

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Selects the City of Tifton and Tift County as one of only five Communities for the 2005 “Signature Community” Program

Atlanta, GA - Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Commissioner Mike Beatty announced today that Tifton Tift County was selected as one of only five communities in Georgia to participate as an inaugural member of DCA’s Signature Community Program. Tifton Tift County’s application was the only joint City County entry in Georgia and was the sole selected community of 13 applications in the Southwest Georgia Region.

DCA launched the Signature Community Program in July with Governor Sonny Perdue’s strong support to provide resources to Georgia communities to help Georgia’s communities move from good to great.

DCA received 56 applications from communities statewide. Communities were evaluated on nine key “community indicator” criteria, including comprehensive planning, downtown revitalization, economic development, environmental management, infrastructure development, leadership programs, quality growth, safe and affordable housing and service and volunteerism.

“DCA extends special congratulations to the leadership of the City of Tifton and Tift County. The City of Tifton and Tift County governments worked very hard to develop a high-quality proposal that clearly outlined how participation in the Signature Community program would enhance their community. We look forward to working with them over the next two years to accomplish their goals,” said DCA commissioner Mike Beatty.

The Signature program will provide the City of Tifton and Tift County with a number of benefits, including:

- Two years of customized technical assistance to achieve key initiatives from the local comprehensive plan.
- Access to a Signature Community Program grant of up to \$50,000.
- Assistance in identifying other financial resources for implementing the identified initiatives.
- Statewide recognition as a community committed to improving the lives and livelihood of its residents through effective development of a comprehensive plan and efficient implementation of plan activities.
- Access to Georgia Department of Transportation matching funds for Local Assistance Road Program (LARP) resurfacing projects. DOT will match local funds dollar for dollar up to \$100,000 for qualified LARP projects.
- Access to Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) state loans at reduced rates. Participating communities will be eligible to receive a reduction in the GEFA state loan interest rate by up to 50 basis points.
- Additional points under the Qualified Allocation Plan for rental housing developments that are most indicative of the community’s affordable housing goals.