



The PlanFirst Program - Incentive Package

Incentives Available to **Qualified Local Governments**:

- Access to funding and permits from the following state agencies: Department of Community Affairs, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) and OneGeorgia Authority
- Assistance from DCA and the Regional Commissions to develop the Local Comprehensive Plan

Incentives Available to **PlanFirst Community Designees** during the three-year designation period:

- Statewide recognition for community achievement
- Use of the PlanFirst logo
- Highlighted on the PlanFirst webpage
- PlanFirst plaque indicating dates of designation
- Free attendance for 2 community representatives at any Community Planning Institute event

Project Incentives

All incentives below are limited to plan implementation projects other than water resource management projects, unless otherwise specified. Projects undertaken to which PlanFirst incentives are applied **must** be included in the jurisdiction's comprehensive plan. *Incentives may not be layered with similar incentives from other DCA programs such as WaterFirst or Main Street.*

- Eligibility to apply for CDBG funding every year for HUD CDBG non-entitlement local governments meeting certain criteria. This incentive applies to those non-entitlement governments that meet the "Timeliness Criteria" as outlined on page 20 of the FFY 2019 CDBG Applicants' Manual. Please also see page 21 of the manual, "Restrictions on Eligibility for Competition," for details regarding incentives and other related topics. Contact your CDBG Field Services representative for further information regarding CDBG application requirements
- 100 basis point reduction, or 1%, for loans through the Employment Incentive Program
- 100 basis point reduction, or 1%, for loans through the Redevelopment Fund Program
- 100 basis point reduction, or 1%, for loans through the Downtown Development Revolving Loan Fund Program
- Access to the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) state loans at an interest rate that is reduced by 50 basis points, or ½ percent. As an example of this benefit, the interest rate savings over the life of a 20-year water or sewer loan of \$200,000 would be just over \$13,000

Assistance Available to **PlanFirst Applicants not selected for designation**:

- DCA staff visit to review the PlanFirst program application and identify opportunities for improvement
- DCA technical assistance with local planning and plan implementation activities in order to enhance opportunities for future PlanFirst designation