

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 3, 2023

Contact: Ryan Evans

Director of External Affairs

Ryan.Evans@dca.ga.gov

Communications@dca.ga.gov

Georgia Department of Community Affairs Launches Rural Workforce Housing Initiative

Funds to spur critical housing development in the State's rural communities

ATLANTA – The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) today announced the newly established Rural Workforce Housing Initiative would soon begin taking applications. The initiative, announced in Gov. Brian Kemp's State of the State address in January 2023, is meant to spur the development of critically needed workforce housing across the state. The Georgia General Assembly approved \$35.7 million to start the initiative in the Amended Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations bill that was signed into law in March 2023.

Georgia faces the same housing shortage that affects communities across the nation. As the state continues to attract new investment and its high-quality workforce grows, there is increased pressure on Georgia's housing inventory, especially in rural communities. The Rural Workforce Housing Initiative is a step to address this shortage by incentivizing housing development.

"Georgia has been blessed to experience incredible growth in recent years, with record jobs and investment coming to communities across our state," said Governor Brian Kemp. "This has led to increased need for workforce housing to meet the needs of employees in rural communities. This program is an important step towards meeting that need and ensuring workers are able to live in the communities where they work. I look forward to remaining engaged with our local partners on this issue in the coming months and years."

"This innovative, new initiative helps to address an important aspect of building strong, vibrant communities – housing that is affordable," said DCA Commissioner Christopher Nunn.

The Rural Workforce Housing Initiative is a component of the OneGeorgia Authority. Successful grantees will be expected to demonstrate transformational change in workforce housing and must meet OneGeorgia Authority eligibility requirements. Successful applications will demonstrate collaboration between local governments and real estate developers.

The preliminary Notice of Funding Availability can be accessed through the [OneGeorgia Authority website](#). The deadline for the first round of awards will be July 14, 2023, for awards to be made in September 2023.

Full details about the Rural Workforce Housing Initiative, including eligibility requirements and deadlines, can be found [here](#).

#

About the Department of Community Affairs

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs partners with communities to build strong and vibrant neighborhoods, commercial and industrial areas 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 Georgians with low and moderate incomes buy or rent homes and prevent foreclosure and homelessness. For more information, visit www.dca.ga.gov