



Atlanta Regional Commission  
regional impact + local relevance

# ARC 2021 ANNUAL REPORT – **DEKALB COUNTY**

[atlantaregional.org](http://atlantaregional.org)

September 2021



ARC works closely with local governments and community partners in DeKalb County to improve quality of life and secure future success. This report measures progress in DeKalb in the three long-range goals of the Atlanta Region's Plan: providing **World-Class Infrastructure**, fostering **Healthy, Livable Communities**, and developing a **Competitive Economy**.



## WORLD-CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE

ARC works with its regional partners to develop and maintain world-class infrastructure, including a transportation network that improves mobility, and a sustainable supply of clean water.

### Improving mobility in DeKalb

**A \$407.7 million** in federal and state transportation funds allocated by ARC to the county. Projects include **construction of two MARTA bus hubs serving South DeKalb and the City of Stonecrest**; extension of the South River multi-use trail; and a bridge replacement on North Druid Hills Road over a CSX railway.

**3.1 million** fewer miles traveled by the **1,502 DeKalb residents** who participated in the **Georgia Commute Options** program, saving them **\$1.7 million** in fuel and vehicle maintenance costs.



### Securing a sustainable future

The **Metro Water District** staff assisted the cities of Brookhaven, Chamblee, Clarkston, and Tucker through a Metro Water District audit walkthrough to assist in preparing materials for the Georgia Environmental Planning Division submission.

The City of Tucker became a **New Leaf Green Community**, committing to becoming a fully certified Green Community by 2022.

DeKalb County participated in the **2020-2021 Sustainable Connections Internship Program** and hired three interns to help prepare its Green Communities recertification documentation and increase its sustainability initiative and outreach.

The City of Decatur also participated in the **2020-2021 Sustainable Connections Internship Program**, assisting the city with revising its waste and recycling program and aiding in the city's clean energy planning process.

The **Metro Water District** partnered with **Georgia Public Broadcasting** to create a Live Exploration of Georgia's water systems called **Georgia's Water Live**. Over **79,000 students, teachers and parents** across the region tuned in during the live broadcast, where over **400 questions** were answered.

## ARC's COVID-19 RESPONSE

### Helping organizations transition to hybrid work environments

Georgia Commute Options (GCO), a program managed by ARC, served a vital role in helping organizations move to telework environments during peak pandemic times. As shelter-in-place orders began to lift in Georgia, GCO began helping companies establish hybrid work environments (continued telework, flexible schedules, and shared spaces), recognizing the strong desire of most employees surveyed to continue teleworking at a higher level than pre-pandemic.



# HEALTHY, LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

ARC works to foster vibrant, pedestrian-friendly communities and supports healthy living and aging by offering a range of services for older people and individuals with disabilities.



## Improving quality of life for DeKalb residents of all ages and abilities

**\$3.6 million** in state and federal funds allocated by ARC to **DeKalb Senior Services** for direct services provided to DeKalb residents, including **congregate and home-delivered meals, in-home support services, transportation, case management, and COVID relief funds.**

## Making DeKalb an even better place to live, work, and play

The **City of Chamblee** will receive critical planning and technical assistance through the **Community Development Assistance Program** to complete a preliminary assessment, begun by Georgia State University students, evaluating the city's housing to establish the number of residents who are cost-burdened and develop recommendations for improving housing stability and affordability.

The **City of Tucker** will receive critical planning and technical assistance through the **Community Development Assistance Program** to integrate public art into the alleys downtown to enhance the overall sense of place, create an economic driver for local businesses, and allow all residents and visitors to feel comfortable and welcome. Also, participants from this year's **Arts Leaders of Metro Atlanta (ALMA)** class are developing potential mock-up designs addressing this challenge.

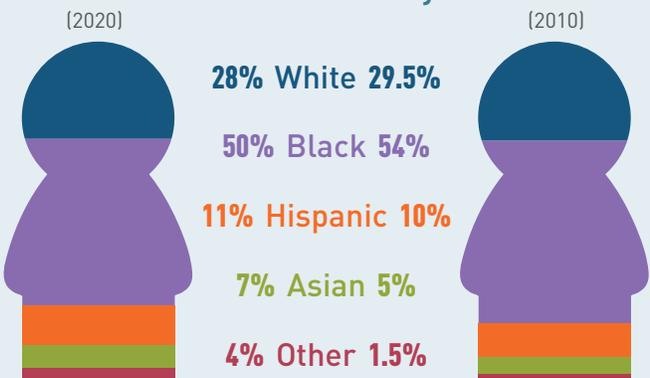
The **Community Development Assistance Program** will also assist the City of Dunwoody to create a new mixed use and multifamily development report for the portion of Perimeter Center that lies within the city.

# BY THE NUMBERS: DEKALB POPULATION

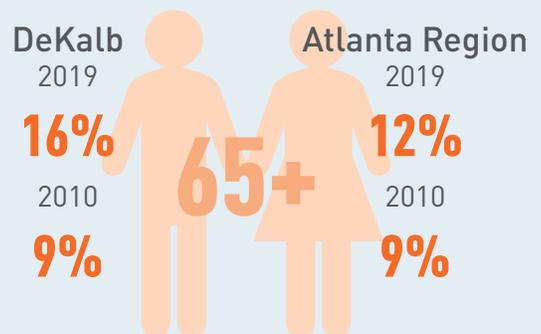
## U.S. Census Counts



## Race & Ethnicity



## Percent of Population 65+



Source: ARC analysis of data from U.S. Census and 2019 ACS 1-year.

# COMPETITIVE ECONOMY

ARC works with its regional partners to ensure our economy thrives and remains competitive.



## Planning for a stronger, more competitive economy

ARC's CATLYST program is a 5-year effort designed to improve regional competitiveness and collaboration throughout the 10-county region. Through the hard work of volunteer project teams and ARC staff, CATLYST continues to support our region's efforts to ensure the creation of a region that works for everyone. A few highlights of the regional economic development strategy include:

- **CARES Act funding** – To support the implementation of the Competitive Economic Development Strategy specifically to assist communities and sectors impacted by COVID-19, ARC provided a grant to the Airport area communities known as Aerotropolis to develop a Pandemic Response Economic Strategy. Additionally, ARC is also providing technical assistance to local governments to respond to COVID impacts through data analysis, informational forums, and technical studies.
- **Continued Collaborative Marketing** – The Atlanta Regional Marketing Alliance continues to support the efforts of local economic development agencies through combined marketing to site location consultants and real estate brokers as well as sharing best practices to support each county and economic development organization in the Atlanta Region.
- **Identifying Effective Affordable Housing Strategies** – CATLYST continues to support a multi-disciplinary team in creating a regional strategy designed to increase the availability of quality, affordable housing. For more information and the latest updates on the strategy, visit [AtlantaRegionalHousing.org](http://AtlantaRegionalHousing.org).

## Cultivating leaders to meet the region's challenges

**344** Metro Atlanta residents took part in ARC leadership programs, including: Regional Leadership Institute (RLI), Leadership Involvement Networking Knowledge (LINK), Arts Leaders of Metro Atlanta (ALMA), Community Planning Academy (CPA), and Model Atlanta Regional Commission (MARC).

# BY THE NUMBERS: DEKALB ECONOMY

Median Household Income (2019)

**\$63,652**

DeKalb

**\$71,742**

Atlanta region



DeKalb Jobs

(2021)

**315,274**

(2010)

**307,429**

Poverty Rate (2019)

▼ **12%** in DeKalb live below poverty level

▼ **10%** in Atlanta region live below poverty level

Source: ARC analysis of data from 2019 ACS 1-year & JobsEQ, 2021Q1



Atlanta Regional Commission

229 Peachtree Street, NE | Suite 100  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

[atlantaregional.org](http://atlantaregional.org)