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Submit Immigration Reports by the End of the Year

Counties are required to submit two separate immigration reports by the end of the year in order to stay in compliance with Georgia's immigration law. The E-Verify Public Contractor Compliance Report must be submitted to the Department of Audits by December 31st. The reporting period for this report is July 1, 2011 through November 30, 2011. This report will include the county's E-Verify number and date of authorization, and the legal name, address and E-Verify number of the contractor as well as the date of the contract between the contractor and the county. The Department of Audits is finalizing their reporting system and will be sending a letter to your county about the requirements along with instructions on how to use the system. For more information on the E-Verify Public Contractor Compliance Report, please visit the Department of Audits website by clicking [here](#).

The Public Benefits Report must be submitted to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) by January 1, 2012. This report will identify any public benefits administered by the county and a listing of each public benefit for which SAVE authorization for verification has not been received. ACCG and Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) have sought clarification about the second requirement from DCA. Until this issue is resolved, your county should submit the information that is currently requested by DCA, which includes the names of the applicants for which verification was not received. For more information on the Public Benefits Report, click [here](#).

A third report, the E-Verify Private Employer Report will need to be submitted starting on December 31, 2012. However, this report is not due this year. All three reports will be due on an annual basis thereafter.

Don't Forget to Publish Your Annual SPLOST Report

Counties and cities that are collecting SPLOST funds or have SPLOST funds on hand from an expired SPLOST must publish a project status report in their local newspaper of general circulation before December 31, 2011 [O.C.G.A. § 48-8-122]. This report must be

published once every calendar year on all projects, including those from past SPLOSTs, until the projects are completed and all funds expended. The county is only responsible for reporting on county projects. Cities must prepare their own reports. All projects must be reported individually except for road, street and bridge projects, which can be reported in one consolidated schedule.

For each project the following information must be reported:

The original estimated cost;

- The current estimated cost if different from the original estimated cost;
- The amounts expended in prior years; and
- The amounts expended in the current year.

The report must also include a statement of what corrective action the local government intends to implement for each project that is underfunded or behind schedule and a statement of any surplus funds which have not been expended for a project. Surplus funds are not defined in the law. However, it is reasonable to interpret surplus funds as those SPLOST revenues that remain after a project has been completed or funds that continue to be held from a previously expired SPLOST.

A model report can be found in Appendix G of the [ACCG SPLOST Guidebook](#). The law does not specify a format for the report because each county's report will need to be tailored to their unique circumstances.

ACCG to Offer Four Upcoming LOST Training Sessions

The Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) law requires counties and "qualified cities" receiving general purpose LOST revenue to renegotiate distribution agreements within two years of each decennial census. As such, "qualified cities" and counties must begin renegotiation of their distribution agreements on or before July 1, 2012. There are four remaining ACCG LOST training sessions across the state which will cover history and purpose of LOST, techniques for effectively negotiating, requirements of the LOST law for renegotiation, how to measure the eight criteria required for consideration and formulas and methodology for creating the allocation. For dates and registration information, click [here](#).

Don't Miss the Final Illegal Immigration Training Session -- Thursday, December 8

ACCG and the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) will host a joint training session on Georgia's Illegal Immigration Reform and Enforcement Act (House Bill 87) on Thursday, December 8 (Cherokee County) for counties and cities. This session will provide an overview of mandated local government immigration verification requirements. While E-Verify and SAVE compliance has been required of Georgia's counties and cities for three years, the passage of HB 87 during the 2011 legislative session imposes various new reporting mandates and penalties for noncompliance, ranging from loss of qualified local government status, fines and possible jail time and removal from office for elected and

appointed official. Space is filling up quickly! For more information on the upcoming session or to register, click [here](#).

2012 Community Development Block Grant Applicants Workshop Scheduled for Macon

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs will be conducting the 2012 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Applicants' Workshop for Non-entitlement Communities on December 7-9, 2011 at the Marriot Macon City Center in Macon, Georgia.

The purpose of this workshop is to inform local government officials and other interested parties of the procedures to be used in preparing CDBG applications. The workshop is designed to provide the opportunity to learn the details involved in putting together a competitive application, to ask questions, and to share information. In order to ensure ample workshop materials, please complete registration by clicking [here](#) no later than Wednesday, November 30, 2011. The link allows you to register for the workshop, provides hotel information and allows you to make reservations at the Marriott Macon City Center.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding the workshop, please contact Lisa Smith at (404) 679-5276.

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