



# The **Plan**First Program

Community Planning Institute

Derrick Peevy Jr., AICP Candidate | Associate Planner

## What is Plan First?









#### Why do you want to participate?



#### **Benefits of Plan First**

- Statewide recognition for outstanding planning and implementation
- Eligibility to apply EVERY year for CDBG funding must meet certain timeliness criteria set by CDBG
- Reduction on certain DCA loans: EIP, Redevelopment Fund and DDRLF
- Reduction on certain GEFA state loans
- 2 free registrations at any Community Planning Institute
- Assistance from DCA staff on plan implementation activities
- If denied, application review and assistance is provided if requested

#### How do I participate?

- You must be a Qualified Local Government, and have a history of same
- Must also have an verified SDS, and have submitted the required surveys (GOMI, RLGF)
- Must have met (and hopefully exceeded) the MINIMUM Performance Standards established by the local regional commission
- Must illustrate how planning is important to your community
- Must completely fill out the application and sign it due May 15

#### **Plan First Communities**

There are more than 35 Communities in the Program



#### **Application Process**

#### **FOUR INDICATORS**

- Goals
- Leadership
- Participation
- Implementation



#### PlanFirst Program Application - May 15, 2018

Introduction: The Department of Community Affairs' PlanFirst program rewards local governments that clearly demonstrate success with implementing their local comprehensive plan. To apply for PlanFirst designation, a local government must have Qualified Local Government certification and be current on required reporting to DCA. (To check status of both, please visit http://www.georgiaclanning.com/felanness/blaners/wisidefairl.gov

A multi-agency review panel will evaluate a number of indicators of community success with plan implementation to select communities for this designation. All of these indicators are equally important, but size of the community is taken into consideration in the evaluation so that communities of various sizes are equally competitive for PlanFirst designation.

Inctruotions: Please answer at the following questions thoroughly, attaching additional pages where necessary, so that the reviewers have sufficient information to measure the success of your comprehensive plan implementation. Supporting documents might include: news articles, legal ads, lists of attendees, letters of support or other evidence of local involvement and commitment to successful plan implementation activities in your community. Total application length, including supporting information and support letters, must not exceed 20 pages. Text areas will extend as needed.

Applicant government	
Mailing address	
Telephone	
Email	
Contact person; title	
Application prepared by	
	horized representative of the applicant, certify that to the best of my the information in this application is true and correct.
Name of authorized official signing; title	
Date	
Signature	4

#### **Indicator: Goals**

- Community and Leadership Support
- Ambitious and Achievable
- Steer Local Decision Making
- Consistent Progress

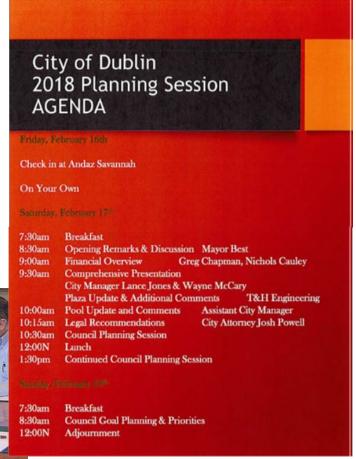


City of Thomasville Victoria Place Overlay District

#### **Indicator: Leadership**

- Effective Planning Staff
- Active Planning Commission
- Effectively Evaluate Planning
- Trained Local Officials
- Collaborative Partnerships





#### **Indicator: Participation**

- Lots of Opportunities for Community Input
- Community Input Incorporated in Your Plan
- Steering Committee Guided Process
- Effective Outreach Process
- Advocates



Jones County Plan Meeting

Exhibit 1



Community member interacting with members of the Project Teamat a Planning Workshop

Exhibit 2

GOAL 1 // CREATE AND IMPLEMENT A PLAN TO REVITALIZE AND REACTIVATE DOWNTOWN, AND BRING IN NEEDED ACTIVITY TO THE

GOAL 2 // REDEVELOP OLDER, UNDERUTILIZED STRIP SHOPPING CENTERS

GOAL 3 // DEVELOP QUALITY, DIVERSE HOUSING THAT CAN

GOAL 4 // ATTRACT USERS OF THE SILVER COMET TRAIL TO POWDER SPRINGS VIA IMPROVED SIGNAGE, WAYFINDING, CONNECTIVITY AND FACILITIES

GOAL 5 // ATTRACT NEW RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, AND DEVELOPMENT THROUGH IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS, MARKETING, AND BRANDING

Goals, 2017 Springs In Motion Comprehensive Plan. Page 67

City of Powder Springs

### Indicator: Implementation

- Action Items in Work Program
- Work Program Addresses Local Needs
- Good Track Record
- Consistent Capital Budget
- Recent





Amphitheater in Woodstock City Park

#### **Application: Lessons Learned**

- The answers need to be very specific: answer the question you're asked
- Regional Commissions do a good job completing the application
- Answers have changed somewhat over the years focus now is more on how they achieved their goals by planning rather than "Look how great we are"
- Renewals aren't automatic, not everybody renews, for different reasons



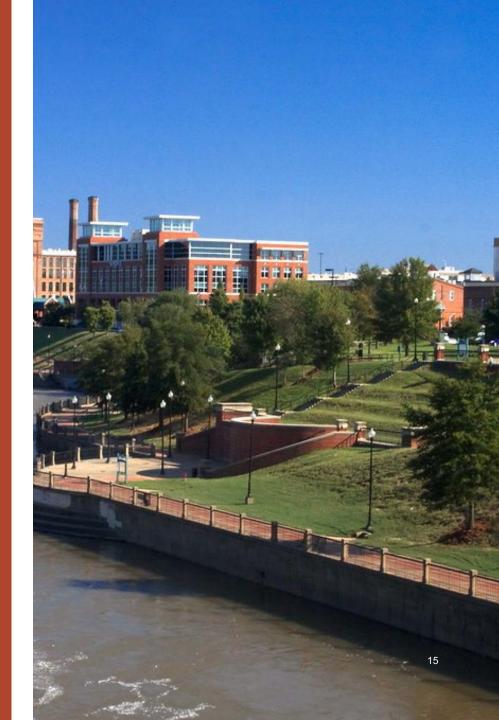
#### **Comments From Communities**

- Size only matters to the small
- Small communities like knowing they are considered just as successful as the larger ones
- Seemingly becoming less about economic development and more about general community planning
- Communities are very excited to share their planning successes with the rest of the state

#### Why PlanFirst?

"The PlanFirst designation provided the community with the independent evidence that the City Council and Staff are providing the planning and leadership to move Columbus forward with a vision and action plans that are preparing them for the future. The improvements afforded by the CDBG benefit has invigorated the community's efforts to achieve its goals. The designation has increased the City Council, Staff and Citizens awareness and involvement in planning out its future with realistic goals that can be met and confronting difficult challenges that need to be solved "

Columbus Consolidated Government



## Questions?

**Derrick Peevy Jr., AICP Candidate** 

Associate Planner | Local Programs

planning@dca.ga.gov

dca.ga.gov