



GEORGIA SMART COMMUNITIES CHALLENGE

ENABLING RESILIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH ACADEMIC RESEARCH AND PUBLIC SECTOR COLLABORATION



2021 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

This year, the Georgia Smart Communities Challenge is offering an enhanced two-year researcher-led cohort program. Up to four communities will be selected to participate under the theme of **Community Connectivity**. Project focus areas should include Agricultural Technology, Healthcare, and/or Workforce Education & Development. Participation in this cohort will be advantageous for communities planning to apply for Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative (GBDI).

WHY APPLY?

The Georgia Smart Communities Challenge helps your city to achieve advancement in connectivity-related projects by offering planning, academic, and technical support.

Pages 4 - 7



HOW TO APPLY

The concise application process allows communities to outline their vision for a smarter community while still in the beginning phases of planning for connectivity.

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AWARD EXPECTATIONS

Selected communities will participate in a two-year program that includes planning, community engagement, pilot implementation, and supporting research.

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WHY APPLY?

SECTION ONE

1. Program Overview

The Georgia Smart Communities Challenge (“Georgia Smart”) is an award-winning research-led cohort and technical assistance program for local governments within the State of Georgia, USA.

It is a competitive program that supports local governments of any size within the State of Georgia—cities, counties, and consolidated city-county governments—by providing access to technical assistance, expert advice, and a network of peers. Georgia Smart communities will receive access to a breadth of resources including a team of researchers, Georgia Smart program management, [Smart Community Corps](#), and Georgia Smart partners. [Alumni](#) have successfully implemented their project and garnered additional funding and technical assistance to continue their project beyond the program period, continuing to service their residents and meet their community’s goals. They have also garnered national recognition for their projects and served as a model for other communities in addressing similar problems.

For this year’s cohort, Georgia Smart will select up to four communities for an enhanced two-year program centered on Community Connectivity. This is defined as optimizing access to broadband internet to facilitate integrating smart technologies and should include projects relating to Agricultural Technology (AgriTech), Healthcare, and Education & Workforce Development.

Georgia Smart projects will be comprised of four phases: Planning, Community Engagement, Technology Pilot, and Research. This will allow communities to plan for a project, submit for funding, execute implementation, and evaluate results, all with the help of Georgia Tech experts.

Participation in this cohort will be advantageous for communities planning to apply for the [Department of Community Affairs \(DCA\) Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative \(GBDI\)](#), as Georgia Smart has partnered with officials at GBDI to provide expert advice to communities in the proposal process. Successful applicants will leverage GA Smart resources to write a funding proposal leading to the exploration, study, use, deployment, and integration of smart community technologies into their jurisdictions and operations.

Georgia Smart is organized by the Georgia Institute of Technology in partnership with Georgia Power, Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG), Georgia Municipal Association (GMA), Georgia Centers for Innovation, Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), Metro Atlanta Chamber, Georgia Chamber, Georgia Planners Association, Technology Association of Georgia (TAG), Georgia Association of Regional Commissions, and Global City Teams Challenge, with financial support from Georgia Power, Atlanta Regional Commission, and the Georgia Institute of Technology.

2. 2021 Georgia Smart Program Updates

Georgia Smart has been updated for the 2021 cohort to focus on **Community Connectivity** projects across the state of Georgia and is different in structure from previous Georgia Smart cohort models.

2.1 Updated Model & Topic Areas



Figure 1: Digital Inclusion Infographic

To expand the reach of Georgia Smart to unserved, underserved, small, and non-metropolitan areas, this cohort will feature a topic area targeted to capture that audience and empower communities to harness the resources needed to execute smart solutions through connectivity. Without the element of connectivity, other smart technology-based initiatives are unlikely to thrive, therefore this cohort's focused topic of Community Connectivity strives to connect communities to needed resources so they can be poised to pilot relevant smart solutions within the expanded 2-year program.

There are three main elements of digital inclusion through community connectivity - [access, adoption, and application](#) (See Figure 1). Georgia Smart is looking to support projects that increase digital inclusion by providing greater access to broadband services to community members, assist the community in adopting new technologies or strategies including piloting a use case, and/or increases the ability of the public to understand and utilize available technologies.

Because the topic is narrow in focus, Georgia Smart program management can provide researcher matching with the community cohort. It also allows faculty to work with more than one community at once, expanding the reach of the program, and allowing for synergies to develop naturally among cohort members. This gives way to a newly formatted Community Research Co-Creation Model, seen in Figure 2. This structure will include one lead GT researcher who will guide communities throughout the project, and a network of supporting faculty who will provide the relevant workshops, among other services.

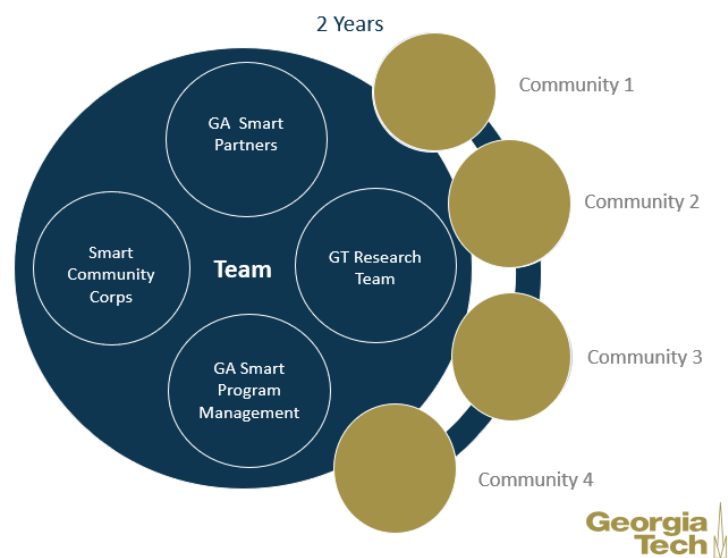


Figure 2. Community Research Co-Creation Model

2.2 Community-Research Topic Areas

The theme of this cohort of Georgia Smart is *Community Connectivity*. Communities will submit applications to solve problems related to the following three smart topic areas, as it relates to the overarching theme of connectivity.

Area	Example	Example Partners
Agricultural Technology	Utilizing broadband connection to connect farms for smart agriculture.	Broadband providers, electric providers
Healthcare	Installing telehealth units in a local hospital	Broadband providers, hospitals
Workforce Education & Development	Pursuing high-speed bandwidth in a local school to support remote classrooms	Broadband providers, schools

2.3 Enhanced Community Resource

The new model provides support to communities in different ways than previous offerings. While funding will not be provided to communities in this cohort, there are many benefits communities can expect to take advantage of through participation including:

- Two-Year Support** - The Georgia Tech research team will provide expert support to communities, without fee, over an extended period of two years. These researchers will provide know-how at no cost by working with communities providing technical and academic support, through all project phases including developing a strong funding proposal, planning, community engagement, pilot implementation, and evaluation.
- Georgia Tech Research Support:** Over both years of funding, Georgia Smart will fund one GT researcher who will lead the cohort through the four phases of the program, as well as drive the planning, technical implementation, and research that will occur as part of the program. Additionally, Georgia Smart will find 6 – 9 additional faculty members to provide targeted workshop & educational support. Please refer to Section 11 for more information about researcher roles throughout the two-year program.
- Preparation for the GBDI grant** - The Georgia Smart team will provide community support as they plan and write a full funding proposal tailored to the GBDI funding call. Please see Section 5.2 for more information on GBDI requirements.
- Targeted Program** – Communities selected for the 2021 cohort will be under one united topic area, forging connections between communities. Georgia Smart will also provide workshops on topics relevant to proposal development, in the interest of providing communities with all the resources they need to develop a strong proposal for GBDI funding. These workshops will occur monthly, likely virtually, for approximately 90 minutes. Researchers will follow up with communities at a subsequent meeting to work on how that information can be utilized in project planning.

Please refer to Section 3 for a full list of Georgia Smart Technical and Financial Support.

3. Summary of GA Smart Program Benefits

Georgia Smart provides support for selected local governments in the following ways:

- **Proposal Development:** As developing a formal proposal for GBDI funding will be a linchpin of the first half of the GA Smart program, and a representative of GBDI will be lending their expertise to the cohort, communities can expect that they will have a strong proposal to submit for funding.
- **Research Team:** Researchers will be fully funded, and communities will not be expected to pay for any researcher services. Please see Section 4.1 for more information on the role of the research team in each phase.
- **Network Support:** A network of partners & faculty will provide support in the form of monthly workshops to assist with the execution of projects, refine and develop long-term project plans, develop a funding proposal. By participating in the offered targeted educational webinars, communities will have the opportunity to learn from a variety of mentors on topics that are critical to project development. Communities can utilize this information to improve projects, as well as in general in the implementation of other smart city-related goals.
- **Project Execution:** The research team will assist communities throughout the project timeline including everything from funding proposal writing and research plan development to implementation and evaluation. This will aid communities through project steps where they have limited expertise while also providing additional manpower for accomplishing tasks.
- **Cohort Community:** Selected communities will be part of a cohort of communities that are all working towards projects under a similar topic area. This synergy between projects will allow communities to learn from each other in a meaningful way and create lasting relationships with diverse communities across the state. This model also allows communities to learn best practices from other smart communities and network partners.

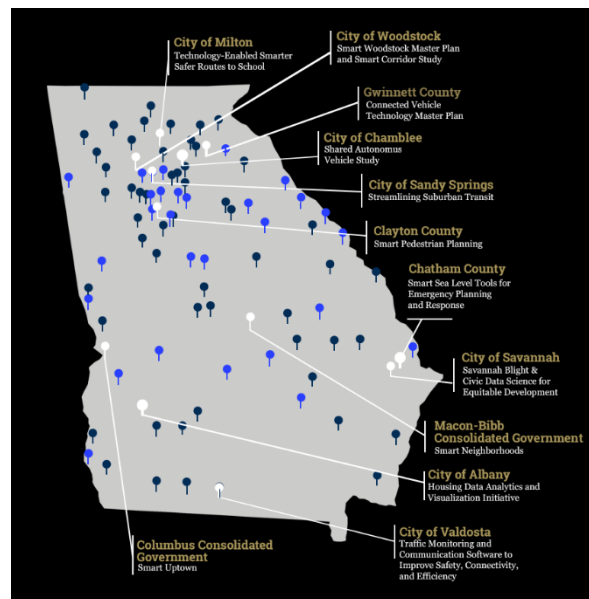


Figure 3: Georgia Smart Communities and Impact



HOW TO APPLY

SECTION TWO

4. General Guidelines

In consideration of an application for Georgia Smart, communities should consider the following points:

- **Why does the community need or desire to become a smart community?** In answering the “why” question, communities should also answer three related questions:
 - What are the conditions or issues driving this need?
 - What are the “smart” technologies and concepts that will address these needs?
 - What will the future look like in the community once these technologies have been adopted?
- **How will the community transition from its current state to its desired future state?** This question addresses the long-term, big-picture plan for realizing the community’s vision.
- **What planning activities will the community undertake and what plans will the community create under the Georgia Smart program, in support of its end-goals?** This question addresses the community’s proposed plan of action during the two-year execution phase of Georgia Smart.

Georgia Smart projects should strive to address the needs of the community equitably and inclusively that involves some type of “smart communities” technology. As such, teams should consider these needs, along with a compelling vision and set of community-derived goals for the community’s future, when developing their proposals. Likewise, teams should consider the impact of applying “smart” technologies in their community and how those communities have been improved through these technologies.

Georgia Smart communities should demonstrate a commitment to *long-term* project support and citizen engagement, clear and defined technology evaluation criteria, and a pathway toward sustained progress beyond this project. More than exploring the potential of advanced technical systems, communities should seek to improve the lives of citizens, expand and extend government operations and services, and generate new economic opportunities for businesses and the workforce at large. Georgia Smart projects are simply the means through which communities can plan for and ultimately achieve these quality-of-life outcomes.

Other General considerations include:

- Applications should express long-term commitment to a smart community approach within their local government beyond the program timeline. This approach can be expressed through examples of other contemporaneous projects, past referenda, or other means;
- Applications should illustrate deep knowledge of the challenges that face their residents;
- Applications should articulate a holistic understanding of smart communities, including strategies to reach underserved populations within a jurisdiction;
- Applications must clearly express how the project fits within one of three topical areas;
- Applications must articulate other known challenges within their jurisdictions to contextualize the plan amongst other priorities.

5. Georgia Smart Eligibility and Application Requirements

Communities must anticipate fulfilling all the following eligibility and application requirements, including Georgia Smart program requirements and GBDI funding requirements:

5.1 Georgia Smart Program Requirements

1. **Application:** To apply for the Georgia Smart 2021 cohort, communities should plan to prepare a pre-proposal and proposal as listed in Section 7. The application includes sections with the following content: vision, motivation, project, point of contact, partnerships, leadership support, financial support, and reference list.
2. **Proposal Preparation:** As year one of the Georgia Smart program will include preparing communities to apply for funding through the GBDI program, communities should be prepared to write a funding proposal (with help from the research team) within the first year of Georgia Smart. Georgia Smart has partnered with the GBDI to ensure that communities are fully prepared for a funding proposal submission to support the Technology Pilot and Supporting Research phases of the project.
3. **Cost Sharing:** Communities should prepare for the following elements of cost-sharing for participation in the Georgia Smart 2021 cohort.
 - a. Communities will need to provide the in-kind contribution of staff time throughout the Planning and Community Engagement phases (Year One) of the project. It is expected the project lead and supporting team members dedicate meaningful amounts of time on the project every month including monthly status calls, monthly workshops, stakeholder engagement events, and at least one onsite event with Georgia Smart in your community. Communities must supply documentation with their application stating the source, nature, and value of the match, including letters of support or other documents guaranteeing the availability of such resources. See Section 11 for estimated time commitments over the project period.
 - b. Communities will need to provide funds to hire two [Smart Community Corps](#) interns (a Georgia Tech student and a local higher education institution student) to be placed in your community to work with your team on your Georgia Smart project for 10-12 weeks during summer 2022 and summer 2023. Students will work 40hrs/week alongside your team to enhance project execution during the last quarter of the project. The cost of this is an estimated \$32,000 over both summers.
 - c. If GBDI funding is secured, communities should be prepared to utilize Georgia Smart resources to execute a pilot program and research evaluation. If GBDI funding is not secured, Georgia Smart communities should be prepared to use the initial available cost-sharing funds towards a small-scale application/implementation/or pilot program.
4. **Eligible Governments:** Any local government within the State of Georgia can apply to lead or participate on a team under the Georgia Smart program. These governments include city governments, county governments, and consolidated city-county governments. No population or land area requirements exist for participation. No government outside of Georgia is eligible.
5. **Collaboration:** Applications are encouraged to feature a collaboration with nonprofit or for-profit entities where applicable. Examples include partnerships with nonprofits such as community improvement districts, academic institutions, or for-profit companies, such as technology providers. Preference is given to applications that feature collaborations with nongovernment entities that reside within the State of Georgia.
6. **Project Lead Commitment:** Applications should include information about the community's Project Lead. This contact should be a champion for the project who is willing

to devote 30 – 40 hours per month (1-1.5 days/week) in pursuit of project goals and outcomes.

5.2 Summary of GBDI Community Requirements

1. **Underserved Communities:** Preference will be given to communities noted as unserved by the Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative (GBDI). Please see Figure 4 or the [GBDI website](#) for the full list of unserved communities.
2. **Eligible applicants:** Any or all public bodies, designated by the Department of Community Affairs under paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of O.C.G.A. § 50-40-81, as political subdivisions qualified to apply for funds under this article.
3. **Cost Sharing:** Communities should prepare for the following elements of cost-sharing to be eligible to apply for GBDI funding:
 - a. A 50% cash match on a potential \$250,000 award from GBDI. The GBDI call for proposal stipulates a 50% cash match on all proposals, where the minimum grant award is \$250,000. Communities will need to show investment in this project to provide these funds. This could include state, federal, or broadband provider level support. Communities will need to submit letters of support from any potential investors, including internal funds as necessary.
 - b. Communities should prepare to have a broadband partner as part of the GBDI funding requirements. Communities who have a partner at the time of application will receive preference.

Please review the [GBDI website](#) for full and updated details about preparing a proposal for this funding source, which will be a major element of the first year of the Georgia Smart 2021 cohort.

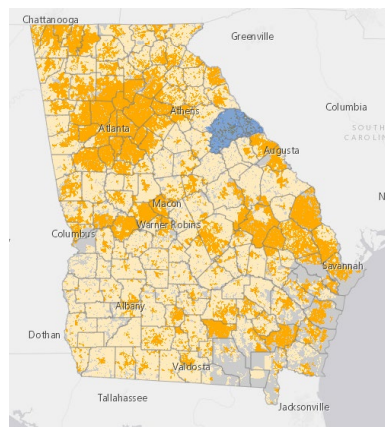


Figure 4: Unserved Georgia by County

6. Proposal Schedule

The following schedule outlines the timeline and events during the Georgia Smart Communities Challenge proposal period.

Request for Proposal – Launch	April 5 th , 2021
Georgia Smart Informational Webinar (Opportunity #1)	April 14 th , 2021, 12pm – 1pm

Pre-application Due	May 3 rd , 2021, 5pm
Final Application Due	June 1 st , 2021, 5pm ET
Winning Communities Notified	July 2021

7. Application Information

7.1 Informational Webinars

Applicants are encouraged to participate in the application development session that Georgia Smart will host. Teams should [pre-register for this session on the Georgia Smart website](#) to ensure that Georgia Smart can communicate updates with participants.

The session will be a webinar, which will provide communities with an opportunity to hear more about Georgia Smart and provide a forum for program and proposal Q&A. The webinar will be open to all interested parties, and a recording of the webinar will be posted to the Georgia Smart website after the event. The webinar will be held on April 14th, 2021, from noon to 1 pm and information about how and when to access the webinar will be posted on the Georgia Smart website.

7.2 Pre-Application

A pre-application is required to submit a full application to Georgia Smart for 2021.

These sections will also be present in the formal proposal. Each entry box will have a maximum of 20,000 characters or approximately 2,500 words. Each proposal should not exceed 5,000 words.

1) Vision

Describe the vision your community has for broadband deployment. Two to three paragraphs of description should be sufficient in most cases; the word limit is 2,500. This section should address the following questions:

- What is your vision for having improved broadband access?
- What standards are you trying to meet through this proposed project?
- How does improved broadband access fit in with the current community's overall vision and goals?
- What do you hope to achieve through this program in the long-term?

2) Motivation

Discuss your community's motivation to participate in the GA Smart Communities Challenge. Two to three paragraphs of description should be sufficient in most cases; the maximum word limit is 2,500. This section should address the following questions:

- What are the current conditions and availability of connectivity in your community?
- If connectivity is unavailable or scarce, what policies or procedures have been developed or are planned to work around community needs for broadband?
- Describe any prior efforts, citizen feedback, or other motivating factors.

3) Project

The second year of the Georgia Smart 2021 cohort will include the implementation of a technology pilot and/or application of technologies. Give an overview of technolog(ies) that would benefit your community and serve as the base on which you build a formal funding proposal. The application of technology should be relevant to your vision and motivation. Two to three paragraphs of description

should be sufficient, the maximum word limit is 2,500. This section should address the following questions:

- Which of these three subtopics would your project be centered around? You must select one or more of three sub-topics.
 - Agricultural Technology
 - Healthcare
 - Education and Workforce Development
- How is your community planning to address the current conditions and motivating factors described in the previous sections?
- Provide an example of an ideal use-case in your community. Refer to Section 2.2 for examples of use cases under each sub-topic.
- What types of partnerships have you already established in pursuit of this project?

4) Point of Contact / Project Lead

Applications require a designated point-of-contact who is employed by the lead local government. The point-of-contact must provide an email and phone number and be available to answer questions about the application during the review period. The application form will have entry fields for relevant information.

Pre-proposals are due before 5:00 PM EDT on May 3rd, 2020 and should be submitted to the [Georgia Smart online Pre-Proposal submission portal](#).

7.3 Final Application Requirements

The final application will include the sections listed in the pre-application section (Section 7.2) in addition to the following requirements:

1) Partnerships

The application form will prompt applicants to enter information for the following fields about each partner planned for the project.

- Name
- Point of Contact and corresponding contact information
- Role – a description of how each partner will contribute to the project. For example, a non-profit might contribute to community engagement, an organization may be a broadband partner, or an academic institution might provide classes.

Each partnership listed should have a corresponding Letter of Support signed by an authorized representative of the entity in the required attachment.

2) Leadership Support

Each final application should include Letter(s) of Support from relevant community leadership and should identify available support from organizational leadership in the application process. As projects will be seeking funding, leadership will need to be involved and appraised of these proposal developments and have a vision for how the project fits into the goals of the community. All participating local governments must submit a letter of support from a high-ranking elected representative or employee of the local government (e.g. Mayor, County Commission Chair, City Manager, etc.). There are no requirements for exactly which high-ranking official must provide this letter of support. However, the individual chosen must be authorized and empowered to commit the

government’s time and resources as necessary to complete the proposed work. Letters must appear on official letterhead and include the representative’s signature for that government.

3) Financial Support

Each final application should include documentation of the availability, source, and value of the community’s investment in cost-sharing. These funds can come from partner organizations, federal or state funding, or internal funds. Please refer to Section 5 for outlines of cost-sharing requirements. Letters from government entities must appear on official letterhead and include the signature of an official authorized to commit the resources. Letters from donors should include a commitment statement and the donor’s signature. Other documentation may be provided, as necessary, to establish the nature, value, and source of the match.

4) Reference List

Please include a listing of references and citations from the main body of the proposal, if applicable, as it relates to documentation or data from previous planning studies, documented best practices, or other industry or academic literature. This may be omitted if no references were utilized.

Submission Requirements

Supporting documents listed in points 1 – 3 (including Letters of Support from partners and leadership and proof of ability to meet cost-sharing requirements) must be submitted as a single PDF attachment to the online form. The page limit will be 25 pages for all supporting documents.

Proposals must be submitted through the [Georgia Smart Final Proposal Submission Portal](#) no later than 5:00 PM EDT on June 1st, 2021. Proposals submitted after this deadline or using any other mechanism will not be accepted. Exceptions will only be made if the online submission portal is down on the due date.

8. Review Process

All proposals will be evaluated by a panel of judges with expertise in smart communities. Up to four communities will be selected to participate in the 2021 cohort. Winning teams will be notified, and a public announcement made in Summer 2021.

Judges will separately evaluate and score each proposal on its merits. Scores from each judge will be combined to select the winning communities. Applications must achieve a minimum score to be considered for participation. If no applications meet the minimum score, Georgia Smart reserves the right to select fewer than four winners or change the minimum requirements to allow for up to four winners. In this case, Georgia Smart may alter how resources are allocated to the winning teams. In the case of a tie, Georgia Smart reserves the right to break the tie using any method that Georgia Smart deems appropriate.

In keeping with the general guidance, above, applications will be evaluated using subjective metrics that are similar to but not limited to the following:

8.1 Application Evaluation

- **Compelling Vision:** The degree to which the proposal clearly articulates a compelling vision for the community’s improved future state, to be achieved through the appropriate application of “smart” concepts.
- **Proper Motivation:** The degree to which the proposal articulates current conditions within the community that may be addressed through the application of “smart communities” concepts.
- **Clear Project:** The technologies mentioned or planned for are relevant to the selected topic area, and tied to the vision and motivation.
- **Dedicated Leadership:** The degree to which proposed project leadership personnel are dedicated to the project and capable of ensuring the success of the project.
- **Community Support:** The level of community support shown in the form of the value of any in-kind match proposed as well as the appropriateness of partnerships with other local community organizations who will support the project as shown in the form of Letters of Support and Understanding.
- **Synchronicity with GBDI Funding Call:** The degree to which the community application fits the outline for funding through the Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative. This includes the stipulation for cash matching and preference to unserved communities.
- **Meaningful Impact:** The degree to which the proposed first-year plan is likely to either (1) have an immediate, meaningful, and positive impact on the community, (2) make substantive progress towards the community’s end-goals, or (3) enable future efforts that move the community towards its stated goals.

9. Additional Considerations

Partial or late applications will not be considered. Partial applications include the failure to include the necessary letters of support and letters of understanding from project collaborators and partners, as well as the failure to include any required section in the proposal. Late applications are applications submitted after the submission deadline or those that are not submitted through the official Georgia Smart application portal. Exceptions will be made if the submission portal is down or unavailable due to website inaccessibility issues out of your community’s control. Contact us at InclusiveInnovation@gatech.edu for assistance with the submission portal.

No restrictions exist for the number of collaborators or partnering governments on a single application. Preference will not be given to applications with a higher number of collaborators or partners. The appropriateness of the number of collaborators and partners will be evaluated based on the proposed project. No matter the number of partners or collaborators, the financial support remains the same.

Projects have a maximum of two-year duration, beginning in August 2021 and ending in July 2023.

Proposals that suggest an accelerated timeline will not be given preference.

Georgia Smart closely follows CDC guidelines and would adjust meeting locations and/or scheduling accordingly to ensure safety. For more information about Georgia Tech’s Covid-19 efforts, please visit: <https://helpingstories.gatech.edu/>



AWARD EXPECTATIONS

SECTION THREE

10. Georgia Smart Schedule and Expectation of Winners

Upon winning a Georgia Smart Communities Challenge cohort position, project teams will be required to sign a memorandum of understanding and a legal contract that outlines the rules and requirements of the execution phase of the program. Participation in the program will be withheld until this document is signed by that team, and the team will forfeit their participation in the program if the memorandum is not signed within 45 days after winners are notified.

Project Team Leads:

Project team leads will be required to act as the point of contact for all communication for the program, as well as have the authority and ability to make decisions on behalf of the project to ensure project success. The Project Lead should be prepared to attend all scheduled meetings including researcher-led progress meetings, workshops, workshop debriefing meetings, and monthly meetings. Team leads are required to produce monthly status reports and attend monthly status telecons with Georgia Smart representatives. Team leads oversee generating a mid-year status report due in March 2022 and March 2023 and a project final report due in July of 2023. Team leads are required to attend up to 4 all-day workshops hosted by Georgia Smart in Atlanta throughout the year-long engagement. Team leads will be responsible for assisting Georgia Smart in planning one community workshop to be hosted by you in your community for the benefit of your project, team, and community. Community matching funds and in-kind matches may be used to cover staff salaries for the community lead and other project team members to attend.

Tentative Schedule:

Teams are expected to begin work on the project in August 2021, with mandatory attendance at an initial kickoff workshop scheduled for August 6th, 2021 in Atlanta. A project close-out workshop will be held in September 2021 to review the outcome of each project along with the project deliverable report. Each team will also be required to participate in a public presentation of the projects at the workshop to share results, outcomes, and plans. The dates and times of additional workshops, telecons, and other related events will be finalized and posted after winners have been announced.

The following schedule outlines the draft timeline and events during the Georgia Smart Communities Challenge project period.

Public Announcement of Winning Communities**	July 2021
Invitation to 2020 Community Final Presentations	July 2021
Georgia Smart Fall Workshop Project Kickoff and Alumni Event*	Late August 2021
Monthly Project Status Telecons**	Last Friday of every month at 1 pm.
Georgia Tech Research Partner Webinar (1hr)	September 2021(1 per GT research partner)
Community Onsite Event*	Spring/Summer, 2021 (1 per community project)
Georgia Smart Spring Workshop Midterm Presentations*	Date TBD, March 2022
Georgia Smart Fall Workshop Final Presentations and Alumni*	Date TBD, Late August 2022

- *Project community lead attendance required.
- **Project community team representative attendance required.

11. Program

Georgia Smart projects will undergo four phases over two years. In the first year, the goal of Georgia Smart will be to assist communities in planning a project that fits the proposal requirements for GBDI funding. In the second year, Georgia Smart researchers will assist communities in implementing their proposed project. Figure 5, below, is a graphic representation of the program flow.

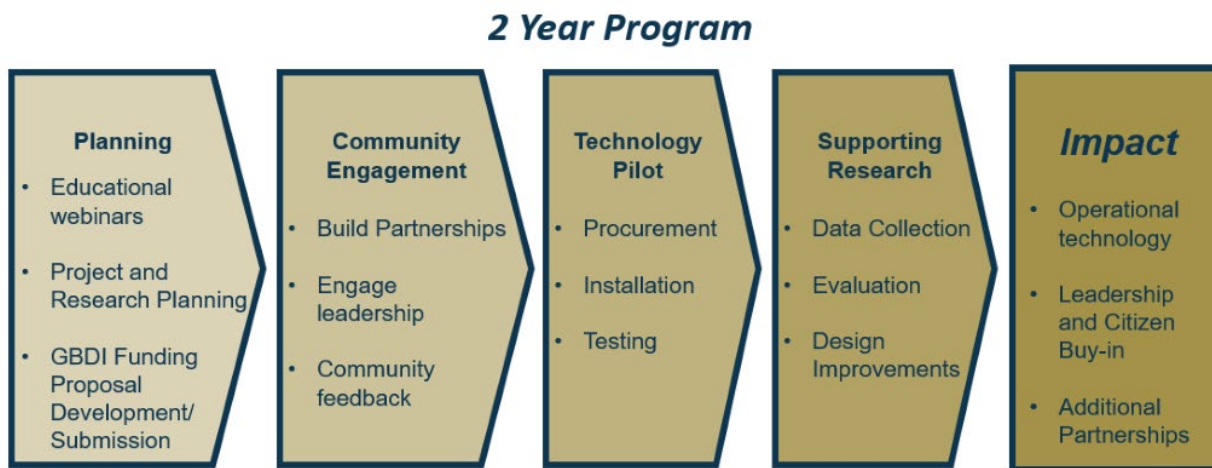


Figure 5. Four Phases of the Georgia Smart Program

The first two phases will include corresponding workshops that project leads can utilize in the development of the GBDI funding proposal. Example Workshop topics are displayed in Figure 6.

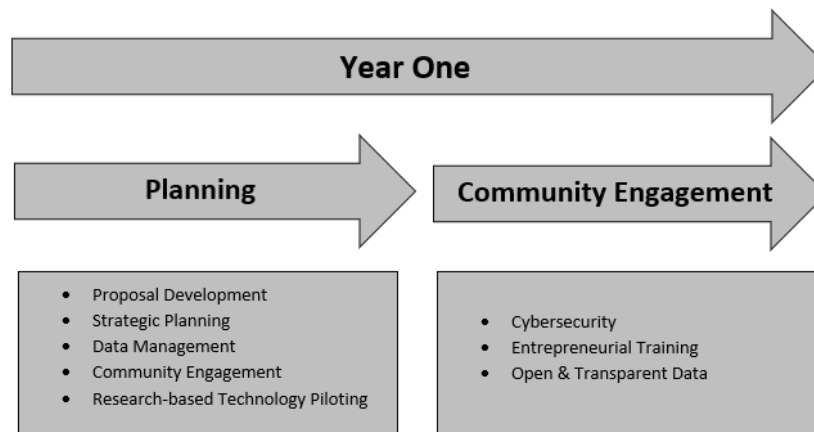


Figure 6. Educational Workshops Corresponding to Timeline

The following is an outline for project activities throughout the Georgia Smart program. Please refer to this for information about task expectations as well as in planning for time commitment for the project lead.

11.1 Phase One – Strategic Planning

Activities may include:

- Establish a working relationship with researchers and other cohort members
- Identify community needs & corresponding solutions
- Planning for the future of the community
- Funding proposal development (including formal research plan and project development)

	Research Team	Community Designee
Description of activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guide communities in funding proposal development - Assist in mapping research plan and outcomes - Lead strategic community planning initiatives to ensure the trajectory of relevant needs and solutions - Provide expertise in the content area - Facilitate meetings and communication in the interest of advancing the project goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Undergo strategic community planning - Attend meeting and webinar - Apply webinar information to project & proposal development - Prepare funding proposal with the assistance of the research team and GBDI - Prepare monthly report - Working with the research team, develop a complete project and research plan

11.2 Phase Two – Community Engagement

Activities to Accomplish:

- Build partnerships / Engage community leaders
- Solicit feedback from the community
- Finalize pre-implementation details
- Submit funding proposal
- Finalize implementation details

	Research Team	Community Designee
Description of activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate work towards implementations strategy and goals - Attend & contribute to community meetings and preparation - Assist communities with the submission of funding proposal / finalizing details for phases 3 & 4 - Provide expertise in the content area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attend meeting and webinar - Prepare webinar application documentation - Prepare monthly report - Facilitate community engagement through scheduling, attending, and leading community meetings/ gatherings - Finalize and submit a funding proposal for phases 3 & 4 - Smart Community Corps student hiring and program.

	- Facilitate meetings and communication in the interest of advancing the project goals	
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11.3 Phase Three – Technology Pilot

Activities to Accomplish:

- Procurement
- Installation
- Implementing project so that equipment, models, or other technologies are usable

	Research Team	Community Designee
Description of activities	- Coordinate work towards project outcomes - Work towards completion of procurement and installation goals, providing expertise and professional services. - Provide expertise in the content area - Facilitate meetings and communication in the interest of advancing the project goals	- Complete tasks for implementation of pilot - Prepare monthly report - Manage funding as applicable (including GBDI reporting/meetings. Etc.)

11.4 Phase Four – Supporting Research

Activities to Accomplish:

- Data collection
- Evaluation
- Scholarly research

	Research Team	Community Designee
Description of activities	- Data collection, evaluation, and interpretation - Execute research plan and work towards desired research outcomes - Assist in the execution of research plan from a technical standpoint - Provide expertise in the content area - Facilitate meetings and communication in the interest of advancing the project goals	- Complete tasks associated with a research plan and research implementation - Prepare monthly report - Manage funding as applicable (including GBDI reporting/meetings. Etc.) - Smart Community Corps student hiring and program

11. Intellectual Property Rights

Applications will not be public documents or shared with the public without prior knowledge. Application documents will only be shared with relevant personnel and content judges.

Upon winning a Georgia Smart Communities Challenge cohort position, each project and all parties included in the project (governments and non-government entities) must consent to a data-sharing agreement with Georgia Smart, the Georgia Institute of Technology. The data-sharing agreement requires that project teams share all non-personally-identifying information and other data about the project in a shared data repository hosted at and administered by the Georgia Institute of Technology. The data is shared for research only and will not be used for any other purpose.

12. Further Reading

12.1 Acronym Reference List

Below is a list of acronyms referenced throughout this document.

- Georgia Smart – Georgia Smart Communities Challenge
- DCA – Department of Community Affairs
- GBDI – Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative
- GTRI – Georgia Tech Research Institute

12.2 Georgia Smart Project Examples

For additional information, please visit [our website](#) to learn more about previous communities.