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Georgia Advancing Communities Together (Georgia ACT)

Program Overview, Policy Priorities, and Evaluation Framework

Georgia Advancing Communities Together (Georgia ACT) is a statewide, membership-based nonprofit organization focused on advancing housing stability and strong communities through advocacy, capacity building, connection, and civic engagement. Our work is guided by a four-prong strategy: ACT Connect to convene organizations and community leaders across Georgia; ACT Advocacy to advance housing and community development policy; ACT Capacity to build leadership and organizational strength; and ACT Engagement to support resident involvement and civic participation.

Current Programs and Activities

A major component of Georgia ACT's work is **Voter Engagement and Civic Participation**, recognizing that housing stability and civic involvement are closely connected. In 2025, Georgia ACT supported voters across urban and rural communities by providing nonpartisan election information, encouraging participation in local and municipal elections, expanding digital outreach, and partnering with organizations such as VoteRiders to assist individuals in securing valid voter identification. These efforts reached communities across Georgia and helped reduce barriers to participation, particularly for renters and housing-insecure households.

Georgia ACT also leads the **Next Gen Young Leaders Program**, an eight-week leadership development initiative for young adults ages 18 to 24 that provides training in housing policy, advocacy, civic engagement, financial literacy, nonprofit career pathways, and personal development. In fall 2025, 11 participants from colleges across Georgia completed the program and received stipends, gaining practical skills and increased confidence to engage in housing advocacy and community leadership. Georgia ACT continues to support alumni through volunteer and internship opportunities statewide.

In addition, Georgia ACT is preparing to launch the **Front Porch Project**, a community engagement initiative focused on elevating housing leaders with lived experience of homelessness and housing insecurity through storytelling, education, and dialogue that strengthens grassroots advocacy and informs policy conversations.

Policy Priorities and Initiatives

Georgia ACT's current policy priorities include:



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- **Opposing the criminalization of homelessness** by advancing prevention strategies through HB 689 and supporting the Interagency Council on Homelessness under SB 170.
- **Expanding access to affordable housing** across housing types by supporting manufactured housing affordability, nonprofit housing developer tax exemptions, increased housing trust fund investments, and expanded use of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit under H.R. 1.
- **Supporting workforce housing, senior housing, increased homeownership** through homestead exemption reforms, and preservation of single-family homes for individual buyers under HB 555.
- **Advancing housing stability for transition-age youth** through expanded housing programs and full funding of the Georgia Foster Care Scholarship under SB 85.
- **Strengthening tenant protections** through rental market transparency measures under HB 374 and HB 679, improvements to the Safe at Home Act (HB 404) including habitability standards under HB 725, extended eviction cure periods, and utility affordability protections under HB 641.
- **Monitoring economic and community development policies** impacting housing stability, including rent stabilization authority under SB 106 and reforms related to property taxes, income taxes, and consumer protections.

Evaluation and Measuring Impact

Georgia ACT evaluates success using a combination of quantitative metrics and qualitative outcomes.

Key Metrics

For Voter Engagement and Civic Participation:

- Individuals reached through outreach and digital campaigns
- Voters assisted with education, registration, and ID access
- Participation in civic engagement activities

For the Next Gen Young Leaders Program:

- Enrollment and completion rates
- Attendance and engagement levels
- Continued involvement in advocacy or leadership roles

For the Front Porch Project:



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- Number of community conversations and events
- Attendance and geographic reach
- Partnerships developed

Qualitative Indicators

In addition to data-driven measures, Georgia ACT assesses impact through:

- Increased awareness of housing issues and policy
- Strengthened collaboration across community partners
- Leadership growth among participants
- Participant feedback and stories of change

Defining Success

Success over the next two to three years will be reflected in both measurable growth and stronger community networks, empowered leaders, increased civic participation, and progress toward housing stability across Georgia.