

Georgia Municipal Association - 2025 Top Federal Priorities

Improve Access to Federal Resources

The federal government should work to streamline the administrative and regulatory processes of federal grants and other forms of financial assistance across all agencies. Three-quarters of Georgia’s cities have less than 5,000 people.¹ Nearly half of them have 10 or fewer employees.² Many cities do not have professional staff with the expertise or capacity to secure and manage federal awards that can help advance critical community projects. They need hands-on technical assistance and less bureaucracy. Reducing the complexity of federal grants will make way for communities that are smaller, more rural or with fewer resources to compete at scale for federal dollars.

Invest in Public Infrastructure

Georgia cities need \$33 billion to fund capital projects between 2025-2030, including \$10.3 billion for water and sewer, \$9.7 billion for transportation, and \$14 billion for other infrastructure.³ With 70% of jobs in the state located in cities, total ‘daytime population’ rises by 24%.⁴ Many cities are seeing significant growth, but without the adequate infrastructure, they cannot accommodate new businesses, homes and people while maintaining a good quality of life. The impact of extreme weather events also places a strain on public infrastructure.

With the historic passage of infrastructure legislation in 2021 and 2022, the federal government should continue channeling resources – as efficiently and flexibly as possible – to support local infrastructure investments. Furthermore, Congress must protect funding for cities made available through the American Rescue Plan Act, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Congressionally Directed Spending / Community Project Funding and other programs and mechanisms, including municipal bonds.

Build Up Local Economies

The federal government can play a greater role in supporting economic and workforce development efforts at the local level. Georgia cities are the economic engines of our state. They will continue to rely on partners across their region and at the state and federal levels to attract businesses, sustain local economies and create wealth-building opportunities for residents. Investing in our workforce is paramount. Congressional reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act can help cities fully resource workforce programs that equip people, particularly youth and disadvantaged groups, with the skills and opportunities to find meaningful employment in the economy.

Growth in the economy and in jobs necessitates more housing. City leaders across Georgia stand ready to work with developers, homebuilders, non-profit organizations and intergovernmental partners to expand housing options that meet the unique needs of each community.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

² Georgia Municipal Association

³ Georgia Municipal Association

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics Program; American Community Survey

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