

PRESS RELEASE

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FAYETTE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AWARDS \$1.5 MILLION IN GRANTS TO FAYETTE COMMUNITY

FAYETTE COUNTY, GA —

The Fayette County Development Authority (FCDA) is proud to announce the recipients of its Partners in Success Grant Program for FY27, awarding \$1.5 million to five transformative projects across Fayette County. Now in its fourth year, the Partners in Success Grant Program continues to serve as a powerful vehicle for reinvesting in the infrastructure, heritage, innovation, and community strength that make Fayette County an exceptional place to live, work, and grow.



Darryl A. Hicks, FCDA Board Chairman, reflected on the significance of the awards: "The Partners in Success Grant Program is about more than funding, it's about partnership. Each of these projects represents our community's commitment to building lasting projects, and we are proud to be at the table alongside our local governments, making it possible. This is what responsible economic development looks like."

The grants are awarded through a competitive application process open to three categories of eligible applicants: government and public entities, including Fayette County, the Cities of Fayetteville and Peachtree City, the Towns of Tyrone, Woolsey, and Brooks, the Fayette County Board of Education, and the Peachtree City Airport Authority; educational institutions and foundations, including public technical colleges, public colleges and universities with a Fayette campus, and the Fayette Education Foundation; and nonprofit organizations working in partnership with an approved governmental entity. Projects are evaluated competitively on their merit, community impact, and alignment with FCDA's mission to foster long-term economic health and prosperity across the county.

\$300,000 Matching Grant Awarded to the Peachtree City Airport Authority for the Area D Taxiway Connectors Project: This infrastructure investment will construct critical taxiway connectors at the Atlanta Regional Airport-Falcon Field, enhancing operational safety, capacity, and efficiency at one of Fayette County's most important economic assets. The project supports

the airport's ability to serve business aviation, strengthens Fayette County's connectivity and competitive position as a destination for economic activity, and builds on the recent success of the expansion of the US Aviation Academy that adds a \$25 million capital investment and 150 new jobs to Atlanta Regional Airport – Falcon Field.

\$300,000 Matching Grant Awarded to the City of Fayetteville for the Fayetteville Visitor Center: This investment supports the development of a destination visitor experience in the heart of Fayetteville, designed to welcome residents and guests alike and serve as a hub for tourism, local commerce, and community engagement. The Visitor Center reflects Fayetteville's growing identity as a destination city and will strengthen the economic energy of the county's seat. The FCDA previously awarded a grant to the City of Fayetteville for the alleyway restoration project in 2024.

\$300,000 Matching Grant Awarded to the Town of Woolsey for the Restoration of the Historic Woolsey Church: Building on the momentum of the initial restoration grant in 2024, this continued investment will advance the full revitalization of the Historic Woolsey Church, restoring the 1889 structure with modern amenities to serve as a Community and Cultural Center. This landmark project preserves Fayette County's rich heritage while creating a community gathering space that honors the past and serves the needs of the present. This will be the second grant award of \$300,000 from the FCDA in support of the efforts to restore the Historic Woolsey Church.

\$300,000 Matching Grant Awarded to the Fayette County Board of Education for Launch Fayette Strategic Advancement and Workforce Development: Launch Fayette continues to take root as one of Fayette County's most dynamic economic development initiatives, providing a platform for business incubation, entrepreneurship, and workforce development rooted in innovation. This investment supports the organization's strategic growth, expanding its capacity to equip Fayette County students and citizens with the tools, training, and community they need to thrive. This will be the fourth grant award for Launch Fayette from the FCDA.

\$300,000 Matching Grant Awarded to Fayette Forward: As a countywide nonprofit initiative, Fayette Forward brings together civic leaders, local businesses, nonprofits, and residents to advance the long-term success and well-being of Fayette County communities. This investment will support Fayette Forward's work to bring together civic leaders, local businesses, nonprofits, and residents to build a stronger, more connected Fayette.

Niki Vanderslice, FCDA President and CEO, reflected on the program's growing impact: “The Partners in Success Grant Program was born out of FCDA's commitment to reinvesting its resources back into the community it serves. What makes this program so powerful is that it puts real resources behind the work our community partners are already doing. We're not just investing dollars; we're investing in ideas, and in a shared vision for Fayette County's future. Ultimately, it's about working together to strengthen the community we all call home.”

Across three grant cycles, the FCDA has now awarded more than \$3.725 million in Partners in Success Grants to support infrastructure, job creation, tourism product development, and workforce development throughout Fayette County.

About the Fayette County Development Authority: The Fayette County Development Authority (FCDA) provides confidential services to support existing Fayette County businesses considering expansion and out-of-market companies exploring a new operation. Their services are offered in close collaboration with state, local, academic, and utility partners.

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