

City of Centerville
Point of Information: GICH Designation
November 6, 2018

The Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) helps communities improve their quality of life and economic vitality through the development of locally-driven housing and revitalization strategies. With the ongoing support of their Founding Sponsor, the Georgia Power Company, GICH has facilitated progress towards housing stability in 60 communities during its first 12 years.

The support of the GICH partners-the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA), the University of Georgia (UGA) Housing and Demographics Research Center, and the UGA Office of the Vice President of Public Service and Outreach-includes ongoing technical assistance, as well as the organization and sponsorship of retreats for the participating communities.

GICH provides a platform for teams to think of creative solutions and network with housing professionals, city officials and staff, as well as community volunteers from across the state. Each year there are 5 communities chosen from those who applied to be a part of the 'freshmen class'. The City of Centerville submitted its application for this competitive program on August 6, 2018. Our application included letters of support from Chairman Tommy Stalnaker, Chairman of the Houston County Board of Commissioners, Kim Mazo, GICH Team Leader for the City of Warner Robins, Bryan Wood, Perry Housing Team Leader, Cheryl Glover, Resource Development Director for Houston County Habitat for Humanity, and Tian Foss, Executive Director for Houston County Family Connection.

As part of our application we pulled together a team of uniquely qualified individuals from across the nonprofit network in Houston County and community members from our City. On August 22, 2018, our housing team hosted a panel from the GICH program to evaluate our application on a deeper level. The first 45-minutes of the meeting was a question and answer session in which our team was able to bring to life the application submitted. The second-45 minutes was a community bus tour in which we visited the 5 target areas for redevelopment as indicated by our Centerville Housing Assessment done earlier this year. On October 4, 2018, we were notified of our selection to participate in this incredible program. We are part of the 2019 freshmen class with Arlington, Conyers, Smyrna, and Social Circle.

Thank you all for your support and we hope to have some incredible programs and ideas to improve housing in Centerville in the coming three years.