



# Ninth District Opportunity

Community Action Agency

# ANNUAL REPORT

2025





# A COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW OF OUR AGENCY

Ninth District Opportunity, Inc. (NDO) was chartered on May 31, 1967, as a private, nonprofit corporation to carry forward the mission of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 and was designated by the federal government as a Community Action Agency. Congressman Phil Landrum of Jasper, Georgia—widely recognized as a leading champion of the Act—played a significant role in its creation and passage. Because the counties we served then, and continue to serve today, encompassed much of Georgia's Ninth Congressional District, the Board of Directors chose the name "Ninth District Opportunity, Inc." to reflect both the region we serve and Congressman Landrum's lasting legacy.

Over the decades, NDO has responded to changing community needs by bringing services and solutions closer to where people live. Rooted in the communities we serve, we understand local challenges and work alongside individuals and families to reduce barriers and create real pathways from crisis to stability. We connect residents to resources, programs, and community partners that support stronger households and brighter futures.

NDO also strengthens communities by collaborating with public agencies, nonprofit partners, faith-based organizations, schools, and the business sector. Through coordination and responsible stewardship of funds, we reduce duplication, close service gaps, and ensure limited resources go further—helping communities build lasting capacity, not just short-term relief.





Three major service categories define the array of services provided by the Agency: Child Development (Head Start and GA Pre-K), Community Services, and Weatherization. As state and federal requirements have evolved—including changes in funding and program regulations—NDO has adapted and expanded our service area to ensure families continue to receive the support they need. Guided by a committed Board of Directors and a dedicated staff, NDO has remained focused on practical, innovative solutions that help individuals and families move toward self-sufficiency.

Founded by a small group of civic-minded citizens with a sincere concern for their community, NDO now employs approximately 500 individuals and reaches communities across 27 counties. While our programs and footprint have grown, our purpose has remained constant: to expand opportunity so individuals and families can pursue economic independence and live with dignity. Since our founding, NDO has served as both a catalyst and an advocate—supporting services and self-help efforts that strengthen communities throughout our service area.





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# LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Greetings,

I'm thrilled to share this year's report and reflect on the impact we've made together over the past year. Community Action is founded on a straightforward belief: when people have access to stable housing, reliable transportation, healthy food, safe childcare, and job opportunities, they can shape the future they desire for themselves and their families. This year, our agency worked tirelessly to transform that belief into practical support and real opportunities for our neighbors throughout our service area.

Over the past year, we've continued to address urgent needs while also helping families move toward long-term stability. Families came to us facing rising costs, unexpected job losses, health challenges, and housing instability. With the help of our dedicated staff and strong community partners, we assisted residents during tough times and helped them take the next steps—whether that meant keeping their utilities on, accessing essential services, gaining new skills, or connecting with community resources.

Our progress is the result of collaboration. We're grateful for the trust of the individuals and families we serve and for the partnerships that make this work possible—local governments, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, schools, employers, volunteers, and funders who share a commitment to stronger communities. Equally important is the leadership of our Board of Directors and the dedication of our staff, who bring skill, compassion, and persistence to every conversation and case. Their work often goes unseen, but its impact is lasting.

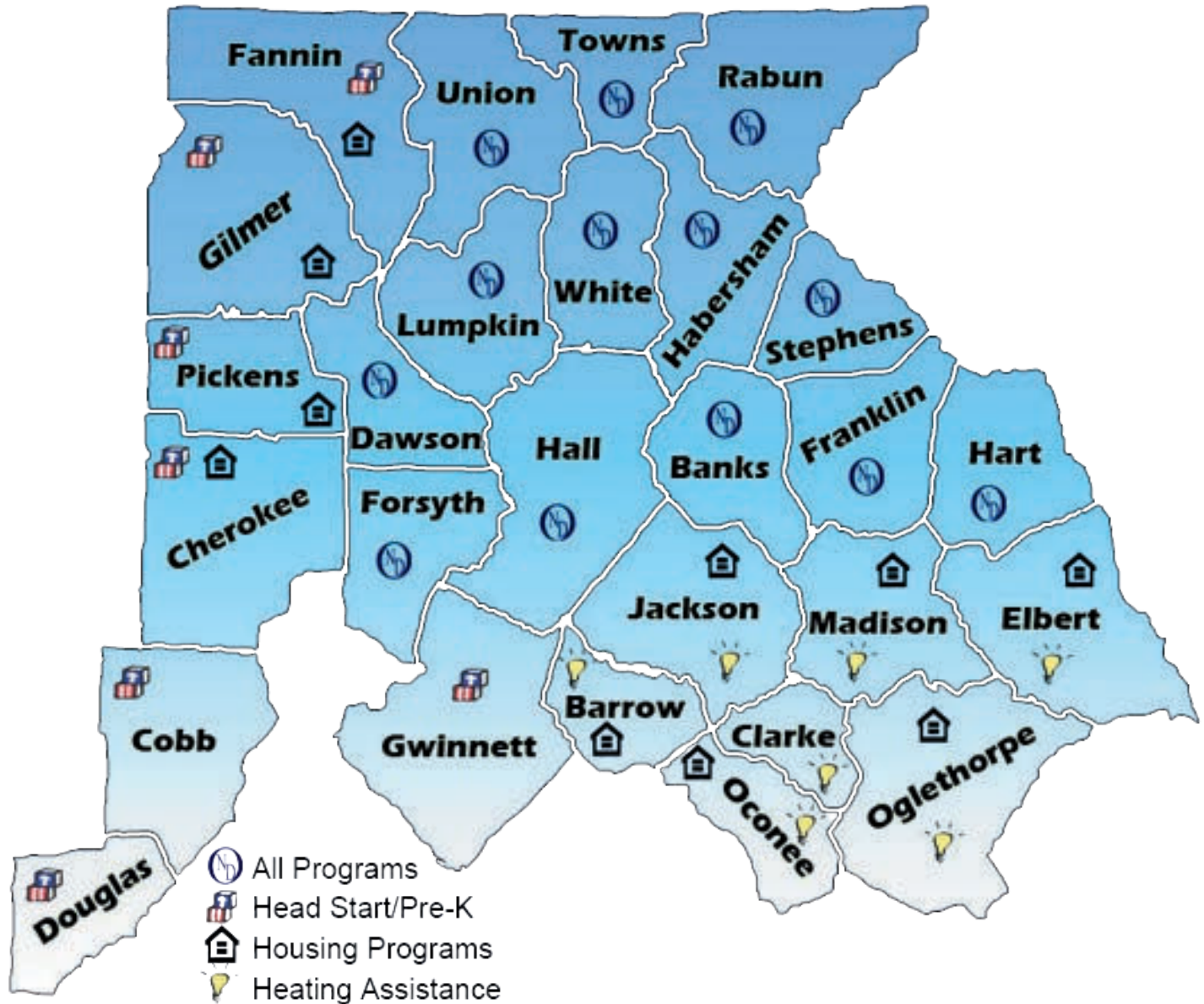
As we look to the future, our focus remains clear: to expand opportunities, promote self-sufficiency, and strengthen communities. We will continue to listen closely to local needs, use resources responsibly, and adapt to changing conditions to keep our services effective and accessible. Thank you for standing with us and investing in the well-being of our communities. I invite you to review this report, learn more about our work, and join us in the year ahead.

With gratitude,

Kay Laws  
Executive Director



# SERVICE AREA BY PROGRAM



## OUR MISSION

We advocate for families in need and promote access to opportunities which facilitates movement toward self-improvement, self-reliance, and self-determination.



# OVERVIEW OF OUR PROGRAMS

## Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) is a federally funded program administered in Georgia through the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS). CSBG supports services and strategies that help individuals and families with low incomes move toward stability by addressing both immediate needs and the underlying conditions that contribute to poverty. Each year, more than 1,000 individuals benefit from CSBG-supported services.



## ENERGY ASSISTANCE

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides vital support to eligible low-income households by helping them manage heating and cooling expenses. Each year, the program benefits more than 17,000 families, with payments made directly to energy providers on their behalf to ensure uninterrupted access to essential utility services.

## Weatherization

The Weatherization Assistance Program, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and managed in Georgia by the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority, provides critical energy and safety upgrades to households in need. In fiscal year 2025, these services reached 65 low-income families, helping them improve comfort and reduce their utility expenses.

Every participating home receives a comprehensive energy audit to identify opportunities for cost-effective improvements tailored to each family's needs. Upgrades may include measures such as air and duct sealing, insulation, HVAC system enhancements, energy-efficient lighting, and hot water tank and pipe insulation. These improvements not only strengthen energy performance but also contribute to safer and healthier living environments for north Georgia residents. In some cases, the savings can make the difference between paying for essential needs such as medication and maintaining reliable power. By combining targeted energy efficiency improvement elements with a focus on resident well-being, the program continues to strengthen the economic resilience of the communities served.



## The Housing Program

Ninth District Opportunity's Housing Programs support low-income families in securing and maintaining safe, affordable housing by addressing barriers that contribute to housing instability. Through individualized case management, families receive eviction prevention counseling, landlord mediation, education on landlord-tenant rights, home weatherization assistance, and targeted financial support for housing-related emergencies.

During the year, approximately 700 families received housing stability services. Participants were connected to community resources, gained knowledge of their housing rights and responsibilities, and received support designed to help them remain safely housed. Housing stability efforts are supported by the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and Balance of State Continuum of Care (BoS CoC) programs funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).



As part of its broader housing initiatives, Ninth District Opportunity (NDO) also works to mobilize community partnerships to expand the local response to homelessness and housing instability. Through its StreetExit initiative, NDO brought together community organizations, service providers, volunteers, and faith-based partners to support the development of the Unity Project, a collaborative effort in Gainesville that connects individuals experiencing homelessness with critical services. With community engagement and donated support, a previously unusable facility was transformed into a centralized hub where individuals can now access identification recovery, employment assistance, benefit applications, health services, and other community resources. Although NDO does not operate the Unity Project, it played and continues to play an instrumental role in facilitating partnerships and resource development for this effort.

NDO also assisted in mobilizing community partners to establish the Matthew 25 Alliance, a collaborative effort led by local churches to address homelessness and cold-weather shelter needs. By convening faith leaders and coordinating resources, NDO supported the creation and development of a volunteer-driven warming center hosted by First Baptist Church of Cornelia. More than 80 volunteers have been recruited, and the center began operating during cold-weather conditions in February 2026, providing temporary shelter and support for individuals in need. Plans are underway to expand this model to additional communities.



## Early Head Start/Head Start

Head Start promotes school readiness by providing high-quality early childhood education through our Head Start preschool program for three- and four-year-old children and Early Head Start for infants and toddlers. Our staff support children and families in the core areas of early learning, health, and family well-being, while actively engaging parents as trusted partners in their child's education. Funded by the federal Office of Head Start, this program currently serves 1,820 preschool children and 168 infants and toddlers across 20 counties.



## Child and Adult Care Feeding Program (CACFP)

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and administered in Georgia through the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL). CACFP provides reimbursement for nutritious meals served to children enrolled in Early Head Start, Head Start, and Georgia's Pre-K classrooms. Through this program, NDO supports approximately 524,081 meals each year.



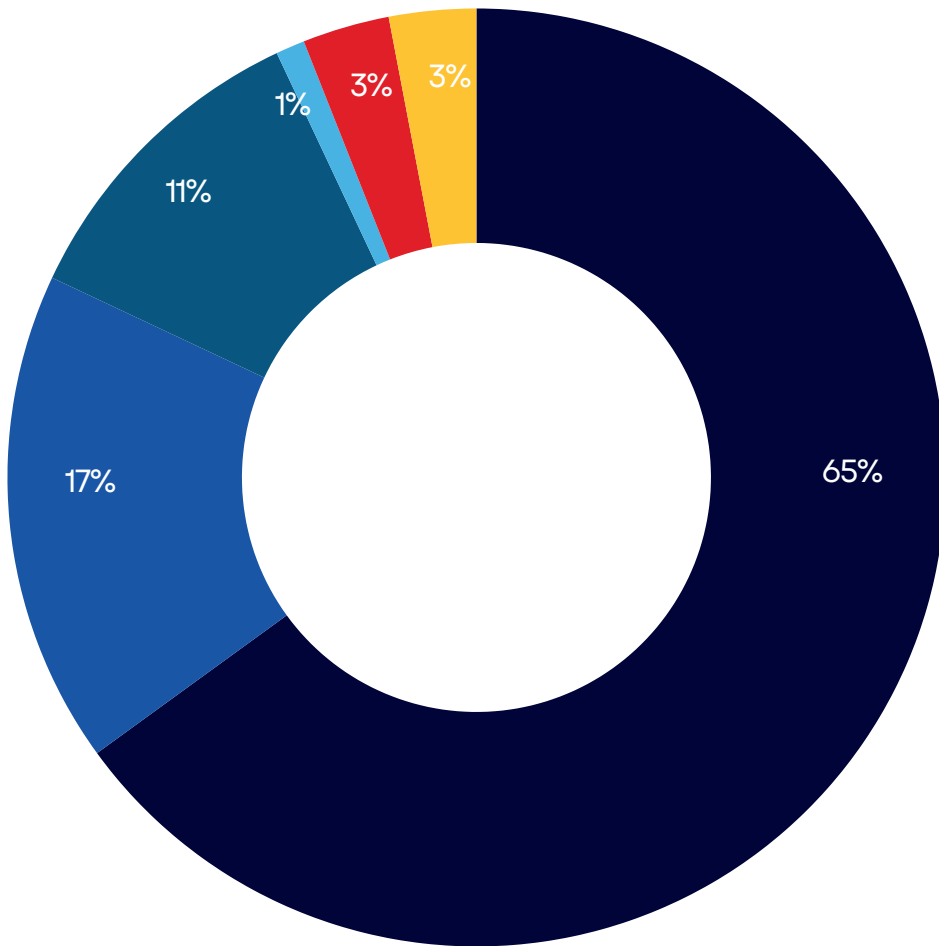
## GA Pre-K

Georgia Pre-K is a lottery-funded early education program administered by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL). Designed for four-year-old children, the program builds the skills and confidence children need to enter kindergarten ready to learn. NDO offers Georgia Pre-K in 25 centers across 17 counties, serving 960 children.



# REVENUES

For period ending 9/30/2025



- HEAD START & CACFP PROGRAMS:**  
**\$37,261,385.00**
  
- CSBG RELATED PROGRAMS:**  
**\$9,892,584**
  
- GA PRE-K:**  
**\$6,044,830.00**
  
- OTHER AGENCY ADMINISTERED PROGRAMS:**  
**\$512,974.00**
  
- AGENCY ADMINISTRATION:**  
**\$1,714,831.00**
  
- GEFA RELATED PROGRAMS:**  
**\$1,518,407.00**

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**TOTAL:**  
**\$56,945,011.00**

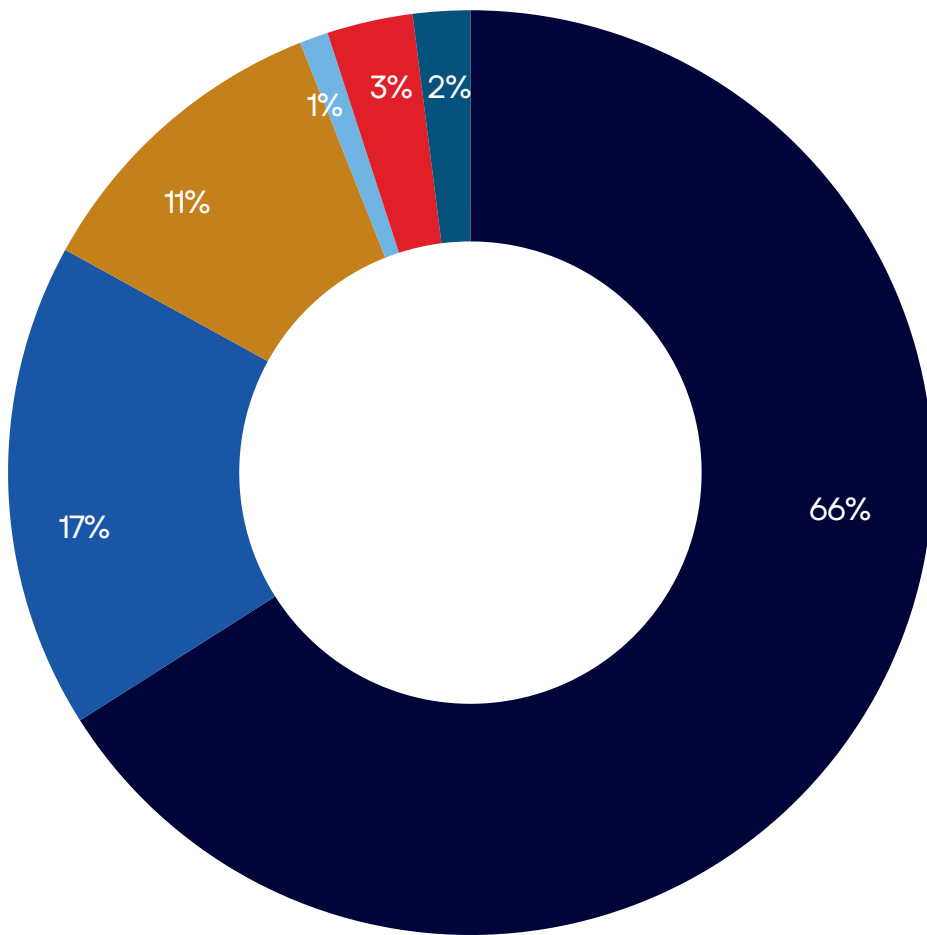
Fiscal Reports are submitted to the Office of Head Start, the GA Department of Human Services, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the GA Department of Early Care and Learning, and the GA Environmental Finance Authority to comply with grant requirements and to assure the continuation of funding.



# EXPENDITURES

For period ending 9/30/2025

## Expenses by Percentage



NDO, Inc

- HEAD START & CACFP PROGRAMS:**  
**\$37,238,811.00**
- CSBG RELATED PROGRAMS:**  
**\$9,822,954.00**
- GA PRE-K:**  
**\$5,980,735.00**
- OTHER AGENCY ADMINISTERED PROGRAMS:**  
**\$398,975.00**
- AGENCY ADMINISTRATION:**  
**\$1,714,831.00**
- GEFA RELATED PROGRAMS:**  
**\$1,468,870.00**

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**TOTAL:**  
**\$56,625,176.00**



# FINANCE AUDIT

The Agency demonstrated strong fiscal management, as shown by the positive results of an independent audit performed by Alexander, Almand and Bangs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025. The audit confirmed that the Agency met all funding requirements. The auditors issued an unmodified opinion on the Agency's financial statements and its major programs, indicating that the financial records are accurate and reliable. Additionally, no issues were identified in the Agency's internal controls or in any areas that require reporting under the Uniform Guidance.



# CSBG PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

Results for the Community Service Program audits are as following;

- 100% compliance with the CSBG Center of Excellence Organizational Standards.
- Received excellent audit review for our CSBG and LIHEAP contracts.
- Received excellent audit reviews for our Weatherization contracts.





# EARLY HEAD START/HEAD START/PRE-K PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

The Office of Head Start (OHS) conducted a Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) observation review of 45 classrooms from November 2024 to February 2025. Our Head Start program achieved scores exceeding the competitive and quality thresholds, reflecting consistent and effective teacher-child interactions observed during the evaluation period.

In March 2025, OHS performed an onsite visit and completed a Focus Area 2 review of our Head Start program. The review team determined that our program remains in full compliance with all federal performance standards. Notably, the program was commended for its efforts to address family food insecurity and for implementing robust systems to ensure children and families receive all mandated services.

Previously, in November 2022, the Head Start program underwent a Focus Area One federal monitoring review, which also found the program compliant with all federal performance standards. The program received praise for its initiatives in mental health support and preparations for kindergarten readiness.

Ninth District Opportunity, Inc.'s Head Start/Pre-K programs maintain compliance with the standards and regulations set forth by Georgia's Child Care Services, the Department of Early Care and Learning Bright from the Start (GA Pre-K), and the Department of Early Care and Learning's Child and Adult Care Food Program.

## ADDITIONAL PROGRAM RECOGNITIONS

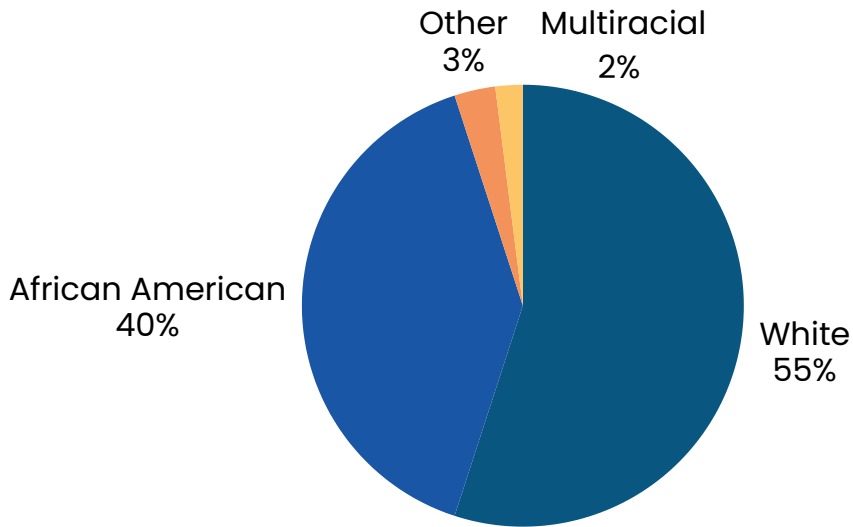
- Accreditation of two centers by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.
- Accreditation of two centers by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.
- Quality Rated Program evaluations for 21 centers in Georgia, with 15 centers receiving the highest rating of three stars and the remainder achieving two-star ratings.



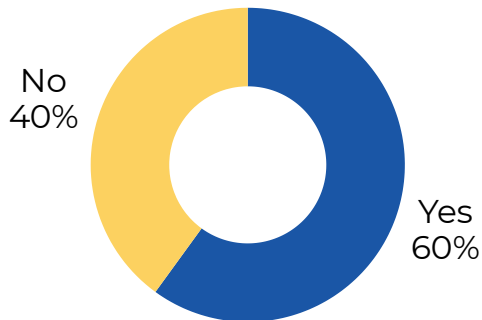


# CSBG - WHO WE SERVED BY DEMOGRAPHICS

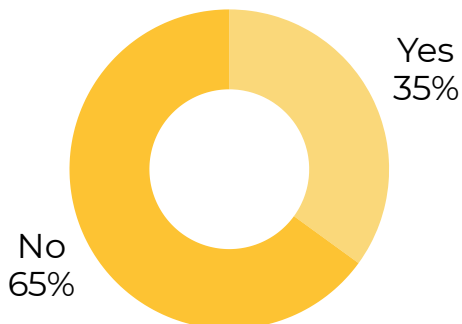
## Race



## Insurance



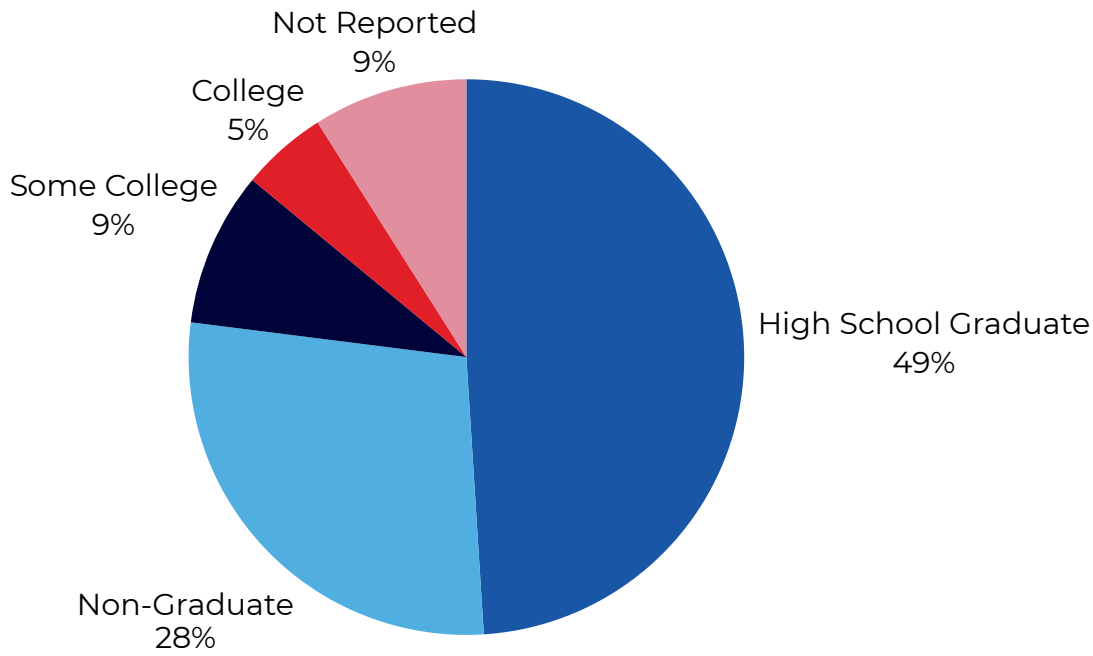
## Disabled





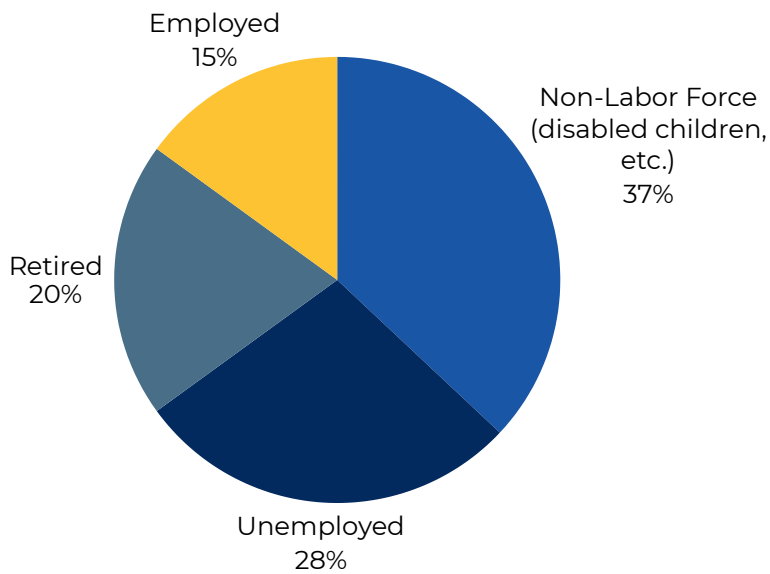
# Education

### Educational Demographics



# Employed

### Employment Demographics





# SUPPORTING & STRENGTHENING FAMILIES



## INCOME MANAGEMENT



# 30,587

FAMILIES IMPROVED HEALTH AND WELLBEING

## HOUSING & ENERGY



# 97

SHELTER BEDS SECURED

# 3,894

SENIORS WERE ABLE TO LIVE SAFELY AND MAINTAIN INDEPENDENCE.

# 465

PARTNERSHIPS ESTABLISHED

# 15,450

FAMILIES RECEIVED SUPPLEMENTAL HEATING ASSISTANCE

# 366

INCREASED CAPACITY TO MEET BASIC NEEDS

# 829

INDIVIDUALS AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS AVOIDED EVICTION

# 65

65 HOMES RECEIVED WEATHERIZATION REHAB ASSISTANCE WITH AN AVERAGE SAVINGS OF \$1,150 ANNUALLY

# 1,327

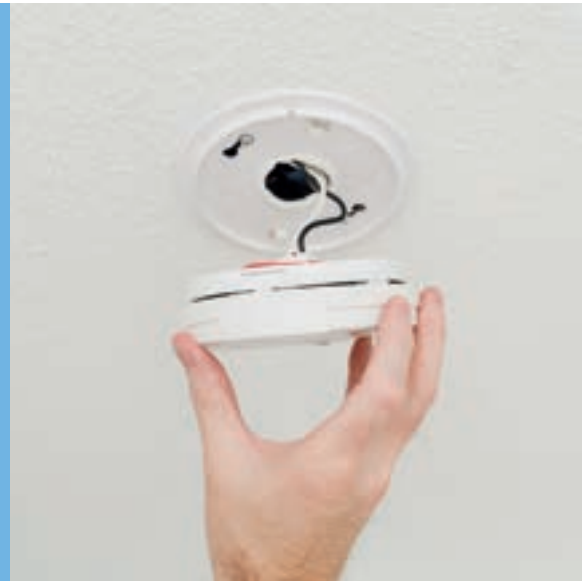
HOMELESS FAMILIES/INDIVIDUALS OBTAINED SAFE, AFFORDABLE HOUSING



## Community Programs Feedback:



*"Thank you for insisting that a smoke detector with a carbon monoxide detector was put into the unit. It went off last night. Apparently, the range had been leaking ... so the gas company came out last night. I'm still here, so I just wanted to say a heartfelt thank you."*  
S.M., Dawson County resident



*"For as long as I can remember, I have worried about heating my home in the winter. I now have an energy-efficient electric furnace and don't have to worry about running out of gas. I actually had leaks that had not been identified, which was a huge safety concern.*

*Thank you to your top-of-the-line professional team. The team went above and beyond to improve my home and quality of life."* L. W., Habersham County resident



*...so thankful for the work that was performed at my home. My electric bill is less than half of my regular bill. I am blessed to have been a candidate for the Ninth District Opportunity. I feel honored to have this work done in my home to save a lot of money; as a senior citizen, this was something that I'll never forget."- J. M., Habersham County resident*



# HEAD START PROGRAM IMPACT

## HEALTH AND MEDICAL



**650**

FAMILIES BENEFITED FROM INSURANCE ADVOCACY

**9,925**

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES SERVED

**17,200**

WEEKEND FOOD BAGS DISTRIBUTED

**524,081**

MEALS SERVED DURING THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

**91%**

OF EARLY HEAD START & HEAD START CHILDREN WERE BROUGHT UP TO DATE WITH PREVENTATIVE PRIMARY HEALTHCARE

**100%**

OF EARLY HEAD START AND HEAD START CHILDREN HAD AN ONGOING SOURCE OF HEALTH CARE AT END OF ENROLLMENT

**90%**

OF EARLY HEAD START & HEAD START CHILDREN WERE BROUGHT UP TO DATE WITH PRIMARY & PREVENTATIVE ORAL HEALTHCARE

**99%**

OF EARLY HEAD START AND HEAD START CHILDREN HAD CONTINUOUS ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE DURING ENROLLMENT.

**16%**

OF EARLY HEAD START & HEAD START CHILDREN ENROLLED WERE DIAGNOSED WITH A DISABILITY

**93%**

OF EARLY HEAD START AND HEAD START PROGRAMS COMPLETED THEIR AGE-APPROPRIATE IMMUNIZATIONS.

**97%**

OF EARLY HEAD START/HEAD START CHILDREN WERE COVERED BY MEDICAL INSURANCE

**7,494**

INDIVIDUALS REPORTED IMPROVED FINANCIAL WELL-BEING

**123**

VETERANS SERVED

**82**

ACTIVE MILITARY SERVED

**215,084**

BOOKS READ BY HEAD START FAMILIES



**Prevent Blindness - A** dedicated community health partner, has supplied vouchers for more than 100 pairs of glasses for Head Start students. A mother from Union County Head Start shared her experience when her daughter donned her glasses for the first time, exclaiming, "When she put them on, she instantly said, 'Mama, I can see well now!'"



**2,192**

TOTAL FAMILIES SERVED



**97%**

PERCENTAGE OF INCOME ELIGIBLE CHILDREN SERVED



**27**

FOSTER STUDENTS SERVED



**86%**

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE



**61%**

RECEIVED SNAP



**100%**

ENROLLMENT MAINTAINED IN HS/EHS



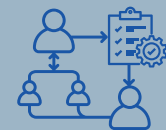
**192**

HOMELESS STUDENTS SERVED



**41%**

RECEIVED WIC



**2,362**

TOTAL HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START CHILDREN SERVED



## Feedback – Child Development:

*“I was able to find a job as a sub in the program. I was able to maintain employment while my child was attending Early Head Start. She has grown a lot.”* Early Head Start Parent

*“When my daughter entered Head Start in Banks County, she failed her hearing screening. I had no idea she was having trouble hearing. We were eventually referred for tubes, and her speech has improved so much. She is talking more, following directions better, and her speech is easier to understand. I am thankful for the screening that let me know she couldn’t hear.”* Parent Banks Co. Head Start

*“When my child first enrolled in Head Start, it marked the beginning of a life-changing journey for our family. The Center Director recognized my potential as a parent and encouraged me to volunteer. With the support of the center, I completed my high school diploma in just one month and was subsequently hired as the center’s custodian. With continued encouragement from Head Start staff, I went on to complete my associate degree in 18 months and have since been promoted from custodian to the Family Partner position. In this role, I am now able to support parents as they work to better themselves—just as Head Start staff supported and encouraged me to set and achieve my own goals. As a result, my family’s life has been permanently and positively changed.”* Towns County Head Start parent

*“When my son began attending Head Start, they encouraged me to set goals for myself and my family. Since that time, I have completed my GED, and I have enrolled in Lanier Technical College where I am pursuing a degree in Cybersecurity. I am thankful for the push to do these things. As a dad, this has definitely changed my family’s future.”* Forsyth Head Start Father



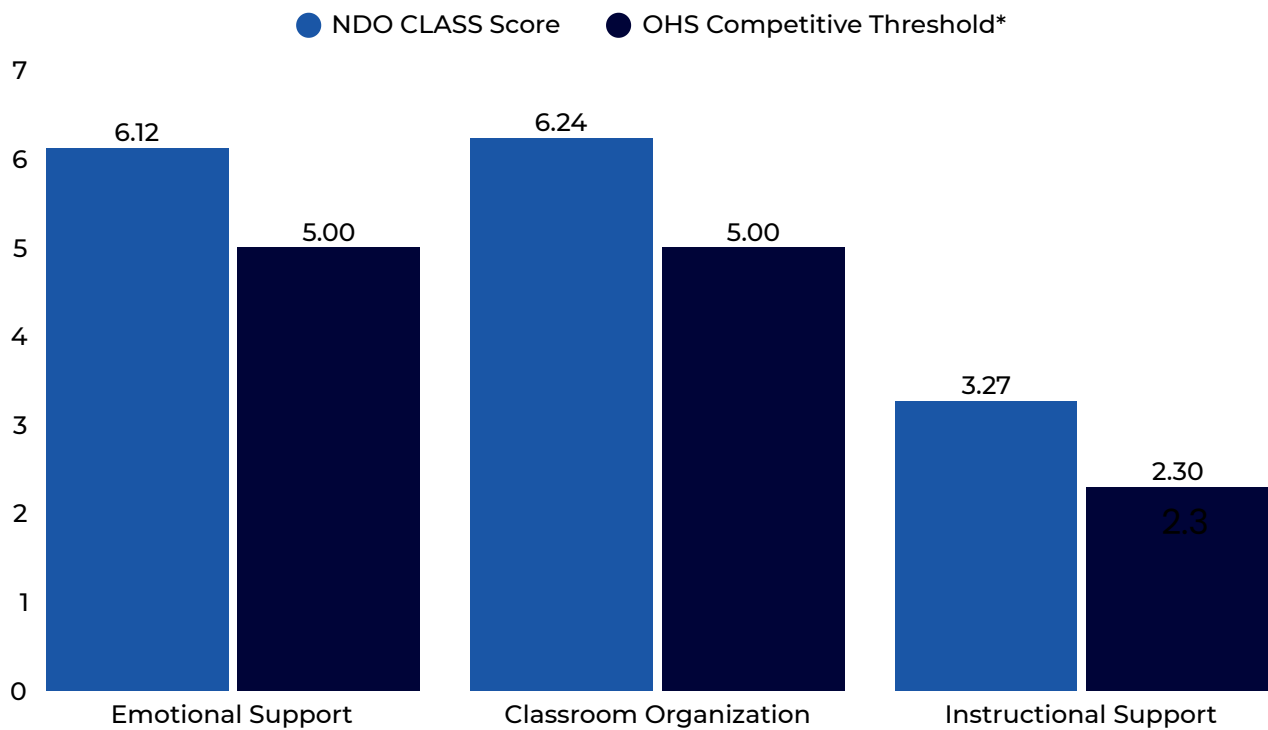
# AHEAD IN CLASS

## CLASS SCORES

The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) is an observational tool designed to assess the quality of teacher-child interactions within center-based preschool classrooms. It emphasizes three essential domains that contribute to effective engagement and learning through social, emotional, behavioral, and instructional strategies. The domains evaluated by CLASS include Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support, all of which are crucial for promoting children's learning and development.

25% of Head Start teachers hold an advanced degree, 55% hold a baccalaureate degree, and 20% hold an associate's degree in Early Childhood Education.

3% of Early Head Start teachers hold a baccalaureate degree, 40% hold an associate's degree, and 57% have an Infant/Toddler CDA credential.



*These figures represent OHS's minimum expectation for all grantees regarding the quality of the classroom learning environment.*



# HEAD START ASSESSMENT DATA

## WORK SAMPLING ONLINE SYSTEM

In our Head Start classrooms, we use the Work Sampling Online System (WSO) to monitor children’s development across seven learning domains, covering a total of 69 indicators. These indicators are closely aligned with the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS). Throughout the school year, teachers regularly observe and assess children, which allows them to create flexible learning groups, identify areas of interest, and tailor instruction to each child’s needs. Progress is reviewed and analyzed three times annually to ensure every child receives individualized support and families are kept informed.

### Percentage of Children Developing as expected in Each Domain for the 2024–2025 School Year

Domain	3 Year Olds	4 Year Olds
Perceptual Motor/Physical Development	97	98
Social/Emotional Development	97	97.8
Approaches to Learning	97	98
Language Development	96	98
Literacy Knowledge and Skills	97	98
Cognition Mathematics	97	98
Cognition Scientific Reasoning	97	98
Social Studies	97	97
Creative Art	97	99
Logic and Reasoning	97	99



# EARLY HEAD START ASSESSMENT DATA

## DESIRED RESULTS DEVELOPMENTAL PROFILE (DRDP)

Our Early Head Start program utilizes the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) to monitor and support the growth and development of infants and toddlers. The DRDP is an observational assessment tool that allows educators to track each child's progress throughout the year. By observing children during everyday routines and activities in their natural learning environments, teachers gather valuable information that helps them plan engaging and meaningful learning experiences. The DRDP also guides ongoing program improvement and is fully aligned with state early learning standards.

The program did not have any younger infants enrolled at the end of the school year.

### Percentage of Children Proficient in Each Domain for the 2024–2025 School Year

Domain	Younger Infants (0)	Older Infants (6)	Toddlers (113)
Physical Development/Health	N/A	100%	94%
Language & literary	N/A	99%	92%
Cognition	N/A	98%	88%
Social/Emotional Development	N/A	100%	91%
Approaches to Learning	N/A	99%	95%





# C.A.L.M. CLUB

## FOSTERING CREATIVE AWARENESS IN YOUNG MINDS.

The C.A.L.M. Club is a comprehensive mental health support program developed by NDO staff and designed to nurture the social, emotional, and behavioral development of preschool children by creating supportive, responsive environments. The program is dedicated to helping every child thrive, build positive relationships, and develop a strong foundation for lifelong success. The program utilizes trained staff to provide individualized strategies, targeted interventions, and preventive support for children who demonstrate maladaptive behaviors or who may be withdrawn from peers and adults. This year, 121 children participated in the C.A.L.M. Club.

Implementation occurs within classroom environments and center-based sensory spaces and is led by Social Emotional Technicians. The program is monitored and supported by the Mental Health Specialist and Behavior Specialist to ensure consistency, effectiveness, and alignment with best practices.

The program is composed of sensory supports, individualized and small group instructions and behavior strategies and family collaboration. Each classroom contains a designated quiet area to allow children time to calm themselves or take a brief break from large group activities. In addition, centers offer sensory rooms that provide a safe, structured retreat for children who may be anxious, overwhelmed or agitated. These spaces include calming tools such as weighted items and bubble tubes which support emotional regulation and help prevent behavioral escalation.

The program allows for increased one-on-one and small group instruction to further support individual needs. These targeted lessons reinforce social-emotional skills, self-regulation, and positive peer interactions.

Through additional staffing, the program provides enhanced training for teachers on effective behavioral response strategies. Staff collaborate with families by sharing successful classroom strategies and offering guidance on how to implement these supports at home. The program also assists with referrals when needed by collecting and providing Response to Intervention (RTI) data to support next steps.

### STAFF



The current staff comprises 13 Social Emotional Technicians for the 2024-25 academic year, with a target of increasing this number to 18 for the 2025-26 school year.




# EARLY HEAD START/HEAD START FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Upon completion of the 2024-2025 school year, a total of 1,690 parents and guardians whose children were enrolled in the Early Head Start/Head Start (EHS/HS) program participated in a survey to share their experiences. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with respondents expressing that Ninth District Opportunity’s services were highly beneficial. Parents and guardians reported that not only did their children gain from being part of the program, but the entire family benefited as well. Here are some examples of how the program made a difference.


## PERCENTAGE OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS FINDING THE PROGRAM HELPFUL OR VERY HELPFUL:

Helped my family obtain medical and dental care	100%
Helped to provide books for my family to read at home	99%
Helped to get the father/father figure to join in the child’s learning	97%
Provided activities to help my child learn at home	99%
Helped me set my own educational/career goals	97%
Provided resources to help my child transition to the next school	98%
Helped strengthen my parenting skills	97%
Helped me engage in leadership/advocacy activities in the program	97%


**2,154**  
PEOPLE VOLUNTEERED IN THE HS/EHS PROGRAM



**1,438**  
WERE PROVIDED EMERGENCY CRISIS INTERVENTION



**90%**  
OF FAMILIES ATTAINED THEIR FAMILY GOAL



**1,081**  
FATHERS PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM





# HEAD START, EARLY HEAD START, AND PRE-K ANNUAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

## Head Start Staff of the Year



Lashone Lovelace from Douglas County Head Start has been named the NDO Head Start Staff of the Year. Ms. Lovelace’s journey with NDO began as a parent, where her dedication and commitment quickly became apparent through her volunteer efforts. She first joined the after-school program and was subsequently promoted to assistant teacher. After enrolling in the agency’s BA program and earning her degree, she advanced to her current position as a lead teacher.

With over 30 years of service at Douglas County Head Start, Ms. Lovelace stands out as an exceptional and well-rounded educator. She consistently advocates for families and serves as a positive role model in the community. Thanks to her compassion, dedication, and innovative teaching methods, her students leave her classroom well-equipped with the skills they need to thrive.

Each day, Ms. Lovelace’s genuine love for the children and her commitment to the Douglas County Head Start program are evident as she walks through the door.





# Head Start Parent of the Year

Amber Warren, a parent at Banks County Head Start, is a passionate advocate for fostering relationships and strengthening communities. Her tireless efforts to garner community support for center events and meetings have made each occasion feel uniquely special. Notably, she initiated the first-ever Scholastic book fair at the Banks County center, ensuring that every child received two free books. Additionally, she played a pivotal role in acquiring over 200 books for the classroom.

Amber also generously shared her expertise by assisting the neighboring Franklin County center in organizing their own book fair.

Regardless of the event or the need, Amber consistently demonstrates her commitment to helping others.



Amber Warren, NDO Parent of the Year. Amber is pictured with her husband, Corey.

# Head Start Father of the Year



Aaron Hester, representing Hart County Head Start, has been recognized as NDO's Father of the Year for 2024-2025. A dedicated father, Aaron embodies the principles of mentorship and leadership among his peers, understanding the profound impact of fatherhood and actively striving to support and inspire other fathers.

He organizes workshops that emphasize the essential roles and responsibilities of fathers. Whether volunteering to read in classrooms or engaging in outdoor activities with children, Aaron consistently exemplifies positive role modeling.



Aaron Hester, NDO Father of the Year. Aaron is pictured with the Hart County Head Start Staff.



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# **NDO SERVICES: FIELD OFFICE LOCATIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

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## **BANKS COUNTY**

110 Shortest Street  
PO Box 144  
Homer, Georgia 30547-0144  
Phone: (706) 677-3921  
Fax: (706) 677-5143

## **DAWSON COUNTY**

407 Allen St.  
Dawsonville, Georgia 30534-0009  
Phone: (706) 265-3744  
Fax: (706) 265-4555

## **FORSYTH COUNTY**

133 Samaritan Drive, Suite 101  
Cumming, Georgia 30040-2396  
Phone: (770) 889-9420

## **FRANKLIN COUNTY**

Franklin Co. Community Center  
6885 Highway 145, Carnesville –  
PO Box 243  
Lavonia, Georgia 30553-0243  
Phone: (706) 384-3495  
Fax: (706) 384-5066

## **HABERSHAM COUNTY**

880 Historic Hwy. 441  
Demorest, Georgia 30535  
Phone: (706) 778-0075  
Fax: (706) 778-0085

## **HALL COUNTY**

615 Oak Street, Ste. C  
Gainesville, Georgia 30501-8522  
Phone: (770) 534-8826  
Fax: (770) 534-0698

## **HART COUNTY**

500 N. Richardson St.  
Hartwell, Georgia 30643-6033  
Phone: (706) 376-4150  
Fax: (706) 377-4416

## **LUMPKIN COUNTY**

25 Short St., Ste. B  
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Phone: (706) 864-4637  
Fax: (706) 864-1558

## **RABUN COUNTY**

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Clayton, Georgia 30525-0691  
Phone: (706) 782-3704  
Fax: (706) 782-9602

## **STEPHENS COUNTY**

161 Queen Street  
Toccoa, Georgia 30577-1402  
Phone: (706) 886-0211

## **TOWNS COUNTY**

1294 Jack Dayton Circle  
Young Harris, GA 30582  
Phone: (706) 896-4783  
Fax (706) 896-4790

## **UNION COUNTY**

Civic Center – 165  
Wellborn St., Box 8  
Blairsville, Georgia 30512-3550  
Phone: (706) 745-6596

## **WHITE COUNTY**

1331 Helen Highway,  
Health Dept.  
Cleveland, Georgia  
30528-6938  
Phone: (706) 865-6220  
Fax: (706) 865-6223



**BANKS COUNTY**

335 Evans Street  
Homer, GA 30547  
(706) 677-2963

**CHEROKEE COUNTY**

Ralphe Bunche  
400 Belletta Drive  
Canton, GA 30114  
(770) 721-5370

**JOHNSTON ELEMENTARY**

2031 E. Cherokee Dr.  
Woodstock, GA 30188  
(770) 721-8490

**COBB COUNTY**

461 Allgood Road  
Marietta, GA 30060  
(770) 424-1961

**DAWSON COUNTY**

407 Allen Street  
Dawsonville, GA 30534  
(706) 265-2980

**DOUGLAS COUNTY**

3833 Longview Drive  
Douglasville, GA 30135  
(770) 949-3717

**LEAP CENTER**

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Douglasville, GA 30135  
(770) 949-3717

**FANNIN COUNTY**

8731 Lakewood Hwy.  
Mineral Bluff, GA 30559  
(706) 374-6250

**FORSYTH COUNTY**

Family Center  
133 Samaritan Drive  
Cumming, GA 30040  
(678) 513-8611

**CUMMING ELEMENTARY**

540 Dahlonega Street,  
Cumming GA 30040  
(678) 531-8611

**HALL COUNTY**

E.E. Butler Center  
1300 Athens Street  
Gainesville, GA 30507  
(770) 536-1816

**SARDIS ELEMENTARY**

2805 Sardis Road  
Gainesville, GA 30506  
(770) 536-1816

**LANIER ELEMENTARY**

4782 Thompson Bridge Road  
Gainesville, GA 30506  
(770) 536-1816

**LULA ELEMENTARY**

6130 Chattahoochee St.  
Lula, GA 30554  
(770) 536-1816

**MYERS ELEMENTARY**

2676 Candler Road  
Gainesville, GA 30507  
(770) 536-1816

**SUGAR HILL ELEMENTARY**

3259 Athens Hwy.  
Gainesville, GA 30507  
(770) 536-1816

**HART COUNTY**

500 N. Richardson Street  
Hartwell, GA 30543  
(706) 376-9355

**LUMPKIN COUNTY**

126 Mechanicsville Rd.  
Dahlonega, GA 30533  
(706) 864-3456

**PICKENS COUNTY**

529 Head Start Road  
Tate, GA 30177  
(770) 735-3434

**RABUN COUNTY**

1236 Old Hwy. 441 South  
Clayton, GA 30535  
(706) 782-4718

**STEPHENS COUNTY**

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Toccoa, GA 30577  
(706) 886-7675

**TOWNS COUNTY**

1150 Konahetah Rd.  
Hiawassee, GA 30546  
(706) 896-4131, ext. 4

**UNION COUNTY**

226 School Street  
Blairsville, GA 30514  
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**WHITE COUNTY**

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(706) 865-4947



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