



About Local Planning in Georgia

The Georgia Planning Act of 1989 established the framework for how local governments in Georgia plan for their future in conjunction with neighboring governments, utility providers and other stakeholders. Local comprehensive plans help governments address critical issues and opportunities while moving toward realization of its unique vision for the community's future. The planning requirements also provide technical guidance to communities in advancing the State's goals of:

- A growing and balanced economy;
- Protection of environmental, natural and cultural resources;
- Provision of infrastructure and services to support efficient growth and development patterns;
- Access to adequate and affordable housing for all residents;
- Coordination of land use planning and transportation planning to support sustainable economic development, protection of natural and cultural resources and provision of adequate and affordable housing; and
- Coordination of local planning efforts with other local service providers and authorities, neighboring communities and state and regional plans.

Local governments who develop and maintain a comprehensive plan in accordance with the minimum standards and requirements are assigned a "Qualified Local Government" (QLG) status, making them eligible for all forms of State funding and assistance. Local governments also use their comprehensive plan to monitor progress in achieving their own goals with regards to community development, effective capital improvement strategies and more.