has a new name, additional council members, new logo, and new website (www.middlegeorgiarc.org), its mission, goals, and objectives remain unchanged. As this chapter of this organization’s long history comes to a close and a new chapter begins, it is a time to look back and celebrate the former organization while we dedicate ourselves to the tasks before us and look forward to the bright future of each community and the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.
Almost 80,000 people age 60 or older call Middle Georgia home. The majority of these older adults live full, independent lives. For some people, however, aging brings physical and mental health conditions that pose significant challenges to independence. As the “Gateway to Community Resources,” the Area Agency on Aging, a division of the Middle Georgia Regional Development Center, is responsible for planning, developing, and delivering comprehensive services for adults over the age of 60. During FY 2009:

- 23,126 calls were received through the Gateway, the AAA’s single point of entry to aging and disability resources.
- 5,373 requests for information were received from Gateway callers.
- 3,876 individuals were screened or rescreened for aging services.

**Home and Community-Based Services**
Non-Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services, funded through a combination of state and federal grants, includes a wide range of services to help older Georgians continue to live independently in their homes and communities. In addition to congregate and home-delivered meals, services include personal care assistance, light housekeeping, meal preparation, and respite care for family caregivers. During FY 2009:

- 61,723 congregate meals were served to 450 clients who experienced the socialization available in the region’s senior centers.
- 210,347 meals were delivered to 1,225 frail, homebound clients unable to prepare hot, nutritious meals.
- Homemaker, personal care, and respite services were provided to another 191 residents resulting in 22,226 hours of service from service providers.
- 35 individuals received case management services.
- 14 homes of eligible older adults were repaired by Rebuilding Macon.
- $2,714,759 in benefits were provided.

**Relatives as Parents**
With funding from the Brookdale Foundation and collaborations with a number of local organizations, the Relatives as Parents Program in Peach County enjoyed tremendous success with more than 20 relative caregivers and 25 children participating. The Relatives as Parents Program supports individuals and couples suddenly faced with parenting demands as they are preparing for retirement or perhaps may have retired.
Community Care Services Program
A Medicaid-funded program, CCSP supports personal choice and responsibility and promotes consumer independence. It is a proven, cost-effective, community-based alternative to nursing home placement. The Medicaid expenditure to support a consumer in CCSP averages just 32 percent of the Medicaid cost to maintain a person in a long-term care facility. During FY 2009, 645 people at risk of nursing home placement received in-home services valued at $8,739,342.

GeorgiaCares
GeorgiaCares is Georgia’s State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) that provides free, unbiased, and factual information and assistance services to Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries and their caregivers. Counselors also assist in filing Medicare appeals, prescription assistance applications, and Medicare fraud reports. During FY 2009, 1,024 individuals received counseling from the GeorgiaCares Program, with an estimated consumer savings of $807,377.

Senior Community Service Employment Program
The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) is a work training program for economically disadvantaged individuals age 55 or older. Temporary training assignments with nonprofit or government agencies provide older workers valuable employment experience at minimum wage, with the goal of permanent job placement at the end of the training period. During FY 2009, 40 individuals were provided temporary, paid work experience through this valuable program.

Elder Rights
For the second year, the AAA has been the lead agency in organizing an Elder Rights Forum where professionals are trained to recognize and report physical, sexual, emotional, or financial abuse of the elderly; insurance fraud; and consumer scams. In addition, AAA staff provided training on elder abuse prevention and reporting at the National Crime Victims Week Conference, targeting law enforcement officials.

From a client: “Thank you, Mrs. Ward, and your team for stepping up to the plate everyday and helping families like mine who are in need of earth angels…”
Wellness / Nutrition Programs
The Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP), sponsored by the Georgia Division of Aging Services and the AAA, provided fresh fruits and vegetables to 762 older adults. Funded by the United States Department of Agriculture, SFMNP is designed to offer nutritious summertime produce to improve the health of older adults while economically supporting Georgia’s agricultural community.

For the 11th year, the RDC/AAA along with the Macon Parks and Recreation Department and the Middle Georgia Community Action Agency hosted Senior Day in the Park. “Living Well for a Better Tomorrow,” was the theme of the 2009 event, with more than 800 older adults enjoying entertainment, games, and food, as well as information on programs and services offered by 30 vendors. This annual event is underwritten through corporate sponsorships.

The Area Agency on Aging also partnered with the Medicare Diabetes Screening Project and the City of Macon to promote awareness of the screening benefits for pre-diabetes.

Service Providers
The Middle Georgia Regional Development Center through the Area Agency on Aging has formed many partnerships to provide services and benefits to seniors and disabled persons throughout the region. Below is a list of service providers for FY 2009:

• Georgia Legal Services Program
• Houston County Council on Aging
• McIntosh Trail Management Services
• Meals on Wheels of Macon and Bibb County
• Middle Georgia Community Action Agency
• Pulaski County Council on Aging
• Putnam County Board of Commissioners
• Overview Community Action Agency
• Rebuilding Macon
• ResCare Home Care, Inc.
• We Touch Visiting Caregivers, Inc.
• Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners
The Middle Georgia Regional Development Center, designated an Economic Development District by the U.S. Department of Commerce, provides an array of economic development services to its member governments. Activities include economic impact modeling, industrial recruitment support, strategic economic planning, research, special projects, and financing.

**Economic Impact Modeling**
The RDC assists member governments and local economic development agencies with estimating the impact of locating a company in a given community. The impact models used by the RDC are the Local Economic Impact Analysis (LOCI) developed by the Georgia Institute of Technology and the RDC Tax Revenue Impact Model developed by the Middle Georgia RDC. The LOCI model, which meets the requirements of most State grant programs, is an extensive tool that requires detailed information from the prospective firm. The RDC model is normally used to provide an estimate on tax revenues generated by a potential industry and can be completed with some basic information about the prospect. During FY 2009, the RDC prepared six tax revenue impact models.

**Industrial Recruitment Support**
The staff of the RDC assists member governments and economic development partners with industrial recruitment. The services offered include providing demographic information requested by prospects; meeting with prospects; mapping of available properties and buildings; negotiating and structuring deals; assisting with the industrial site certification process; serving as a liaison between federal, state, and local economic development resources; and assisting with site selection and development.
Strategic Economic Planning

During FY 2009, the Middle Georgia RDC assisted member governments and economic development partners in updating the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS plan outlines the short and long-term goals and objectives for economic growth throughout the region. In addition, the Middle Georgia RDC worked with the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority to develop a Five-Year Strategic Action Plan for land acquisition and funding to support the recruitment of new industry and the expansion of existing industry in Bibb County.

Special Economic Development Projects

An example of an ongoing project is the assistance the RDC provides to the 21st Century Partnership. The 21st Century Partnership’s mission is to support Robins Air Force Base (RAFB). The Base is the largest economic generator in the region, and the Partnership works to provide an environment that will promote its continued existence and expansion. During FY 2009, the Middle Georgia RDC worked with Houston County and Bibb County officials in partnership with Robins Air Force Base on land use compatibility solutions for properties in the vicinity of Robins Air Force Base. In addition, Middle Georgia RDC worked with the City of Warner Robins on the Georgia Robins Aerospace Maintenance Partnership to develop a funding and implementation strategy.

Economic Development Financing

Another service provided by the Middle Georgia RDC is financing for economic development through various federal and state development programs, including but not limited to OneGeorgia, Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development.

During FY 2009, RDC staff secured $9,284,162 in funding from OneGeorgia, Georgia Department of Community Affairs, and the Economic Development Administration for Sofkee Industrial Park in Bibb County, I-75 Business Park in Bibb County, and City of Roberta Waste Water Treatment Facility. These projects represent private investment of $265 million and the creation of 600 jobs over the next 24 months.
Loan Programs
The small business loan programs operated by the RDC and its affiliate, the Georgia Small Business Lender (GSBL), are another important tool to help promote economic growth in the region. The GSBL, created by the RDC in 1982, is a private nonprofit corporation and serves as the lending arm of the agency. Designated as a Certified Development Corporation, GSBL is licensed to make SBA loans to businesses throughout Georgia. There are four loan programs each with different regulatory requirements, but with the same goals of job creation and private investment. In addition to the four programs, GSBL also acts as the servicing agent for the Crawford County Employment Incentive Program (EIP) Revolving Loan Fund. More information about the loan programs is available at www.gsbl.org.

Although the economic conditions of FY 2009 have been challenging, through the four loan programs Georgia Small Business Lender made seven loans totaling $1,624,000. These loans were paired with private investment of $4,254,400, and 42 jobs were created or saved due to the investment. Since 1982, Georgia Small Business Lender has made 196 loans totaling nearly $50 million. These loans were then matched with private investment of $157 million and more than 2,000 jobs were either created or saved.

Georgia Rural Healthcare Revolving Loan Fund
In 2003, with the assistance of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and participation with the Department of Community Health's Office of Rural Health Services (ORHS) and the Georgia Rural Enrichment and Access Program (REAP) at Mercer University School of Medicine, the GSBL established the Georgia Rural Healthcare Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). This Fund lends money to healthcare providers in order to sustain and increase access to healthcare as well as improve the quality of healthcare in rural and underserved areas of Georgia. Designed primarily for land, building, and equipment, under certain circumstances, the Healthcare RLF can finance working capital. Healthcare RLF can provide up to 40 percent of the project cost with the interest rate and terms set by the GSBL Loan Review Committee. The balance of the project costs are provided by a private sector lender and the business.
EDA Revolving Loan Fund
In 1992 the Economic Development Administration assisted the Middle Georgia RDC in developing the EDA Revolving Loan Fund (EDA RLF) for businesses in all 11 counties of the Middle Georgia region. Designed primarily for land, building, and equipment, under certain circumstances, the EDA RLF will consider working capital loans. EDA RLF can provide up to 33 percent of the project cost with the interest rate and terms set by the GSBL Loan Review Committee. The balance of the project costs are provided by a private sector lender and the business.

SBA 504
The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) 504 Loan is the oldest and largest GSBL loan program. Under this program, developed to provide small businesses with financing for land, building, and equipment, SBA can provide up to 40 percent of the project cost at a fixed interest rate and a term of ten or twenty years. The balance of the project costs are provided by a private sector lender and the business.

USDA Rural Development Revolving Loan Fund
In 1992, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development assisted the Middle Georgia RDC in developing the Rural Development Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). Businesses in the following counties and areas are eligible for assistance: Baldwin, Crawford, Jones, Monroe, Peach, Pulaski, and Twiggs, and the areas of Bibb and Houston outside the city limits of Macon and Warner Robins. Designed primarily for land, building, and equipment, under certain circumstances, the USDA RLF can finance working capital. USDA RLF can provide up to 40 percent of the project cost with the interest rate and terms set by the GSBL Loan Review Committee. The balance of the project costs are provided by a private sector lender and the business.
The Middle Georgia Regional Development Center provides Information Technology (IT) services to its member governments in the areas of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping analysis, data analysis, Global Positioning Systems (GPS) data collection, multi-media development, graphical design, printing, and general technical support. The local governments of Middle Georgia made extensive use of the RDC IT services throughout FY 2009. The following provides an overview of project initiatives provided to member governments over the last year.

**U.S. Census Bureau 2010 Decennial Census**

Middle Georgia RDC worked in conjunction with member governments over the past two years in completing the 2010 Decennial Census programs in order to achieve the most accurate Census count for Middle Georgia. The 2010 Census data will directly affect how more than $3 trillion are allocated to local, state, and tribal governments over the next ten years.

During FY 2009, RDC staff continued to support the 2010 Census by:

- Assisting local governments with questions pertaining to the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program and its companion program, the Address Canvassing Operation, a process that field verifies all addresses submitted in the LUCA program in 2008.
- Completing the Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) for Middle Georgia. The PSAP allows designated participants to review and suggest modifications to the boundaries for block groups, census tracts, census count divisions, and census designated places for reporting data from the 2010 Census.
- Completing the Digital Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) updates for the cities of Milledgeville and Perry and providing technical support to the City of Warner Robins. The U.S. Census Bureau conducts BAS annually to update information about the legal boundaries and names of all governmental units.
Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Mapping and Analysis

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is a technology that combines the visualization power of a computer map with the analysis and reporting capabilities of a relational database. During FY 2009, numerous member governments took advantage of RDC mapping services for grant applications, economic development, and general planning. The following are examples of GIS mapping and analysis projects this year:

- Tax parcel (property line) maintenance and update services using coordinate geometry data input techniques.
- Economic development-based map products displaying demographic statistics, available lots, existing building structures for industrial parks, and transportation infrastructure.
- Custom GIS data layers of the EMA/Fire and Sheriff Districts.
- Specialized planning maps including but not limited to water, sewer, and transportation infrastructure; Land Use and Zoning; Redevelopment Areas, Opportunity Zones and Enterprise Zones; Emergency Management and Disaster Recovery Areas; Job Tax Credit Classifications, and Regional Impact Studies.

Global Positioning Systems (GPS) Data Collection

Global Positioning Systems (GPS) is a satellite-based data collection technology that enables users to accurately map and inventory geographic features on the ground. Data collected using GPS equipment can be directly imported into a GIS database and used to update maps.

IT staff is GPS-certified having completed the MGIS Certification program for GPS data collection and processing and is an active user of GPS Technology. GPS services provided include, but are not limited to, the collection and map inventory of infrastructure and environmental features such as utilities, road centerlines, sidewalks, bridges, culverts, trails, building footprints, and community facilities. In addition, the RDC provides training to local officials on the operation and use of GPS equipment.

During FY 2009, the Information Technology Department completed the following GPS data collection projects:
- Collection of all fire hydrant locations for the Town of Payne City.
- GPS training for the City of Byron.
- GPS data collection and post-processing assistance for housing studies in Fort Valley and Wilkinson County.
Graphics Design and Printing Services
The RDC provides a wide variety of professional graphics design and printing/reproduction services. Professional graphics editing software is used to create logos, seals, letterhead, stationery, large-format presentations (i.e. banners, signs, and presentation checks), and other graphical display elements. Print shop services such as mass reproduction, printing, binding, and folding are also provided.

During FY 2009, the RDC provided the following graphics services:

- Designed the official logo for the Wilkinson County Development Authority in a vector-based graphics format.
- Developed an Economic Development Fact Sheet marketing piece for both the Wilkinson and Twiggs County Development Authorities.
- Developed a marketing piece announcing the new web site for the Wilkinson County Development Authority.
- Printed stationery including letterhead, envelopes, and business cards for five local governments.
- Designed and printed large maps, banners, and presentation-style checks for three entities.

General Technical Assistance
The RDC provides general Information Technology assistance to member governments as well as Information Technology consulting services. These services include consultation, training, and implementation.

During FY 2009, the RDC provided the following general technical assistance:

- Training in the areas of office productivity software, File Transfer Protocol (FTP), AIMS, and ArcGIS software for the City of Milledgeville and Putnam County.
- GIS data backup services for Baldwin County.
- Web site backup services for five local governments.
- Online registrations on Grants.gov and FedConnect for member governments and authorities for the submission of grant applications.
Multimedia Development

The RDC provides multimedia development services that include web site development, digital media publishing, and custom programming. Web sites are developed for communities to market and disseminate information on the Internet. Reports and other documents are published digitally to CD-ROM, DVD-ROM, and other paperless media formats. The RDC provides custom programming services to develop specialized software applications for local governments in the areas of asset and inventory management.

The following examples of multimedia-based projects were undertaken during FY 2009:

- Town of Danville Web Site: http://www.cityofdanvillega.com
- Putnam County Planning and Development Web Site: http://www.putnamga.com
- Wilkinson County Web Site: http://www.wilkinsoncounty.net
- Wilkinson County Development Authority Web Site: http://www.wilcodevauthority.com
- Web site training and technical support for four local governments.
- Photography retouching services for City of Perry and Wilkinson County Development Authority.
The Middle Georgia RDC is committed to assisting member governments in their efforts to maintain community character and enhance livability while accommodating growth and development. Employing both local and regional approaches, the RDC provides short and long-range planning services in a variety of fields including land use, environment, transportation, and historic preservation.

**Community Planning**

During FY 2009, the RDC’s major planning initiative was the completion of a Regionally Important Resources (RIR) Plan. Prepared in accordance with rules set forth by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, the RIR Plan is intended to guide the protection and management of the many important natural, cultural, and historic resources located throughout Middle Georgia. The RIR Plan also provides a partial basis for the preparation of the Middle Georgia Regional Plan.

During FY 2009, staff completed an annual update to the 2010-2014 Work Program of the Middle Georgia Regional Plan. The Middle Georgia Regional Plan is used to coordinate the activities of the RDC, local governments, public agencies, and other interested parties in furtherance of mutually agreed upon regional goals and objectives.

Other community planning activities undertaken by RDC staff during FY 2009 include:

- Developed several local parking and zoning ordinances;
- Reviewed three Developments of Regional Impact (DRIs);
- Prepared a National Scenic Byways Program (NSBP) grant application;
- Served as facilitators at the Annual Jones County People Looking Ahead Now (PLAN) Retreat;
- Provided technical assistance to Jeffersonville Downtown Development Authority (DDA) for the design and creation of streetscape enhancements in downtown;
Community Planning (cont.)
• Assisted with the facilitation of a countywide planning retreat for Twiggs County and the Cities of Danville and Jeffersonville designed to bring about improved communication, a common community vision, and a coordinated approach to community development;
• Coordinated Service Delivery Strategy Updates of twelve communities: Jones County/City of Gray, City of Perry/City of Warner Robins, Bibb County/City of Macon/ Town of Payne City, Monroe County/City of Forsyth/City of Culloden, and Baldwin County/City of Milledgeville;
• Secured funding from Economic Development Administration (EDA) Supplemental Appropriations Disaster Relief Funding for the Twiggs County Industrial Park to have a Watershed Assessment conducted to prepare for future growth.

RDC staff also provides expertise and support to the communities of Middle Georgia through active participation in a number of regional organizations including the Middle Georgia Clean Cities Coalition, Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition, Macon Area Transportation Study, and Warner Robins Area Transportation Study.

Environmental
During FY 2009, the RDC contracted with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division to perform a scope of services under the Clean Water Act, Section 604(b). Specifically, staff completed nine Tier 2 Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plans, one Phase I Extended Revision of a previously prepared TMDL Implementation Plan, and one Stream Segment Monitoring Report on updated water quality data, all of which pertain to impacted stream segments in the Middle Georgia Region.

In cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), staff initiated work on Pre-Disaster Mitigation plans for five Middle Georgia Communities: Bibb, Houston, Jones, Monroe, and Pulaski Counties.

Historic Preservation
Funding assistance through the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Division enables RDC Staff to provide historic preservation support and assistance to the local governments and the various historic preservation-related organizations within Middle Georgia. Some of the organizations benefiting from historic preservation services include Better Hometown and Main Street organizations, Historical Societies, and other cultural institutions.
Staff also supports a number of local historic preservation commissions by providing guidance with local historic district issues from design guidelines to Certificate of Appropriateness review and approval procedures. Presentations and trainings on historic preservation best practices, legal issues, economic development, and State and Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives are also provided on an as-requested basis. A notable success during FY 2009 was assisting the City of Hawkinsville with a successful grant application to the Georgia Historic Preservation Fund for customized design guidelines for the City’s locally-designated historic district.

Other major historic preservation initiatives during FY 2009 include a Historic Resource Inventory of five neighborhoods within the City of Perry and a comprehensive Historic Resource Survey of Wilkinson County and the Cities of Allentown, Danville, Irwinton, Ivey, McIntyre, and Toomsboro. Staff also completed Environmental Reviews for a wide variety of projects in the region seeking funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Employment Incentive Program (EIP), and Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant programs.

Additional RDC functions in the area of Historic Preservation include the facilitation of quarterly meetings of the Middle Georgia Historic Preservation Advisory Committee, which provide an interactive, educational forum where members can exchange ideas, discuss issues, and learn about current trends in historic preservation and heritage tourism.

**Transportation**

One of the most significant accomplishments during FY 2009 in transportation planning was facilitating the completion of an application to the Georgia Department of Transportation for a new Scenic Byway. The proposed Enduring Farmlands Scenic Byway travels through Pulaski and Wilcox Counties and is a joint venture between the Middle Georgia and Heart of Georgia Altamaha RDCs. Other transportation-related activities during FY 2009 include:

- Prepared Pedestrian Facility/Sidewalk Infrastructure Improvement Plans for the Cities of Gordon, Jeffersonville, and Roberta.
- Completed Rural Transit Development Plans for Baldwin and Wilkinson Counties.
Transportation (cont.)

- Assisted the City of Hawkinsville in securing funding through GDOT’s FY 2009 GATEway Grant program for a City Entrance Beautification Project along the Golden Isles Parkway.
- Provided assistance to the Central Georgia Rails-to-Trails Association, Inc. (CGRTA) Board of Directors with community outreach, marketing, and promotion assistance, including the development of a membership brochure, with the rail-to-trail initiative for a shared use path on an abandoned rail corridor running from Macon to Milledgeville.
- Provided Transportation Enhancement support for fifteen projects in nine communities.
- Completed nine Section 106 Reviews.
- Supported Bibb County’s Safe Routes to School (SRTS) efforts including: preparation of SRTS Plans for Barden Elementary, Burghard Elementary, King Danforth Elementary, and Appling Middle Schools in Bibb County; coordination of “Back to School Round-Up” and “Bicycle Rodeos;” preparation of SRTS brochures for all three schools; and coordination of implementation activities for the Riley Elementary SRTS Plan;
- RDC staff also completed an update to the Socio-Economic Database for the Warner Robins Area Transportation Study (WRATS) as well as provided technical assistance and expertise to the Macon Area Transportation Study (MATS) Technical Coordinating and Policy Committees.

The Middle Georgia RDC also serves as the primary contractor for the Department of Human Resources Coordinated Transportation System. The RDC is responsible for administering transportation programs for consumers for the Divisions of Aging Services, Family and Children Services, Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/Addictive Diseases, Public Health, and Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program.
Through the Public Administration Department, member governments receive specialized, professional, and tailored services in the areas of community development, personnel services, grant writing and administration, and specialized technical assistance.

**Community Development**

Community Development is a comprehensive term describing the programs, policies, and initiatives undertaken by community leaders to improve the socio-economic conditions of an area. It typically includes redevelopment / reinvestment, housing, and public safety. The following projects highlight the work during FY 2009 in this diverse field:

*Community Redevelopment and Reinvestment activities include:*
  - Prepared or amended Urban Redevelopment Plans for the City of Fort Valley, City of Hawkinsville and Pulaski County jointly, City of Milledgeville, Town of Payne City, and City of Perry.
  - Assisted City of Hawkinsville/Pulaski County, Town of Payne City, and City of Perry with the designation of Opportunity Zones in their jurisdictions.
  - Secured funding for the City of Forsyth through the Community Development Block Grant program for James Street Neighborhood infrastructure rehabilitation.

*Housing activities include:*
  - Assisted the City of Hawkinsville with participation in the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) Program.
  - Assisted the City of Milledgeville’s GICH committee with a Workforce Housing Fair and the completion of a Workforce Housing Strategy.

*Public Safety and Emergency Management activities include:*
  - Assisted Baldwin County Fire Rescue with the development of a Five-Year Strategic Plan.
  - Assisted the City of Irwinton with a strategy for the construction of a new Fire Station/Voting Precinct.
  - Secured funding through the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) for City of Byron Fire Department and City of Fort Valley Fire Department.
  - Secured funding for Baldwin County through the Assistance to Firefighters grant.
  - Assisted Twiggs County EMA with an application for funding to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for a Warning Siren Hazard Mitigation Grant.
Personnel Services
The Middle Georgia RDC assists local governments with the development of job descriptions, policies, and salary analysis, as well as the selection of candidates for vacant positions.

During FY 2009, the following projects were completed:
• Developed Policy and Procedures Manual for the Crawford County Tax Assessor’s Office.
• Developed job descriptions, conducted a wage survey, and provided a safety manual for the Sinclair Water Authority.
• Assisted the City of Forsyth with City Administrator search.
• Participated in the selection process for the City of Macon’s Director of Community and Economic Development position.

Grant Writing and Administration
RDC staff is available not only to assist in the development of projects and plans, but also to assist local governments in researching potential funding sources, grant writing, and administration. RDC grant services are not limited to state and federal programs such as Community Development Block Grant and Recreational Trails but include private foundations as well.

During FY 2009, $1,678,021 was awarded to cities and counties for grant applications prepared with the assistance of the Middle Georgia RDC.

Specialized Technical Assistance
The staff of the Middle Georgia RDC is available to assist local governments with specialized technical assistance. Such assistance is greatly varied, reaching from general budget preparation to researching the practices and policies of other local governments. Below is a sampling of the projects completed during FY 2009:

• Conducted analysis on possible annexation areas for the Cities of Allentown, Irwinton, and Macon.
• Assisted Baldwin County in requesting redesignation by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs from a Tier 2 to a Tier 1 County in the Job Tax Credit Program.
• Conducted research on cost savings generated by a four-day workweek for Bibb County.
• Conducted analysis on the economic impact of various museums and cultural events hosted in the City of Macon.
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
On February 17, 2009, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) became law. The ARRA is designed to stimulate the economy by allocating additional funds to existing programs with the goal of rapid distribution of funds. While stimulating the economy, the ARRA is also designed to encourage the widespread use of energy-efficient products and renewable energy sources, increase services to the elderly and other at-risk populations, and provide funds necessary to address the crumbling infrastructure in communities across America. ARRA projects in Middle Georgia range from construction of the long-awaited Fall Line Freeway, to weatherization of private homes, to increasing funding for congregate and home-delivered meal programs, to construction of new fire stations.

RDC staff continuously monitored the implementation of ARRA in order to assist local governments through this complicated legislation. RDC staff has assisted, and will continue to assist, in the development of Recovery Act grant applications and is available to provide assistance with the administration of awarded projects. With the assistance of the Middle Georgia RDC, the following ARRA applications were prepared:

• Community-Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Recovery Program for the cities of Eatonton, Macon, and Roberta; Town of Ivey; and Baldwin, Monroe, Peach, and Pulaski Counties.
• Justice Assistance Grant for Baldwin County, Crawford County, City of Eatonton, City of Fort Valley jointly with Peach County, City of Hawkinsville, and City of Perry.
• Assistance to Firefighters Fire Station Construction for Baldwin, Crawford, Pulaski, Putnam, and Twiggs Counties and the cities of Fort Valley, Irwinton, Macon, and Perry.
• Community Development Block Grant for Recovery for Baldwin and Houston Counties and the cities of Hawkinsville and Roberta.
• Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant for the City of Macon.
• Rural Law Enforcement for Wilkinson County.
AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

National Association of Development Organizations
During FY 2009, the Middle Georgia RDC received its 12th innovation award presented by the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for projects demonstrating significant impact to regional and local government. Award-winning projects include:

- Monroe County WWW Information Server - 1998
- Hawkinsville GIS Mapping System - 1999
- Kid’s Journey: Projecting Juvenile Delinquency - 1999
- Macon - Bibb County Industrial Authority GIS Inventory - 2000
- EDA Grant Application and Resource CD-ROM - 2001
- Middle Georgia Hazard Mitigation Resource CD-ROM - 2002
- Wilkinson County Housing Assessment Needs Study - 2003
- Macon Water Authority GIS Peer Assessment - 2005
- Middle Georgia Historic Preservation Directory Web Site - 2007
- City of Milledgeville Enterprise Zone/Opportunity Zone - 2008
- Well and Septic Tank Referencing and Online Mapping (WELSTROM) - 2009

National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) is the leading voice on aging issues for the nation’s network of Area Agencies on Aging. The Area Agency on Aging received a 2009 Innovations and Achievement Award for its Assessment and Referral Team, a staff-initiated and developed approach to managing the region’s Home and Community-Based Services Program.