

Course Title:**Revitalizing Neighborhoods: Tools for Local Officials**

(NOTE: The following course outline is based on previous offerings and is only intended to provide a general overview of the topics which are covered. The actual agenda used for the next offering of this course is subject to some variation.)

Course Length:

6 hours

Course Description:

This course provides an overview of the tools and resources available to cities interested in effectively responding to neighborhood problems such as dilapidated and unsafe structures, unsightly property, junk automobiles, weeds, trash and other nuisances. Topics include Georgia's Urban Redevelopment law, code enforcement and land bank authorities. This unique workshop is designed to provide local elected officials and community leaders with the knowledge, skills, and tools provided by law, state agencies, and practitioners to encourage and facilitate the revitalization of neighborhoods and other declining areas of the community.

Course Objectives:

Participants will:

- Gain understanding about the basic tools local governments can use to effectively respond to neighborhood problems such as dilapidated and unsafe structures, unsightly property, junk automobiles, weeds, trash, and other nuisances.
- Gain understanding about what land banks are and how to establish one, using land banks for revitalization of communities, and an example from a community that has had success in the use of land banks for revitalization.
- Identify existing organizations which may possibly be in their community and the effective use of these organizations to achieve revitalization of declining areas with an example from a community that has had success in the use of existing organizations.
- Experience a direct example through a tour and explanation in a community, or presentations from communities that have had success with the use of the tools presented in the workshop.

Course Agenda

8:30 am - 10:15 am Your Tools in State Law

Tools include:

- Legal Tools (including State Minimum Standard Codes, Municipal Courts for Code Enforcement, Georgia's Urban Redevelopment Act, and Condemnation Powers)
- Financial Tools
- Housing Revitalization Assistance

– Downtown/Commercial Center Revitalization Strategies

10:15am - 10:30am Break

10:30am - 11:30am Code Enforcement

11:30 am - 11:50 am Using Land Banks for Revitalization

11:50 am - 12:10 pm Effective Use of Existing Organizations

12:10 pm - 1:10 pm Lunch

1:10 pm - 3:15 pm Lessons from the Trenches

Mobile Workshop or Presentations from communities that have had success using the tools presented at this workshop. Q&A after each presentation, or during mobile tour.

3:15 pm – 3:30 pm Wrap Up and Evaluation

Submitted by: Georgia Department of Community Affairs,
Contact - Julie Brown, 404-679-0614 jbrown@dca.state.ga.us