Atlanta Regional
WORK SOURCE GEORGIA
NextGen Program
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Atlanta Regional Commission

MEMORANDUM

DATE: **November 5, 2026**

TO: **NextGen Committee Members**

FROM: **Jamal Jessie, NextGen Committee Chair**
WorkSource Atlanta Regional
Atlanta Regional Workforce Development Board (ARWDB)/
NextGen Committee (NGC)
By Marsharee O'Connor, ARC Staff

RE: **NextGen Committee Meeting – November 12, 2026**

The next previously scheduled meeting of the WorkSource Atlanta Regional, ARWDB NextGen Committee for calendar year 2026 is:

- **Thursday, November 12th, 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM**.
  Lunch will be available as early as 11:45 AM, the meeting will start at 12:00 PM sharp.

The NextGen Committee meeting will be held at:

- Atlanta Regional Commission
  229 Peachtree Street NE., Suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30303.

For parking to be validated, please **park at 161 Peachtree Center Avenue**, and give your parking ticket to Brittney Oquendo. Once parked, select one of the following directions below to locate ARC's office:

A. **Off Andrew Young International Blvd**. – Use the entrance on Andrew Young International Blvd, just past Metro Café. Go through two sets of glass doors and take the elevator to the lobby, where ARC's receptions desk is located.

B. **From Peachtree Street, NE.** – Walk past Metro Café and turn right after Tin Lizzy's. International Tower is located to the right. The ARC reception desk is in the lobby of the International Tower.

Please go to the following web address for additional NextGen Committee information and for NOTES from the last and all NextGen Committee (previously called Youth Committee) meetings: Https://atlantaregional.org/nextgen-committee. While you are on the ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION website, please feel free to browse through other information about the region and your communities.

AGENDA items will include:

A. Old Business and NextGen Committee Action
   - *Public Comment*
   - *Approval of Meeting Minutes for August 20, 2026*

B. NextGen Program Funding, Performance, and Services

C. NextGen Committee Planning Activities

D. Meeting Schedules and Locations

If you would like to make Agenda suggestions, have any questions or would like to discuss issues and ideas, feel free to call or e-mail NextGen Committee Chair, Jamal Jessie; JJessie@google.com or ARC staff/NextGen Program Director, Marsharee O'Connor at (470) 532-6262; moconnor@atlantaregional.org.

Please RSVP for the NextGen Committee meeting by the end-of-day Tuesday, November 10th by replying to the Announcement email or the calendar invite. So that we may plan lunches, it is vital that you let us know if you are planning to attend, and if you wish to invite guests.

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MEETING AGENDA

NextGen Committee (NGC)
Thursday, November 12, 2026
11:45am – 2:00pm
(Meeting will call to order at 12:00pm)

A. **Welcome (Attendance) & Introduction**

B. **Public Comment – Open Floor**

C. **NextGen Committee Action Required**

- Approval of Meeting Minutes for August 20, 2026

D. **NextGen Program Funding, Performance, and Services**

- NextGen Program Funding Update
- NextGen Program Performance
- NextGen Program Status Update & Activities (including PADE)

E. **NextGen Committee "Taskforce" Planning Activities**

F. **Other Discussions**

- Meeting Schedules and Locations for CY2027
- Other

G. **Meeting Adjourn**

Lunch will be served!

To be Discussed – Next Committee Meeting

ATLANTA REGIONAL WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT BOARDNEXTGEN COMMITTEE

August 20, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Members Present

Ms. Ciara Dunn
Mr. Jamal Jessie – Chair
Ms. Marci Fluellyn
Mr. Robert Hughes
Mr. Chris Moder
Dr. Vivia Pitter
Ms. Kristy Smith – Vice-Chair

Members Absent

Ms. Autumn Andrews
Ms. Ciara Dunn
Ms. Norma Marquez
Ms. Donna Mullins
Ms. Jennifer Houston
Mr. Jonathan Turner

Guests

Mr. Connor Anglin – HEARTS
Ms. Sonia Carruthers – Cherokee Focus
Mr. Nola J. Carter – LoveJoy Police
Ms. Patrice Wuerth – HEARTS

ARC Staff

Ms. Candice Coppin - NextGen Program
Mr. Brett Lacy – ARWDB Director
Ms. Marsharee O'Connor - NextGen Program
Ms. Brittney Oquendo - NextGen Program

The meeting was held at the Atlanta Regional Commission

Ms. Kristy Smith called the meeting to order at 12:14 p.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

A. The NextGen Committee (NGC) continues to operate paperless, except for meetings held outside of ARC office. For copies of the information discussed during the meeting,visit the ARC website https://atlantaregional.org/workforce-economy/boards-and- committees/youth-committee/, under *Meeting Archives* or send a request to ARC staff Ms. Marsharee O'Connor via email at MO'Connor@atlantaregional.org.
B. Ms. Kristy Smith solicited any public comments
C. There was one action taken at this meeting
D. NextGen Director, Ms. Marsharee O'Connor presented the updates to the NextGen Program.

NEXTGEN COMMITTEE ACTION REQUIRED:

1. Mr. Robert Hughes made the following motion:

   MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes from May 28, 2026.

   The motion was seconded by Mr. Chris Moder and unanimously approved.

NEXTGEN PROGRAM PERFORMANCE, PLANNING, AND SERVICES:

A. **NextGen Program Funding and Performance Update** – Ms. Kristy Smith introduced Ms. Marsharee, who provided PY26 funding updates. Ms. Brittney Oquendo and Ms. Candice Coppin reported on PY25 Customer Performance tracking and NGSP Goal Sheet monitoring for fourth quarter data.
B. **Special Projects Update –** Ms. Smith introduced Ms. Coppin, who presented updates on the Pathways to Digital Economy (PADE) Initiative. PADE is a pilot program awarded $200,000 through Google to expand digital career pathways for youth in the region. Through the initiative, participants receive licenses to the Grow with Google platform, which provides access to online training designed to prepare them for entry-level roles in information technology. By pairing this training with the program's existing youth services, PADE aims to establish a structured career pathway that connects skill-building directly to employment opportunities.

   Ms. O'Connor followed with an update on PADE employer engagement, which is central to connecting trained youth with real job opportunities. A key part of this effort is the Employer Lunch-N-Learn series, which brings employers and youth together in each county served by the program. Sessions were held on several dates in July for Gwinnett, Douglas, Henry, Rockdale, Fayette, and Clayton counties. During these sessions, employers discussed the qualities and skills that make a strong employee in their organizations, giving participants direct insight into employer expectations.

To support placement, the PADE employer database currently includes 186 employers across the metro Atlanta area, and outreach to expand this network is ongoing. At this time, the project serves WIOA participants only.

C. **NextGen Program Status Updates & Activities** – Ms. Smith asks that NGSPs give updates about their programs, services, and operations.

NEXTGEN COMMITTEE PLANNING ACTIVITIES:

NextGen Committee Planning Activities –

The committee discussed the NextGen Youth Committee Strategic Plan, which outlines key objectives, action items, critical success factors, risks, and timelines across four foundational pillars: Program Oversight and Guidance, Strategic Planning, Economic Development, and Resource Leverage. Together, these pillars support the plan's overall goal of building a strong workforce development system that connects education to employment and prepares young people with the skills needed to compete in today's job market.

The PADE Initiative puts these pillars into action, particularly through its focus on employer engagement and leveraging partner resources. Its employer engagement strategy centers on the Employer Lunch-N-Learn series. In July, sessions were held in Gwinnett, Douglas, Henry, Rockdale, Fayette, and Clayton counties, giving participants the opportunity to hear directly from employers about the qualities that make a strong employee within their organizations. PADE placement efforts include both work experience (WEX) placements and long-term employment opportunities. To prepare participants, the initiative provides work-readiness support, including mock interviews, professional headshots, and related job-preparation activities. The initiative also includes a Youth Ambassadors component, through which participants help represent and promote the program.

CY 2026 NextGen Committee (NGC) Meeting Schedule & Location –

- November 12, 2026 – Atlanta Regional Commission

Next Board Meeting Date – The Atlanta Regional Workforce Development Board (ARWDB) will meet in-person at The Atlanta Regional Commission October 28, 2026.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2026.
Meeting adjourned at 2:05PM

NextGen Activity Totals for Program Year 2026 (07/01/2026 - 06/30/2027)

NGSP MASTER TOTALS

Service Month	1 QTR			2 QTR			3 QTR			4 QTR			YEARLY TOTAL
	Jul-26	Aug-26	Sep-26	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Apr-27	May-27	Jun-27	
Participant Activities													
WIOA Visits - In person	259	299	318	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	876
WIOA Visits - Virtual (Webinar/Face-Time)	109	106	124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	339
Non-WIOA Visits - In person	39	54	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	135
Non-WIOA Visits - Virtual (Webinar/Face-Time)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WIOA Applications Received	12	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
NEW Enrollment in WIOA	3	6	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
NEW Paid Work Experience (WEx)	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
NEW Unpaid Work Experience (WEx)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Credential Attainment	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Employment Placement (Including Military)	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Education Placement (Adv. Tran./Post-Sec.)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Contract - Goal Sheet Enrollment Requirement			22			42			43			34	141
Active WIOA Participant Enrollment - Monthly	3	6	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Active WIOA Participant Enrollment - Quarterly	16			0			0			0			16

NextGen Activity Totals for Program Year 2026

Cherokee Focus

Service Month	1 QTR			2 QTR			3 QTR			4 QTR			YEARLY TOTAL
	Jul-26	Aug-26	Sep-26	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Apr-27	May-27	Jun-27	
Participant Activities													
WIOA Visits - In person	46	45	42										133
WIOA Visits - Virtual (Webinar/Face-Time)	0	0	0										0
Non-WIOA Visits - In person	5	8	2										15
Non-WIOA Visits - Virtual (Webinar/Face-Time)	0	0	0										0
WIOA Applications Received	0	1	0										1
New WIOA Enrollment	0	0	0										0
NEW Paid Work Experience (WEx)	0	1	2										3
NEW Unpaid Work Experience (WEx)	0	0	0										0
Credential Attainment	0	0	0										0
Employment Placement (Including Military)	0	0	0										0
Education Placement (Adv. Tran./Post-Sec.)	0	0	0										0
Contract - Goal Sheet Enrollment Requirement			10			14			14			10	48
Active WIOA Participant Enrollment - Monthly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Active WIOA Participant Enrollment - Quarterly	0			0			0			0			

NextGen Activity Totals for Program Year 2026

Hearts - Clayton

Service Month	1 QTR			2 QTR			3 QTR			4 QTR			YEARLY TOTAL
	Jul-26	Aug-26	Sep-26	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Apr-27	May-27	Jun-27	
Participant Activities													
WIOA Visits - In person	60	71	92										
WIOA Visits - Virtual (Webinar/Face-Time)	27	31	37										
Non-WIOA Visits - In person	5	11	7										
Non-WIOA Visits - Virtual (Webinar/Face-Time)	0	0	0										
WIOA Applications Received	3	1	0										
NEW Enrollment in WIOA	0	2	0										
NEW Paid Work Experience (WEx)	0	0	0										
NEW Unpaid Work Experience (WEx)	0	0	0										
Credential Attainment	2	0	0										
Employment Placement (Including Military)	2	0	0										
Education Placement (Adv. Tran./Post-Sec.)	0	0	0										
Contract - Goal Sheet Enrollment Requirement			0			6			6			3	15
Active WIOA Participant Enrollment - Monthly	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Active WIOA Participant Enrollment - Quarterly	2			0			0			0			

NextGen Activity Totals for Program Year 2026

Hearts - Fayette

Service Month	1 QTR			2 QTR			3 QTR			4 QTR			YEARLY TOTAL
	Jul-26	Aug-26	Sep-26	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Apr-27	May-27	Jun-27	
Participant Activities													
WIOA Visits - In person	6	12	11										29
WIOA Visits - Virtual (Webinar/Face-Time)	8	9	9										26
Non-WIOA Visits - In person	2	1	2										5
Non-WIOA Visits - Virtual (Webinar/Face-Time)	0	0	0										0
WIOA Applications Received	0	0	0										0
NEW Enrollment in WIOA	0	0	0										0
NEW Paid Work Experience (WEx)	0	0	0										0
NEW Unpaid Work Experience (WEx)	0	0	0										0
Credential Attainment	0	0	0										0
Employment Placement (Including Military)	0	0	0										0
Education Placement (Adv. Tran./Post-Sec.)	0	0	0										0
Contract - Goal Sheet Enrollment Requirement			2			2			2			2	8
Active WIOA Participant Enrollment - Monthly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Active WIOA Participant Enrollment - Quarterly	0			0			0			0			

NextGen Activity Totals for Program Year 2026 (07/01/2026 - 06/30/2027)

Hearts - Gwinnett

Service Month	1 QTR			2 QTR			3 QTR			4 QTR			YEARLY TOTAL
	Jul-26	Aug-26	Sep-26	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Apr-27	May-27	Jun-27	
Participant Activities													
WIOA Visits - In person	82	81	97										260
WIOA Visits - Virtual (Webinar/Face-Time)	46	44	53										143
Non-WIOA Visits - In person	11	13	11										35
Non-WIOA Visits - Virtual (Webinar/Face-Time)	0	0	0										0
WIOA Applications Received	5	1	0										6
NEW Enrollment in WIOA	0	2	3										5
NEW Paid Work Experience (WEx)	0	0	0										0
NEW Unpaid Work Experience (WEx)	0	0	0										0
Credential Attainment	0	0	0										0
Employment Placement (Including Military)	0	0	0										0
Education Placement (Adv. Tran./Post-Sec.)	0	0	0										0
Contract - Goal Sheet Enrollment Requirement			7			13			13			14	47
Active WIOA Participant Enrollment - Monthly	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Active WIOA Participant Enrollment - Quarterly	5			0			0			0			

NextGen Activity Totals for Program Year 2026 (07/01/2026 - 06/30/2027)

HEARTS - Douglas

Service Month	1 QTR			2 QTR			3 QTR			4 QTR			YEARLY TOTAL
	Jul-26	Aug-26	Sep-26	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Apr-27	May-27	Jun-27	
Participant Activities													
WIOA Visits - In person	28	41	37										106
WIOA Visits - Virtual (Webinar/Face-Time)	11	9	9										29
Non-WIOA Visits - In person	7	12	10										29
Non-WIOA Visits - Virtual (Webinar/Face-Time)	0	0	0										0
WIOA Applications Received	2	1	2										5
NEW Enrollment in WIOA	3	0	3										6
NEW Paid Work Experience (WEx)	0	0	0										0
NEW Unpaid Work Experience (WEx)	0	0	0										0
Credential Attainment	2	0	2										4
Employment Placement (Including Military)	2	0	2										4
Education Placement (Adv. Tran./Post-Sec.)	0	0	0										0
Contract - Goal Sheet Enrollment Requirement			0			2			2			0	4
Active WIOA Participant Enrollment - Monthly	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Active WIOA Participant Enrollment - Quarterly	6			0			0			0			

NextGen Activity Totals for Program Year 2026 (07/01/2026 - 06/30/2027)

HEARTS - Henry

Service Month	1 QTR			2 QTR			3 QTR			4 QTR			YEARLY TOTAL
	Jul-26	Aug-26	Sep-26	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Apr-27	May-27	Jun-27	
Participant Activities													
WIOA Visits - In person	20	30	22										72
WIOA Visits - Virtual (Webinar/Face-Time)	9	7	7										23
Non-WIOA Visits - In person	3	4	3										10
Non-WIOA Visits - Virtual (Webinar/Face-Time)	0	0	0										0
WIOA Applications Received	1	0	1										2
NEW Enrollment in WIOA	0	1	1										2
NEW Paid Work Experience (WEx)	0	0	0										0
NEW Unpaid Work Experience (WEx)	0	0	0										0
Credential Attainment	0	0	0										0
Employment Placement (Including Military)	0	0	0										0
Education Placement (Adv. Tran./Post-Sec.)	0	0	0										0
Contract - Goal Sheet Enrollment Requirement			3			4			5			4	16
Active WIOA Participant Enrollment - Monthly	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Active WIOA Participant Enrollment - Quarterly	2			0			0			0			

NextGen Activity Totals for Program Year 2026 (07/01/2026 - 06/30/2027)

HEARTS - Rockdale

Service Month	1 QTR			2 QTR			3 QTR			4 QTR			YEARLY TOTAL
	Jul-26	Aug-26	Sep-26	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Apr-27	May-27	Jun-27	
Participant Activities													
WIOA Visits - In person	17	19	17										53
WIOA Visits - Virtual (Webinar/Face-Time)	8	6	9										23
Non-WIOA Visits - In person	6	5	7										18
Non-WIOA Visits - Virtual (Webinar/Face-Time)	0	0	0										0
WIOA Applications Received	1	0	0										1
NEW Enrollment in WIOA	0	1	0										1
NEW Paid Work Experience (WEx)	1	0	0										1
NEW Unpaid Work Experience (WEx)	0	0	0										0
Credential Attainment	0	0	0										0
Employment Placement (Including Military)	0	0	0										0
Education Placement (Adv. Tran./Post-Sec.)	0	0	0										0
Contract - Goal Sheet Enrollment Requirement			0			1			1			1	3
Active WIOA Participant Enrollment - Monthly	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Active WIOA Participant Enrollment - Quarterly	1			0			0			0			

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COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE
NextGen Committee (NGC)
Calendar Year 2026

Meeting Location:

Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC)
International Tower
229 Peachtree Street NE., Suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30303

DATE	TIME	LOCATION / CONFERENCE ROOM
~~February 12, 2026 (Thursday)~~	~~12:00 pm – 2:00 pm~~	~~Atlanta Regional Commission Executive Conference Room~~
~~May 28, 2026~~ ~~May 14, 2026 (Thursday)~~	~~12:00 pm – 2:00 pm~~	~~Atlanta Regional Commission Harry West Conference Room~~
~~August 20, 2026 (Thursday)~~	~~12:00 pm – 2:00 pm~~	~~Atlanta Regional Commission Executive Conference Room~~
November 12, 2026 (Thursday)	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Atlanta Regional Commission Piedmont Conference Room

NOTE: Meetings are typically held at ARC; however, different locations may be designated.