

ACCG Civic Affairs Foundation

December 22, 2025

Ms. Sommer Green
2875 Browns Bridge Road
Gainesville, GA 30504

Dear Ms. Green:

I am pleased to inform you that **Hall County** has been awarded a Georgia County Internship Program (GCIP) grant from the Association County Commissioners of Georgia Civic Affairs Foundation ("ACCG Civic Affairs Foundation") contingent upon the parties entering into the terms and conditions of the Georgia County Internship Program Grant Agreement (the "Agreement") that this grant award letter is incorporated hereto. A grant contract package is enclosed for you to complete and return. Upon proper completion of such as solely determined by the ACCG Civic Affairs Foundation, this grant is awarded for the 2026 summer program in the amount of **\$2,959.50** for the **Planning Intern** project to cover **one** internship. The grant provided must be used to fund costs associated with the intern's salary, FICA, and worker's compensation as specified in the Agreement.

Please contact Michele NeSmith at mnesmith@accg.org or at 404-922-8737 if you need assistance with grant requirements or in publicizing the proposed internship position. While the ACCG Civic Affairs Foundation will post this position through their website and help to publicize it through other channels, it is the responsibility of the County to recruit, interview, and hire the intern. In the event the County is unable to hire a summer intern for the project description provided, the grant award designated for this purpose will be rescinded in full.

Congratulations and thank you for participating in the GCIP 2026 grant program.

Sincerely,



Dave Wills
Association County Commissioners of Georgia Civic Affairs Foundation Secretary-Treasurer

cc: Chair David Gibbs
Zach Propes
Jennifer Rivera
Beth Garmon

GEORGIA COUNTY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT

This **AGREEMENT** is made and entered into by and between the **ASSOCIATION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GEORGIA CIVIC AFFAIRS FOUNDATION, INC.**, (the **“FOUNDATION”**), having its principal office at 191 Peachtree Street, Suite 700, Atlanta, Georgia, 30303, and Hall County (“**COUNTY**”), having its principal office at 2875 Browns Bridge Road, Gainesville, GA 30504. In exchange for valuable consideration, the parties agree as follows.

I. GENERAL TERMS.

A. Agreement Term:

This Agreement shall be effective as of the last date of execution by the parties. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 36-10-1, approval by the COUNTY’S governing authority and entry on the COUNTY’S minutes is necessary before the parties may execute. Evidence thereof shall be provided to the Foundation from the **COUNTY** Clerk’s Office as requested and incorporated into this Agreement.

B. Purpose of Agreement:

The **FOUNDATION** is providing grant funding through the Georgia County Internship Program pursuant to the grant award letter (“Grant Award Letter”) (**Exhibit A**) to reimburse certain costs to the **COUNTY** to employ interns to complete projects as described in the county grant application (“County Grant Application”) (**Exhibit B**) from May 1, 2026 until September 1, 2026. This Agreement provides the terms and conditions under which the **COUNTY** may receive reimbursement from the **FOUNDATION**.

II. REIMBURSEMENT TO COUNTY.

In exchange for the **COUNTY** hiring the intern(s) to perform projects as described in the approved County Grant Application and to learn about the operations of county government, the **FOUNDATION** shall provide reimbursement to the **COUNTY** as follows:

A. Use of Grant Funds.

1. Amount of Reimbursement

- a. **Hourly Rate.** The **FOUNDATION** shall reimburse the **COUNTY** for the cost of wages at the rate of \$15.00 per hour for each hour worked up to 200 hours, for a maximum reimbursement of \$3,000.00 for wages per intern, per internship, unless

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the **COUNTY** has agreed to pay a percentage of the costs as described within the County Grant Application.

The **COUNTY** may pay the intern at a higher rate than \$15.00 per hour at its own expense as provided for in their approved County Grant Application or as established at a later time by the **COUNTY**. In either case, the **COUNTY** shall be responsible for payment for all the costs above the reimbursed hourly rate of \$15.00 per hour, including workers' compensation and FICA.

- b. **Workers' Compensation.** The **FOUNDATION** shall reimburse the **COUNTY** for a portion of the cost to cover the intern under the **COUNTY'S** workers' compensation plan in the Foundation's sole discretion up to a maximum reimbursement rate of up to \$30.00 per intern, per internship.
- c. **FICA.** The **FOUNDATION** shall reimburse the **COUNTY** for a portion of the cost of paying Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) in the Foundation's sole discretion at a maximum reimbursement of up to \$229.50 per intern, per internship.

2. **Additional Compensation for Intern.** The **COUNTY** may pay the intern(s) in an amount greater than \$15.00 per hour or allow the intern(s) to work more than 200 hours during the grant period. However, the **COUNTY** will not be entitled to additional grant reimbursement for wages, workers' compensation, FICA or any other employment costs for the additional wages or hours.

III. Obligations of COUNTY:

- A. **Use of Grant Funds.** Grant reimbursement is limited to the actual amount of wages paid and approved employment costs for up to 200 hours of actual work performed by a qualified intern, from May 1, 2026 to September 1, 2026, for the Foundation approved internship project as described within the attached County Grant Application.
- B. **Compensation.** The **COUNTY** shall pay interns funded in whole or in part by this grant a minimum of \$15.00 per hour for each hour suffered or permitted to be worked by the intern.
- C. **Internship Requirements.** All interns must have on-site supervision, be provided with work projects as provided in the approved County Grant Application submitted by the **COUNTY** and be afforded the opportunity to learn about the operations of county government.
- D. **Required Information: Proof of Payment of Intern and Reporting Requirements.** Upon completion of the internship, the **COUNTY** shall provide the following information to the **FOUNDATION**: (1) copy of the offer letter provided to the intern upon hire; (2) employment verification, including the E-Verify usage and acknowledgement form (E-Verify Usage and Acknowledgement Form") (**Exhibit C**); (3) proof of payment for each

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payment period for every intern receiving funding through this Agreement; (4) signed and completed reimbursement request (“Reimbursement Request”) (**Exhibit D**); and (5) completed Intern Evaluation Requirements (**Exhibit E**). All required information shall be submitted by the COUNTY and received by the FOUNDATION by October 12, 2026 in order to be eligible to receive grant reimbursement.

- E. Hiring of Intern.** In order to be eligible to receive the reimbursement provided for in Paragraph A of Section II of this Agreement, the **COUNTY** must hire an intern who is an undergraduate student, graduate student, recent college graduate, or a high school student 16 years of age or older who is dually enrolled in a college program, as an employee to perform the projects as provided for in the approved County Grant Application. The **COUNTY** may not hire an intern as an independent contractor for reimbursement under this Agreement. The intern hired must be willing and agreeable to having certain information shared about them and their internship pursuant to this Agreement. The COUNTY must submit to the FOUNDATION no later than July 1, 2026; intern consent form (“Intern Consent Form”) (**Exhibit F**); the county and intern information (“Intern and County Information Requirements” (**Exhibit G**); and an intern photograph.
- F. Tax Withholdings.** The **COUNTY** is responsible for withholding all applicable state and federal income taxes on an intern’s earnings.
- G. Nondiscrimination in Employment Practices.** The **COUNTY** agrees to comply with federal and state laws, rules and regulations, relative to nondiscrimination in employment practices because of political affiliation, religion, race, color, sex, disability, age over 40 years, national origin or any other protected class as provided by law. Nondiscrimination in employment practices is applicable to employees, applicants for employment, promotions, demotions, dismissal and other elements affecting employment/employees.
- H. Compliance with Applicable Provisions of Federal and State Laws and Regulations.** The **COUNTY** agrees to comply with all applicable federal and state laws, including, but not limited to:
 - 1. **The Americans with Disabilities Act.** The **COUNTY** agrees to comply with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and any relevant federal and state laws, rules and regulations regarding employment practices toward individuals with disabilities and the availability/accessibility of programs, activities, or services for clients with disabilities.
 - 2. **Fair Labor Standards Act**
 - 3. **Georgia Security and Immigration Compliance Act.** The **COUNTY** agrees to comply with all of the E-Verify usage and hiring requirements as provided for in O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91(a).

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- I. **Duty to Notify FOUNDATION.** It shall be the duty of the **COUNTY** to notify the **FOUNDATION** if an intern quits or is terminated by the **COUNTY** within five (5) days of separation.
- J. **Nepotism.** If the **COUNTY** has a nepotism policy for new hires, that policy shall apply to the hire and engagement of any intern reimbursed in whole or in part through this grant. In the absence of such a policy, the **COUNTY** shall refrain from hiring interns who are closely related by blood or marriage to **COUNTY** employees or officials who have a hiring or supervisory role over the intern. The **COUNTY** shall apply its personnel policies on dating in the workplace to any intern hired through this grant. If the **COUNTY** fails to follow these requirements, the **COUNTY** will not receive grant funding for any of the interns who have been involved in any of the aforementioned activities at the sole discretion of the **FOUNDATION**.
- K. **Campaign and Other Impermissible Activities.** Interns hired through the Georgia County Internship Program and paid through grant funding are not permitted to work on campaigns for elections of commissioners or for any other elected official as part of their work with the **COUNTY**. Interns are further not permitted to run personal errands for **COUNTY** officials and staff or work on projects that are unrelated to county government. If the **COUNTY** fails to follow these requirements, they will not receive grant funding for any of the interns who have been involved in any of the aforementioned activities at the sole discretion of the **FOUNDATION**.

IV. CONTRACT MODIFICATION

No amendment, modification, or alteration of this **AGREEMENT** shall be valid or effective unless such modification is made in writing and signed by both parties.

V. TERMINATION

This Agreement may be terminated in the following circumstances:

- A. **Due to default or for cause.** The **FOUNDATION** may terminate this **AGREEMENT** at any time if the **COUNTY** fails to perform any of its obligations under this **AGREEMENT** and fails to cure any breach within 10 days of a notice of breach and intention to terminate by the **FOUNDATION**. The **COUNTY** shall be required to submit all required information identified in Section III (D) not later than 20 days after the date of written notice of termination. The **COUNTY** shall not receive any grant reimbursement for costs incurred after the date of termination or in the event a breach occurred that could not be satisfied.
- B. **Due to Early Separation of Intern.** Should the intern funded by this grant be separated from the **COUNTY'S** employment prior to the expiration of their internship period, this **AGREEMENT** shall terminate within 20 days of the separation unless another undergraduate student, graduate student, recent graduate, or a high school student 16 years

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of age or older who is dually enrolled in a college program, is hired to continue and complete the approved internship within the grant period and at least 100 hours are remaining of the internship.

- C. **Natural Termination.** Unless otherwise terminated, this Agreement shall terminate December 31, 2026.
- D. **Survival.** The following sections shall survive termination for any reason of this Agreement: Access to Records, Records Retention, and Investigation; Hold Harmless; Program Publicity and COUNTY Participation;

VI. Access to Records, Records Retention, and Investigation

- A. The **FOUNDATION** shall have access to any pertinent books, documents, papers, and records of the **COUNTY** for the purpose of making audit examinations, excerpts, and transcripts. The **COUNTY** shall retain all records related to this grant for seven years from submission of the required information. If any litigation, claim, or audit is started before the expiration of the seven-year period, the records shall be retained until all litigation, claims, or audit findings involving the records have been resolved.
- B. The **COUNTY** agrees that the **FOUNDATION** has the authority to investigate any allegation of misconduct made by the **COUNTY** pertaining to this Agreement. The **COUNTY** agrees to cooperate fully in such investigations by providing the **FOUNDATION** reasonable access to its records and any other resources as necessary to investigate the allegation.

VII. Hold Harmless

To the extent permitted by law, the **COUNTY** agrees to hold harmless the **FOUNDATION**, Association County Commissioners of Georgia, their employees and agents for any claim growing out of any action performed by the **COUNTY**, its agents or employees under any provision of this contract.

VIII. Program Publicity and COUNTY Participation

- A. The **COUNTY** agrees to allow preplanned site visits from the **FOUNDATION** for the purpose of interviewing the intern(s) and supervisor, taking photographs, video, or audio, and reviewing projects that have been assigned. The **COUNTY** further agrees that any photographs or information obtained during such site visits may be used to promote the Georgia County Internship Program and **FOUNDATION**, which may include, but is not limited to, usage through websites, social networking sites, brochures, press releases, and other forms of media.

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- B. The **COUNTY** further agrees that any promotional information by the **COUNTY** regarding the Georgia County Internship Program must be preapproved by the **FOUNDATION**.
- C. The **COUNTY** additionally agrees that any research, study, review, or analysis relative to the Georgia County Internship Program, or internship, conducted by or on behalf of the **COUNTY** must be reviewed and approved by the **FOUNDATION**.

XI. Miscellaneous Provisions

- A. The intern is an employee of the county. At no time shall the intern be considered an employee or independent contractor of the **FOUNDATION**, or the Association County Commissioners of Georgia.
- B. Neither the **FOUNDATION** nor any of its employees, agents, or subcontractors shall be considered a partner, employee, or agent of the **COUNTY**.
- C. Neither party to this **AGREEMENT** shall have the authority to bind the other party.

This **AGREEMENT** is executed and shall be controlled by the laws of the State of Georgia.

XII. CONTRACT EXHIBIT INCLUSION:

This contract includes the following exhibits, which are attached and incorporated herein by reference:

Exhibit A	Grant Award Letter
Exhibit B	County Grant Application
Exhibit C	E-Verify Usage and Acknowledgement Form
Exhibit D	Reimbursement Request
Exhibit E	Intern Evaluation Requirements
Exhibit F	Intern Consent Form
Exhibit G	Intern and County Information Requirements

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COUNTY:

Signature

David Gibbs

Printed Name

Chairman, Hall County BOC

Title:

This ____ day of _____, 2026

**ASSOCIATION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
GEORGIA CIVIC AFFAIRS FOUNDATION, INC:**

Signature

Dave Wills

Printed Name

Secretary-Treasurer

Title:

This 16 day of Dec., 2025**COUNTY CLERK CERTIFICATION:**

The undersigned Clerk of the governing authority of Hall County, DOES HEREBY CERTIFY that the Georgia County Internship Program Grant Agreement with the Association County Commissioners of Georgia Civic Affairs Foundation, Inc. was adopted by the Hall County Governing Authority in a meeting that was properly advertised and open to the public on February 12, 2026, and that the original of said agreement appears of record in the minute book of the County, which is in my custody and control.

WITNESS my hand and the official seal of the governing authority of County.

(SEAL)

Clerk