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# East Athens Community Assessment

## Final Report

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Community Partner

East Athens Development Corporation

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Our class would also like to extend a very special thank you to Dr. Matthew for always encouraging us to "trust the process" and to continue on in community work as practitioners in our future endeavors.

## Executive Summary

From the months of August 2014 to December 2014, 15 Master of Social Work students in the Community Assessment and Empowerment Practices class at the University of Georgia, under the guidance of Dr. Rebecca Matthew, conducted a community assessment of the East Athens community in Athens, Georgia. The team worked in collaboration with the East Athens Development Corporation (EADC), which is dedicated to improving the quality of life for residents in the East Athens community (specifically census tracts 301 and 302), with the intent to produce a document that would prove helpful in informing the scope of future change efforts within the community, as well as a data source to compliment grant writing initiatives to support said efforts.

The semester long project consisted of the class and EADC working closely together to plan and implement the community assessment. Dr. Matthew sought and received IRB approval for the project (see Appendix A) and the data collection instruments were reviewed by EADC before implementation and revised to be more appropriate for the East Athens community. The first phase of the community assessment consisted of each student collecting secondary data on the history and current condition of the community, which collectively formed the community profile in the final report. Together the student team, Dr. Matthew, and EADC planned and implemented a community forum on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in which 29 community service providers and residents gathered to discuss different aspects of the community. Members from the student team placed flyers around the East Athens community prior to the forum (see Appendix B) in order to raise awareness of the meeting and gain attendees. The first forum consisted of a large group discussion followed by five focus groups led by students. In addition

to the forum, five individual interviews were conducted with service providers and community members. The community forum and individual interviews provided data to the class, which was analyzed for common themes. Seven major themes appeared: youth, healthcare, community involvement, crime, unemployment, community pride, and gentrification. These themes formed the foundation from which the students identified ways in which issues could be addressed, using the identified strengths of the community as resources.

In an effort to follow-up with community members about the findings, a second community meeting was held on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014, in which there were 34 service providers and community members present. The seven main themes were presented to the attendees and the facilitators coordinated a consensus-building activity wherein three themes were chosen by the attendees to be of most importance to the community. Those themes, in order of priority, were youth, unemployment, and community involvement.

The Community Assessment class analyzed the collected data and formed a final report, which follows. The final report was also given to the East Athens community in efforts to help aid in future funding and change efforts. The report is publicly available through the UGA Library archives and through online access at <http://athenaeum.libs.uga.edu/handle/10724/30454>.

## **Introduction**

This report describes a community assessment conducted in the East Athens community of Athens, Georgia. A community assessment is a process that aids in the identification of a community's assets and strengths as well as areas that are of concern.

In order to enrich the learning surrounding community assessment practices while also incorporating a meaningful service component, the University of Georgia's School of Social

Work class, SOWK 7153- Community Assessment and Empowerment Practices, collaborated with the East Athens Development Corporation (EADC), located in Athens, Georgia, to conduct an assessment of their service area-Census Tracts 301 and 302- hereinafter referred to as “the community”. The 15 graduate students conducted the assessment between the months of August and December 2014, collecting information through secondary data collection, a community forum, individual interviews with community members/service providers, and a final community meeting to present findings and prioritize themes.

The following pages include a community profile consisting of a brief background of Athens and East Athens along with the current community makeup, the results of the community forum and personal interviews, as well as findings from the final community meeting and the top priority themes.

## **Data Collection and Analysis**

To gain a more comprehensive understanding of the East Athens community, the data collection process included several stages. First, two EADC board members met with the 15 students to provide background information on the community before the students proceeded with data collection. A group of five students toured the community and took notes of their observations. The students researched secondary data sources, held a community forum to conduct focus groups, and conducted individual interviews with community members. All observations, secondary data, and primary data were compiled and analyzed to identify prevailing themes within the community. The findings were presented at a second community forum, where the community identified the three areas of most concern. This section summarizes the data collection methods used during the community assessment of East Athens.

## **Secondary Data Collection**

To obtain secondary data concerning the community, the students accessed a variety of sources. Students researched relevant documents at the University of Georgia's Special Collections Library that were specific to the East Athens community, particularly census tracts 301 and 302. Students also accessed online materials to form a knowledge base of the community, which included the history of East Athens, the current community makeup, and available community resources. The secondary data was then compiled into a document and formed a rich foundation from which the students began a contextualized, in-depth assessment of the community.

## **Primary Data Collection**

During the primary data collection phase, the students, in collaboration with EADC, organized and held an initial community forum. In efforts to gain participants at the forum, the students and community members went into the community and placed flyers (see Appendix B) at local churches and community centers a week prior to the meeting. The forum was held on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at East Friendship Baptist Church, where 29 community members, service providers, and community leaders were in attendance. The forum consisted of an hour-long group discussion led by an EADC board member to identify strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for growth in the community. After the large group discussion, the community members separated into five (5) smaller, student-facilitated focus groups to elaborate on the topics previously mentioned using a focus group interview guide (see Appendix C). Each focus group consisted of at least one student facilitator and one student note taker. The focus group attendees were presented with the community member focus group consent form (see Appendix



D) and were asked to provide verbal consent before proceeding. At the end of the focus groups, attendees were asked to fill out the demographic information form (see Appendix E).

From the contacts made at the forum, students were then able to set up individual interviews with a total of five community members. The interviews, which lasted approximately 35-45 minutes each, provided more in-depth information from community members, allowing the students to gain a comprehensive view of community members' concerns. Students facilitated these interviews in groups of two in order for one student to conduct the interview using a community member interview guide (see Appendix F), while the other student took detailed notes of the interview. Interviewees were presented with the community member consent form (see Appendix G) and were asked to provide verbal consent before proceeding. At the end of the interview, the community member was asked to fill out the demographic information form. EADC helped modify all data collection instruments used in order to ensure that the measures were appropriate and responsive to the East Athens community.

## **Data Analysis**

Once the forum and the individual interviews were completed, the students utilized the notes to identify prominent themes. The notes were coded in teams to assure reliability during the analysis of data. The Primary Data Analysis Team, which consisted of three students, examined the prevalence of each code across all students' notes in order to identify the following seven themes that appeared the most: youth, healthcare, community involvement, crime, unemployment, community pride, and gentrification. Further details on these themes can be found in the "Findings" section.

## **Dissemination of Findings**

The final phase of this collaborative effort was to present the findings back to the community in a second community forum. Again, students and EADC board members posted flyers (see Appendix H) in the community to raise awareness before the event was held. The second forum was held on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at East Friendship Baptist Church, with a total of 34 community members, service providers, and community leaders in attendance. Board members of EADC facilitated the meeting. During the meeting, Dr. Matthew, along with two students, presented the findings of the community assessment and highlighted the seven prominent themes previously mentioned.

After the presentation, an EADC board member led another discussion to narrow down the seven themes into the top three themes the community deemed of most importance. The three themes in order of priority were youth, unemployment, and community involvement. After the top three themes were identified, EADC members described the work they are currently involved in within the community and assured the group that the themes would remain a priority and would be taken into account in their future endeavors.

The culmination of this collaborative effort is the current report, which will be provided to the community as well as documented within the UGA Library electronic archives (<http://athenaeum.libs.uga.edu/handle/10724/30454>). The anticipation is that this document and the information therein, will prove helpful in informing future change efforts within the community, as well as serve as a data source to compliment grant writing initiatives to support said efforts.

## **Community Profile**

### **The Development of Athens**

The town of Athens was officially incorporated in December 1806 after the establishment of the University of Georgia in 1785. In the early 1900s, Athens developed south of Waddell Street and east of the Oconee River (Cartographic Services, 1974). The main blocks of Downtown remained consistent throughout the years, however the residential areas of the community changed considerably due to industry and the University of Georgia. Around 1974, the community began to see some positive changes through the East Oconee Urban Renewal Area Neighborhood Development Project. This project focused on revitalizing some of the dilapidated residences and looked at all aspects of living in that area, including the neighborhood pipelines and sewage systems (Barnes, 2000).

### **Economic History**

Athens grew in commerce and industry, mainly from its innovative technology used in the cotton mills (Athens-Clarke County Unified Government [ACCUG], n.d.). The plantation harvests were improved by the natural resources of the Oconee River, which continued to boost the county's agriculture and cotton industries. By 1841, railroad lines were being built to connect Athens with other major cities in the South (ACCUG, n.d.). In the early 1900's, there were a number of African-American owned businesses in the community (EADC Board Member, personal communication, 2014).

### **Changes in Education**

The state of Georgia and Athens in particular has a history of racial discrimination in education. In 1829, the state of Georgia banned teaching African Americans to read or write (Fields, 2004, p. 3). Following a policy change, the first African American school, the Knox Institute, opened during Reconstruction using a building formerly occupied by federal troops

(WPA Writers Project, p. 10). Public, segregated schools were opened in 1871 in Clarke County and by 1916 there were 15 African-American schools (Rice, 2001). Clarke County did not offer a high school for African Americans and instead contracted with a private school until the school systems unified in 1955.

In 1954, the Brown vs. Board of Education Supreme Court decision mandated integration causing state and local education policies to change. After nine years, Clarke County schools began the slow integration process when five African American girls enrolled in a White school. In 1970, the county began to fully integrate the school system (Rice, 2001).

### **Religion**

The African American church has a rich history in Athens, and has a continued legacy in East Athens and the community as a whole. In his book, *A Story Untold*, Michael L. Thurmond (1978) stated that “Before and during the Civil War, ‘four of Athens’ white churches—the Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Episcopal all had Negro members’” and that the first church organized by Black community members was Pierce Chapel African Methodist Episcopal in 1866. By 1915, there were a total of 17 Black churches in Athens. One of the earliest African American churches was Landrum Baptist Church, which later turned into Ebenezer Baptist on the west side of Athens. Many African American churches continue to play an important role in Athens by providing community outreach and space for community meetings and gatherings.

### **History of the African American Community in East Athens**

The rich history of African Americans in East Athens is one that while may not be readily available and accessible, is passed on through oral history and personal accounts. The team discovered that even though some information found through research was useful, the most valuable information came from personal correspondence with community members. Most

notable are the changes that have occurred over the years in the East Athens community. While homeownership rates may currently be low in Athens in general, the African American community has a historically high rate of homeownership and small business ownership in the East Athens area. While there are several triggers for the change that has occurred, many community members believe the increased student presence over the years as well as the introduction of Nellie B. public housing has been the largest impetus for change.

East Athens has also been the home to various African American leaders within Athens and the state of Georgia. Today, many of these leaders, such as Monroe (Pink) Morton, Madison Davis and Harriet Powers, are laid to rest in Gospel Pilgrim Cemetery- an historic African American cemetery located in East Athens (Gospel Pilgrim Cemetery, 2014). The rich history of African Americans in Athens continues to be told through oral history at events such as the Athens Heritage and Urban Agriculture Festival, and through community members such as the ones the team spoke with.

## **The Current Community**

### **Demographics**

The East Athens community has approximately 8,782 residents; males comprise 50.3% of the population and females 49.6% (United States Census, 2010). Census data from 2010 indicates a large adult population, with those over the age of 18 making up 84.6% of the population and 20-24 year olds being the single largest age group comprising of 27.3% of the population. The presence of such a large young adult population may be due in part to the large student population enrolled at the University of Georgia. African Americans represent over half of the population living in the community at 53.4% (United States Census, 2010).

## **Housing and Geography of the Community**

The community contains some of the most underdeveloped housing areas of Athens, GA (Human and Economic Development Department, 2013). Of the 4,475 housing units in East Athens, 1,200 are vacant, resulting in a 27% vacancy rate, which is significantly higher than the 13.1% vacancy rate for Athens-Clarke County (ACC) (US Census Bureau, 2012; US Census Bureau, 2013). For residents, there are standard homes, apartment complexes, and HUD funded housing available. Athens Housing Authority has two main properties in East Athens, with smaller “scattered sites” throughout the area (Athens Housing Authority, 2014). The public housing neighborhoods in East Athens have the highest population of children and families, contributing to a more family-oriented atmosphere than other public housing neighborhoods (Athens Housing Authority, 2014).

According to US Census Bureau Data (2012), East Athens has a rental rate of 70%, which is higher than the Athens-Clarke County rate of 61.7% and almost double the US rate of 36.5% (US Census Bureau, 2013). While the rental rates for East Athens and Athens-Clarke County can be somewhat attributed to the college population, homeownership rates in Athens as a whole have historically been low. Although East Athens has a strong history of African American homeownership, it has been declining in recent years due to issues such as gentrification, increasing property tax rates, and housing affordability (EADC Board Member, personal communication, 2014). The issue of housing affordability can be seen in the high percentage of renters that pay 35% or more of their monthly income on housing. Of renters in East Athens, 61% are paying more than 35% of their income, categorizing them as housing-cost burdened (US Census Bureau, 2013). Affordable housing initiatives are currently being addressed through several community organizations: ACTION, Inc., Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation, Athens Housing Authority, East Athens Development Corporation, Athens Land

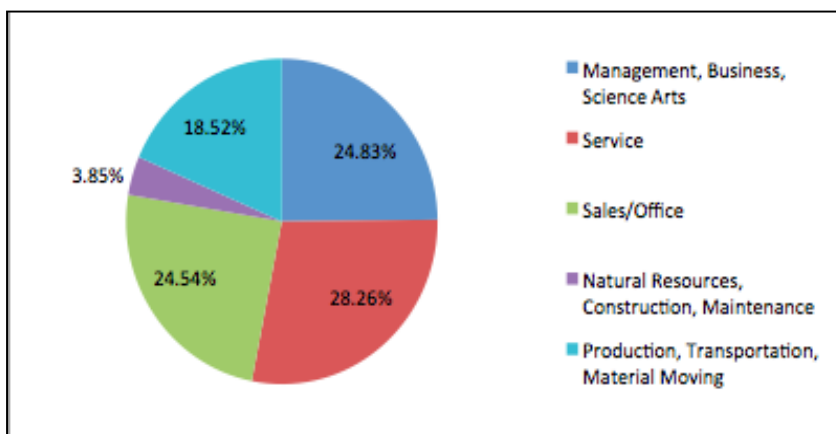
Trust and Habitat for Humanity. Each organization has different specific goals, but they all contribute to the ultimate goal of increasing the quality and availability of affordable housing.

### **Economic**

Looking at US Census Bureau American Community Survey (2012) data for economic characteristics helps to understand the current economic state of the community. 54% of the population age 16 and over is in the civilian labor force, totaling 4,207 individuals (US Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2012). Of these individuals, 438 are unemployed, making up a 10.4% unemployment rate for the area (US Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2012). This can be compared to the 6.8% unemployment rate for Athens-Clarke County as a whole (US Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2012). The average household income is \$26,245 and the median household income, which is the middle value in the range of all incomes, is \$16,860 (US Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2012). Both the mean and median household incomes are significantly lower than those of ACC, at \$47,417 and \$31,551 respectively (US Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2012). 51.2% of all individuals (including those 18 and younger), had an income in the last 12 months that fell below the poverty line (US Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2012). For all families, 33.35% had incomes in the last 12 months that fell below the poverty line (US Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2012). Looking further at families, a large difference can be seen between poverty rates of married couple families and families with a female householder with no spouse present (US Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2012). 18.65% of married couple families and 43.8% of families with a female householder had incomes that fell below the poverty line (US Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2012).

Figure 2 shows a breakdown of employment by occupation, as defined by the US Census Bureau (2012) American Community Survey.

*Figure 2: % Employed by Occupation*



Source: US Census Bureau 2008-2012 American Community Survey

The largest number of individuals is employed in the service category at 28.26% (US Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2012). With 24.54% and 24.83%, sales/office and management, business, science and arts also employ a large number of individuals living in East Athens (US Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2012). Breaking down employment by industry, gives a more detailed depiction of where individuals who live in East Athens are employed (see Appendix I). The largest majority of individuals that live in East Athens are employed in the educational services and healthcare and social assistance industry at 35.4% (US Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2012). The next largest category is retail trade with 18.2% (US Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2012).

### **Education in the Community**

Census data indicates a high dropout rate and a low rate of residents continuing onto higher education, with 20% of adults over the age of 25 having not obtained a high school diploma or equivalent (ACCUG, 2012). 37.3% of the population has obtained their high school diploma or



equivalent, 8.2% of the population in census tract 301 and 302 has earned their college bachelor's degree and 3.5% have earned an associate's degree (ACCUG, 2012). 18.5% of the population have pursued higher education but have not earned a degree (ACCUG, 2012). The residents with children in this community are zoned for Howard B. Stroud Elementary School, Gaines Elementary School, Hilsman Middle School, W.R. Coile Middle School, and Cedar Shoals High School (Street Index for School Zoning, 2014). All of these schools are Title I designated schools (Schools, 2014), which means the schools are allocated additional funds earmarked by the federal government specifically for low-income areas (USDOE, 2014).

### **Crime**

Since the introduction of community policing in the early 2000's, the community has seen decreased crime levels over the past ten years in the areas of violent crimes, property crimes, Part 1 crimes, and 18-21 year old arrests (Athens Clarke County Police Department, 2014). Most notable is the decrease in Part 1 crimes from 6,416 in 2004 to 4,478 in 2013. See Appendix J for more on crime reports. The Uniform Crime Report categorizes crime as Part 1 or Part 2 crimes. Part 1 crimes include murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson (Department of Justice, 2012).

## **Primary Data Findings**

The following information is based on data obtained from the following sources: (i) an hour long community discussion, at which 29 community residents and service providers were in attendance; (ii) five, 35-45 minute focus groups conducted immediately following the community discussion, including a total of 18 individuals; and, (iii) five, in-depth individual interviews lasting approximately 35-45 minutes each, conducted with community members and

service providers throughout the community. Based on the analysis of detailed notes and transcripts, the following seven themes were identified as the most prominent: youth, health care, community involvement, crime, unemployment, community pride, and gentrification.

In addition to the identified themes, several community strengths were also highlighted. For instance, the community center in East Athens, which offers tutoring and mentorship to kids, was mentioned frequently. Churches, a recreational park, and EADC were also brought up as community strengths, as they are seen as places that can be utilized to bring about positive change. Many respondents indicated great pride in the East Athens community and suggested a desire to do all that they can in regards to its improvement. Several people at the community forum stated that the presence of so many elders in the area was a great asset. In the words of one resident, “Elders are a great resource! Young people know everything- later you figure out you don’t know anything!”

### **Demographic Summary**

Of the 18 participants in the focus groups at the community forum the majority of the participants were female (56%), African American (89%), between the ages of 45-74 (67%), and homeowners (78%). The majority of the participants also live in East Athens (56%) and of those the majority have lived in East Athens for 15 years or more (60%). Of the 5 interviews, the majority were males (60%) and community members (80%). Of the 5 interviews 1 was a service provider (20%). All of the interview participants were African American (100%).

## Theme 1: Youth

*Theme Statement:* During the community forum group discussion, focus groups, and individual interviews, community members expressed concerns about the lack of opportunities and support for youth in the community ranking it as one of the most frequently referenced themes. Specific points of concern include:

- The lack of opportunity for youth to be active or engaged: either in enrichment programs, the community, or in the workforce (reference to the lack of available jobs in the community and transportation to jobs outside of East Athens). Youth are left feeling both idle and broke which has been linked to the recent increase in gang activity.
- A need to increase parental involvement
- A need for the community to come together in the general supervision of its youth both to help monitor their behavior as well as provide extra protection (e.g., standing outside as students get off the bus and addressing negative behavior that happens in public areas such as parks).
- A need for mentoring by community adults and elders
- A need to increase positive peer groups and peer relationships among East Athens youth
- The high rate of students dropping out of school whether due to discouragement over testing and grades, financial stress, negative peer influence or lack of parental involvement and mentoring.

*Quotes from community members:*

“There is a serious gap between the leaders of our community and our future leaders [youth].”

“Kids join gangs because everyone wants to belong to something, so why not give them a mentor. This can help the kids from following the crowd.”

“Exposure is the foundation to learning.”

“Youth just want to be loved and feel like they belong to the community.”

“We as elders also need to do a better job of reaching out to the young people in our community. We have been in this community for a long time and have seen a lot, and it should be used trying to help mend the gap between us and the younger generation.”

## **Theme 2: Health Care**

*Theme statement:* East Athens community members are concerned about residents’ access to health care, residents’ awareness of health care, and the need to increase funding of the Clarke County East Athens WIC Clinic.

Although East Athens is home to the WIC Clinic, residents would like to see increased access to health care in a variety of forms; more affordable health care options, a variety of health care agencies in and immediately around East Athens, and efficient transportation to health care agencies outside of East Athens. However, many residents who participated in this community survey believe that the East Athens WIC is underutilized. These residents believe that awareness needs to be raised about the presence of the clinic in the community, and the services the clinic provides including its financial aid services. Lastly, as East Athens Clinic is such an asset to the community, many residents believe that the clinic should be a focus and beneficiary of fundraising efforts.

## **Theme 3: Community Involvement**

*Theme Statement:* East Athens community members have expressed concern regarding the level of resident involvement in trying to improve the community. Right now, it seems that there is a lot of talk between people regarding what the problems are, but none of the talking is translated into action.

Some community members feel that there is not enough communication going on between different groups that are doing community-based work. One part of this is the East Side/West Side division. Because this division exists, East Athens residents are separated from the larger Athens community. Secondly, several individuals suggested that elders could play a bigger role in their community, such that increased communication between elders and youth could bridge the gap between generations. Additionally, one resident suggested that black fraternities and sororities at the University of Georgia should get more involved with youth by providing mentorship and get involved more generally speaking. “It’s not that East Athens don’t care about our community, we love our community...we don’t want to lose our community.”

*Quotes from community members:*

“We need to start off with what we have. Our community is good. We just need to take the resources we already have and use that to our benefit to get more people involved.”

“I always believe that in a community there is a great opportunity, even if they have other places of training, that the churches should get involved. They should be places that are concerned about the community.

(On the relationship with University of Georgia) “Really, I think it could be a better balance, we can help the university and the university can help us”

(On churches) “They are the backbone of this community.”

## **Theme 4: Crime**

*Theme Statement:* Some members of the East Athens community see crime as being a problem, notably drugs and gang activity among youth. Although one isn’t always causing the other, the belief is that the two are related.

One major factor in the rise of drug use and crime among youth is the lack of parental involvement in the kids’ lives. Several suggest that the issue recycles itself and gets worse when

younger people can't keep or find a job because they are failing drug tests. One suggested solution is a restorative justice program. This would allow youth to understand their actions more and stop the current cycle of punishment. "We as leaders of this community need to fill their emptiness with something positive." Also, this is seen as a more effective way to bring the crime rate down. It was noted that the biggest roadblock to this approach is lack of government funding for such a program.

## **Theme 5: Unemployment**

*Theme Statement:* The struggle to find work and maintain work is a challenge that was clearly expressed through data collection. Unemployment in this community has different facets including the lack of jobs, the access to jobs, and sustainable jobs.

The community members feel there is not enough industry in Athens to provide jobs for residents. They also suggest that it is hard for people to get jobs for various reasons. The community members that have been incarcerated or convicted of crimes on drug charges cannot seem to get hired by local businesses. There is also the issue of university students taking jobs that the residents of East Athens could do. The final part of unemployment is the fact that most of the positions currently held by the community members do not pay enough for them to support themselves or their families; the work that many of the residents qualify for is not sustainable.

*Quotes from community members:*

"We need more plants like Caterpillar so people without college degrees can still have a middle class life." -Community Member

"Kids need more information about ALL possible career options." -Community Member

"The elephant in the room is poverty...we need to find a way to tackle jobs"

## **Theme 6: Community Pride**

*Theme Statement:* The way we perceive our communities is important. Something that was made evident in interviews and the forum was that East Athens has a great deal of pride, but there is fear and loss of direction about how to hold onto that pride.

There was a sentiment that the larger Athens community has not always been “kind” to the East Side, which has resulted in the creation of a negative reputation over time. Many community members suggested that the negative view of East Athens is, moreover, affecting the way the community approaches change. If East Athens can change that negative view, in its own self-perception as well as among other Athens residents, and work towards recognizing all of the community’s strengths, it will be easier to make positive changes.

*Quotes from community members:*

“It’s not that people in East Athens don’t care about our community, we love our community... we don’t want to lose our community.” -Community Member

“We still have heritage, we still have communication, and we’re losing that” -Community Member

“Its own perception of itself [negative]. People believe what you tell them about themselves, use it for the positive. I was once playing a kid at ping pong and when he missed the ball I told him ‘aw, that’s your weak side’. He then continued to miss balls on that side. But he didn’t have a weak side, he believed what I told him about himself.” -Community Member

## **Theme 7: Gentrification**

*Theme Statement:* The community is constantly changing with people from the outside moving in and buying up houses and land that once belonged to local residents. Gentrification is causing fear among community members because, as housing prices and property tax go up, they lose the ability to hold onto their property.

A major factor is the growth of the University of Georgia. As the university grows, students continue to spread out into the Athens community. East Athens is a good location for students and the property is not too expensive for them. However, this causes the market price to go up making it too high for many residents to maintain. This especially affects East Athens elderly population. As students move in they do not only take the land, but they are also taking jobs and changing the culture of the community. Residents of East Athens are unhappy about gentrification because they no longer feel like they know what is going on or that have as much of a voice.

*Quotes from community members:*

“You know the people of East Athens don’t know there is new water park in the area. I feel it’s not built for the original people of the community, us black folks, but instead for the white residents who seem to be talking over that area.”

“I think one of the greatest challenges is the elderly people in the community who are low income... because when development comes to any area they will raise the tax in that area; a lot of elderly people can’t afford that tax and I’m sure there are elderly people who have worked all the years of their lives into property and the taxes continue to be raised, they can’t afford the taxes, and sometimes they end up losing the property.”

### **Using Community Strengths to Address Challenges**

East Athens residents were asked not only to identify community strengths and areas of concern, but to speak to how community strengths can be used to address those concerns; solid connections were made. Many residents suggest that the elderly population can be used in a mentoring capacity for the youth. Residents also suggest that community adults as a whole come together in the supervision of youth; a combination of a neighborhood watch to dissuade negative behavior as well as protect youth from harmful situations. Residents suggest that the relationship with the university could be fostered in such a way that a better balance is reached in both East Athens and UGA benefitting from the relationship. EADC was another asset



consistently referenced by community members and described as a tool with which positive changes in the community can be created. Furthermore, despite the challenges brought on by incoming residents, new community members are also seen as a great population to recruit from in terms of community projects - they are looking to meet people and get involved somehow. In the words of one resident, “They tend to bring in fresh, new ideas.” Young people are also a great population to recruit from - they also bring new and fresh ideas. Finally, a major theme throughout this process is getting more community members involved in the community. Active community members have noticed that it’s the same people showing up over and over again to address community issues and work on community projects. The hope is to recruit many more residents of the community and convince them take a more active role in the health and development of East Athens.

### **Community Forum Meeting Summary**

In order to present the findings back to the community, the East Athens Development Corporation (EADC) and the research team held a second community meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at East Friendship Baptist Church in Athens, GA from 6:00-8:00pm. 34 community members, service providers, and EADC board members attended the second community forum held by EADC, Dr. Matthew, and Dr. Matthew’s students. The Chair of EADC Board introduced the community to the meeting.

A member of EADC board and Dr. Matthew welcomed the group and explained the vision for the meeting. Dr. Matthew identified the three aims of the study: assess strengths and needs, support continued dialogue, and provide a publically accessible document to the community. Following this, Dr. Matthew along with members of the research team, presented

the seven most prevalent themes in the research: youth, healthcare, crime, unemployment, community pride, community involvement, and gentrification.

A Board Member led the next phase of the meeting, involving a consensus-building activity to prioritize the three most important themes out of the list of seven identified in the research. Community members were asked to rank the themes by what they felt is of the most concern for the community. Youth, unemployment, and community involvement were identified as the three of the most concern, respectively, for the community. The Board Member and community members discussed how each of these priorities is related.

A community member spoke out before the close to suggest that all of the themes presented tonight were valuable and that small committees should form around each issue so it can be addressed. A Board Member offered assurance that the other community concerns will not be forgotten. The gathering ended with closing remarks by the Board President.

## **Limitations**

Although the community assessment process of East Athens in collaboration with the East Athens Development Corporation (EADC) was an overall positive experience, there were several limitations. Many of the limitations of this project revolved around the short timeline available for research. Since all of the students conducting research were in graduate school, they unfortunately had to work on an academic schedule. This motivated much of the academic and historic research to be conducted quickly and concisely, but proved to be a disadvantage for direct research with East Athens community members. The first community forum took place in October, with the follow-up meeting in November. This time frame only allowed the students to survey the community as a whole once and allotted approximately a month for individual

interviews to be conducted and data to be analyzed. Providing more time would create the opportunity to have more than one community forum, which would increase the likelihood of community members being able to fit at least one meeting into their schedules. Community members also had busy work schedules that often conflicted with students' academic and evening work routines, which resulted in few individual interviews aiding the data of this research.

In addition, the short time frame of the project prevented the opportunity to develop a stronger relationship with the community. This could have potentially hindered communication between community members and students, as the students could have been viewed as outsiders to the community. Although the community members seemed willing to share their thoughts at the community forum, there may have been an unspoken divide if they did not feel they could relate to the students due to the lack of relationship building or that the students were attempting to "fix" their community. Allowing students more time to become acclimated with the community would have permitted students to build rapport and create relationships with community members. Building trust not only between stakeholders but community members of East Athens would have created more conversation about the community's needs and desires for their future.

Another limitation was the date and time of the first community forum. Although the forum was advertised in an attempt to have as many community members in attendance as possible, the date and time may have not been suitable to the majority's schedule. Additionally, many of the community members approached for individual interviews were referred by a community member who had been in attendance at the forum. This method may have potentially left out a large group of people in East Athens. Further, the community forum had many

stakeholders in attendance who work within the East Athens community versus a limited number of community members who actually live within the community. This may have reflected a difference in the general wants of community members and the stakeholders in attendance of the forum. In particular, there was a lot of focus on the concern for the youth in East Athens; however, few members of the younger generation were involved in the process of this research, which may have changed the outcome of the data.

Finally, while the class worked diligently to conduct historical and scholarly research to prepare for the community forum, there was limited current research available that focused on East Athens specifically, rather than Athens as a whole. Had the class been better equipped with community specific data, there may have been different areas of concentration at the community forum.

## **Recommendations**

The East Athens community has multiple strengths, which provides a strong foundation and the capacity for future community building and change. As identified in the second community forum, the top three concerns for the community are youth, unemployment, and community involvement. The forums served as a wonderful opportunity for community members to come together and discuss their concerns about their community and plans for moving forward. The students are optimistic that community members and service providers will continue to meet and work together to implement these action plans and to further develop important discussions, while also increasing involvement from other members in the community. As one community member suggested, it would be beneficial for those already involved to invite five people they know to join them at meetings to increase community involvement.

East Athens is a strong community with a very rich history. They are proud of where they are from and desire change because they see a brighter future ahead for their community.

Community members are seeking involvement and are expressing a desire for action rather than just talking about the issues in front of them. The students hope that the community assessment project will act as a catalyst for community empowerment and change in East Athens. Specific action plans developed from the findings in this report could spark major positive changes for the community.

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## Appendices

Phone 706-542-3199



Office of the Vice President for Research  
*Institutional Review Board*

Fax 706-542-3660

### APPROVAL OF PROTOCOL

August 13, 2014

Appendix A: University of Georgia IRB Approval Letters

Dear Rebecca Matthew:

On 8/13/2014, the IRB reviewed the following submission:

Type of Review:	Initial Study
Title of Study:	Community Assessment Practices
Investigator:	Rebecca Matthew
IRB ID:	STUDY00001283
Funding:	None
Grant ID:	None

The IRB approved the protocol from 8/13/2014.

To document consent, use the consent documents that were approved and stamped by the IRB. Go to the Documents tab to download them.

In conducting this study, you are required to follow the requirements listed in the Investigator Manual (HRP-103).

Sincerely,

Larry Nackerud, Ph.D.  
University of Georgia  
Institutional Review Board Chairperson



The University of Georgia®

Phone 706-542-3199

Office of the Vice President for Research  
*Institutional Review Board*

Fax 706-542-3660

### APPROVAL OF PROTOCOL

September 26, 2014

Dear Rebecca Matthew:

On 9/26/2014, the IRB reviewed the following submission:

Type of Review:	Modification
Title of Study:	Community Assessment Practices
Investigator:	Rebecca Matthew
IRB ID:	MOD00001003
Funding:	None
Grant ID:	None

The IRB approved the protocol from 9/26/2014.

In conducting this study, you are required to follow the requirements listed in the Investigator Manual (HRP-103).

Sincerely,

Larry Nackerud, Ph.D.  
University of Georgia  
Institutional Review Board Chairperson



## Community Gathering and Discussion

---

**The first in a series of conversations...**

What's on your mind?

- Employment and Business Development
- Education and Healthcare
- Crime and Safety
- Other?

***Your input will help direct future funding, resources, and services for the East Athens community.***

**Date:** October 13, 2014

**Time:** 6:00pm

**Where:** East Friendship Baptist Church

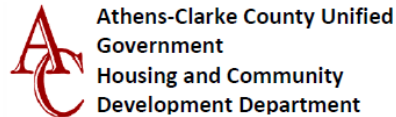
480 Arch Street

Athens, Georgia 30601

(706)208-0048 (EADC)

**Come Join the Discussion!**

***Refreshments and Childcare provided***



## COMMUNITY MEMBER FOCUS GROUP GUIDE

---

***[FOCUS GROUP TO BEGIN FOLLOWING A REVIEW OF THE FACT SHEET—ENSURE TAPE RECORDER IS TURNED ON]***

### **GUIDELINES**

Thank you for taking the time to join in our discussion about East Athens today. Before we begin, I'd like to go over a few guidelines for our discussion today:

- If you have a cell phone, please make sure to set it to vibrate or turn it off.
- Please talk in a voice at least as loud as the one I'm using now, so that everyone can hear what you're saying.
- Avoid side conversations with the people sitting next to you—I'm interested in all of your comments, and you may generate some good discussion by offering your opinion to the group.
- The goal of today's discussion is to have everyone participate. However, not everyone has to answer every question that I ask.
- That said, I do want to hear everyone's opinions, so make sure that you're giving everyone the chance and the time to share their opinions.
- Because we have a lot to talk about, there may be times when I need to move the discussion along. So please understand that when I ask that we move to a new topic or speaker, I don't mean to be rude.

Does anyone have any questions about the guidelines?

Finally, just so we have it on tape, does everyone agree to have today's discussion audio-taped? (*Get Verbal Agreement*) And, does everyone agree *not* to reveal anything that you learn about other participants or share any statements during this discussion outside of this focus group? (*Get Verbal Agreement*)

## **SELF INTRODUCTIONS**

I'd like to get started by asking each of you to introduce yourselves to the group. When you introduce yourself, please tell us:

- Your first name
- How long you have lived in East Athens

## **POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE COMMUNITY**

[Q1] What do you like about living in East Athens?

[Q2] What are the community's best qualities or assets?

[Q3] Which of these assets is most important to you and why?

## **NEGATIVE/CHALLENGING ASPECTS OF THE COMMUNITY**

[Q4] What do you think are the community's major challenges and/or needs right now?

[Q5] Are there any challenges surrounding finding work/jobs in the area?

[Q6] Are there any needs surrounding youth in the community?

[Q7] Are there any concerns regarding safety in the community?

[Q7\_Probe1] Are you concerned by the presence and possible escalation of gang violence in the community?

[Q7\_Probe2] What do you think would be the most effective strategies for preventing gang membership and recruitment?

### **SERVICES AND BUSINESSES**

[Q8] What services, if any, are available to community residents (housing, daycare, health, etc.)?

[Q9] With respect to employment specifically, are there existing resources in the community to help find work/jobs? If so, what are they?

[Q10] Are community needs being met by current services and businesses in the community?

[Q11] Are there any additional services, resources, programs, etc. you think might be helpful in the community? For example...

[Q11\_Probe]   ☐ GED Classes                      ☐ Computer Training  
                    ☐ Childcare                              ☐ Job Training  
                    ☐ Business Start-Up                      ☐ Other?  
                    ☐ Money Management

[Q12] Are there particular services/workshops in which *you* might be interested? For example:

[Q12\_Probe]   ☐ Homebuyer Education      ☐ Small Business Development  
                    ☐ Life Skills Training              ☐ Job Search Workshops  
                    ☐ Neighborhood Cleanups      ☐ Business Loan

## **PROBLEM-SOLVING and DECISION MAKING IN THE COMMUNITY**

[Q13] Who do you identify as community leaders?

[Q13\_Probe1] Can you tell me a little more about why it is that you identify them as a leader?

[Q14] Who makes the decisions that affect residents of your community?

[Q14\_Probe1] City Council, Mayor, church leaders, community leaders, etc.

[Q14\_Probe2] Is this a good or bad thing?

[Q15] Who do residents go to when there is a community-wide problem?

[Q16] How have people in East Athens come together to accomplish things in the past?

[Q16\_Probe1] How did this work (positive/negative outcome)?

PROBE: What contributed to the success, or lack thereof, of these efforts?

PROBE: Where there things that could have been better?

PROBE: How would this work with future efforts?

[Q17] How do you think residents could get involved in future community efforts?

[Q17\_Probe1] What things, if any, would make them more or less likely to participate?

[Q18] For example, were you or people you know of involved with the clean-up and restoration of the Gospel-Pilgrim Cemetery?

[Q18\_Probe] Do you have any thoughts on how we could get more community involvement in cleaning-up and maintaining the cemetery?

## **FINAL THOUGHTS**

[Q19] If we were able to change anything about East Athens this moment, what would that be?

[Q20] How do you think the community's strengths could be used to deal with these issues?

[Q21] Is there anything else you would like to share with us about living in your community?

[Q22] Are there people or organizations in the community with whom you think we should speak?

[Q22\_Probe1] Would you be willing to gain permission for our team to contact them?

## **DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

To ensure that we hear from all of the voices in your community, we would like to gather information on the people we interview. The following questions are for that purpose. Please know that your responses will not be linked to your comments, and that you are not required to answer them.

[Q23] Gender

- a. Male
- b. Female
- c. Choose not to disclose

[Q24] In which of the following age categories would you place yourself



- a. <18-24
- b. 25-34
- c. 35-44
- d. 45-54
- e. 55-64
- f. 65-74
- g. 75 and older

[Q25] Number of children in your household: \_\_\_\_\_

[Q26] Female headed household: Y/N

[Q27] In which of the following racial/ethnic groups would you place yourself?

- a. Black or African American, non Hispanic
- b. White, non Hispanic
- c. Hispanic/Latino
- d. Asian or Pacific Islander
- e. American Indian or Native American
- f. Other

[Q28] Employment status:    \_\_\_\_ Full-time            \_\_\_\_ Retired  
   \_\_\_\_ Part-Time            \_\_\_\_ Unemployed  
   \_\_\_\_ Self-Employed

[Q29] Are you a \_\_\_\_ renter or \_\_\_\_ Homeowner?

[Q30] How long have you lived in East Athens? (if you didn't get this earlier)

## **CLOSING**

Thank you so much for your time. You have provided a wealth of information which we look forward to compiling and presenting back to the community in the coming months. Before you finish, are there any additional thoughts or comments you would like to make about any of the topics we discussed today, or topics that we didn't cover.

One final thing: is there anything that anyone said today that you would like edited out of the audio tape?

Finally, thank you again for your time and participation in our discussion. Your comments have been very helpful, and we look forward to the opportunity to see everyone at the community forum in November.

## Appendix D: Community Member Focus Group Consent Form

Approved by University of Georgia  
Institutional Review Board Protocol  
# MOD00001003 Approved on:  
9/26/2014  
For use through: 8/12/2019

### **COMMUNITY MEMBER FOCUS GROUP CONSENT FORM**

We're students at the University of Georgia's School of Social Work. We're partnering with the East Athens Development Corporation to conduct a study entitled *Community Assessment Practices*, under the guidance of Dr. Rebecca Matthew. You can contact her with questions. Her phone number is on the next page.

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I will be the moderator today. This is \_\_\_\_\_, who will be taking notes and helping me. We understand that your time is valuable, and we very much appreciate your being here. Please feel free to ask questions at any time during the discussion.

#### **PROJECT OVERVIEW:**

\_\_\_\_\_ and I are conducting this study for a class at the School of Social Work. We asked you to be part of this study to learn more about life in the East Athens community. We will ask your view of the strengths and problems with living here. We hope to use what you tell us to find ways to improve community well-being.

#### **WHAT WILL BE ASKED OF PARTICIPANTS?**

This meeting will last between 30 and 60 minutes. We want to hear your thoughts and feelings about what it is like to live and work in East Athens, as well as the things you value and the things you would like to change. Some examples of questions we might ask include:

- What are some things that people like about living in East Athens?
- What are the biggest challenges people in East Athens face?
- What types of community services are provided in East Athens?

#### **WHAT WILL BE DONE WITH THE GATHERED INFORMATION?**

We will add the information we gather here to information from interviews and other focus groups. This will be summarized and shared with the community in a report and at a public meeting.

## **WHAT ARE THE RISKS & BENEFITS ASSOCIATED WITH PARTICIPATION?**

Your names will remain anonymous, but it is possible you will know someone in the group. So, even though the investigators will emphasize to all participants that comments made during the focus group should be kept confidential, it is possible that participants may repeat comments outside of the group at some time in the future. You have the option of not answering any question(s) and/or asking to turn off the tape recorder. You will not be paid for your participation today, but we will serve light refreshments. Although you may not experience any benefits yourself (aside from the refreshments), your participation may help improve your community. Participation is completely voluntary and you may withdraw at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you would otherwise receive.

## **ARE THERE ANY COSTS?**

There are no costs other than your time spent here today.

## **PARTICIPANT'S RIGHTS AND CONFIDENTIALITY:**

During the focus group, we are going to write notes to record what is said. If you agree, we will also tape record the interview so we do not miss anything. Once we have reviewed the recording to ensure the accuracy of our notes, the file will be destroyed. Only our group members will listen to the tape. You can ask to turn off the tape at any time during the interview. Please talk in a voice at least as loud as mine.

If you agree to participate in today's discussion, please understand that you are doing so voluntarily – you do not have to do it.

- You may withdraw your consent or stop at any time without penalty.
- You can refuse to answer any question.
- You may ask that the tape recorder be stopped or that comments be stricken from the tape.

***You must also agree not to reveal anything you learn or hear here today to anyone outside of this group.***

Information such as your age, ethnicity, sex, and number of years residing in the community may be gathered today. This information will only be used for summarizing data and will not be linked to anything you have said.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

If you have any questions about this research study, please feel free to email us at [UGACommunityAssessment2014@yahoo.com](mailto:UGACommunityAssessment2014@yahoo.com), call us at 706-542-5171, or contact our faculty

advisor at the following:

Rebecca Matthew, PhD, MSW, MPH  
University of Georgia, School of Social Work  
310 East Campus Road  
Athens, GA 30602  
Phone: 706-542-5445; Email: ramatthew@uga.edu

## **INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD APPROVAL**

The University of Georgia's Institutional Review Board in Research involving human subjects has reviewed this study. This group makes certain that researchers are honest and treat people appropriately. You may call or write them if you have questions about your rights or are unhappy with the study. You do not need to give your name. You can contact them as follows:

The Chairperson, University of Georgia Institutional Review Board  
629 Boyd GSRC  
Athens, Georgia  
Telephone: 706-542-3199; Email: irb@uga.edu

## **STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT:**

If you complete today's focus group, then it is understood that you consent to all of the above points unless you state otherwise.

- Do you have any questions about anything that I've said so far?
- Do you agree to participate today?
- Do you agree to be tape-recorded?
- Do you agree to maintain confidentiality of the information discussed and the people who participated in the discussion?

The extra copy of this fact sheet is for you to keep.

## Appendix E: Demographic Information Form

### DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FORM

To ensure that we hear from all of the voices in your community, we would like to gather information on the people we interview. The following questions are for that purpose. Please know that your responses will not be linked to your comments, and that you are not required to answer them.

[Q23] Gender

- a. Male
- b. Female
- c. Choose not to disclose

[Q24] In which of the following age categories would you place yourself

- a. <18-24
- b. 25-34
- c. 35-44
- d. 45-54
- e. 55-64
- f. 65-74
- g. 75 and older

[Q25] Number of children in your household: \_\_\_\_\_

[Q26] Female headed household: Y/N

[Q27] In which of the following racial/ethnic groups would you place yourself?

- a. Black or African American, non Hispanic
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- c. Hispanic/Latino
- d. Asian or Pacific Islander
- e. American Indian or Native American
- f. Other

[Q28] Employment status:   \_\_\_ Full-time           \_\_\_ Retired  
                                  \_\_\_ Part-Time       \_\_\_ Unemployed  
                                  \_\_\_ Self-Employed

[Q29] Are you a \_\_\_ renter or \_\_\_ Homeowner?

[Q30] How many years have you lived in East Athens? \_\_\_\_\_

## COMMUNITY MEMBER INTERVIEW GUIDE

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Thank you for taking time to meet with us today. We understand that your time is valuable, and we appreciate your participation.

Before we begin, we need to go over a few details:

(Review the Fact Sheet and turn on the audiotape)

- We need to have your permission on record to do this interview. Please state your answer to the following question: “Do you agree to have this interview taped?”
- Please remember that there are no “right” or “wrong” answers to any of the questions today, so please feel free to let me know whatever you are thinking or feeling.
- Finally, during the interview, please feel free to let me know if there are questions you would rather not answer and to stop me if you have any questions.

### **OVERVIEW**

As a quick overview of our discussion today, we’ll begin by talking generally about some of the community’s assets, possible needs/challenges, leaders in the community, and finally end with some basic demographic questions. Do you have any questions before we begin?

### **POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE COMMUNITY**

[Q1] What do you like about living in East Athens?

[Q2] What are the community’s best qualities or assets?

[Q3] Which of these assets is most important to you and why?



## **NEGATIVE/CHALLENGING ASPECTS OF THE COMMUNITY**

[Q4] What do you think are the community's major challenges and/or needs right now?

[Q5] Are there any challenges surrounding finding work/jobs in the area?

[Q6] Are there any needs surrounding youth in the community?

[Q7] Are there any concerns regarding safety in the community?

[Q7\_Probe1] Are you concerned by the presence and possible escalation of gang violence in the community?

[Q7\_Probe2] What do you think would be the most effective strategies for preventing gang membership and recruitment?

## **SERVICES AND BUSINESSES**

[Q8] What services, if any, are available to community residents (housing, daycare, health, etc.)?

[Q9] With respect to employment specifically, are there existing resources in the community to help find work/jobs? If so, what are they?

[Q10] Are community needs being met by current services and businesses in the community?

[Q11] Are there any additional services, resources, programs, etc. you think might be helpful in the community? For example...

[Q11\_Probe]     \_\_\_ GED Classes                             \_\_\_ Computer Training  
                      \_\_\_ Childcare                                 \_\_\_ Job Training  
                      \_\_\_ Business Start-Up                             \_\_\_ Other?  
                      \_\_\_ Money Management

[Q12] Are there particular services/workshops in which *you* might be interested? For example:

[Q12\_Probe]   \_\_\_ Homebuyer Education                             \_\_\_ Small Business Development  
                      \_\_\_ Life Skills Training                                 \_\_\_ Job Search Workshops  
                      \_\_\_ Neighborhood Cleanups                             \_\_\_ Business Loan

### **PROBLEM-SOLVING and DECISION MAKING IN THE COMMUNITY**

[Q13] Who do you identify as community leaders?

[Q13\_Probe1] Can you tell me a little more about why it is that you identify them as a leader?

[Q14] Who makes the decisions that affect residents of your community?

[Q14\_Probe1] City Council, Mayor, church leaders, community leaders, etc.

[Q14\_Probe2] Is this a good or bad thing?

[Q15] Who do residents go to when there is a community-wide problem?

[Q16] How have people in East Athens come together to accomplish things in the past?

[Q16\_Probe1] How did this work (positive/negative outcome)?

PROBE: What contributed to the success, or lack thereof, of these efforts?

PROBE: Where there things that could have been better?

PROBE: How would this work with future efforts?

[Q17] How do you think residents could get involved in future community efforts?

[Q17\_Probe1] What things, if any, would make them more or less likely to participate?

[Q18] For example, were you or people you know of involved with the clean-up and restoration of the Gospel-Pilgrim Cemetery?

[Q18\_Probe] Do you have any thoughts on how we could get more community involvement in cleaning-up and maintaining the cemetery?

## **FINAL THOUGHTS**

[Q19] If we were able to change anything about East Athens this moment, what would that be?

[Q20] How do you think the community's strengths could be used to deal with these issues?

[Q21] Is there anything else you would like to share with us about living in your community?

[Q22] Are there people or organizations in the community with whom you think we should speak?

[Q22\_Probe1] Would you be willing to gain permission for our team to contact them?

## **DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

To ensure that we hear from all of the voices in your community, we would like to gather information on the people we interview. The following questions are for that purpose. Please know that your responses will not be linked to your comments, and that you are not required to answer them.

[Q23] Gender

- a. Male
- b. Female
- c. Choose not to disclose

[Q24] In which of the following age categories would you place yourself

- a. <18-24
- b. 25-34
- c. 35-44
- d. 45-54
- e. 55-64
- f. 65-74
- g. 75 and older

[Q25] Number of children in your household: \_\_\_\_\_

[Q26] Female headed household: Y/N

[Q27] In which of the following racial/ethnic groups would you place yourself?

- a. Black or African American, non Hispanic
- b. White, non Hispanic
- c. Hispanic/Latino
- d. Asian or Pacific Islander
- e. American Indian or Native American
- f. Other

[Q28] Employment status:    ☐ Full-time            ☐ Retired  
                                 ☐ Part-Time            ☐ Unemployed  
                                 ☐ Self-Employed

[Q29] Are you a ☐ renter or ☐ Homeowner?

[Q30] How long have you lived in East Athens? (if you didn't get this earlier)

## **CLOSING**

We will be preparing a final report and presentation of our findings. If you would like to participate in the presentation of findings, receive a copy of the report, or simply talk with us further about the project, please feel free to contact us via email.

Thank you again for your time and participation!

## Appendix G: Community Member Interview Consent Form

Approved by University of Georgia  
Institutional Review Board Protocol  
# MOD00001003 Approved on:  
9/26/2014  
For use through: 8/12/2019

### **COMMUNITY MEMBER INTERVIEW CONSENT FORM**

We're students at the University of Georgia's School of Social Work. We're partnering with the East Athens Development Corporation to conduct a study entitled *Community Assessment Practices*, under the guidance of Dr. Rebecca Matthew. You can contact her with questions. Her phone number is on the next page.

#### **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS INTERVIEW?**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and this is \_\_\_\_\_. We are conducting this assessment for a class at the School of Social Work. We asked you to be part of this study to learn more about life in your neighborhood/community. We will ask your view of the strengths and challenging with living here. We hope to use what you tell us to find ways to improve community well-being.

#### **WHAT WILL I BE ASKED TO DO?**

You will be asked a series of questions. Some examples are:

- What is it like to live in your community?
- What are some assets of your community?
- What are some of the challenges and needs within your community?

There are no wrong answers, just different opinions. We are looking for many points of view, so please share what is on your mind. If you don't feel comfortable answering a question or don't have an opinion, just let us know.

It should take no more than 45 minutes to complete the interview.

During this interview, we are going write notes and record what is said. If you agree, we will also audio record the interview so we do not miss anything. Once we have reviewed the recording to ensure the accuracy of our notes, the file will be destroyed. Only our group members will listen to the tape. You can ask to turn off the tape at any time during the interview. Please talk in a voice at least as loud as mine.

#### **WHAT ARE THE RISKS AND BENEFITS OF MY PARTICIPATION?**

Most likely you will not experience any risks by participating. You may not personally experience any benefits but your participation may be helpful to the improvement of your community. Whether or not you decide to participate will not affect your relationship with the University of Georgia or any related organizations.

### **ARE THERE ANY COSTS?**

There are no costs other than your time spent here today.

### **WILL I BE PAID?**

We will not pay you for your interview.

### **SUBJECT'S RIGHTS AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

Your participation is completely voluntary. You can stop your participation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you would otherwise receive. You may refuse to answer certain questions and/or ask that your comments not be recorded at any time.

To protect your privacy, your replies will remain confidential. Your name will not be linked in any way with what you say here today. The only people who have access to this information are the student research team and the faculty advisor.

Information such as your age, ethnicity, and gender may be gathered today. This information will only be used for summarizing data and will not be linked to anything you have said.

Every effort will be taken to protect the identity of the participants in this study. You will not be identified in any report or publication of this study or its results.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you have any questions about this research study, please feel free to email us at UGACommunityAssessment2014@yahoo.com , call us at 706-542-5171, or contact our faculty advisor at the following:

Rebecca Matthew, PhD, MSW, MPH  
University of Georgia, School of Social Work  
310 East Campus Road Athens, GA 30602  
Phone: (706) 542-5445; Email: ramatthew@uga.edu

### **INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD APPROVAL**

The University of Georgia's Institutional Review Board on Research Involving Human Subjects

has reviewed this study. This group makes certain that researchers are honest and treat people appropriately. You may call or write them if you have questions about your rights or are unhappy with the study. You do not need to give your name. You can contact them as follows:

The Chairperson, University of Georgia Institutional Review Board  
629 Boyd GSRC  
Athens, Georgia  
Telephone: (706) 542-3199; Email: [irb@uga.edu](mailto:irb@uga.edu).

### **AGREEMENT STATEMENTS**

If you complete the interview, then it is understood that you consent to all of the above points unless you state otherwise. The extra copy of this fact sheet is for your records.



**Save the Date**

An Invitation



**Follow Up Meeting**  
To Discuss East Athens Community  
Report Findings and Resources

Date: November 17, 2014.

Time: 6pm

East Friendship Baptist Church

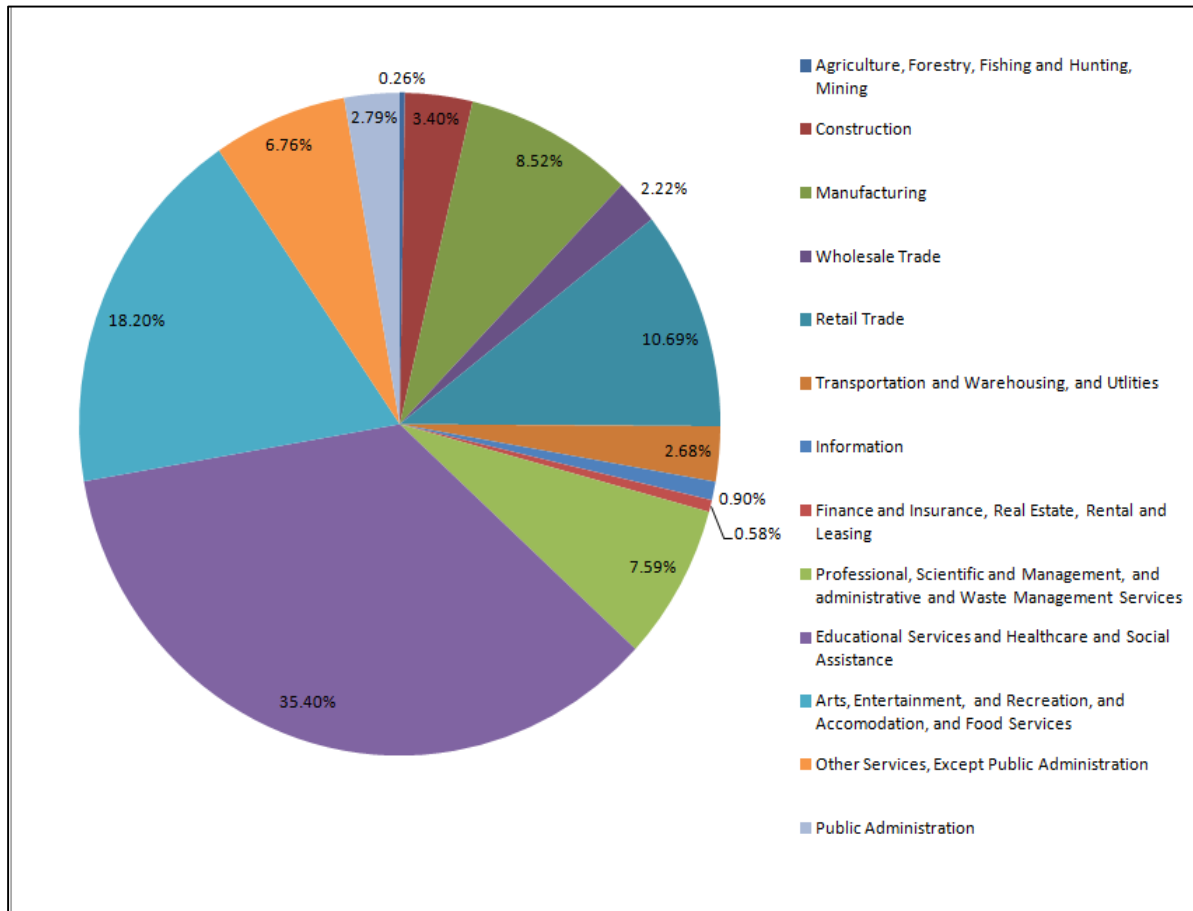
480 Arch Street

Athens, Ga 30601

**Phone : (706) 208-0048**



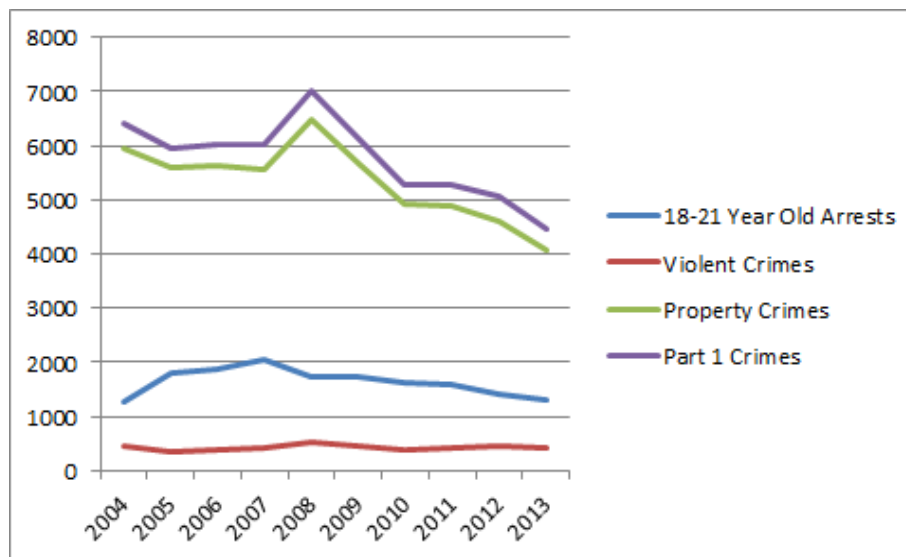
## Appendix I: Percent Employed by Industry



Source: US Census Bureau 2008-2012 American Community Survey

## Appendix J: Crime Reports 2004-2013

<b>Year</b>	<b>18-21 Year old Arrests</b>	<b>Violent Crimes</b>	<b>Property Crimes</b>	<b>Part 1 Crimes</b>
<b>2004</b>	<b>1272</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>5958</b>	<b>6416</b>
2005	1787	355	5613	5968
2006	1855	374	5636	6010
2007	2045	431	5576	6007
2008	1713	521	6490	7011
2009	1736	465	5655	6120
2010	1636	370	4926	5296
2011	1579	418	4873	5291
2012	1407	455	4601	5056
2013	1295	404	4074	4478



**SERVICE PROVIDER INTERVIEW GUIDE**

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Thank you for taking time to meet with us today. We understand that your time is valuable, and we appreciate your participation.

Before we begin, we need to go over a few details:

(Review the Fact Sheet and turn on the audiotape)

- We need to have your permission on record to do this interview. Please state your answer to the following question: “Do you agree to have this interview taped?”
- Please remember that it is perfectly fine to let us know if you do not have an opinion about a question, or would rather not answer it.
- During the interview, please feel free to ask questions.

**SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY**

[Q1] How long have you worked at \_\_\_\_\_?

[Q2] What is your role at \_\_\_\_\_?

[Q2\_Probe1] Would you tell us how this role enables you to interact with East Athens residents?

[Q3] Can you tell me why you chose to work in this community?

[Q4] Could you please provide an overview of the services your agency provides to the community?

[Q5] Who in the community uses your agency's services most?

[Q6] Are there services that go under-utilized?

[Q6-Probe1] If yes, can you tell me what those are?

[Q7] Are you aware of particular agencies, program, etc. that are trying to support job training/employment opportunities for local residents?

[Q8] Do you feel there are community needs that are not met by your agency or other organizations in the community?

[Q8\_Probe1] If yes, what are they?

[Q8\_Probe2] Do you have any ideas on how they could be addressed?

### **ASSETS OF THE COMMUNITY**

[Q9] What would you say are the strengths of the community?

[Q10] What do you like best about working with and for this community?

### **NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY**

[Q11] What, if any, common problems or issues do community residents face?

[Q11\_Probe1] Housing, health, education, poverty, crime.

[Q12] Are there any concerns regarding safety in the community?

[Q12\_Probe1] Are you concerned by the presence and possible escalation of gang violence in the community?

[Q12\_Probe2] What do you think would be the most effective strategies for preventing gang membership and recruitment?

[Q13] What, if any, unique problems do *specific* groups in the community face?

[Q13\_Probe1] Racial, ethnic, youth, seniors, etc.

[Q14] Which of the concerns you mentioned do you feel are the most important for the community to address?

[Q14\_Probe1] Can you tell me a little more about why you consider these *most* important?

### **PROBLEM-SOLVING AND DECISION MAKING IN THE COMMUNITY**

[Q15] Who do you identify as leaders within the East Athens community?

[Q16] Who makes decisions that affect the residents of the community?

[Q16\_Probe1] City Council, Mayor, church leaders, community leaders, etc.

[Q17] Who do the residents go to when there is a community-wide problem?

[Q18] What kinds of community projects, if any, have been undertaken during the time you've worked in the area?

[Q19] If you were going to implement a community project, who from the community would you try to involve?

[Q20] Do you have any thoughts on how we could increase community participation with the clean-up and maintenance of the Gospel-Pilgrim Cemetery?

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

[Q21] Is there anything else you think we should know about the East Athens community?

[Q22] Are there people or organizations in the community with whom you think we should speak?

[Q22\_Probe1] Would you be willing to gain permission for our team to contact them?

### **DOCUMENTS**

[Q23] Does your agency have any documents (e.g. annual reports, funding applications, brochures, etc.) that we can either look over or have copies of to give us a better sense of programming, etc?

### **DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

To ensure that we hear from a variety of service provider perspectives, we would like to gather information on the people we interview. The following questions are for that purpose. Please know that your responses will not be linked to your comments, and that you are not required to answer them.

**[Q24]** Gender

- a. Male
- b. Female
- c. Choose not to disclose

**[Q25]** In which of the following age categories would you place yourself

- a. <18-24
- b. 25-34
- c. 35-44
- d. 45-54
- e. 55-64
- f. 65-74
- g. 75 and older

**[Q26]** In which of the following racial/ethnic groups would you place yourself?

- a. Black or African American, non Hispanic
- b. White, non Hispanic
- c. Hispanic/Latino
- d. Asian or Pacific Islander
- e. American Indian or Native American
- f. Other

**[Q27]** IF MISSED IN Q1: How long have you worked at \_\_\_\_\_?



## **CLOSING**

We will be preparing a final report and presentation of our findings. If you would like to participate in the presentation of findings, receive a copy of the report, or simply talk with us further about the project, please feel free to contact us via email. Thank you again for your time and participation!

## Appendix L: Service Provider Interview Consent Form

Approved by University of Georgia  
Institutional Review Board Protocol  
# MOD00001003 Approved on:  
9/26/2014  
For use through: 8/12/2019

### **SERVICE PROVIDER INTERVIEW CONSENT FORM**

We're students at the University of Georgia's School of Social Work. We're partnering with the East Athens Development Corporation to conduct a study entitled Community Assessment Practices, under the guidance of Dr. Rebecca Matthew. You can contact her with questions. Her phone number is on the next page.

#### **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS INTERVIEW?**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and this is \_\_\_\_\_. We are conducting this assessment for a class at the School of Social Work. We asked you to be part of this study to learn more about life in the East Athens neighborhood/community. We will ask what you perceive as the strengths and challenging associated with this community. We hope to use what you tell us to find ways to improve community well-being.

#### **WHAT WILL I BE ASKED TO DO?**

You will be asked a series of questions. Some examples of questions we might ask are:

- Describe how you interact with individuals from the community.
- What are some strong points or assets in the community?
- What are some of the problems and needs faced by those living in this community?

There are no wrong answers, just different opinions. We are looking for many points of view, so please share what is on your mind. If you don't feel comfortable answering a question or don't have an opinion, just let us know. We are interested in your perspective as a service provider in East Athens, so please keep that position in mind during the discussion.

It should take no more than 45 minutes to complete the interview.

During this interview, we are going to write notes and record what is said. If you agree, we will also audio record the interview so we do not miss anything. Once we have reviewed the recording to ensure the accuracy of our notes, the file will be destroyed. Only our group members will listen to the tape. You can ask to turn off the tape at any time during the interview. Please talk in a voice at least as loud as mine.

## **WHAT ARE THE RISKS AND BENEFITS OF MY PARTICIPATION?**

As a service provider, a negative assessment of the community could be a risk for you, putting you at risk of losing your job or negatively affecting your career. To prevent this, no names will be attached to interviews and the data will be kept confidential and in a locked file cabinet. Also, you have the right to withdraw from the discussion at any time. Although you may not personally experience any benefits, your participation may be helpful to the improvement of the community. Whether or not you decide to participate in this study will not affect your relationship with UGA or any of its related organizations.

## **ARE THERE ANY COSTS?**

There are no costs other than your time spent here today.

## **WILL I BE PAID?**

We will not pay you for your interview.

## **SUBJECT'S RIGHTS AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

Your participation is completely voluntary. You can stop your participation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you would otherwise receive. You may refuse to answer certain questions and/or ask that your comments not be recorded at any time.

To protect your privacy, your replies will remain confidential. Your name will not be linked in any way with what you say here today. The only people who have access to the data are the research team and the faculty advisor.

Information such as your age, ethnicity, gender, and number of years providing services in the community may be gathered today. This information will only be used for summarizing data and will not be linked to anything you have said.

Every effort will be taken to protect the identity of the participants in this study. You will not be identified in any report or publication of this study or its results.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you have any questions about this research study, please feel free to email us at [UGACommunityAssessment2014@yahoo.com](mailto:UGACommunityAssessment2014@yahoo.com), call us at 706-542-5171, or contact our faculty advisor at the following:

Rebecca Matthew, PhD, MSW, MPH  
University of Georgia, School of Social Work  
310 East Campus Road Athens, GA 30602  
Phone: (706) 542-5445; Email: ramatthew@uga.edu

## **INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD APPROVAL**

The University of Georgia's Institutional Review Board on Research Involving Human Subjects has reviewed this study. This group makes certain that researchers are honest and treat people appropriately. You may call or write them if you have questions about your rights or are unhappy with the study. You do not need to give your name. You can contact them as follows:

The Chairperson, University of Georgia Institutional Review Board  
629 Boyd GSRC  
Athens, Georgia  
Telephone: (706) 542-3199; Email: irb@uga.edu.

## **AGREEMENT STATEMENTS**

If you complete the interview, then it is understood that you consent to all of the above points unless you state otherwise. The extra copy of this fact sheet is for your records.

## COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT RECRUITMENT INFORMATION FORM

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Thank you for sharing your thoughts about your community with us. Your input was very important and valuable, and we would like to speak with as many other people about the community as possible. We need your help to find these people. To respect their privacy, we need you to ask for their permission to be contacted.

Please call or visit the person(s) you think we should speak with and explain why we would like to talk with them. Feel free to use the following:

- The community assessment team is a group of students from the School of Social Work at the University of Georgia.
- They are working with community members and local service providers to find out about the strengths and challenges that face the community.
- They will share their results in a final report and hope that it can be used to improve community well-being.
- They will not describe you or use your name in their report.
- The UGA Institutional Review Board (IRB) has reviewed and approved this project.
- Participation in the project is completely voluntary.
- May I give them your name and contact information so they can contact you with more information about their project and possibly set up a meeting with you?

People whom you speak with do not need to agree to participate in our project when you talk to them, but we do need their approval to be contacted. If the person agrees to be contacted, please email us at [UGACommunityAssessment2014@yahoo.com](mailto:UGACommunityAssessment2014@yahoo.com) or call us at 706-542-5171.

If you have any questions about our project or would like to talk to us again, please feel free to email us. If you have any questions about the protection of human participants, you may contact the Institutional Review Board (collect if necessary) at: (706) 542-3199; write them at: The Chairperson, University of Georgia Institutional Review Board, 629 Boyd GSRC, Athens, Georgia 30602; or email them at: [irb@uga.edu](mailto:irb@uga.edu).

Thank you again for your help during this process!

## COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT RECRUITMENT IN- PERSON/EMAIL SCRIPT

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We're students at the University of Georgia's School of Social Work. We're partnering with the East Athens Development Corporation to conduct a study entitled *Community Assessment Practices*.

Through this process, we're hoping to talk with community members and local service providers to learn more about community needs and strengths here in East Athens. We hope to use what you and others tell us to find ways to improve community well-being.

Your participation would involve an interview lasting between 30 and 45 minutes. All of your responses will remain confidential, as your name will not be attached in any way to your responses.

If you would be interested in participating, you can contact us at [UGACommunityAssessment2014@yahoo.com](mailto:UGACommunityAssessment2014@yahoo.com) or call us at 706-542-5171. If you have any questions for our faculty advisor, Dr. Matthew, please feel free to contact her at [ramatthew@uga.edu](mailto:ramatthew@uga.edu) or 706-542-5445.

Thank you for your time!

## Appendix O: East Athens Community Service Grid

### Resources Available to Residents in and Surrounding East Athens

#### **Youth Development**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Website</b>	<b>Description</b>
Athens Tutorial Program	410 McKinley Dr., Athens, Ga 30601	706-354-1653	<a href="http://atp.uga.edu/contact-us.html">http://atp.uga.edu/contact-us.html</a>	Provides academic assistance, cultural enrichment opportunities, and other basic life skill enhancement for at-risk students.
Boys and Girls Club	705 Fourth St Athens, GA	706-546-5910	<a href="http://www.athensbgca.com/">http://www.athensbgca.com/</a>	Provides a clean, healthy, and safe environment for youth ages 6 to 18. After school activities are designed to fully engage our members in skill building exercises while allowing them to have fun.
Clarke County Mentor Program	246 W Hancock Ave, Athens, Ga 30601	706-549-6800 x 227	<a href="http://clarkecountymentorprogram.org/contact">http://clarkecountymentorprogram.org/contact</a>	Our program recruits and trains volunteers to serve as mentors to students in all of our public schools, K-12 grade.
Extra Special People	189 VFW Dr, Watkinsville, GA 30677	706-769-9333	<a href="http://extraspecialpeople.com/">http://extraspecialpeople.com/</a>	Empowers children with developmental disabilities to cultivate skills, self-confidence, and relationships through recreational therapy, community involvement, and the arts.
Foster Grandparent Program	135 Hoyt Street, Athens, GA 30601	706-549-4850	<a href="http://www.accaging.org/fostergrandparent/">http://www.accaging.org/fostergrandparent/</a>	Enables low-income older adults to receive benefits while serving children with special needs.

Georgia 4-H	2152 W. Broad St. Athens, Ga. 30606	706-613-3640	<a href="http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/clarke/4h/">http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/clarke/4h/</a>	Assists youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills, and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society. This mission is accomplished, through "hands on" learning experiences.
Girl Scouts of Athens	185 Newton Bridge Rd, Athens, GA 30607	706-548-7297	<a href="http://www.athensclarkecounty.com/5789/Girl-Scouts-and-Brownies">http://www.athensclarkecounty.com/5789/Girl-Scouts-and-Brownies</a>	Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.
Great Promise Partnership	PO Box 1647, Decatur, Ga 30031	706-542-4444	<a href="http://gppartnership.org">gppartnership.org</a>	A public private partnership designed to empower and equip at-risk students to complete high school while gaining real-world job skills and experience, creating a path to success
McPhaul Child Development Lab	202 Carlton St, Athens, GA 30602	706-542-492	<a href="http://www.fcs.uga.edu/hdfs/research-child-development-lab/">http://www.fcs.uga.edu/hdfs/research-child-development-lab/</a>	To provide quality, developmentally appropriate programming for young children, which includes fostering their sense of belonging and membership, nurturing positive social relationships and friendships, and facilitating their learning to reach their full potential.
UGA Heros	X	X	<a href="http://ugaheros.org/">http://ugaheros.org/</a>	Raises money to support the programs offered by H.E.R.O. for Children, Inc., spreads awareness about the growing problem of pediatric



				AIDS, and participates in service initiatives aimed at improving the lives of affected children
YMCA - Athens	915 Hawthorne Ave, Athens, GA 30606	706-543-6596	<a href="http://www.athensymca.org/">http://www.athensymca.org/</a>	Committed to nurturing the potential in youth, promoting healthy living, and fostering a sense of social responsibility.
Youth Leadership Athens	2152 W. Broad St. Athens, Ga. 30606	Contact Susan Mull: ssmull@aol.com	<a href="http://youthleadershipathens.wordpress.com/about/purpose/">http://youthleadershipathens.wordpress.com/about/purpose/</a>	A youth program designed to enhance teens' leadership skills and citizenship.

- *There are also a substantial amount of afterschool programs at Clarke Central and Cedar Shoals High School*

## **Mental Health Services**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Website</b>	<b>Description</b>
Advantage Behavioral Health Services	250 North Ave, Athens, GA 30601	706-389-6767	<a href="http://www.advantagebhs.org/">http://www.advantagebhs.org/</a>	A publicly-funded provider of behavioral health, developmental disability, and addictive disease service

## **Public Schools**

Clarke County School District - 14 elementary, 4 middle schools, 3 high schools

## **Public Services**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Website</b>	<b>Description</b>
Department of Family and Children Services	284 North Ave, Athens, GA 30601	706-227-7000	<a href="http://dfcs.dhs.georgia.gov/">http://dfcs.dhs.georgia.gov/</a>	DFCS is the part of DHS that investigates child abuse; finds foster homes for abused and neglected children; and helps troubled families.
UGA Transit System	2505 Riverbend Rd Athens, Ga 30602	706-369-6220	<a href="http://www.transit.uga.edu/">http://www.transit.uga.edu/</a>	A unit of the Auxiliary Services Department providing transportation services throughout the University campus.
ACC Transit System	775 E Broad St, Athens, GA 3060	706-613-3432	<a href="http://www.athensclarkecounty.com/199/Transit">http://www.athensclarkecounty.com/199/Transit</a>	Provides safe, economical and timely transportation for citizens throughout Athens.
Athens Housing Authority	300 S Rocksprings St, Athens, GA 30606	706-425-5300	<a href="http://www.athenshousing.org/">http://www.athenshousing.org/</a>	Provides secure, affordable, quality housing and resources which encourage and sustain independence for wage earners, elderly, and families.
ACC Public Information	301 College Ave. Suite 102 Athens, GA 30601	706-613-3795	<a href="https://www.athensclarkecounty.com/204/Public-Information-Office">https://www.athensclarkecounty.com/204/Public-Information-Office</a>	Provides clear and open communications to the citizens of Athens-Clarke

				County about the government's goals, activities, and services.
ACC Board of Elections	155 E Washington St, Athens, GA 30601	706-613-3150	<a href="http://www.athensclarkecounty.com/160/Board-of-Elections">http://www.athensclarkecounty.com/160/Board-of-Elections</a>	Elections manages voter registration and conducts all elections held in Athens-Clarke County (including the city of Winterville)
Clarke County Health Department	345 N Harris St, Athens, GA 30601	706-389-6921	<a href="http://publichealthathens.com/wp/">http://publichealthathens.com/wp/</a>	Northeast Health District offers free or low-cost services to all people within our area and promotes healthy lifestyles among all members of our community.
Department of Juvenile Justice	550 Hawthorne Ave, Athens, GA 30606	706-369-5610	<a href="https://www.athensclarkecounty.com/438/Juvenile-Court">https://www.athensclarkecounty.com/438/Juvenile-Court</a>	Protects the well-being of the children under the court's jurisdiction, providing guidance and control as necessary, while balancing the needs and best interests of the community.
Fire Station #7, East Side	2390 Barnett Shoals Rd Athens, GA	706-613-3360	<a href="http://www.athensclarkecounty.com/142/Fire-Emergency-Services">http://www.athensclarkecounty.com/142/Fire-Emergency-Services</a>	Fire and emergency services
Athens Water Department	124 E Hancock Ave Athens, GA	706-613-3500	<a href="http://www.athensclarkecounty.com/214/Public-Utilities">http://www.athensclarkecounty.com/214/Public-Utilities</a>	Public utilities: water, waste

				water, and conservation
Athens Solid Waste Department	725 Hancock Industrial Way Athens, GA 30605	706-613-3501	<a href="http://www.athensclarkecounty.com/178/Solid-Waste">http://www.athensclarkecounty.com/178/Solid-Waste</a>	The Solid Waste Department provides collection and disposal services that meet or exceed state standards and are responsive to the health and sanitary needs of our community.
Georgia Department of Driver Services	8610 Roswell Rd #710, Atlanta, GA 30350	678-413-8400	<a href="http://www.dds.ga.gov/">http://www.dds.ga.gov/</a>	Driving licensure and training
Georgia Department of Veteran Services	9249 U.S. 29, Athens, GA 30601	706-369-5630	<a href="http://veterans.georgia.gov/">http://veterans.georgia.gov/</a>	The Department of Veterans Service serves the 776,000-plus veterans residing in Georgia, their dependents and survivors in all matters pertaining to veterans benefits
Georgia Advocacy Office (for disabled persons)	150 East Ponce de Leon Avenue, Suite 430, Decatur, GA 30030	404-885-1234 1-800-537-2329	<a href="http://thegao.org/">http://thegao.org/</a>	Works with and for oppressed and vulnerable individuals in Georgia who are labeled as disabled or mentally ill to secure their protection and advocacy.
Social Security	1650 Prince Ave, Athens, GA 30606	1-866-964-3294	<a href="http://www.ssa.gov/">http://www.ssa.gov/</a>	Deliver Social Security services that meet the

Administration				changing needs of the public.
ACC Court System	325 E. Washington St. Suite 450 Athens, GA 30601	Superior and State - 706-613-3190  Magistrate Court - 706-613-3310	<a href="http://athensclarkecounty.com/324/Clerk-of-Superior-State-Courts">http://athensclarkecounty.com/324/Clerk-of-Superior-State-Courts</a>  <a href="https://www.athensclarkecounty.com/676/Magistrate-Court-Home">https://www.athensclarkecounty.com/676/Magistrate-Court-Home</a>	Clerk of Superior and State Courts  Magistrate Court
Athens Clarke County Unified Government	440 College Ave, Athens, GA 30601	706-613-3075	<a href="https://www.athensclarkecounty.com/">https://www.athensclarkecounty.com/</a>	

## **Higher Education**

- UGA
- Athens Tech
- Athens Piedmont College

## **Job Training**

Agency	Address	Phone	Website	Description
Bread for Life	3761 Mars Hill Road, Watkinsville, GA 30677	706-201-4640	<a href="http://breadforlifeathens.org/">http://breadforlifeathens.org/</a>	Provides hands-on training, instruction by industry professionals, and community support for men and women with the will to improve their lives and the desire to begin successful careers in the hospitality industry.

Goodwill of North Georgia: East Athens	4070 Lexington Rd Athens, GA	706-395-1553	<a href="http://goodwillng.org/">http://goodwillng.org/</a>	Goodwill offers job-search resources, helps with writing a professional résumé and cover letter, provides access to employment opportunities, delivers hands-on skill training, and so much more.
Georgia Department of Labor	472 North Ave, Athens, GA 3060	706-583-2550	<a href="http://www.dol.state.ga.us/">http://www.dol.state.ga.us/</a>	Includes information for job seekers and employers, news, regulations, statistics and contacts.
JobTREC	620 Barber Street, Athens, GA 3060	706-354-0423	<a href="http://www.athensareahomelessshelter.org">www.athensareahomelessshelter.org</a>	Assists homeless clients in overcoming barriers to employment. JobTREC works with clients on resumes, interviewing, and job-seeking skills, as well as financial assistance for transportation, uniforms, and training certifications.
East Athens Development Corporation	410 McKinley Dr, Athens, GA 30601	706-208-0048	<a href="http://eadcinc.com/">http://eadcinc.com/</a>	Since its start with neighborhood revitalization, EADC has grown over the years to include services in: community-based micro-enterprise, job training and development, affordable housing

				initiatives, historic preservation and protection in the African-American community.
Great Promise Partnership	PO Box 1647, Decatur, Ga 30031	706-542-4444	gppartnership.org	A public private partnership designed to empower and equip at-risk students to complete high school while gaining real-world job skills and experience, creating a path to success

## **Economy**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Website</b>
Athens Chamber of Commerce	246 W Hancock Ave, Athens, GA 30601	706-549-6800	<a href="http://www.athenschamber.net/">http://www.athenschamber.net/</a>
ACC Economic Development Department	246 W Hancock Ave, Athens, GA 30601	706-613-3233	<a href="http://www.athensbusiness.org/">http://www.athensbusiness.org/</a>

## **Major Employers**

- Caterpillar
- Athens Regional Medical Center
- Clarke County School District
- Power Partners
- Carrier
- burton+burton
- Noramco Inc
- Evergreen
- UGA
- St. Marys
- Dial America
- Baldor
- Merial
- Skaps
- CertainTeed
- Nakanishi Metal Works

## **Employment**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Website</b>
Athens Career Center	150 Evelyn Circle Neely Drive, Athens, GA 30601	706-583-2550	<a href="http://www.dol.state.ga.us/findus/popup_cc_athens.htm">www.dol.state.ga.us/findus/popup_cc_athens.htm</a>
University of Georgia Career Center	825 S Lumpkin St, Athens, GA 30602	706-542-3375	<a href="http://www.career.uga.edu/">http://www.career.uga.edu/</a>
Express Employment Professionals	1069 Baxter Street Suite A Athens, GA 30606	706-548-0625	<a href="http://athensga.expresspros.com/">http://athensga.expresspros.com/</a>
BOS Staffing	651 W Broad Street Athens, GA 30601- 2507	706-353-3030 1-800-353-3032	<a href="http://www.bosstaff.com/">http://www.bosstaff.com/</a>
Goodwill of North Georgia	10 Huntington Rd, Athens, GA 30606	706-433-1900	<a href="http://goodwillng.org/">http://goodwillng.org/</a>
Northeast Georgia Employee Assistance Program	1435 Oglethorpe Ave, Athens, GA 30606	706-549-6658	<a href="http://negeap.com/">http://negeap.com/</a>
Senior Community Service Employment Program	135 Hoyt Street, Athens, GA 30601	706-549-4850	<a href="http://www.accaging.org/scsep/">http://www.accaging.org/scsep/</a>
JobTREC	620 Barber Street, Athens, GA 3060	706-354-0423	<a href="http://www.athensareahomelessshelter.org">www.athensareahomelessshelter.org</a>
Athens Reentry Roundtable - A community blog for reentry services in the Athens, Georgia area	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<a href="http://athensreentryroundtable.wordpress.com/">http://athensreentryroundtable.wordpress.com/</a>
PALS	Rocksprings Community Center, Rocksprings Ct, Athens, Ga	706-548-0000	<a href="http://www.palsathens.org/">http://www.palsathens.org/</a>



## **Aging Resources**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Website</b>
Northeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging	305 Research Dr, Athens, Ga 30605	1-800-474-7540  706-369-5650	<a href="http://www.negrc.org">www.negrc.org</a>
Athens Community Council on Aging	135 Hoyt St, Athens, Ga 30601	706-549-4850	<a href="http://www.accaging.org">www.accaging.org</a>
Elder Legal Assistance Program	305 Research Dr, Athens, Ga 30610	1-800-474-7540  706-369-5650	<a href="http://aging.dhs.georgia.gov/clarke-county">http://aging.dhs.georgia.gov/clarke-county</a>

## **Community Capacity Builders**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Website</b>
Community Connection	1865 W Broad St, #C, Athens, Ga 30606	706-353-1313	<a href="http://communityconnection211.org/">http://communityconnection211.org/</a>
Athens Area Community Foundation	P.O. Box 1543 Athens, Georgia 30603-154	706-542-7044	<a href="http://athensareacf.org/">http://athensareacf.org/</a>
Family Connection-Communities in Schools	440 Dearing Extension, Athens, GA 30606	706-369-9732	<a href="http://athens.communitiesinschools.org/">http://athens.communitiesinschools.org/</a>
UGA Cooperative Extension - public service and outreach	2152 W. Broad St Athens, Ga. 30606	706-613-3640	<a href="http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/clarke/">http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/clarke/</a>
East Athens Development Corporation	410 McKinley Dr, Athens, GA 30601	706-208-0048	<a href="http://eadcinc.com/">http://eadcinc.com/</a>
Athens Clarke-County Federation of Neighborhoods	P.O. Box 48162, Athens, Ga 30604	Email: <a href="mailto:contact@accneighborhoods.org">contact@accneighborhoods.org</a>	<a href="http://www.accneighborhoods.org/">http://www.accneighborhoods.org/</a>

Inter-Community Council	250 W. Dougherty St. Athens, Ga. 30606	706-208-1774	<a href="http://intercommunitycouncil.org/Home_Page.html">http://intercommunitycouncil.org/Home_Page.html</a>
United Way of Northeast Georgia	1 Huntington Road, Suite 805. Athens, GA 30606	706-543-5254	<a href="http://www.unitedwayneg.org/">http://www.unitedwayneg.org/</a>

## **Disaster Response**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Website</b>
American Red Cross-East Georgia Chapter	490 Pulaski St, Athens, GA 30601	706-353-1645	<a href="http://www.redcross.org/ga/athens">http://www.redcross.org/ga/athens</a>
Community Emergency Response Team	P.O. Box 1868 Athens, Georgia 30603	Not Available	<a href="https://www.athensclarkecounty.com/6176/CERT">https://www.athensclarkecounty.com/6176/CERT</a>

## **Food**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Website</b>
Food Bank of Northeast Georgia	861 Newton Bridge Rd, Athens, GA 30607	706-354-8191	<a href="http://www.foodbankneg.org/">http://www.foodbankneg.org/</a>
West Broad Farmers Market	1573 W Broad St, Athens, GA 30606	706-613-0122	<a href="http://www.athenslandtrust.org/community-gardens/west-broad-farmers-market/">http://www.athenslandtrust.org/community-gardens/west-broad-farmers-market/</a>
Athens Area Emergency Food Bank	640 Barber St. Athens, GA - 30601	706-353-8182	<a href="http://www.foodpantries.org/li/athens_area_emergency_food_bank_30601">http://www.foodpantries.org/li/athens_area_emergency_food_bank_30601</a>

## **Healthcare**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Website</b>
Athens Nurses Clinic	496 Reese St, Athens, GA 30601	706-613-6976	<a href="http://athesnursesclinic.org/wp/">http://athesnursesclinic.org/wp/</a>

Athens Neighborhood Health Center	402 McKinley Dr, Athens, GA 30601	706-543-1145	<a href="http://www.athenshealthnetwork.com/Athens-Neighborhood-Health-Center-v-22.html">http://www.athenshealthnetwork.com/Athens-Neighborhood-Health-Center-v-22.html</a>
Mercy Health Center	700 Oglethorpe Ave, Athens, GA 30606	706-425-9445	<a href="http://mercyhealthcenter.net/">http://mercyhealthcenter.net/</a>
St Marys Hospital	1230 Baxter St, Athens, GA 30606	706-389-3000	<a href="http://www.stmarysathens.org/">http://www.stmarysathens.org/</a>
Athens Regional Medical Center	1199 Prince Ave, Athens, GA 30606	706-475-7000	<a href="http://www.athenshealth.org/">http://www.athenshealth.org/</a>
AIDS Athens	112 Park Ave, Athens, GA 30601	706-549-3730	<a href="http://www.aidsathens.org/">http://www.aidsathens.org/</a>
Children's Medical Services	645 Meigs St, Athens, GA 30601	706-389-6923	<a href="http://dph.georgia.gov/cms-parents-caregivers">http://dph.georgia.gov/cms-parents-caregivers</a>
Northeast Health District - Clarke County Health Department <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>East Athens WIC Clinic</li> <li>Teen Matters</li> </ul>	<u>East Athens WIC Clinic</u> - 410 McKinley Dr, Athens, GA 30601  <u>Teen Matters</u> - 68 Rocksprings Ct, Athens, GA 30606	<u>East Athens WIC Clinic</u> - 706-369-5816  <u>Teen Matters</u> - 706-369-5670	<u>East Athens WIC Clinic</u> - <a href="http://publichealthathens.com/wp/">http://publichealthathens.com/wp/</a>  <u>Teen Matters</u> - <a href="http://teenmattersathens.com/">http://teenmattersathens.com/</a>

## **Housing**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Website</b>
Athens Housing Authority	300 S Rocksprings St, Athens, GA	706-425-5300	<a href="http://www.athenshousing.org/">http://www.athenshousing.org/</a>
Athens Land Trust	685 N Pope St, Athens, GA 30601	706-613-0122	<a href="http://www.athenslandtrust.org/">http://www.athenslandtrust.org/</a>
Athens Area Habitat for Humanity	532 Barber St, Athens, GA 30601	706-208-1001	<a href="http://www.athenshabitat.com/">http://www.athenshabitat.com/</a>
Athens Area Homeless Shelter	620 Barber St, Athens, GA 30601	706-354-0423	<a href="http://helpathenshomeless.org/">http://helpathenshomeless.org/</a>

Appendix P: East Athens Community Directory

**EAST ATHENS RESOURCE DIRECTORY**  
**LOCATED WITHIN CENSUS TRACTS 301 & 302**

**AUTOMOTIVE**

**Advanced Auto Parts**

332 North Ave, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 549-2782

**Athens Import Auto**

835 Winterville Rd, Athens, GA 30605  
(706) 353-3880  
<http://www.athensimportauto.com/>

**Khasiani Discount Auto Repair**

492 North Ave, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 549-9988

**Nash Heavy Duty Truck Parts**

1051 Winterville Rd, Athens, GA 30605  
(706) 549-7914

**Oldham's Body and Paint Shop**

384 Oak St, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 543-5101

**Tire Depot**

325 Oak St, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 613-9547

**BEAUTY SUPPLY & HAIR CARE**

**Big Mike's Barber Shop**

401 North Ave, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 546-0822

**Keepin' it Real Hair Studio**

100 North Ave, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 369-0676

**Kum's Beauty Supply**

401 North Ave, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 353-1298

**Pan Am Beauty**

170 Gressom St, Athens, GA 30601  
(707) 402-8459

**BUSINESSES (MISC.)****Burton Realty & Development Inc.**

357 Oak St, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 296-9281

**City Electric Supply**

410 Oak St, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 208-0544

**Comfort Suites**

255 North Ave, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 995-4000  
<http://www.comfortsuites.com/hotel-athens-georgia-GA467>

**CVS**

395 North Ave, Athens, GA  
(706) 546-6627

**Fastenal**

590 Olympic Dr, Athens, GA  
(706) 613-1912  
<http://www.fastenal.com/web/locations/details/GABOG%20%20;jsessionid=9hhZJNLfvTl4r2yVpt1hfQmbJ13lJv1lLqHhnqX1hLg4rJVRQdyn!716747762!1543109586?isPunchout=false>

**Feed My Sheep**

585 Vine St Athens, GA 30601

**Garrett Paving**

1195 Winterville Rd, Athens, GA 30605

(706) 546-7643

<http://garrettpavingcompany.com/>

**Laundromat**

472 North Ave, Athens GA 30601

(706) 543-8009

**Union Store (liquor store)**

151 Nellie B Ave, Athens, GA 30601

(706) 353-3248

**WA Bragg (plumbing, electric, irrigation supply)**

535 Olympic Dr, Athens, GA 30601

(706) 543-7676

**CHURCHES****East Friendship Baptist Church**

480 Arch St, Athens, Georgia 30601

706) 543-0789

**Ebenezer Baptist Church East**

186 Derby St, Athens, GA 30601

(706) 543-5039

**Jehovah's Witness (Berlin St)**

135 Berlin St, Athens, GA 30601

(706) 369-7550

**Mount Olive 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Church**

465 Nellie B Ave, Athens, GA 30601

(706) 548-5150

**Oconee St United Methodist Church**

717 Oconee St, Athens, GA 30604

(706) 543-1327

**Springfield Baptist Church**

550 Fourth St, Athens, GA 30601

(706) 549-2686

**Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship**

630 Olympic Dr, Athens, GA 30601

(706) 208-9790

**CEMETERIES AND FUNERAL HOMES****East Lawn Cemetery (off Winterville Rd)**

825 Winterville Rd, Athens, GA 30605

**Garden View Funeral Chapel**

605 Olympic Dr, Athens, GA 30601

(706) 546-1125

<http://www.gardenviewfuneralchapel.com/>

**Gospel Pilgrim Cemetery**

(directly across from Boys and Girls Club on 4<sup>th</sup> St)

<http://www.gospelpilgrimcemetery.com/>

**Mack and Payne Funeral Home**

625 Nellie B Ave, Athens, GA 30601

(706) 543-8213

**Oconee Hill Cemetery**

297 Cemetery St, Athens, GA 30605

(706) 543-6262

**COMMUNITY CENTERS****Amvets Bingo**

1001 Winterville Rd, Athens, GA 30605

(706) 546-9635

**Boys and Girls Club of Athens**

705 Fourth St, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 546-5910

**Miriam Moore Community Center**

402 McKinley Drive  
Home to:

**East Athens Development Corporation**

410 McKinley Dr, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 208-0048

**East Athens Educational Dance Center**

390 McKinley Dr, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 613-3624

**Athens Tutorial Program Inc**

410 McKinley Drive, Athens, GA 30601  
706-354-1653

**Athens Neighborhood Health Center**

402 McKinley Dr, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 543-1145

**Clarke County East Athens WIC Clinic**

410 McKinley Dr, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 369-5816

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES**

**Advantage Behavioral Health Services (Mental Health Services)**

250 North Ave, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 389-6767

<http://www.advantagebhs.org/>

**Athens Tutorial Program Inc (Homework Assistance, Student Support)**

410 McKinley Drive, Athens, GA 30601  
706-354-1653

**Boys and Girls Club of Athens (Youth Programs)**



705 Fourth St, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 546-5910  
<http://www.athensbgca.com/>

**Department of Labor (Employment Services)**

472 North Ave, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 583-2550

**DFCS (Food Stamps, TANF, Medicaid, Child Welfare)**

284 North Ave, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 227-7000

**East Athens Development Corporation EADC (Job coaching, housing, small business)**

410 McKinley Dr, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 208-0048

**FINANCIAL**

**Ellison's Insurance and Tax Prep**

585 Vine St. Ste 5, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 369-7147

**World Finance (Loans and Tax Service)**

494 North Ave, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 353-6463

**GAS STATION/CONVENIENCE STORES**

**Chevron Gas Station/Convenience Store**

(470 North Ave, Athens, GA 30601  
706) 548-8043

**Golden Pantry Gas station**

115 North Ave, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 354-0970

### GIFTS/PAWN/THRIFT STORES

**Dyana's Gifts 'n Decorations**

401 North Ave Athens, GA 30601-2235  
(706) 546-6908

**Junk in the Trunk (antique store)**

590 Olympic Dr, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 548-3036  
<https://www.facebook.com/JunkintheTrunkAthens>

**Gateway Pawn**

401-7 North Ave, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 354-4653

**R. Wood Studios (ceramics)**

450 Georgia Dr, Athens, GA 30605  
(706) 613-8525

**This 'n That New 'n Gently Used**

401 North Ave, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 461-8069

### GROCERY STORES

**Bert's Grocery**

151 Nellie B Ave, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 353-7156

**Camino Real Supermarket & Taqueria**

401 North Ave, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 850-7750

**4 Tigers Grocery Store**

401 North Ave #10, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 543-2294

**Pan Am Grocery**

155 Nellie B Ave, Athens, GA 30601

(706) 353-8175

**Piggly Wiggly**

484 North Ave, Athens, GA 30601

(706) 548-4171

<http://www.pigglywiggly.com/store/484-north-avenueathensga>

**Vine St Grocery and Carry-Out**

585 Vine St #3, Athens, GA 30601

(706) 850-7247

**HEALTH CARE****Athens Neighborhood Health Center**

402 McKinley Dr, Athens, GA 30601

(706) 543-1145

**Clarke County East Athens WIC Clinic**

410 McKinley Dr, Athens, GA 30601

(706) 369-5816

**HOUSING****Archer on North (luxury student 1 bedroom apartments)**

210 Spring Ct, Athens, GA 30601

(706) 208-8888

<http://www.archeronnorth.com/athens-ga-apartments/archer-on-north/>

**Dogwood Park Apartments**

198 Old Hull Rd, Athens, GA 30601

(706) 369-6992

**Flats at Carr's Hill (luxury student housing)**

592 Oconee St, Athens, GA 30605

(888) 500-1721

<http://www.theflatsatcarrshill.com/>

**Fourth St Village apartment Complex (mixed income housing-some section 8)**

690 4th St., Athens GA 30601

(706) 543-5915

**Georgia Green**

700 Fourth St, Athens, GA 30601

(706) 353-7720

**Hill Apartment Complex (Carr's Hill)**

960 Oconee St, Athens, GA 30605

(706) 549-2500

**Knollwood Manor Apartments (Old Hull Rd)**

205 Old Hull Rd, Athens, GA 30601

(706) 354-6796

<http://www.knollwoodaptsga.com/>

**Nellie B Housing Complex**

Homes found on East Carver, Zetella, Cone, Zebulon, Nellie B., and Fairview streets.

Managed by the Athens Housing Authority: 706-425-5300

**Oak Hill Apartments (Old Hull Rd)**

105 Oak Hill Dr #1000, Athens, GA 30601

(706) 369-9936

**Towne View Place**

100 Towne View Place, Athens, GA 30605

Managed by the Athens Housing Authority: 706-425-5300

**Village Apartments**

250 Little St, Athens, GA 30605

(706) 543-0234

**PARKS**

**Dudley Park**

Across from the Chicopee Complex on MLK, near where it intersects with E. Broad St.

(706) 613-3801

**East Athens Community Park**

200 Trail Creek St, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 208-0185

**North Oconee River Greenway**

Accessible on MLK where it intersects with College Ave.  
706-613-3801

**POLICE STATION**

385 Fairview St, Athens, GA 30605  
(706) 613-3358

**RESTAURANTS****Camino Real Taqueria**

401 North Ave, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 850-7750

**Church's Chicken**

377 Oak St, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 354-4001

**El Azteca**

1280 Oconee St, Athens, GA 30605  
(706) 549-2639

**Hardee's**

496 North Ave, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 353-6563

**Mama's Boy**

197 Oak St, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 548-6249

**Mexican Restaurant (Athens Plaza)**

478 North Ave Athens GA 30601  
(706) 353-0346

**Waffle House**

1310 *Oconee St Athens GA* 30605.

(706) 277-7704

**SCHOOLS**

**B Stroud Elementary**

715 Fourth St, Athens, GA 30601

(706) 369-1893