

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Christopher Nunn, Commissioner

DCA Names Executive Director for New Rural Broadband Program

Atlanta, GA (August 29, 2018) – Commissioner Christopher Nunn has announced Deana Perry as the Executive Director of the new Rural Broadband Program, which resides at Georgia’s Department of Community Affairs. The program was created by Senate Bill 402 – the Achieving Connectivity Everywhere (ACE) Act – and signed into law by Governor Nathan Deal this past spring. The mission of this new program is to provide planning, deployment, and incentives for broadband services and other emerging communications technologies throughout the state.

“I’m pleased to have someone with Deana’s deep policy and grant experience to head up this initiative,” said Nunn. “Bridging the digital divide is critical, and we are going to have to rely on strong partnerships. Deana has the contacts and background to help unlock the internet’s benefits for our rural areas and enable every Georgia household to participate in the digital economy.”

Perry comes to DCA from the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission, where she spent more than three years working with communities to develop broadband strategy. In this role, she promoted the need to identify broadband assets, drafted policy revisions and identified funding opportunities. She worked with county commissioners in a 15-county region to create a rural broadband advisory committee whose goal was to lead the expansion of high-speed internet access and meet the objective of improving global competitiveness, education, public safety, health care, and government efficiency in Northwest Georgia.

“There are 473 rural towns in Georgia whose residents are at risk of missing the economic benefits of a high-speed internet connection,” Perry said. “The internet is a fundamental component of the American economy, creating new ways to educate, employ, bring services to, and entertain every person – and broadband is essential for unlocking the internet’s benefits. Access to broadband is going to define the future for our rural areas.”

Prior to her work at Northwest Georgia Regional Commission, Perry served as an advisor to Parker FiberNet/Appalachian Valley Fiber Network on compliance and building alliances for public private partnerships. From 2010-14, she was the Program Manager with AVFN for a \$26 million broadband stimulus grant funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. In this position, she was responsible for the financial stewardship of AVFN including capital and operating budgets, as well as the development and implementation of grant administration policies and procedures in accordance with

federal regulations for financial and compliance reporting of grant funds, procurement and debt management.

Previously, Perry was Controller for Parker Systems where she directed all financial management functions and provided financial guidance to pursue the company's growth strategy. She worked with PFN/AVFN and its affiliates for more than 15 years. Perry has also served as Treasurer to Fiber Network Owners Alliance, Inc. (FNA), a trade association to serve as a strategic alliance of public and private organizations focused on aligning their fiber network resources for the purpose of providing broadband to the local areas they collectively serve. FNA's membership is made of broadband service providers (private and public owners) located in Georgia and the southeast region.

Perry holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing from Georgia Southern University and is a CPA candidate with Accounting credits from Kennesaw State University.

Perry and her husband Tim, an attorney in Chattooga County, have one son and reside in Trion.

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About the Georgia Department of Community Affairs:

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) partners with communities to create a climate of success for Georgia's families and businesses through community and economic development, local government assistance, and safe and affordable housing. Using state and federal resources, DCA helps communities spur private job creation, implement planning, develop downtowns, generate affordable housing solutions, and promote volunteerism. DCA also helps qualified low- and moderate-income Georgians buy homes, rent housing, and prevent foreclosure and homelessness. For more information, visit www.dca.ga.gov.