



GMA Cities Connect

The Unique Advantage of Multi-Level Collaboration

March 22, 2022

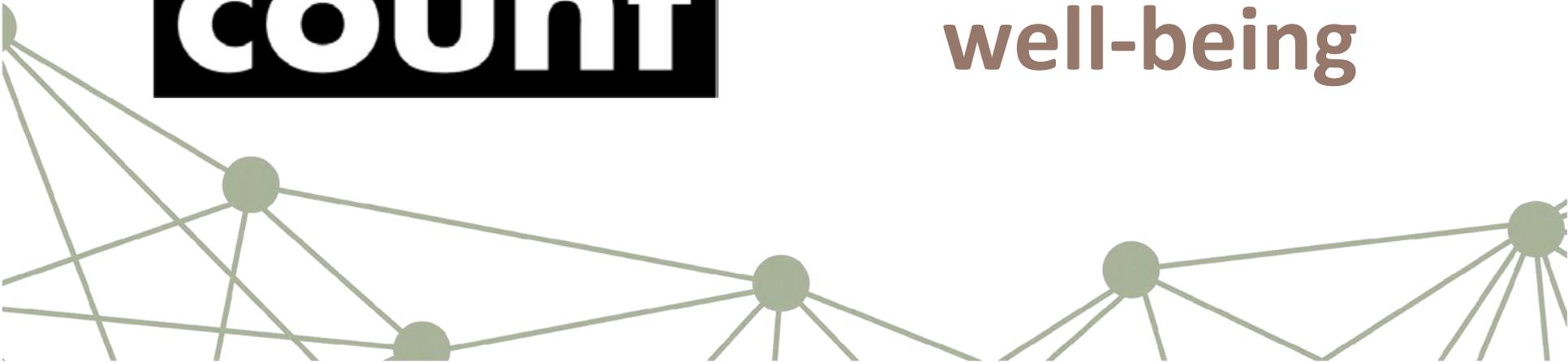
The image shows two tall, cylindrical metal grain silos with rusted, corrugated surfaces. They are situated in a rural landscape with dry, golden-brown grass in the foreground and a line of trees in the distance under a clear blue sky. The silos have conical roofs and external ladders. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Georgia Before 1990

Public and private sectors were busy working. But not together.

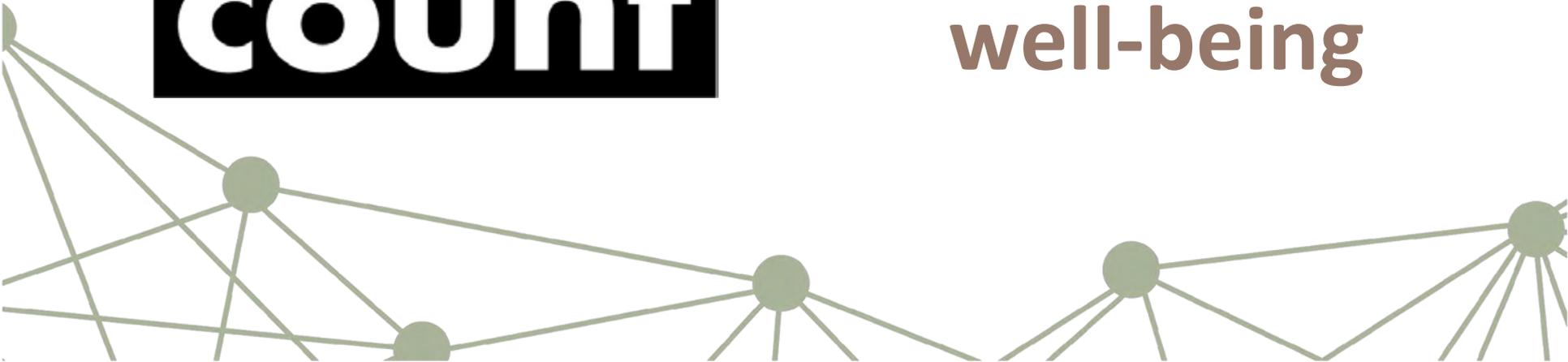


In 1990
Georgia Ranked
48th
in the nation
in child
well-being





In 2021
Georgia Ranked
38th
in the nation
in child
well-being



Georgia Family Connection's Unique Vantage Point

We see the **big picture**,
while operating effectively
at the **local level**.



**Indicators of
Community Well-Being and
Best Practices
for Addressing Them**

A close-up photograph of a person's hands gently cupping a baby's feet. The text "Low Birthweight" is overlaid in the center.

Low Birthweight

\$500,000,000



Low Birthweight

United States: **8.3%** of babies

Georgia: **10%** of babies



Low Birthweight Strategies

- Targeted **home visitation**
- **Health education** regarding risk factors
- **Nutritional education** for women of child-bearing age
- **Sharing** all available **resources**

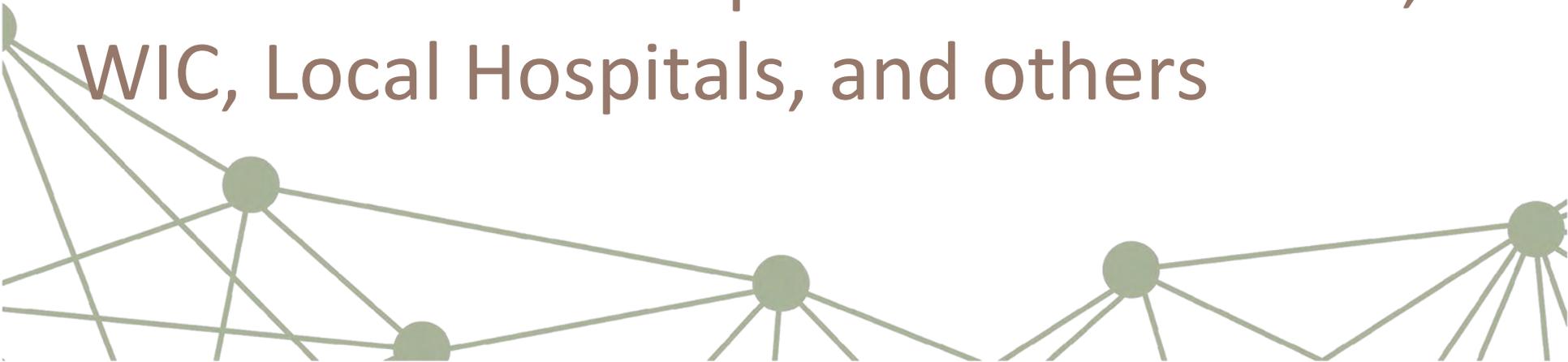


LBW Prevention Cohort

Participating Counties: Butts, Heard, Lamar, Meriwether, Spalding

State Partner: Kaiser Permanente

Local Partners: Dept. of Public Health, WIC, Local Hospitals, and others



A young girl with dark hair, wearing purple-rimmed glasses and a pink bow, is the central focus. She is looking down and to her left with a slight smile. She is surrounded by other children, some of whom are out of focus. The background is dark, suggesting an indoor setting at night or in a dimly lit room. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

Child Abuse and Neglect

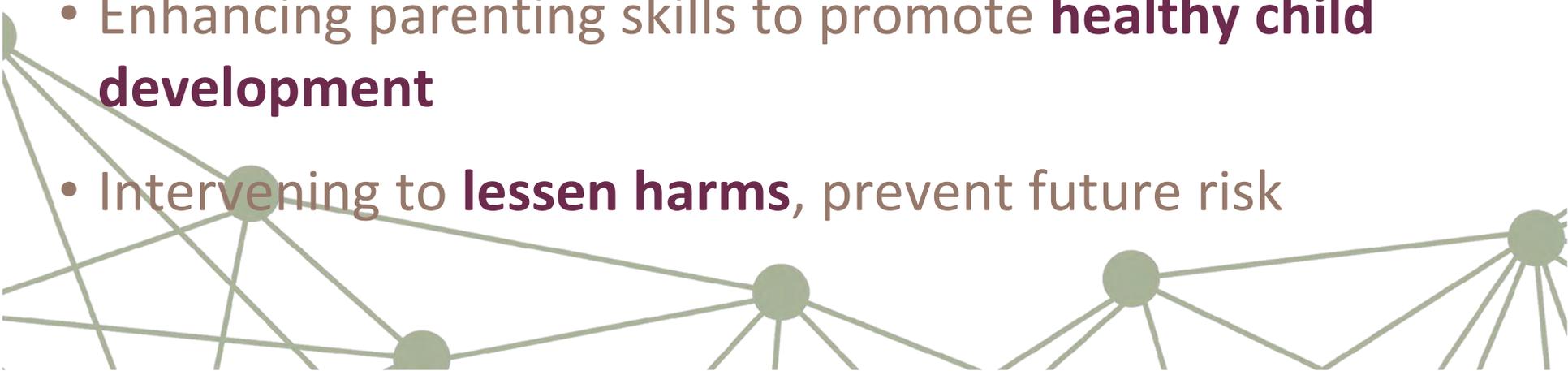
Child Abuse and Neglect

United States: 8.9 per 1,000

Georgia: 3.9 per 1,000



Strategies to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect

- Strengthening **economic supports** to families
 - Changing social norms to **support parents** and **positive parenting**
 - Providing **quality care and education** early in life
 - Enhancing parenting skills to promote **healthy child development**
 - Intervening to **lessen harms**, prevent future risk
- 
- A decorative graphic at the bottom of the slide consists of several green circular nodes connected by thin green lines, forming a network-like structure that spans across the width of the page.

Family Support Cohort

Participating Counties: Dade, Dougherty, Floyd, Lanier, Lumpkin, Webster

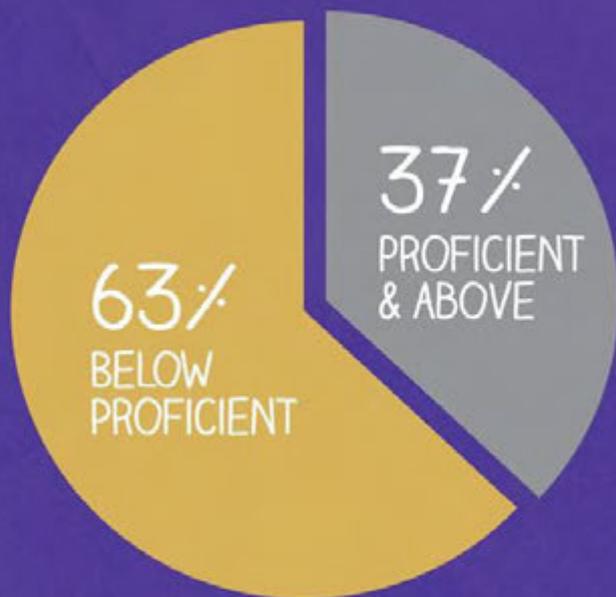
State Partner: DFCS, Prevention and Community Support Section



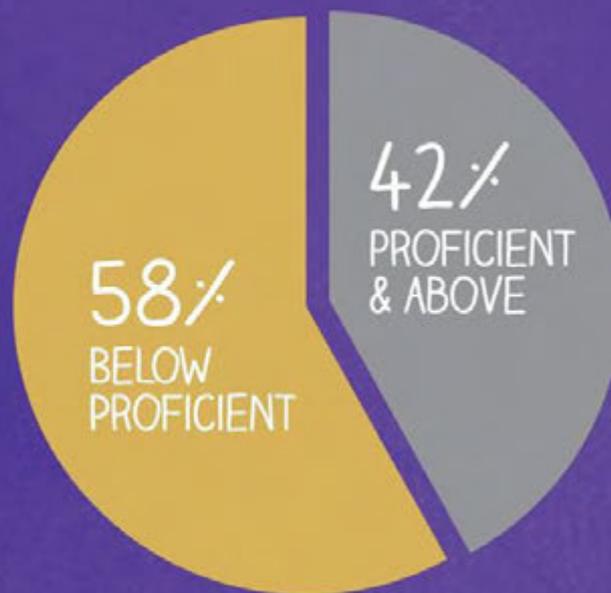


Grade-Level Reading

3RD GRADE LITERACY IN GEORGIA



2015



2019



GET GEORGIA
READING

CAMPAIGN FOR GRADE LEVEL READING



LANGUAGE NUTRITION

All children experience abundant, positive, language-rich social interactions with caregivers, educators, and peers.



ACCESS

All children and their families have access to, and support for, healthy development and success from birth through high school.



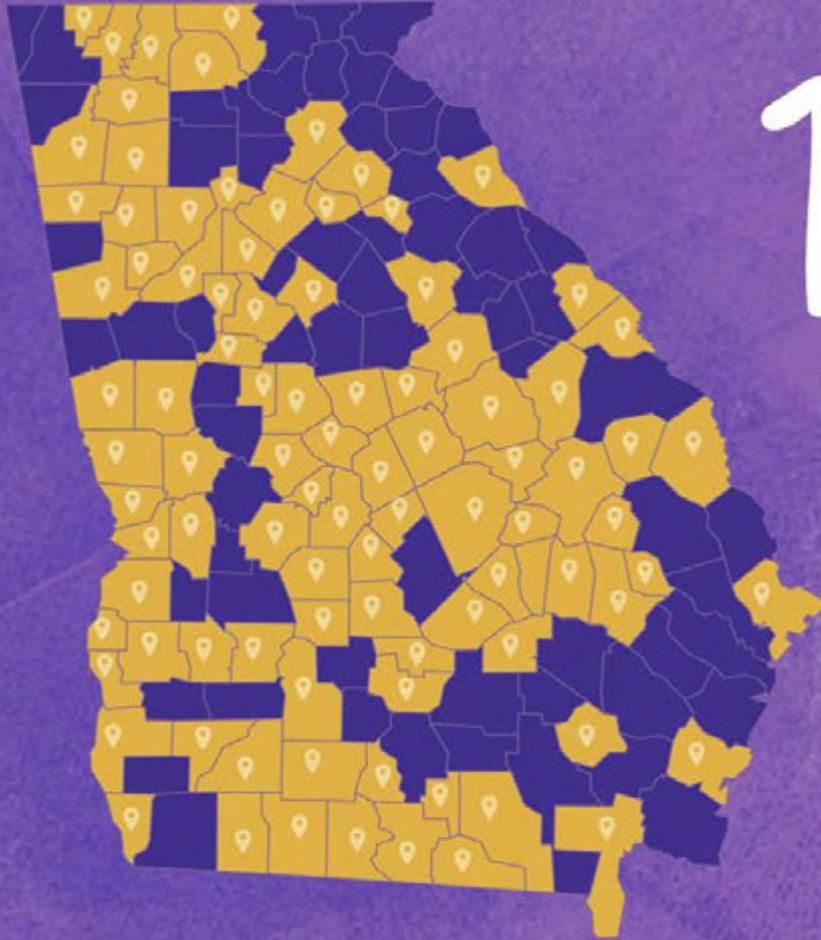
POSITIVE LEARNING CLIMATE

All educators, families, and policymakers understand and address the impact of learning climate on social-emotional development, attendance, engagement, and, ultimately, student success.



TEACHER PREPARATION & EFFECTIVENESS

All teachers are equipped with evidence-informed knowledge and skills to effectively meet the learning needs of each child in a developmentally responsive manner.



116

Communities
across
Georgia



GEORGIA family connection



GEORGIA PARTNERSHIP FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

GET GEORGIA READING

CAMPAIGN FOR GRADE-LEVEL READING

CABINET



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA



Council of Juvenile Court Judges of Georgia



Georgia Grantmakers ALLIANCE

in partnership with the Southeastern Council of Foundations



THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION



High School Completion

High School Students Not Graduating on Time

United States: **14%**

Georgia: **18%**



Promising Practices to Increase High School Completion

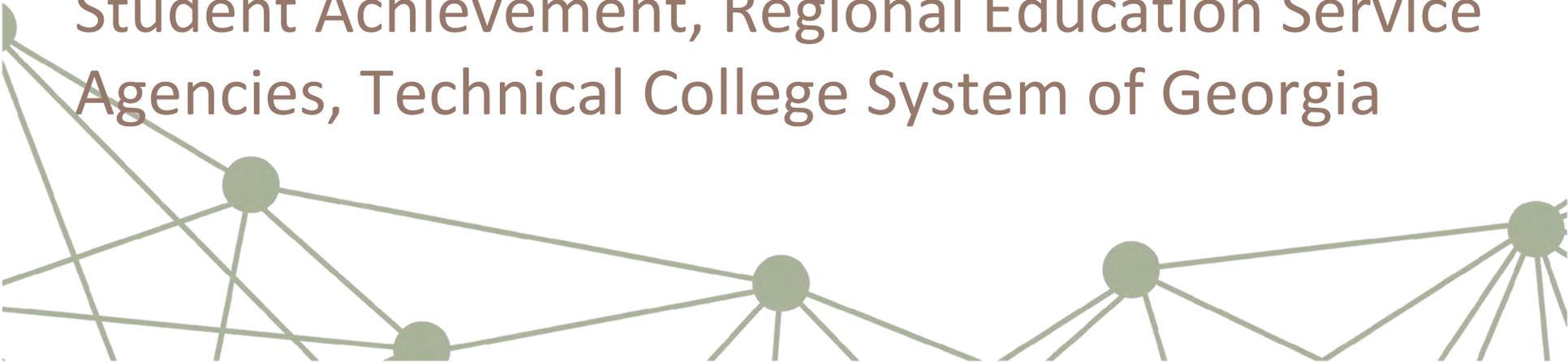
- Using **early warning signs** with appropriate **interventions**
- **Early college** high school model
- **Career Academies**
- **Small schools** of choice
- **Vocational-oriented** and **supplemental academic** training programs



Supporting Youth Cohort

Participating Counties: Ben Hill, Crawford, DeKalb, Jenkins, Macon, Mitchell, Quitman, Treutlen, Wilkes, and Worth

Partners: Communities in Schools of Georgia, Georgia Dept. of Education, Georgia Office of Student Achievement, Regional Education Service Agencies, Technical College System of Georgia





Welcome To
Simpson
Middle School

WALL OF HONOR

Civic Health

What is Civic Health?

How we engage:

- with **one another**
- with **our communities**
- with **institutions**
- in **politics**



Why Civic Health?

Communities with better civic health have:

- Lower crime rates
- Better public health outcomes
- Stronger workforce development
- Economic resiliency during downturns



Civic Health Indicators

Georgia ranks:

- **47th** in the nation in donating to charitable or religious organizations
- **49th** in the nation for contacting or visiting a public official
- **13th** in the nation in frequently posting views about political, societal, or local issues on the internet

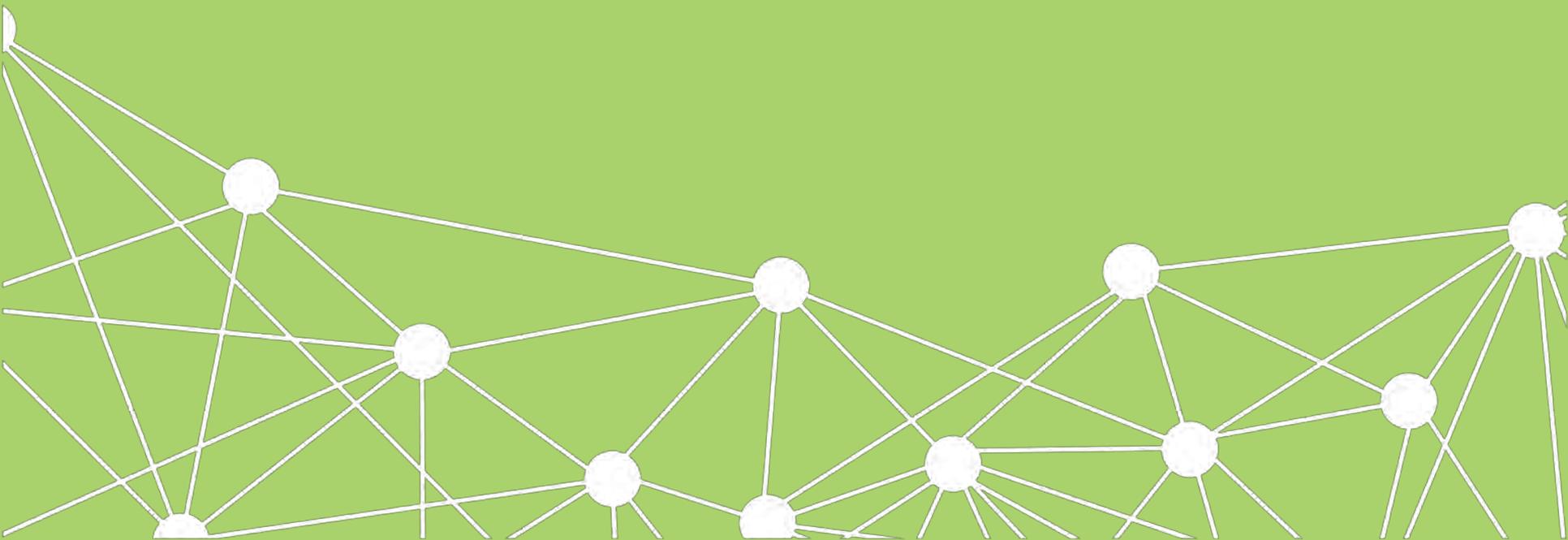


Civic Health Work in Georgia

- *Georgia Civic Health Index* (2013, 2019)
- **Local data collection** (Camden, Fayette, Macon-Bibb, Stephens, Washington)
- **iCivics partnership and trainings**
- **Youth Engagement Survey project in partnership with GMA** (6 communities to date)



Race, Equity, and Inclusion





At the heart of public service is improving the quality of life for all Georgians.



REI Work

GaFCP has been infusing a **Race, Equity, and Inclusion** framework into our work since 2016

Equity Facilitation Team: staff members trained to lead conversations about REI in communities

Entire Family Connection network has received an **introduction to REI training**, with 90% requesting additional training



Approaches

- Race, equity, and inclusion
- Placemaking, infrastructure, and access
- Quality education
- Partnership and coalition building



Considerations

- Constituent engagement
- Engaging and aligning unusual partners
- Rethinking systems and policies
- Workforce training
- Healthcare and addiction services
- Transit and transportation



**WE ENVISION A GEORGIA WHERE
ALL CHILDREN ARE HEALTHY,
PRIMED FOR SCHOOL,
AND SUCCEED WHEN THEY GET THERE;
AND WHERE STRONG FAMILIES
CONTRIBUTE TO VIBRANT, ROBUST
COMMUNITIES THAT THRIVE**

Let's Talk.