



Georgia[®] Department of
Community Affairs



The Plan First Program

Community Planning Institute

Derrick Peevy Jr. , AICP Candidate | Associate Planner

What is Plan First ?



Why do you want to participate ?



Recognition



Community
Development
Block Grants



GEFA



Other DCA
programs

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.georgiainc.org/planners/placreview/default.asp>.)

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.

Instructions: Please answer all 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 expand as needed.**

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

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



**City of Dublin
2018 Planning Session
AGENDA**

Friday, February 16th

Check in at Andaz Savannah

On Your Own

Saturday, February 17th

7:30am	Breakfast	
8:30am	Opening Remarks & Discussion	Mayor Best
9:00am	Financial Overview	Greg Chapman, Nichols Cauley
9:30am	Comprehensive Presentation	
	City Manager Lance Jones & Wayne McCary	
	Plaza Update & Additional Comments	T&H Engineering
10:00am	Pool Update and Comments	Assistant City Manager
10:15am	Legal Recommendations	City Attorney Josh Powell
10:30am	Council Planning Session	
12:00N	Lunch	
1:30pm	Continued Council Planning Session	

Sunday, February 18th

7:30am	Breakfast	
8:30am	Council Goal Planning & Priorities	
12:00N	Adjournment	

Indicator: Participation

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

Exhibit 1



Community member interacting with members of the Project Team at a Planning Workshop

Exhibit 2



Jones County Plan Meeting

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

GOAL 2 // REDEVELOP OLDER, UNDERUTILIZED STRIP SHOPPING CENTERS

GOAL 3 // DEVELOP QUALITY, DIVERSE HOUSING THAT CAN ATTRACT A WIDE RANGE OF PEOPLE AND LIFESTYLES

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

Financial Planning Policies

Long-Range Planning

Strategic Planning
The City of Gainesville employs various types of strategic planning techniques. Primarily, the City uses a Vision, Mission and Values strategy, to help guide individual departments on a micro level. On a macro level, the City uses a comprehensive plan, trend analysis and City Council Direction to help determine the overall direction of the City of Gainesville. The City of Gainesville will develop a multi-year plan for capital improvements and update it annually. The City will enact an annual capital budget based on the multi-year capital improvements plan. Future operating costs associated with new capital improvements will be projected and included in operating budget forecasts.

Capital-Asset
Fixed assets include anything with a unit cost of \$10 or more, except something that is consumed within a useful life. It provides a substance and to provide service that extend beyond acquisition. Assets include one of the following: Land, Buildings & Equipment, Improvements, Water Treatment Facilities, Sewerage Facilities, Water Lines, Intangible structure.

Asset
Controllable assets charged to an expense account. However, an asset will be added into the capital asset system to be tracked and will



City of Gainesville Georgia ANNUAL BUDGET + CAPITAL FY2018 Gainesville.org

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?

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