

2024 Georgia County Internship Program Grant Recipient Counties

Athens-Clarke County

Videography and Photography Project: The intern will assist the public information office with the documentation and promotion of facilities, events, programs, staff, and other areas through photography and videography. The intern will also develop at least one standalone video of their own over the course of the internship for use on the government access channel and/or social media.

Augusta-Richmond County

Finance Department Project: The intern will work with finance department staff to prepare budget worksheets. They will also perform research for budgeting and financial forecasting and will analyze financial data. Finally, the intern will check financial documents and journal entries, file documents, and provide administrative support to the department as needed.

Public Information and Social Media Project: The intern will work on researching, drafting, editing, and producing social media and web content. They will manage inquiries from local news media and draft remarks for Augusta-Richmond leadership, as well as assist with interviews and press conferences.

Bartow County

Engineering Project: The intern will assist the engineering department in a plan review of residential drainage and tertiary plans and support erosion and sedimentation inspections at larger developments. They will also be taught the fundamentals of AutoCAD, a key engineering software, and will use it to complete design revisions to the Bartow County Standard Construction Details.

Camden County

Public Works Project: The intern will work on a project to assess and update the county road inventory. They will research road history to find missing road files and complete a bridge asset inventory with text and photo documentation. The intern will also update county GIS records.

Carroll County

Solid Waste Project (Kundell Environmental Award): The intern will work on an independent project on solid waste in the county. They will extract and analyze trash statistics, identify trends in the data, and compile results and recommendations. They will also create a survey on recycling habits and develop a plan for survey distribution.

Charlton County

4-H Extension Project (Verizon Foundation Rural County Grant): The intern will work on collaborative projects between the county and Georgia 4-H. They will work on structured assessments to identify community needs and develop county programming to address such needs. They will also assist with 4-H youth programs in the county. Finally, the intern will conduct a personalized research project related to the community.

Chatham County

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Project: The intern will assist the DEIA Administrator with researching, developing, recommending, and executing strategies to foster the county's diversity goals. They will help develop county-wide DEIA programs and work alongside human resources staff to build talent pipelines, collect diversity metrics, and compile reports. Additionally, they will work with the public information office to create social media content surrounding DEIA programming.

Magistrate Court Project (Joan Garner Health and Human Services Award): The intern will work on creating visual education materials for the Chatham County Magistrate Court. They will develop and create educational materials and videos to promote legal literacy and court information. The intern will collaborate with legal experts and court staff to create graphics, presentations, and online videos.

Cherokee County

Community Development Project: The intern will work in collaboration with the planning and zoning department to complete a housing stock analysis for the county. The analysis will focus on single-family units owned by institutional investors. They will complete research and present findings to the planning commission and board of commissioners, as well as to cities in the county and other stakeholders.

Cobb County

Internal Audit Project: The intern will conduct an audit of p-card purchases to ensure compliance with county policies. They will participate in each phase of the audit project, including planning, research, reporting, and presentation of results. The intern will also conduct fieldwork such as interviewing, evaluating control structures, performing analyses, testing transactions, and examining documentation.

Sustainability (Keep Cobb Beautiful) Project: The intern will collaborate with staff on a sampling protocol to identify litter and its impact. They will focus on right-of-way observations, data collection, and cleanup assessments near the county line. They will also collaborate with neighboring Keep America Beautiful affiliates to conduct a litter index survey throughout the summer months.

Stream Monitoring Project: The intern will assist with daily operations and projects with the Cobb County Water System Stream Monitoring Program. Their major project will include sampling water quality at stream sites and entering and analyzing collected data. They will also participate in fish assessments at streams and help sort and identify preserved macroinvertebrate samples.

Columbus-Muscogee County

Risk Management Project: The intern, working with the risk management team, will brainstorm, develop, and host the second annual risk and safety awareness community event. They will help create the event to promote awareness of everyday risks and safety to citizens of all ages. They will coordinate with other departments to include demonstrations of water safety, fire safety, CPR/first aid, severe weather precautions, and safe driving.

Cusseta-Chattahoochee County

Community Development Project: The intern will work to establish a foster program in conjunction with animal control and the county animal shelter. They will research existing foster programs, establish community partnerships, and oversee foster arrangements as needed.

Fayette County

State Court Project: The intern will receive a case of their own to work from start to finish on a particular issue. They will draft and finalize at least one order for a judge to review. They will analyze arguments, research the applicable law, and include what they learned about the specific facts of a case and the law into the order.

Griffin Circuit Public Defender Project: The intern will participate in various aspects of court proceedings for indigent felony cases. They will have the opportunity to write motions and advocate on clients' behalf before the court. They will also meet and speak with clients' family and community members to better understand cases and the legal system.

Appraiser Project: The intern will work on a project to update rural land values and review old building sketches. As the county updates to a new computer system, the intern will ensure that files are updated and correct. They will gather land and sales data, analyze land tracts, review sketches, and research record management requirements for the new system.

Floyd County

Solid Waste Reduction Project (Kundell Environmental Award): The intern will design, implement, and organize a reuse store for local nonprofits. They will research reuse stores and sustainability practices and develop relationships with community partners. They will also implement the Green Business Program to encourage sustainable practices in local businesses.

Agricultural Design Project: The intern will develop an agricultural-based plan of action to utilize natural resources on the over 200-acres of state-owned Camp Tract. They will assess the overall physical layout of the land and review available resources to develop a plan to facilitate the use of the land.

Fulton County

Television and Film Production Project: The intern will assist the director of broadcast and cable and serve as a liaison to film companies operating in the county. They will help produce county video projects and will work on voiceovers, infomercials, and other filming opportunities. The intern will also coordinate film events and build relationships with film industry stakeholders.

Policy Management Project: Working within the county manager's office, the intern will conduct in-depth research on current policy issues. They will identify relevant issues, their implications, and potential solutions the county can pursue. The intern will create and review policy documents, engage with stakeholders, and assist in the maintenance of existing county policies.

Glynn County

Engineering Project The intern will work on a project to identify brownfield sites in the county. Brownfield sites are parcels of land contaminated by hazardous waste that pose a risk to human health and/or the environment. The intern will assist the engineering department with mapping identified sites and the surrounding communities, determining site statuses and types of contamination, and evaluating the redevelopment capacity of sites around the county. Finally, the intern will create a final research report and presentation for county elected officials and leaders.

Communications Project: The intern will collaborate with staff and work independently to create and implement a social media content strategy for the county. They will use and manage a variety of social channels, create and update posting schedules, draft news releases, and monitor references to county business on social media. The intern will also create and manage graphic design projects and compile media analytics to review their work.

Finance Project: The intern will assist in the creation and implementation of a new, streamlined pension portal for county employees. They will help build the portal, create different pension parameters, and generate excel document summaries. The intern will also evaluate the system to ensure accuracy and ease of use for employees.

Gwinnett County

Planning and Development Project: The intern will assist in a variety of planning and development department tasks. They will contribute to the development of comprehensive plans, zoning regulations, and land use policies, as well as conduct research and prepare reports on planning issues. The intern will also participate in field visits and inspections, engage with community members at public meetings, and use GIS tools to create maps and spatial analyses.

Water Resources Project: The intern will collaborate with engineers in the water resources department to analyze water consumption and flow monitoring data. Data collected will help determine the size of wastewater discharges from county schools. They will define issues and review the current flow calculation method, identify schools to analyze, determine a research methodology, and obtain and organize the water consumption data. The intern will then analyze the data and prepare a final report on their research.

Hall County

Parks and Community Services Project: The intern will work with the parks department and finance department to develop historical reports on financial data for parks and community services. They will record and analyze monthly revenue and expenditures and produce trend reports. They will also review survey results, manage other departmental data, and assist department staff as needed with other projects.

Henry County

Transportation Planning Project: The intern will complete a digital media project to educate citizens about Henry County transportation plans. The intern will review three key plans: the county transportation plan, the transit master plan, and the trails plan. They will create short, semi-professional videos summarizing the plans. The intern may also produce additional videos about transportation planning initiatives in the county.

Planning and Zoning Project: The intern will be involved in long-range planning in the Planning and Zoning Department related to changes in the Unified Land Development Code (ULDC). The intern will communicate with county planners to identify code inconsistencies and make suggestions. They will conduct research on zoning codes from other jurisdictions and draft language for code amendments.

Stormwater Project: The intern will shadow, study, and document the work processes of the Henry County Stormwater Department. Through their internship, they will learn the process of managing a diverse field of projects, from culvert construction to detention pond retrofits. The intern will collaborate with staff to strategize ways to improve and streamline routines within the department.

Jasper County

Finance Project: The intern will work to create an inventory tracking process for all Jasper County departments. The tracking process will be used to streamline the audit process and assist in capital asset budgeting. The intern will work with the county manager, finance department, and department heads to validate capital assets, record asset additions, and note any disposals or junked assets.

Lowndes County (First-Time Grant Participant)

Probation Records Protection Project: The intern will establish a robust records protection program for the probation department. They will design and implement the program, identify and catalog essential records, and create a safeguarding strategy for the future. The intern will also assist in training and educating staff and stakeholders about the new records protocols and integrate them into existing workflows.

Lumpkin County

GIS Software Project: The intern will assist the county with the transition to a new GIS software platform. They will work on archiving old data, updating current data, and creating metadata and a new coordinate system. The intern will also create and develop procedures for maintaining GIS data integrity for the future.

Macon-Bibb County

County Attorney Project: The intern will work alongside assistant county attorneys, assisting with both the legislation and litigation components of the county attorney's office. They will be assigned items of legislation and will then be responsible for coordinating with relevant officials and conducting legal research on pieces of legislation. The intern will also participate in day-to-day projects and general office operations.

Circuit Public Defender Project: The intern will complete legal research, interpretation, and management of client case files. They will also engage with public defender office staff, observe court proceedings, interact with clients, and attend staff meetings.

Meriwether County

Probate Court Project: The intern will assist the court in hearing civil and criminal cases in probate and superior courts. They will perform legal research and prepare files for court proceedings, interact with lawyers and the district attorney, and assist with issuance of marriage licenses and other permits.

Tax Assessor Project: The intern will work with the tax assessor to prepare for the release of 2024 digest values. They will prepare appraisals, provide research assistance on court matters, and issue homestead and conservation use exemptions. The intern will also provide litigation assistance to appraisal staff.

Paulding County

Mental Health Court Project: The intern will work alongside the mental health court coordinator with day-to-day operations. They will assist with court date scheduling and interview participants in the court. The intern will also create and develop a resource database identifying mental health community service providers in the county.

Rockdale County

Planning and Development Project: The intern will implement a new community outreach program called PND Panda. The PND Panda project serves to educate the public on the main responsibilities of the Rockdale County Planning and Development Department. The intern will work on developing educational seminars, designing “how to” software, and streamlining the volunteer process. They will work as a liaison between the department and county residents to establish a community outreach program and help the department execute the county strategic plan.

Towns County (First-Time Grant Participant)

Road Database Project (Verizon Foundation Rural County Grant): The intern will work to create a searchable road inventory database for the county. They will catalog and identify all paved and unpaved roads and will note responsible maintenance parties, right-of-ways, surface types, and milage. The intern will also develop a road condition matrix and rating system and will create maps as visual references.

Troup County

Solicitor’s Office DUI Project: The intern will assist the solicitor general’s office in the prosecution of DUI cases. They will review case files, evaluate evidence, and assist in preparation for trial. The intern will also review documentation, organize files, and provide prosecution and technical support.

Walton County

Benefits and Wellness Project: The intern will help launch and promote a new incentive-based wellness program for county employees. They will assist in designing the program, producing communication and educational materials, and coordinating with other departments to expand the program’s impact. The intern will focus on developing monthly wellness newsletters and a wellness podcast featuring discussions with various county staff members.

Ware County (First-Time Grant Participant)

Planning and Codes Records Project: (Verizon Foundation Rural County Grant): The intern will create a records database for the planning and codes department. The intern will review old records and input them into the new software. They will also develop a standard operating procedure so that all future planning permits and applications are recorded effectively and efficiently.

Warren County

Technology Program Project: The intern will aid in the implementation of the asset management system for Warren County. They will add items into the system, install new computers and software, and update the county website as needed. They will collaborate with the director to create programs for computer replacement, storage, and retirement, as well as assist with updating the Warren County mobile application.