

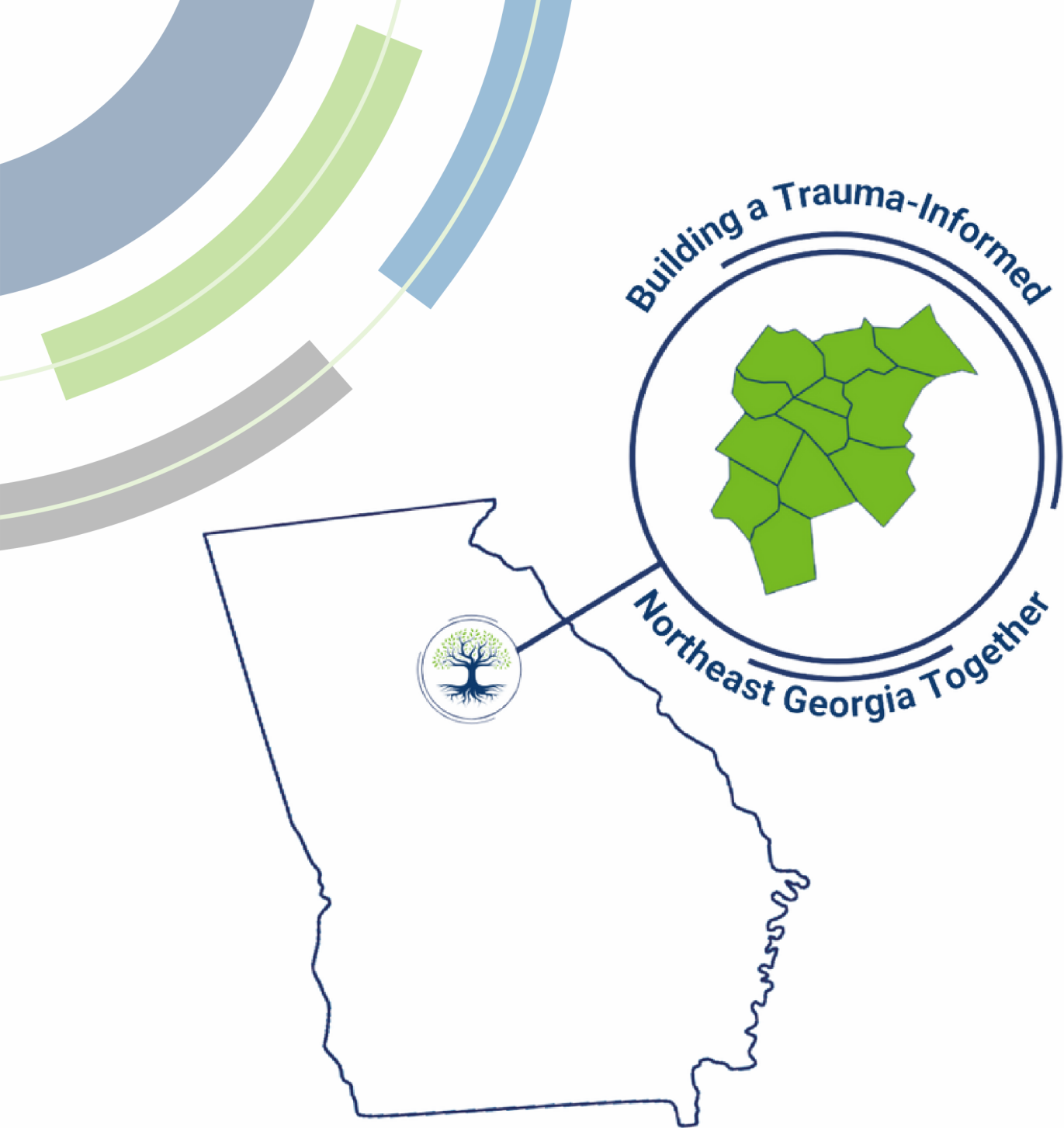


RESILIENT NORTHEAST GEORGIA

A Fund at the Athens Area Community Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

RESILIENT GEORGIA REGIONAL GRANTEE REPORT



RESILIENT NORTHEAST GEORGIA REGION OF SERVICE:

Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Jasper, Madison, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, and Walton Counties



GEORGIA
family connection
PARTNERSHIP



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

The Athens Area Community Foundation was established in 2008 by a passionate group of local leaders with a shared goal: to form a public grantmaking institution that identifies the greatest needs in the community and matches them to philanthropic resources. Our founders envisioned a community foundation that would create joy in giving, inspire and champion great local philanthropy, and help passionate donors create a lasting legacy.

Fifteen years later, the Athens Area Community Foundation continues to honor and uphold the vision of our founding members. The Athens Area Community Foundation is a vibrant and vital organization serving the northeast Georgia region as a trusted community leader, a trusted partner for local organizations, and a trusted guide for local philanthropy. **When you anchor your trust here, you allow us to continue that legacy: to lead, partner, and guide.**

As a public grantmaker, we exist to shape effective and adaptive responses to community needs that will build, distribute, and preserve philanthropic assets through our partnerships with donors, nonprofits, and community institutions. **Simply put, we grow giving for the community you love.**

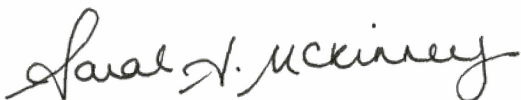
As a fund held at the Athens Area Community Foundation, Resilient Northeast Georgia is a vital part of the Athens Area Community Foundation's role as a community leader, convening a twelve-county coalition that is:

- **Strategic**
 - Connects partners to trauma-informed training opportunities and resources
 - Creates innovative approaches to preventing and mitigating Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) within the community
- **Specialized**
 - Develops local and regional partnerships that support a distinctive approach to Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) aims across all programming
 - Includes and engages all counties in our region of service
- **Sustainable**
 - Leverages local resources that address the root causes of trauma within the community through a trauma-informed lens
 - Builds and sustains a trauma-informed behavioral health continuum of care for birth to age 26

In this exciting annual report, you will read about our community leadership through our advocacy, programming, training, and coalition-building efforts in the region. Every facet that has been curated under the Resilient Northeast Georgia initiative has grown out of and been sustained by collaborative efforts with local partners. From these efforts, the Resilient Northeast Georgia coalition has been founded in collaboration and forged in trust to advance the vision of Resilient Georgia in our region.

Every achievement over the past four years has been rooted in Resilient Georgia's investment in us as a trusted community leader, trusted partner for local organizations, and trusted guide for local philanthropy. This trust has supported collaborative efforts that are with, for, and by community, by design.

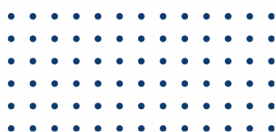
On behalf of our partners and community, we thank you.



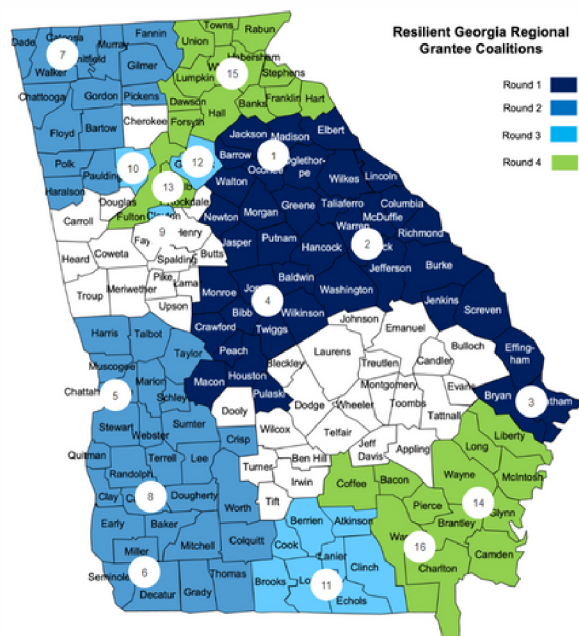
Sarah McKinney
President | CEO, Athens Area Community Foundation



SECTION 1: COALITION OVERVIEW



RESILIENT GEORGIA OVERVIEW



Resilient Georgia has been working with 16 regions across Georgia to provide an emphasis on trauma-informed awareness and care, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and child sexual abuse prevention training as a basis to transform systems and procedures crossing both public and private sectors.

Resilient Georgia serves as a supportive and guiding resource during each region's planning and implementation process.

These regional action plans each address the behavioral health needs of individuals birth through 26 years old and families in the community and surrounding counties using the Collective Impact framework (a diverse, robust and well-planned public-private partnership).

Trauma-Informed Care, ACEs and child sexual abuse prevention can be the basis for systemic changes in a community. Each region has identified how one or more of these content areas are delivered to diverse community members through formal training, education, marketing and communications.

Round 1 grants were awarded in Nov 2019 to regional coalitions based out of Athens, Augusta, Macon, Savannah and surrounding areas. Round 2 grants were awarded in July 2020 to regional coalitions based out of Albany, Columbus, Rome, Thomasville and surrounding areas. Round 3 grants were awarded in March 2021 to regional coalitions based out of Clayton, Cobb, Gwinnett, Valdosta and surrounding areas. Round 4 funding was awarded in December 2021 to regional coalitions based out of Atlanta, Brunswick, Gainesville, and Waycross and the surrounding areas.

In their third and fourth years of partnership with Resilient Georgia, coalitions have bolstered their work to create bold, systemic, sustainable change in consistent ways across statewide issues, to affect policy, systems and environmental (PSE) change and incorporated a Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) lens in their action plans.

RESILIENT NORTHEAST GEORGIA: COALITION AT A GLANCE



Resilient Northeast Georgia is a strategic, sustainable, and specialized collaboration working to reduce the duplication of efforts and streamline innovation and action in a cross-sector trauma-informed space. As a coalition, Resilient Northeast Georgia exists as a partnership between the Athens Area Community Foundation, Georgia Family Connection Partnership Region 5 and the Athens Wellbeing Project. Administered by the Athens Area Community Foundation, Resilient Northeast Georgia aims to convene regional

partners across northeast Georgia to promote the prevention and mitigation of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and the creation of a trauma-informed behavioral health continuum of care for the birth-to-26 community in Georgia.



Coalition Aims

1. Promote coordinated cross-sector trauma-informed initiatives across systems
2. Advance and develop the workforce
3. Build a common language around trauma
4. Advocate for change through a JEDI lens
5. Create a sustainable model for regional collaboration and action



Target Populations

To drive effective and sustainable change for the birth-to-26 population, Resilient Northeast Georgia works with local and regional providers, organizations, and individuals across all sectors of the community. In 2023, the coalition focused on teen-centered trauma-informed care.



Major Partners

The Resilient Northeast Georgia coalition is spearheaded by the Athens Area Community Foundation and operates regionally in partnership with Georgia Family Connection Partnership's Region 5, which has an established presence in each of our 12 counties.



Key Outcomes

In 2023, Resilient Northeast Georgia has directly provided 17 training opportunities and regional events which have served 843 participants across 12 counties. These events constitute a total of 2,812 contact hours in 2023.

RESILIENT NORTHEAST GEORGIA COALITION BY THE NUMBERS, 2020-2023



Over the past four years, the Resilient Northeast Georgia coalition has successfully delivered a variety of training opportunities, community events, and resources targeted towards building a trauma-informed community. Here's a look at where we've been able to show up with the support of our regional partners.

2,778 Participants Engaged
1,212 Engaged in 2023



8,352 Contact Hours Earned
3,378 Earned in 2023



39 Events/Trainings Delivered
17 Delivered in 2023



12 Counties Reached by
Regional Grant Initiatives



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A Fund of the Athens Area Community Foundation

COALITION LEADERS AND PARTNERS

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Sarah McKinney

President and CEO, Athens Area Community Foundation

Meredith Lysaught

Program Manager, Athens Area Community Foundation

Sonya Hope

Regional Manager, Georgia Family Connection Partnership

Dr. Grace Bagwell Adams

Principal Investigator, Athens Wellbeing Project

Athens Area Community Foundation

Staff and Board of Directors

Stephanie Mann, Destin Newfont; Alicia Battle, Amy BeMent, David Bradley, Clark Brown, Kevin Clark, Sally Coenen, Dr. Myron Downs, Jennifer Frum, Patrick Garrard, Mayor Kelly Girtz, Bevan Hopper, Tim Johnson, Heidi Hensley, Rhodes McLanahan, Jody Patton, Sara Schramm, Kirk Smith, Roy Stowe, and Justin Widener.

COALITION PARTNERS

Family Connection Partners

Laura Bertram, Newton County Family Connection

Amanda Davis, Oconee Area Resource Council

Sherry Deakin, Madison Area Resource Team

Laura Evans, Community Partnership of Elbert County

Targie Folds, Jasper County Family Connection, Greene County Family Connection Commission

Linda Foster, Jackson County Family Connection Council

Velde Hardy, Morgan County Family Connection

Dena Huff, The Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families

Tim Johnson, Family Connection- Communities in Schools of Athens

April Moore, Oglethorpe County Family Connection

Academic

Rebecca Baskam, University of Georgia College of Public Health

Dr. Katie Ehrlich, University of Georgia School of Psychology

Dr. Diane Bales, UGA Family and Consumer Sciences

Dr. Courtney Still-Brown, UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (Extension 4-H Office)

Brittany Johnson Teets, UGA 4-H/Youth Development Agent

Tessa Barbazon, Clarke County School District

Public Partners:

David Bradley, Athens Area Chamber of Commerce

Marissa Chastain, Athens Area Chamber of Commerce

Gustavo Rodriguez-Zaccaro, Athens-Clarke County Government Office of Economic Development

Ilka McConnell, Athens-Clarke County Government Office of Economic Development

Myung Cogan, Athens-Clarke County Government Office of Economic Development

Non-Profits

Tishia Fenn, Walton Youth Project

Anna Bearden, Chosen for Life Ministries

Alison Rosch, Clarke County Mentor Program

Carrie Peters-Reid, Spread Love Ministries LLC

Erin Barger, Food Bank of Northeast Georgia

Jacob Lambeck, Food Bank of Northeast Georgia

Hannah Southall, Food Bank of Northeast Georgia

Elliott Tranter, Hope Givers

Tamlin Hall, Hope Givers

James Alexander, Goodwill of Northeast Georgia

Keisha V. Ryals, Minority Business and Nonprofit Association

Summit Speakers and Training Providers

Dr. Jordan R. Murphy, Center for Interrelational Science and Pediatrics

Lauren Gregory, A Child's Voice Child Advocacy Center

Tra Battle, Battle Solutions, LLC.

Lemuel "Life" LaRoche, Chess and Community

Dr. April Hartman, Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University

Shane Sims, People Living in Recovery

Olivia Hutcherson, Princeton University

Isabella Cardenas, Hope Givers

Destiny McClendon, Greene County Boys and Girls Club

Deon Colquitt, Walton Youth Project Advisory Board

RJ Sheats, Walton Youth Project Advisory Board

Madison Forsythe, Newton County Youth Action Team

Dexter Fisher, Athens-Clarke County Commissioner

David Gabriel, Oglethorpe County Sheriff

Toni Tennyson-Smith, Creating Hope and Needed Care for Everyone, Inc.

Margaret Jones, Heads Up for Harry

The Walton Youth Project Advisory Board and Members

The Newton County Youth Action Team

Advantage Behavioral Health Systems

PREVAYL Grant at the Georgia Department of Public Health

Athens-Clarke County Neighborhood Leaders

WIOA Youth Workforce Program

Cultivating a Lifetime of Legacy, LLC.

Georgia Legal Services

Georgia Teen Institute

Georgia Conflict Center

Community Partners

Drs. David and Patti Bradley, The Spencer Bradley Foundation for Mental Health

Maggie Combs, The Spencer Bradley Foundation for Mental Health

Aja Allen, New Approach Marketing

Rebecca Best, M3 Marketing Agency

Sally Kimel-Sheppard, Envision Athens

Greene County Domestic Violence Taskforce

Jackson County Mental Health Taskforce

Steven Dasher, Piedmont Athens Regional Foundation

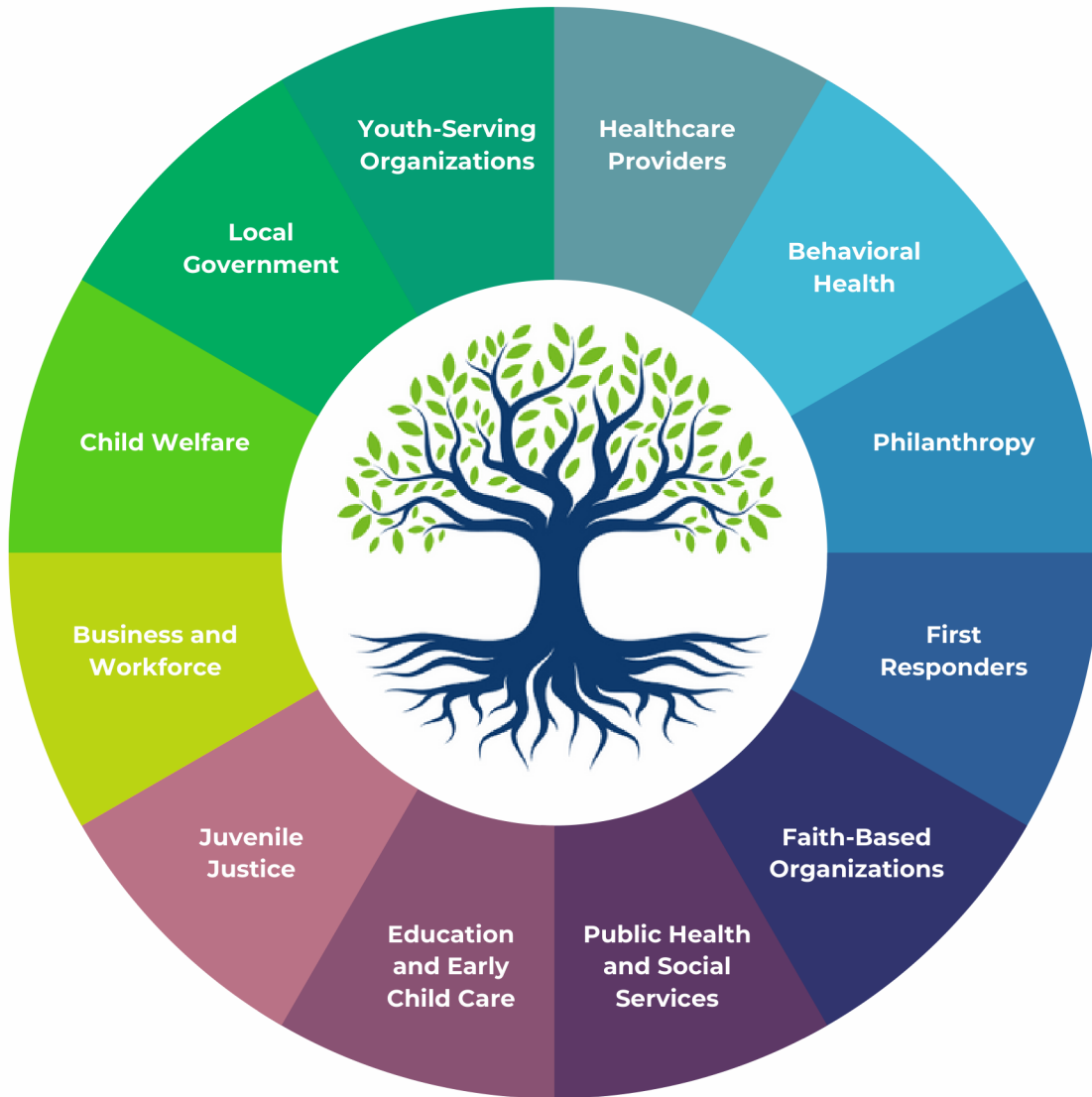
Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL)

Other Partners

The multitude of participants who attended our trainings or connected with us through their local Family Connection Collaborative. They represent a multitude of organizations sectors of the community across Northeast Georgia and beyond.

DIVERSIFYING ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

WHERE DID RESILIENT NORTHEAST GEORGIA SHOW UP IN 2023?



In 2023, Resilient Northeast Georgia made an intentional push to engage more sectors of the community in trainings and coalition events. Relying on the Resilient Georgia Roadmap for Trauma-Informed Communities and the Collective Impact Model framework, we've come alongside our Family Connection partners to intentionally connect with the most vital sectors for partnership in each of our counties.

These efforts were bolstered by our annual regional summit, INFORM. INSPIRE. EMPOWER., which brought together partners from across the region and across sectors to network and learn together about trauma from a teen-led perspective. With 245 attendees, we were able to make meaningful relationships with sectors of the community not reached in previous years, effectively diversifying the coalition of trauma-informed service providers and community members in our region.

AT A GLANCE

In 2023, Resilient Northeast Georgia provided a wide variety of evidence-based training offerings across 12 counties, aiming to establish a wider community baseline awareness of trauma while also providing trainees with tangible and applicable strategies for the prevention and mitigation of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

2023 also marked the coalition's second annual regional summit, hosted alongside Family Connection partners and featuring a teen-focused lens this year.

All around, this year has been a critical diversification point for the coalition, calling on partners to implement more diverse and county-specific initiatives than in any year previous. The coalition has expanded its capacity to train and convene the region and intends to continue this trend next year.

678

Trained on the Community Resiliency Model

The Community Resiliency Model (CRM) focuses on a biologically-based approach to re-regulating the nervous system in times of stress. In this training, participants learn 6 wellness skills designed to improve their personal and conveyable resiliency skills. CRM was offered in one-hour introductory courses and three-hour workshop sessions throughout 2022, with plans for continued use in 2023.

Total Contact Hours: 827 hours

114

Trained on Youth Mental Health First Aid

Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) is geared towards parents, caregivers, teachers, and anyone who regularly interacts with children and teaches skills for recognizing and reacting to crisis and non-crisis situations young people today may experience. YMHFA was offered in six-hour workshop sessions in 2022, with plans for expanded utilization in 2023.

9 Total Contact Hours: 741 hours

20

Trained on Connections Matter

Connections Matter trainings provide community members and parents with a baseline overview of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), brain development, and resiliency-building skills for all ages. Connections Matter was only offered in 2022 for the first time and will continue to be offered to partners in years to come for its succinct, relationship-based skills.

Total Contact Hours: 80 hours

2023 EVENTS

245

Attended the INFORM. INSPIRE. EMPOWER Summit

The INFORM. INSPIRE. EMPOWER Teen Summit convened 245 regional partners and teens together for a day of learning about the impacts and trends in trauma. Featured speakers, adults and teens alike, talked about what it means to be resilient, the outlook on teen leadership in the mental health space, and the areas for collaboration present in the region.

Total Contact Hours: 1,470 hours

200

Attended the True Grit: Resilience in Food Banking Session

Hosted by the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia at their annual member agency conference, this CRM intro marked one of the larger single-session CRM offerings to date for the coalition. Participants learned about self-care and client-care skills they can apply to their work in food banking. This opportunity came about as a direct result of the Pittulloch Foundation's relationships and funding in the region.

Total Contact Hours: 200 hours

15

Attended the Launch and Learn Event

Planned and presented alongside the Minority Business Association, Envision Athens, the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Athens Clarke County Economic Development Office, the Emergent Launch and Learn brought together new and emerging business leaders for a day of learning that included trauma-informed care tenets.


Total Contact Hours: 60 hours

1,212

Individuals participated in a training or event in 2023

In 2023, Resilient Northeast Georgia, due in part to the partnership with Family Connection's extensive network, has engaged 1,212 individuals in trainings, regional events, summits, and webinars.

Total Contact Hours: 3,378 hours

 44% of the total 2,778 participants engaged since 2020

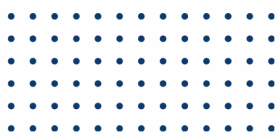
 41% of the total 8,352 contact hours delivered since 2020

2023 TRAINING OVERVIEW

In 2023, Resilient Northeast Georgia has honed its training approach to be more county-specific by splitting the region into clusters determined by geographic proximity, thematic similarity of strategic plans, areas of interest for collaborative expansion, and the leadership and insights of the regional manager. As a result, the collaborative focused energy on smaller, more specialized training modalities than years past, prioritizing depth of impact and usability of skills acquired in the training in an effort to improve sustainability of retained regional knowledge over time.

Training	Date	Counties Served	Audience and Outcomes
CRM Introductory Training	January 2023	Newton	50 members of the Newton County domestic violence interagency taskforce learned self-care skills through a CRM introductory session
The Business Case for Trauma	February 2023	Morgan, Jasper, Greene	45 business leaders, HR managers, and nonprofit employees learned about the impacts of trauma on the workforce in a CRM intro
Community Resiliency Model	February 2023	Walton	15 members of the Walton Youth Project Teen Advisory Board trained in CRM as peer mentors and key county leaders in mental health work
Youth Mental Health First Aid	March 2023	Greene	30 teachers, social workers, and community members, delivered alongside the Spencer Bradley Foundation for Mental Health
Community Resiliency Model	April 2023	Morgan	8 community members trained in the Community Resiliency Model Workshop, continuation of Business Case for Trauma
Community Resiliency Model	April 2023	Greene	15 community members trained in the Community Resiliency Model Workshop, continuation of Business Case for Trauma
Teen Summit CRM Session	July 2023	Clarke, Barrow, Jackson, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Madison, Morgan, Walton, Newton, Jasper, Elbert, Greene	245 adult and teen participants attended the regional summit for a day of learning and networking on the current state of teen mental health and resiliency
Community Resiliency Model	September 2023	Clarke	41 UGA undergraduate psychology students trained as CRM-informed mentors for a cohort of 1st and 2nd grade students
Community Resiliency Model	September 2023	Clarke, Barrow, Jackson, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Madison, Towns, White, Rabun, Franklin, Habersham, Banks, Hart, Stephens	200 Food Bank of Northeast Georgia member agency representatives trained in self-care and trauma-informed food banking practices in CRM introduction
Youth Mental Health First Aid	November 2023	Greene	30 members of law enforcement, schools, and the community trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid Practices

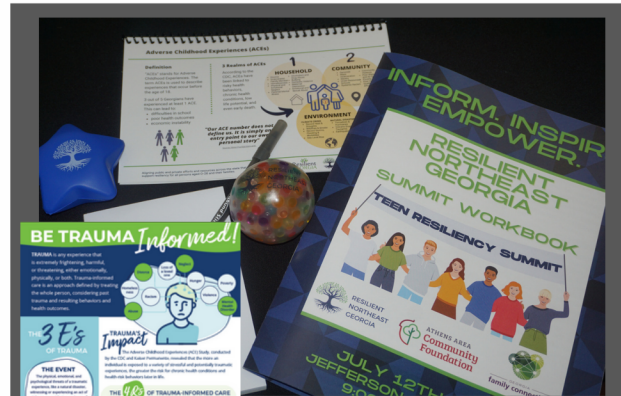
SECTION 2: LEADERSHIP IN ACTION



LEADERSHIP IN ACTION: TRACKING THE COALITION FOOTPRINT



The staff at the Athens Area Community Foundation, the backbone organization and primary grantee for the Resilient Northeast Georgia Grant.



This year saw an increase in the coalition's use of printed and physical collateral, like this poster and the branded fidget toys used at the 2023 summit.



Key regional trainings grew more specialized through the use of training clusters. Top: The Economic Case for Trauma Prevention. Bottom: CRM for the Newton Sexual Violence Prevention Taskforce.



Resilient Northeast Georgia tabling with teens at the Carver Middle School W.I.S.E. Event, hosted by the Walton Youth Project.



The teen INSPIRE panel at the 2023 summit, presented by key leaders active in mental health work around the region.



Regional leadership teams from Athens and Macon at the 2023 Resilient Georgia planning meeting.

REGIONAL APPROACH: PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

To expand the efficacy and reach of the coalition's actions across the region, themes were gathered from each county's yearly strategic plan, previous coordinator listening sessions, and the regional manager's compendium of expertise to align the 12 counties into three workgroups or clusters that would be responsible for planning and executing an additional training, event, or intervention before the end of 2022. The thematic groupings of these clusters are outlined below and serve as the strategic basis for all prevention and intervention services currently occurring.

RESILIENT NORTHEAST GEORGIA CLUSTERS



CLUSTER 1

**CLARKE, JASPER, GREENE, MORGAN, AND
NEWTON COUNTIES, PUTNAM HEADSTART**

Common Themes:

- Early Care Focus (0-5)
- Existing School-Based Programming
- DECAL Funding Sources
- Existing Youth Infrastructure
- Use of Strategic Action Teams
- Connections to Regional Service Providers



CLUSTER 2

**JACKSON, WALTON, BARROW,
AND OCONEE COUNTIES**

Common Themes:

- Mental Health Focus
- Community Youth Programming
- Funding around Root Causes
- Existing Youth Infrastructure
- Capacity for Mental Health Services
- Connections to Regional Service Providers



CLUSTER 3

**MADISON, ELBERT, AND
OGLETHORPE COUNTIES**

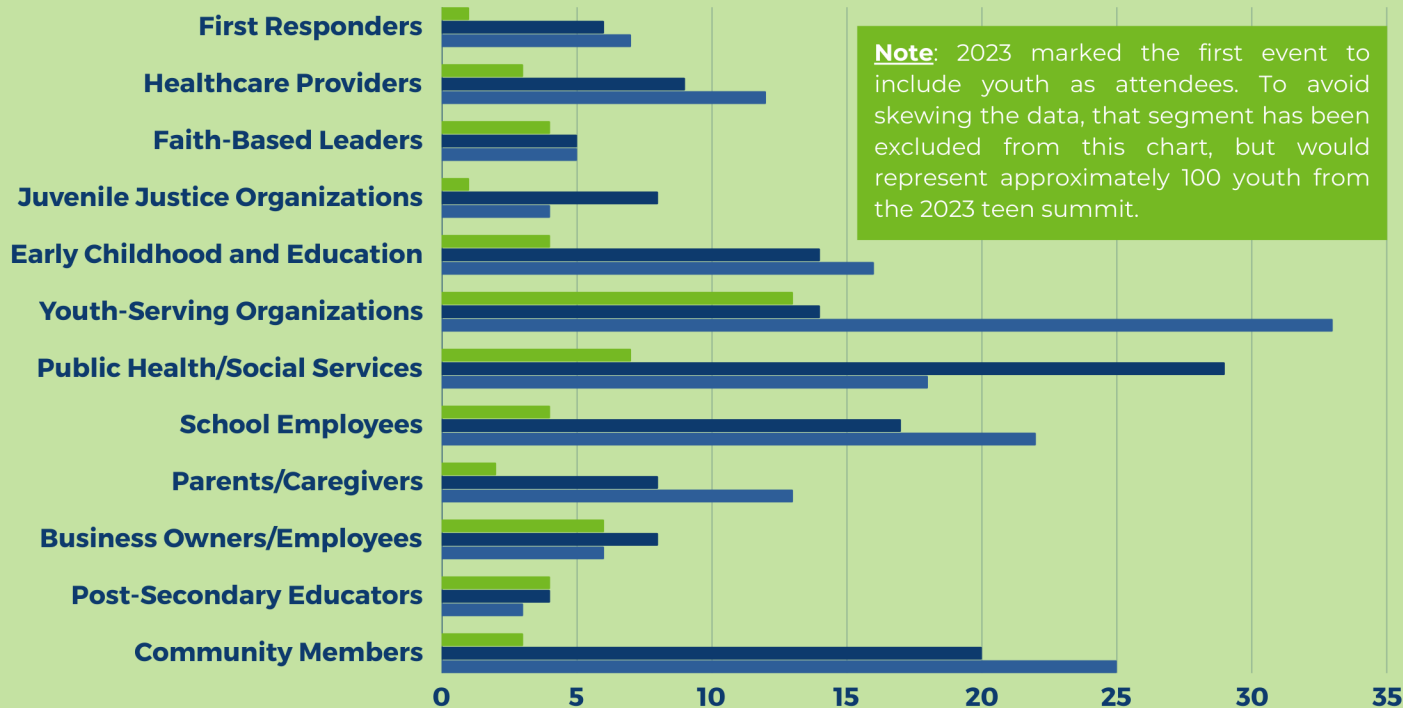
Common Themes:

- School-Based Focus
- Youth Wellbeing Programming
- Funding around School Success
- Existing Youth Infrastructure
- Capacity for Enhanced Two-Gen Services
- Connections to Local Service Providers

HIGHLIGHT: GROWING THE COALITION

How has diversity of sector engagement changed over time?

Below, a comparison of three regional events, which occurred in 2021, 2022, and 2023



Note: 2023 marked the first event to include youth as attendees. To avoid skewing the data, that segment has been excluded from this chart, but would represent approximately 100 youth from the 2023 teen summit.

December 2021

Planned and executed prior to partnership with Georgia Family Connection

June 2022

Planned and executed in partnership with Georgia Family Connection

July 2023

Planned and executed in partnership with Georgia Family Connection

Continued Growth and Diversification of the Coalition

Over the past two years of partnership with Family Connection Region 5, the Resilient Northeast Georgia coalition has experienced significant increases in attendance and sector diversity at events and trainings. The chart above shows the point-in-time counts from three regional events that occurred between 2021 and 2023. The first, in December 2021, occurred approximately three months after initially engaging Family Connection as a partner in this work. The second event, our 2022 regional summit, marked the change after almost one year of partnership and represents attendance at a regional summit with a broad focus on trauma-informed care. Lastly, our 2023 regional summit, which was the first to invite and focus on youth in its programming, boasts the current highest turnout and engagement for any in-person event to date. This success can be attributed to the:

- Total integration and buy-in of Family Connection as a partner in building trauma-informed communities
- Expertise of trusted leaders, who are knowledgeable of community needs, interests, and capacity
- Inclusion of existing networks that created a deeper well of engaged participants
- Growth of the coalition resource bank that was spearheaded by regional experts
- Incorporation of new partners who contribute a variety of new resources



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SUMMIT DATA REPORT 2023

INFORM. INSPIRE. EMPOWER.
TEEN RESILIENCY SUMMIT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



On July 12, 2023, the Athens Area Community Foundation's Resilient Northeast Georgia grant project hosted the hosted INFORM. INSPIRE. EMPOWER. summit in partnership with Georgia Family Connection Partnership's Region Five. The summit brought together 245 individuals from across all twelve counties of the region of service for a day of learning and networking focused on teen resiliency and trauma-informed collaboration.

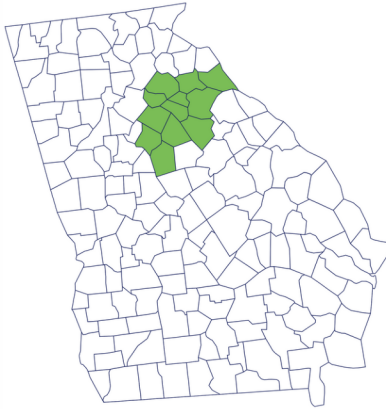
INFORM. INSPIRE. EMPOWER. was divided into three segments designed to focus on different outcomes for attendees. The INFORM session highlighted speakers' lived and professional experiences to provide a foundational introduction with story-driven, resiliency-focused perspectives. Following that, the INSPIRE session brought together two panel sessions, one featuring a panel of teen leaders and another featuring a cross-section of the community. This session examined teen and professional outlooks on mental health, community-driven programming, and opportunities for collaborative efforts to improve resiliency. The third session, EMPOWER, brought teen groups and regional service providers alongside each other to present resource tables, hands-on activity stations, and a chance for follow-up questions from previous session speakers in an interactive session for participants to learn more about innovative approaches and resources within the region. These sessions were book-ended by motivational sessions, featuring first a former University of Georgia football player with lived experiences with mental health struggles and closing out the day with a poem and a reflection on community-driven programming from the leader of a local nonprofit operating in the youth development space.

This event used pre- and post-summit surveys to measure changes in knowledge and attitudes, valuable regional resources, and ways that the Resilient Northeast Georgia Coalition can lead and support trauma-informed efforts. The results compiled in this report serve as a guide for future regional action by leveraging the insights of those in attendance to inform the direction of the coalition's next steps. As we continue working to create a trauma-informed and resilient northeast Georgia, the findings of this report will help determine our next steps as a region and at the county level, working in tandem with existing strategic plans and qualitative data sets to provide a snapshot of the region and its growth potential.

OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS

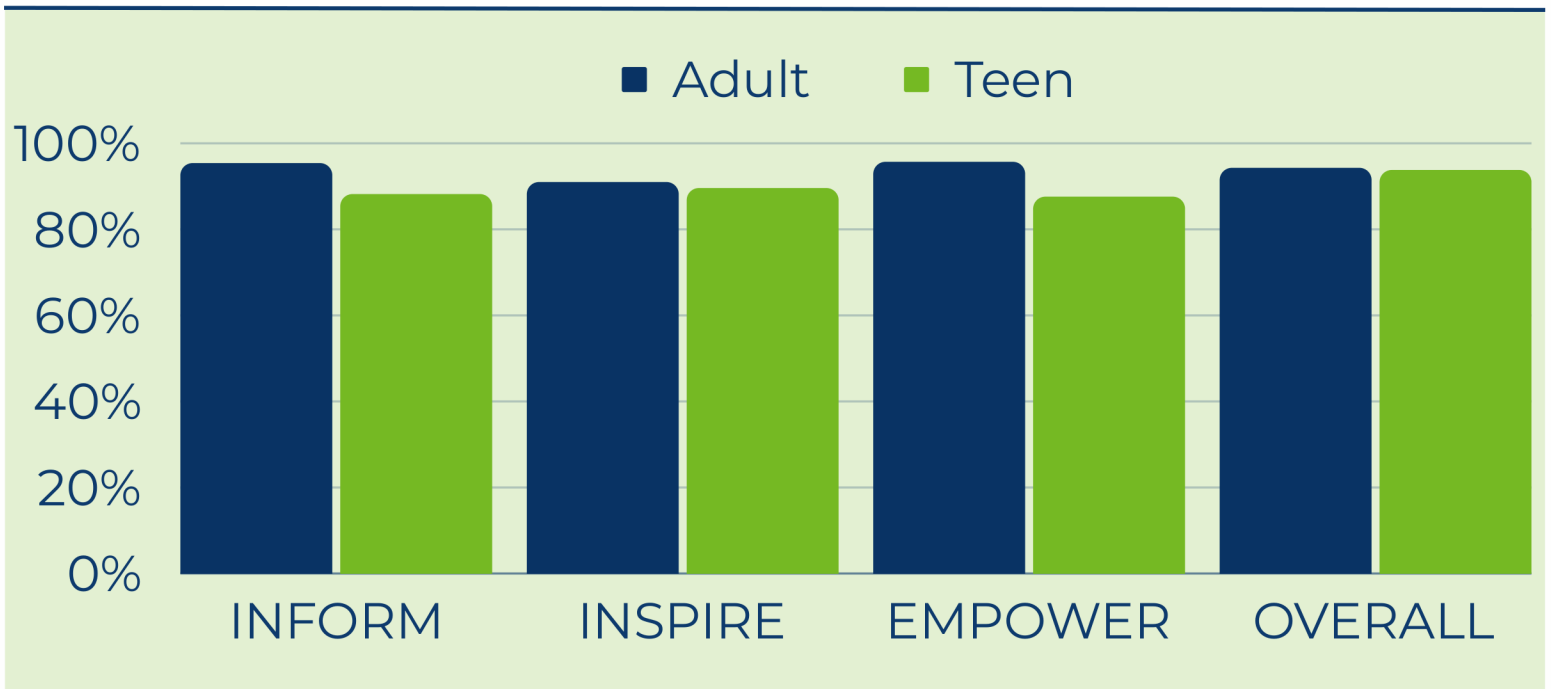
245

Summit Attendees



12

Counties Represented



INFORM:

95.4% of Adults
88.2% of Teens

reported learning something new as a result of attending the summit

INSPIRE:

91% of Adults
89.6% of Teens

reported feeling inspired by a speaker or topic presented at the summit

EMPOWER:

95.7% of Adults
87.6% of Teens

reported feeling more confident as a leader in teen mental health efforts in their counties as a result of attending the summit

OVERALL:

94.3% of Adults
93.8% of Teens

reported feeling that the summit created an environment of mutual respect, consideration, and inclusiveness

245

Total Attendees

12

Counties Represented

100

Teen Participants Present

18

Service Providers Present to Table

14

Subject Matter Expert Speakers

19

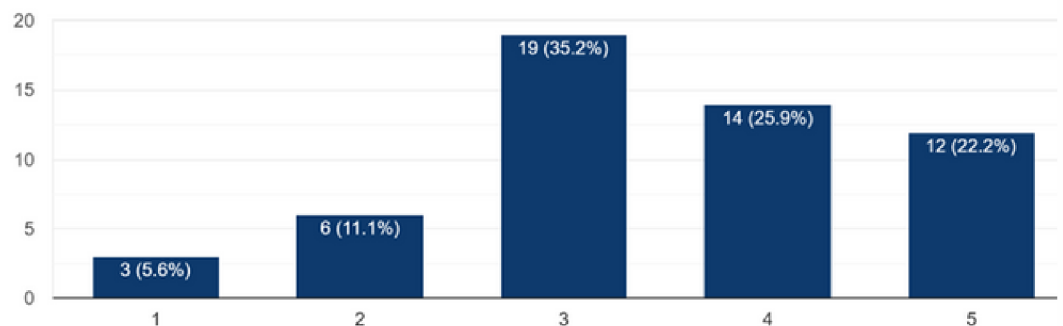
SUMMIT SPOTLIGHT: TEEN LEADERSHIP



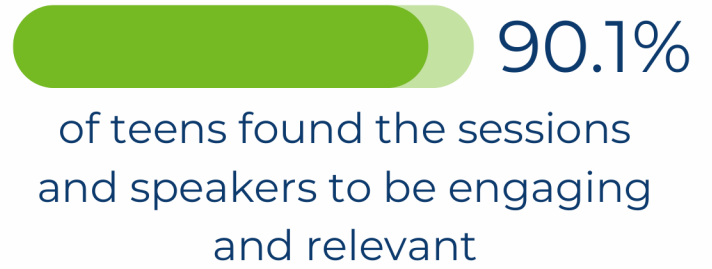
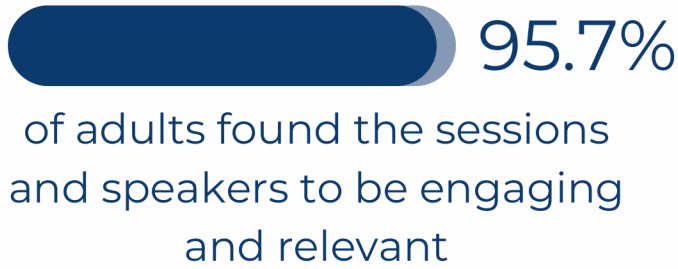
As a summit planned by, for, and with teens, **INFORM. INSPIRE. EMPOWER.** leveraged a remarkable level of talent and expertise from partners not previously engaged by our annual summit. Teens from across the region served on the planning advisory committee, presented in the **INFORM.** and **INSPIRE.** sessions, and hosted resourcing and activity tables in the **EMPOWER.** session. As a whole, the summit put a spotlight on the capacity for a teen role in improving community resiliency. Many counties with strong teen-led initiatives were able to share their insights and experiences with other groups at the summit, creating a culture of learning and collaboration. Below, summit attendees surveys indicated the current perceived level of teen inclusion in these efforts. Many left feeling empowered to better define or expand that role as a result of attending the summit.

On a scale of 1 to 5, how much of a role do teens have in efforts to improve teen mental health and community resiliency?

5a



SESSIONS AND CONTENT



I learned something new about a program or experience from the INFORM. Session.

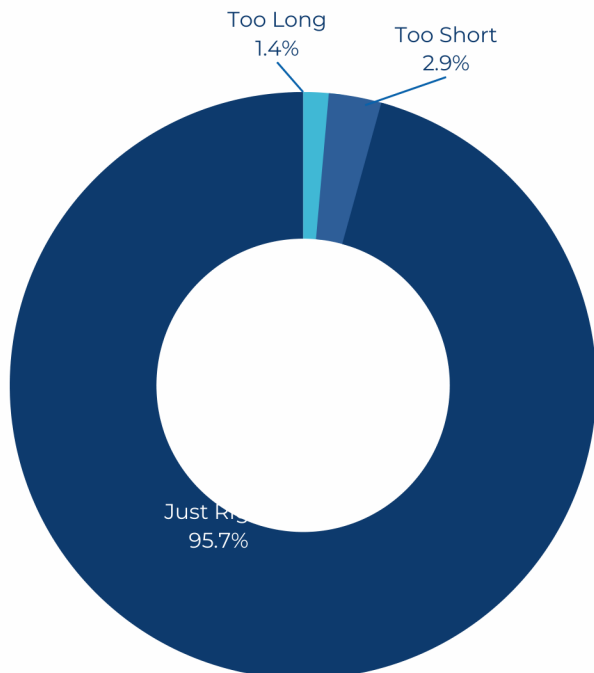


I felt inspired or uplifted after attending the INSPIRE. Panels.



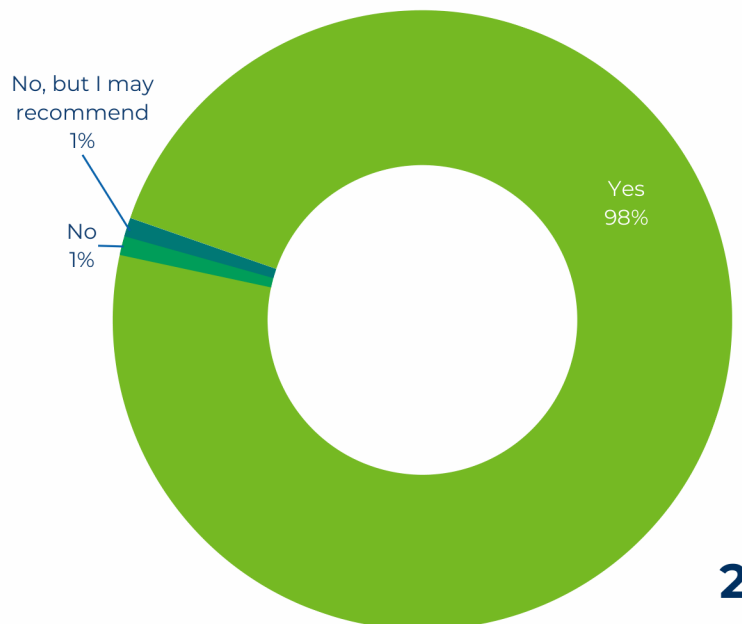
Length of Sessions

How would you rate the overall length of each session?

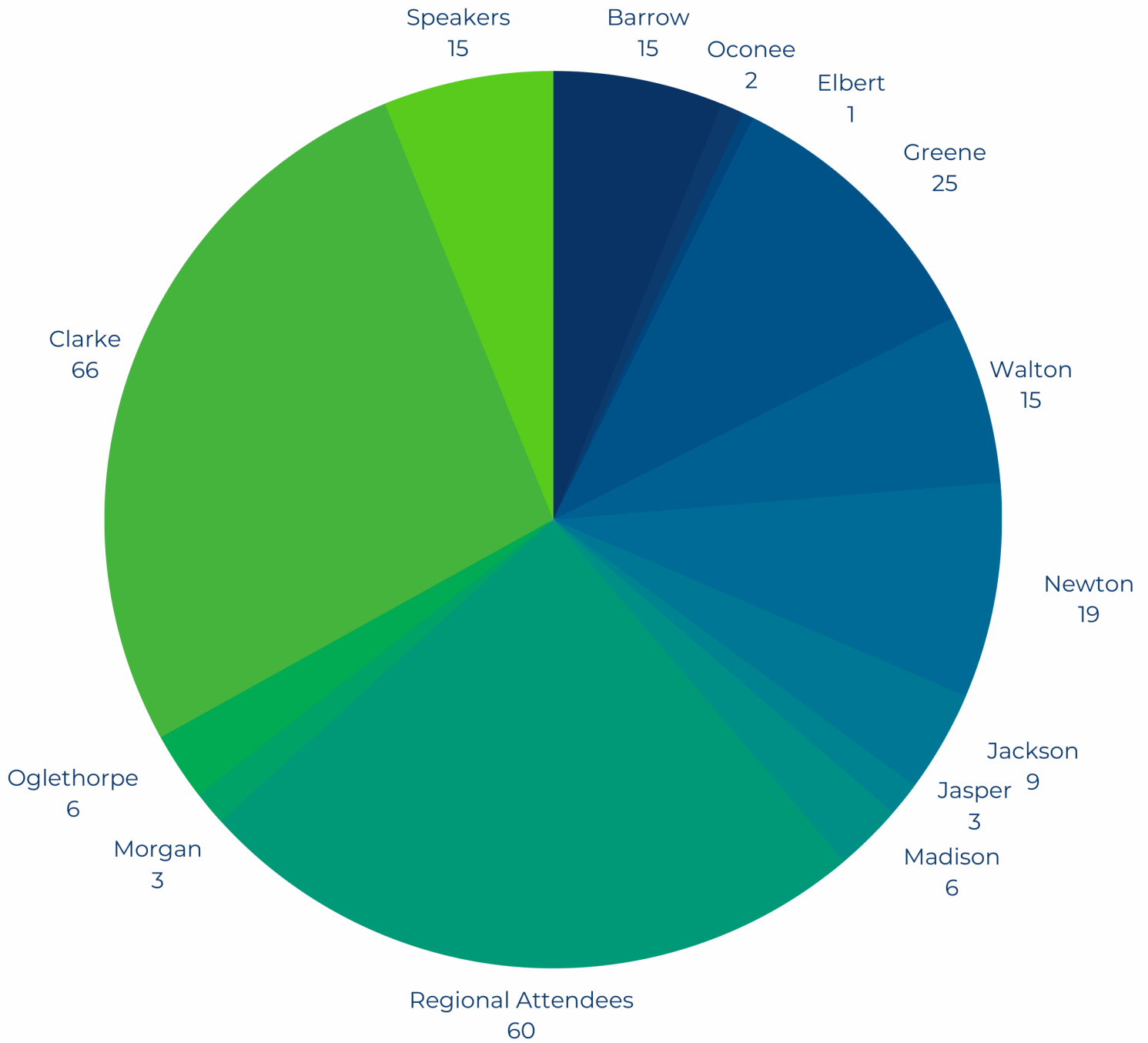


Willingness to Attend a Future Summit

Would you attend another regional summit if we were to host one again next year?



SUMMIT ATTENDANCE



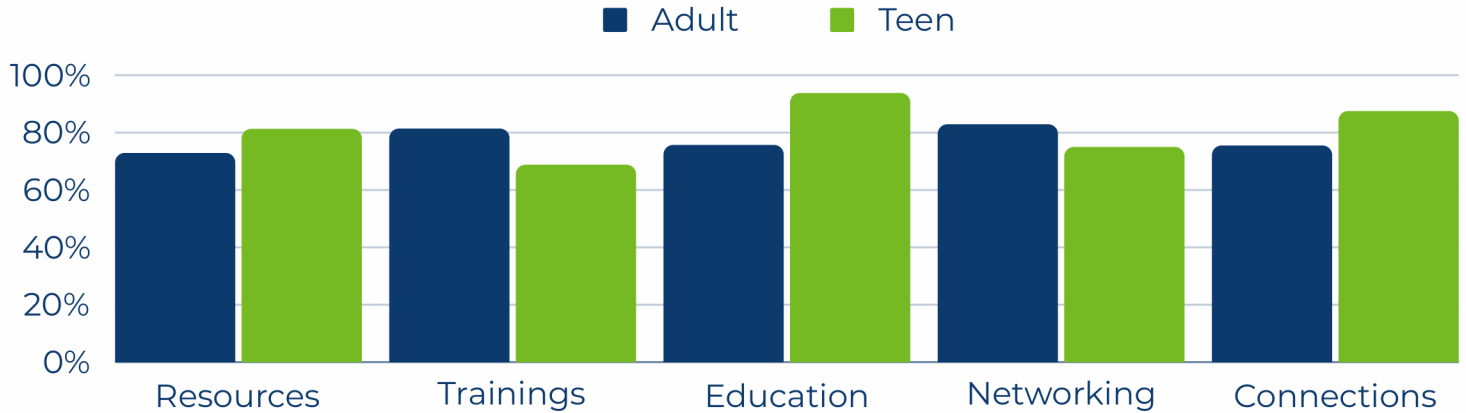
145 Adults Present



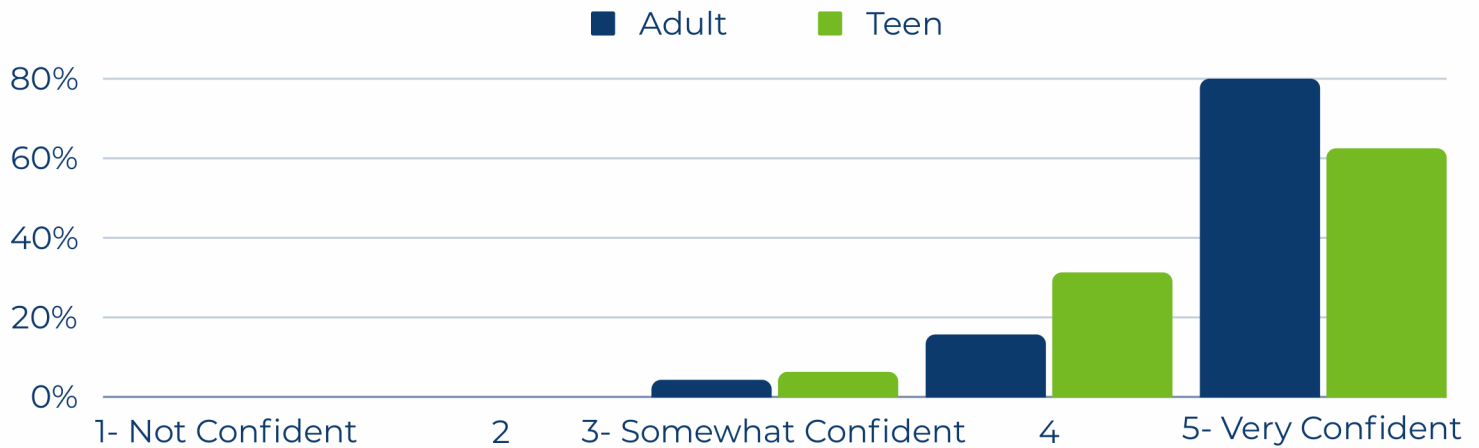
100 Teens Present

NEXT STEPS AND INSPIRED ACTIONS

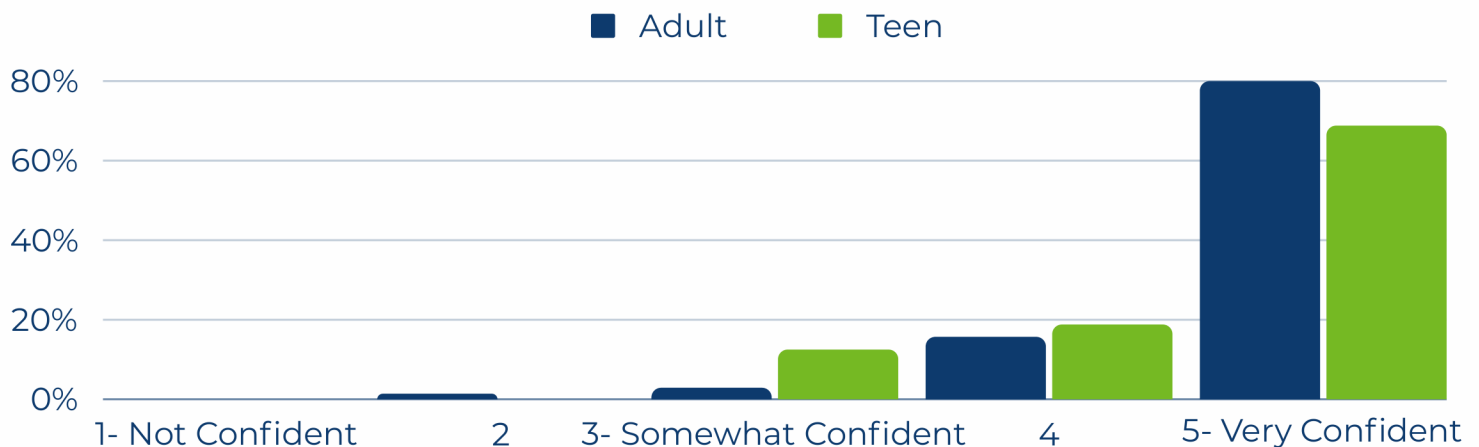
What can Resilient Northeast Georgia do to help you support your community?



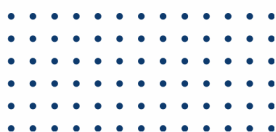
On a scale of 1 to 5, how confident do you feel engaging with adults and teens in your county on efforts to improve teen mental health and community resiliency after attending this summit?



On a scale of 1 to 5, how confident do you feel in returning to your community as a leader for change in the teen mental health advocacy space on topics discussed today?



SECTION 3: RESEARCH AND EVALUATION



THEMATIC ANALYSIS: PARTNER LISTENING SESSIONS

Over the last two years, the Resilient Northeast Georgia program manager has conducted a series of three in-person listening sessions with the grant's key partners in an effort to better understand community needs, the state of the partnership, and opportunities for the growth and expansion of regional and county-specific initiatives. The findings of these listening sessions have been recorded, analyzed by the coalition evaluation team, and summarized in a de-identified format for the annual report to preserve the respondent's confidentiality.

The overarching analysis of the past 2 years' sessions are published below.

THEME: DESIRE TO KEEP MOMENTUM MOVING FORWARD AND GROWING THE WORK IN THE REGION



HEALTHCARE

- Mental Health Care Providers and Psychiatrists
- Health Departments and Local Health Districts
- Youth Mental Health Providers



SCHOOLS

- School District Leadership
- Community Partners
- Counseling Staff
- Parents, Caregivers, and Students at Local Schools



FIRST RESPONDERS

- Local Sheriffs
- Police Departments
- Fire Departments
- Emergency Response Units
- Crisis Response and Co-Responder Units



WHAT SECTORS CAN WE ENGAGE WITH MORE IN THE FUTURE?

WHAT BARRIERS TO COLLABORATION EXIST IN THIS WORK? 

KEY PROGRAM SUCCESSES IN YEAR 4

1. Regional summit
2. Expansion of resources
3. Use of common language
4. Perceived regional identity
5. Observed change in personal and professional life
6. Improved capacity and confidence to respond to trauma
7. Increased focus on mental health outcomes
8. True regional collaboration and partner buy-in

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Continued Awareness

Continued access to community education to create a trauma-informed culture in the region



Systems Change

Cross-systems efforts to drive sustainable change that includes all sectors



More Trainings

As many and as varied training opportunities as possible in clusters

HOW HAS THE REGION BECOME MORE TRAUMA-INFORMED?

Since partnering with Resilient Northeast Georgia over two years ago, respondents feel that the coalition has made significant progress in becoming more trauma-informed. The following themes emerged from the in-person listening sessions:

- **Increased awareness and understanding of trauma and trauma-informed practices**
 - Trauma is now being talked about more in community meetings, there is more awareness of ACEs, and new sectors are beginning to engage in conversations about trauma.
- **Expansion of trauma-informed training and resources**
 - Youth Mental Health Aid and Circle of Security trainings have been transformative in the schools, and the community now has access to information about trauma-informed practices.
- **Development of a common language and shared understanding of trauma**
 - Partners now speak the same language and have a common understanding of what it means to be trauma-informed. This has facilitated collaboration and made it easier to implement trauma-informed practices across systems.
- **Increased opportunities for self-education and community education**
 - There are now more opportunities for individuals and the community to learn about trauma and trauma-informed practices. This is helping to build a more trauma-informed culture in Northeast Georgia Counties.

Participants expressed a desire to continue building on the collaborative's successes and achieve even greater impacts in the community. They spoke about the importance of continuing to increase awareness and understanding of trauma-informed practices, expanding training and resources, and developing a more trauma-informed culture in Northeast Georgia Counties.



POLITICAL CLIMATE

Hesitation around discussing or hosting trainings that cover topics, like diversity, gender, sexuality, and race in certain areas/sectors



TOO MANY DIRECTIONS

Risk of mission drift and ability to stay focused with so many areas of interest, as well as competing priorities with own job roles



ENGAGEMENT/PARTICIPATION

Challenge in getting people to show up for trainings they've registered to attend, and getting partners to understand the "why" for the work



LOCATION AND TIMING

Travel distance, time of year, scheduling, and general seasonal busyness are impacting turn-out at all events across the region



WORKFORCE CRISIS

Rise in workforce shortages and staffing challenges, especially in childcare, is impacting turnout and engagement

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- Re-Engage and cultivate the cluster approach further to bring specific trainings
- Continue and adapt the summit with different focus areas and in different seasons
- Maintain consistent program management presence with a strategic plan
- Identify common regional goals and objectives, develop a communication plan
- Continue to ask for reporting and do face-to-face listening sessions with partners



Different Age Groups

Annual focus area on teens, early care, young children, parents and caregivers, college-aged adults, etc.



Advocacy Focus

Engaging more with local legislators and advocating for mental health policies



Expanded Reach

Engaging more diverse partners for trainings and events across the region

REVISED LOGIC MODEL: 2022-2023

Inputs	Activities	Outputs
Grant funding from Resilient Georgia for two-year project	Baseline evaluation of partnership landscape with Family Connection via interviews/listening sessions	12 Family Connection Executive Directors' baseline interviews completed for evaluation
Project management hire for grant duration: Meredith Lysaught	Stronger Together regional trauma summit convening local partners and stakeholders (June 2022)	151 participants and 906 contact hours engaged for Stronger Together summit
Key personnel assisting project manager	Creation of Resilient Northeast Georgia website, promotional materials, and reports	5,464 page views from 994 unique visitors to RNEGA website and social media
Leadership, guidance, and decision-making from Athens Area Community Foundation	Formative and summative evaluation of events and activities	1,621 participants in local summits and trainings
Community partners from nonprofit, public, and private sectors	CRM, YMHFA, Connections Matter, and other training models and events	5,074 contact hours delivered to participants through November 2022
Key collaborators from Family Connection across the region	Why a Case for DEI? Summit in partnership with Minority Business and Nonprofit Association	12 one-pagers developed and shared to RNEGA website on CRM skills
Evidence-based training offerings	Grant writing for DECAL Community Innovation grant with Clarke County Mentorship Program and AWP	1 regional grant submitted to DECAL
Office space at AACF for RNEGA project management	Research: one-pagers for website, manuscripts prepared for peer-reviewed submission	2 manuscripts written for publication, 1 forthcoming
Outcomes		
Short Term (1 Year)	Intermediate (2-5 Years)	Long-term (>5 Years)
Increased connectivity among regional partners on issues of behavioral health, trauma, and resiliency	Increase in proportion of local nonprofit professionals, educators, and stakeholders referring youth to mental health services when appropriate	Decreased incidence and prevalence of adverse childhood experiences regionally
Increased capacity for being trauma-informed across all nonprofit, public, and private RNEGA partners and collaborators	Increased access to evidence-based trainings and professional development for regional behavioral health partners and providers	Increased level of wellbeing among youth, from birth to 26 years of ages
Increase in proportion of local nonprofit professionals trained in trauma-informed care	Improved mental health outcomes among youth served by CRM-trained professionals	Improvements in mental health outcomes across all population groups reached
Increase in proportion of local nonprofit professionals trained in evidence-based models (CRM, YMHFA, Connections Matter)	Improved outcomes among providers, local nonprofit professionals, educators, and stakeholders trained in secondary trauma prevention	Sustained partnerships and collaborations across nonprofit, public, and private sectors in behavioral health and resiliency


RESEARCH: PUBLICATIONS

The central research conducted in the second year of the grant cycle has been program evaluation efforts stemming from our grant evaluation plan. The methodological approach is mixed methods, and is quasi-experimental whenever possible. All evaluation activities are driven by our Resilient Northeast Georgia Logic Model.

Two Graduate MPH Students worked Spring and Summer 2022 on an independent study in College of Public Health to partner with Resilient Northeast Georgia. The output of the independent study was a literature review on CRM and a series of 12 one pagers (one for each sector of the roadmap) for RNEGA to use on their website and to communicate with stakeholders on the regional efforts to leverage CRM for training and capacity building across sectors.



CRM
Efficacy
Report



Place-Based
Philanthropy
Case Study

A study on place-based philanthropy and the partnership between the Athens Area Community Foundation, Athens Wellbeing Project, and RNEGA was published in the peer-reviewed journal *Local Development & Society* and is forthcoming. The paper was authored by Meredith Lysaught, Sarah McKinney, Megan Bramlett, and Grace Bagwell Adams and is entitled “Community Wellbeing Through Data-Informed Place-Based Philanthropy: A Case Study of the Athens Wellbeing Project”.

Another manuscript is in preparation that utilizes the literature review on CRM developed in Summer 2022 and examines the evaluation results from a RNEGA CRM training delivered in December 2021. The manuscript will be submitted to the *Journal of the Georgia Public Health Association* and is entitled: “Community Resiliency Model Training as a Tool for Building Public Health: Evidence from a Local Georgia Training Opportunity”



CRM
Capacity
Building

The three research activities listed above, spearheaded by Dr. Adams’ team, work in tandem with our evaluation plan, using data collected from the region to expand and strengthen future training opportunities with CRM. As an extension of this work, Dr. Adams hopes to connect with the Center for Interrelational Science and Pediatrics to strengthen the dataset and expand opportunities for data collection related to the study.

INSPIRED ACTION: ADAPTING THE COMMUNITY RESILIENCY MODEL FOR MENTORING

Building on the prior research and literature reviews conducted in 2022, the Resilient Northeast Georgia coalition has continued to expand and adapt resources related to the Community Resiliency Model as a key grant deliverable of providing trainings. For the coalition's DECAL Community Transformation Grant, in partnership with the Clarke County Mentor Program and the Athens Wellbeing Project, Resilient Northeast Georgia has adapted the information learned on the sector-specific literature review conducted in 2022 to create additional resources and activities for the mentors currently involved in the grant pilot program. Sampled below, the full resource guide seeks to provide situationally appropriate CRM skills suggestions and information for the mentor cohort to use in their weekly interactions with their mentee. The information from the Community Resiliency Model has been adapted to better fit the social-emotional level of the mentees receiving the training and its development was heavily informed by the previous literature review.

Tips for Using Community Resiliency Model Skills



<p>Start with a check-in. Where is your mentee showing up in their Resilient Zone today?</p> <p>When we are in our Resilient Zone, or "OK" Zone, we have the best capacity for flexibility, adaptability, and resiliency in mind, body, and spirit. We can get bumped out of our "OK" Zone by normal events during the day, leading us to get stuck in our High Zone or Low Zone.</p> <p>The goal of using CRM skills is to get back into our Resilient Zones and widen our capacity to be ok when we feel bumped out of our zone.</p> <p>Try asking your mentee to identify their current zone at the beginning of your time together.</p>	
<p>The Resilient Zone – The "OK" Zone</p>	
<p>Practice tracking and talking about sensations with your mentee.</p> <p>Remember, tracking is the foundation of CRM! When we track, we bring our attention to the things we can feel and sense within our bodies. You can practice this skill with your mentee using the Resilient Zone diagram or the body map.</p> <p>The important thing is asking them to identify where they notice feelings or sensations inside.</p>	<p>Using a grounding exercise to bring awareness to the physical environment.</p> <p>Grounding is rooted in our ability to feel gravitational security in the present physical space. When working with a mentee who is bumped out of their Resilient Zone, it can be helpful to practice grounding to bring them back.</p> <p>You can use a chair, the floor, the wall, or an object to lead a grounding exercise. Ask them to notice the parts of their body in contact with the surface and how it feels.</p>
<p>Ask your mentee about a resource, then help make a version of it.</p> <p>Resources are the people, places, things, memories, animals, or ideas that help us feel comfort, peace, strength, or joy in times of stress. We can access a resource by talking about it, thinking about it, or creating a version to remind ourselves about it.</p> <p>Ask your mentee about a resource in their life, then ask questions to learn more about it. Allow your mentee to draw, create, or write about their resource as you talk.</p>	
	<p>Play a round of Help Now! Bingo to help notice what's around.</p> <p>Help Now! Bingo can be helpful for helping people who have been bumped out get back into their Resilient Zone. When your mentee is feeling bumped out, you can use the suggestions on the card to help them notice the environment around them and activate other feelings beyond what's stressing them out. As you play, remember to practice tracking by asking them to tell you what sensations they feel while playing.</p>
<p>Incorporate opportunities for movement with a gesturing practice.</p> <p>Gesturing means moving the body or the limbs to express or emphasize an idea, sentiment, or attitude. If you notice that your mentee might be more active during your time together, you can incorporate opportunities for movement as a CRM skill into your time together to help redirect and utilize their tendencies into a CRM practice. Create a dance, special handshake, or movement that you can do together to express feelings.</p>	

Remember: CRM Skills are always invitation! Invite your mentee to participate and give them choices!

Conversational CRM



You can use CRM skills just by talking! If you're struggling with activities that include the skills, try a conversation prompt with your mentee, helping them track what they're feeling as they answer your questions.

<p>1</p> <p>Conversational Tracking</p> <p>"I'm wondering if you are noticing any feelings inside that feel pleasant or good right now. Can you tell me one place in your body that feels really pleasant?"</p> <p>"When you think about that situation/emotion, where do you feel that in your body?"</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Conversational Resourcing</p> <p>"I'm wondering if we can talk about one thing in your life that makes you feel better. When you think about that thing, do you notice any differences inside?"</p> <p>"I noticed you take a deeper breath and saw your shoulders relax when you talked about your resource. Can you tell me more?"</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Conversational Grounding</p> <p>While you're sitting in your chair/against the wall/on the floor, where do you notice that feeling in your body?</p> <p>Does it feel pleasant, unpleasant, or neutral?</p> <p>Is that position comfortable, or would you like to try a new place/position that might feel better?</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Conversational Help Now!</p> <p>You seem like you might be out of your OK Zone right now. When I start feeling like that, it helps me to go for a walk/push against the wall/drink water/notice a color or shape around me/think of my favorite memory/count backwards from 20/play this game of Bingo. Would you like to do that with me now to see if it helps you?</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Identifying a New Resource</p> <p>"Who or what helps you get through hard times? Who or what makes you feel strong?"</p> <p>"Do you have a favorite friend/pet/toy?"</p> <p>"Can you remember a moment when your teachers/friend/family member was there to help you through a difficult time?"</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Expanding a Resource</p> <p>That sounds like a great resource! Is there:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a favorite food you like to eat when you're there that you don't get normally? • a special person you get to see there? • a certain smell you associate with getting to see that place/person? • something special you do together there?

**SECTION 4:
NEW
PARTNERSHIPS,
NEW
DIRECTIONS**



INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS: COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION GRANT

In 2023, the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) awarded statewide grantees funding to support the creation of programming focused on improving outcomes for youth between the ages of 0 and 8. As a grantee, the Athens Area Community Foundation, in partnership with the Athens Wellbeing Project and the Clarke County Mentor Program, was awarded funding to pursue a trauma-informed mentoring program pilot.

Designed to connect 1st and 2nd grade students in Athens-Clarke County to trauma-informed mentors, the pilot trained a cohort of UGA undergraduate psychology students in the Community Resiliency Model, a wellness-based approach to overcoming adversity based in the science of the nervous system. Trained UGA mentors are paired with local elementary school students for one-on-one mentoring sessions using the CRM skills learned in the pilot. Over the course of the grant cycle, this initiative aims to provide local students and their families access to easy-to-use and age-appropriate resiliency skills that can be practiced at home or at school as an emotional and behavioral management tool.

This initiative comes alongside the Resilient Northeast Georgia grant program to expand access to resources and trainings.

GRANT PARTNERS

- Athens Area Community Foundation
- Athens Wellbeing Project
- Clarke County Mentor Program
- University of Georgia Psychology Department
- Clarke County School District

MENTEE COHORT

The 44-member cohort of 1st and 2nd graders involved represents a sample of the elementary schools in Athens-Clarke County, based on referrals from school counselors to the program.

MENTOR COHORT

The paired mentor cohort is comprised of 41 current UGA undergraduate psychology students and 3 community mentors who have been matched by the Clarke County Mentor Program.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Improve student behavioral outcomes
- Provide wrap-around access to resiliency skills
- Build the capacity of the Clarke County Mentor Program to serve more students over time

WHAT IS FUNDED:



Mentor Matching

Matching and support services for all mentors in the cohort once paired with their mentee.



CRM Training

Training for mentors, community, teachers and school staff, and parents/caregivers.



Training Capacity

Train-the-trainer support for school staff and early care workforce.



Mentoring Access

Support for Clarke County Mentor Program to expand its capacity.

BRINGING IN

\$125K

TO SUPPORT TRAUMA-INFORMED MENTORING

TRAINING

400

COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN CRM

SPANNING

18

MONTHS OF PROGRAMMING

CLARKE COUNTY SCHOOLS

PROGRESS TO DATE

Mentors Trained and Matched

The cohort of undergraduate UGA Psychology students have been trained to become CRM guides and have been matched with 1st and 2nd grade students.

Additional Mentees Identified

The Clarke County Mentor Program was able to expand their post-pandemic pool of 1st and 2nd grade students from around the district.

Trauma-Informed Mentoring Time

The mentor-mentee pairings have had several months of meetings since the initial CRM workshop occurred this year.

INSPIRED ACTIONS: WHAT COMES NEXT?

As more mentors, community members, school staff, and parents/caregivers undergo CRM trainings, the grant partners will be able to evaluate the efficacy of the model in this setting, gaining valuable insight into the practicality of expanding the pilot into other counties through the Resilient Northeast Georgia grant in future years. It is our hope that the data leads to continued use and expansion of the Community Resiliency Model in our region and beyond.



What is the COMMUNITY RESILIENCY MODEL?



The Community Resiliency Model (CRM) is a set of six wellness skills used to regulate the nervous system back to baseline functioning levels in times of stress or trauma. These skills allow users to become more aware of the sensations associated with particular stress responses, then teaches techniques to help reduce symptoms of dysregulation.

INSPIRED ACTION

Strengthening the Scaffolding of the Family Connection Region Five Partnership

THE PARTNERSHIP

Since 2021, Georgia Family Connection Region 5 has been a partner on this grant from the beginning of the second grant cycle, bringing full regional representation and participation in the coalition over the past two years.

BUILDING A PRESENCE

Under the leadership of the regional manager, the Resilient Northeast Georgia initiative was fully integrated into each county's annual operating plan. All counties work together with common language. The program manager is now present within all regional collaboratives

PARTNER INCENTIVES

To offset some of the added workload asked of Family Connection coordinators in being partners on this grant, the coalition began offering undesignated stipends to support the ongoing work of each collaborative actively engaged.

NEW: SEED GRANTS

In year 4, the coalition began offering seed grants to all Family Connection partners as a way to encourage increased leadership and capacity on county-wide initiatives and programming.

YEAR 4 SEED GRANT PROPOSALS

- CRM Training for Neighborhood Leaders
- Youth Mental Health First Aid schools
- Support annual back-to-school program
- Handle with Care implementation
- Creation of youth wellness and suicide prevention programming and trainings
- Mini-conference for Child Abuse Prevention Month in April 2024
- A teen-led program that combines mental wellbeing with CrossFit classes
- Funding for after-school wellness events
- Creating a Resilience Garden
- Connections Matter teen facilitator training
- Print collateral and website re-design
- Youth Crisis Intervention Training
- Darkness to Light Trainings
- CRM train-the-trainer funding

KEY OUTCOMES

1. Encourage Collaboration

Identify and leverage commonalities in interests, programming, and new initiatives to complete together.

2. Increase Capacity for Action

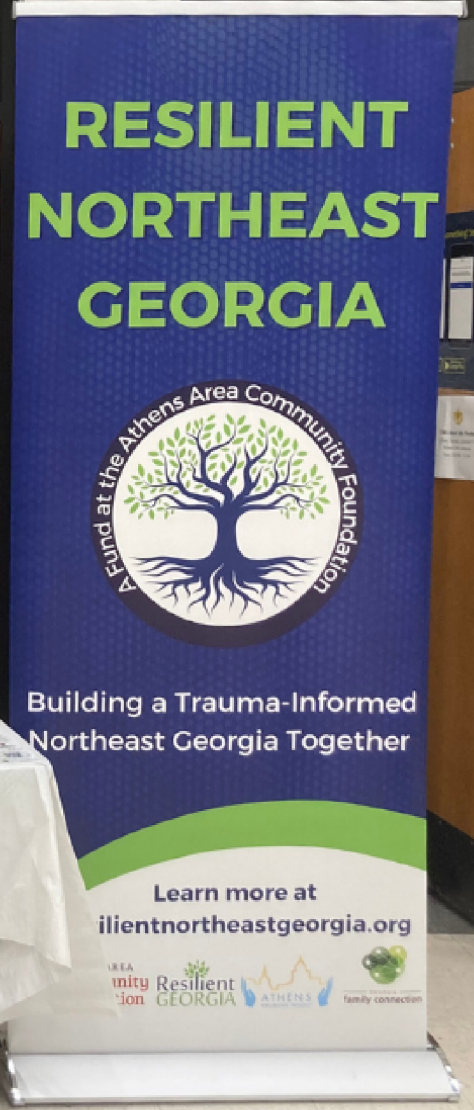
Provide funding opportunities, connection to resources, train-the-trainer opportunities, and awareness.

3. Set Up Coalition for Sustainability

Empower, encourage, and celebrate partner initiatives, achievements, leadership, and confidence in action.

Earlier this month, we asked 75 students at Carver Middle School “Who or what inspires you to be your best self?”

Here are their answers:



SPOT LIGHT

“The creativity and collaboration between the Athens Area Community Foundation and Georgia Family Connection Region 5 has increased trauma-informed resiliency in Walton County. Working through Resilient Northeast Georgia, we’ve been able to provide dozens of events to engage and inform youth and their families. This partnership has specifically supported the passion of the Walton Youth Advocacy Board, a group of 25 teens and young adults who took the resiliency ball and ran with it! They’ve served in a panel at the teen summit, successfully implemented a self-care/resiliency outreach in local middle and high schools, and hosted 7 family events aimed at trauma-informed care. There are plans for community resilience art/garden installations in downtown Monroe and Loganville High School for the 2023-24 school year. The leadership potential of young people is typically limited by their resources, and the Resilient Northeast Georgia fund has enabled us to do things we didn't know were possible in such a short time.”

-TISHIA FENN
WALTON YOUTH PROJECT ADVISOR **34**

INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS: TRUE GRIT- RESILIENCE IN FOOD BANKING



Left: Food Bank of Northeast Georgia Member Conference attendees. **Right:** Resilient Northeast Georgia Program Manager Meredith Lysaught delivering the CRM training.



In October 2023, the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia hosted its annual member conference in Jefferson, GA. The conference brought together representatives from the food bank's 211 distribution agencies, garnering a presence that spanned across all 14 counties served. At the conference, attendees had the opportunity to attend break-out sessions to learn more about food banking, distribution policies, and their role as a distribution agency.

This year's conference featured two introductory sessions of the Community Resiliency Model (CRM), focusing on the importance of trauma-informed care practices in personal and professional settings. Delivered by the Athens Area Community Foundation's program manager Meredith Lysaught, the sessions sought to teach attendees more about nervous system regulation, imbuing them with resiliency and self-care skills that could be applied in food banking situations. The members left the session with an improved awareness of trauma, access to tangible skills for everyday life, and connections to the Resilient Northeast Georgia coalition's network of resources and partners active in trauma-informed care.

Overall, the session reached a more diverse slate of attendees than previous CRM trainings. Attendees represented a range of rural communities and sectors that the Resilient Northeast Georgia coalition has struggled to reach in the past, opening the door for future collaborations and a stronger partnership with the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia.

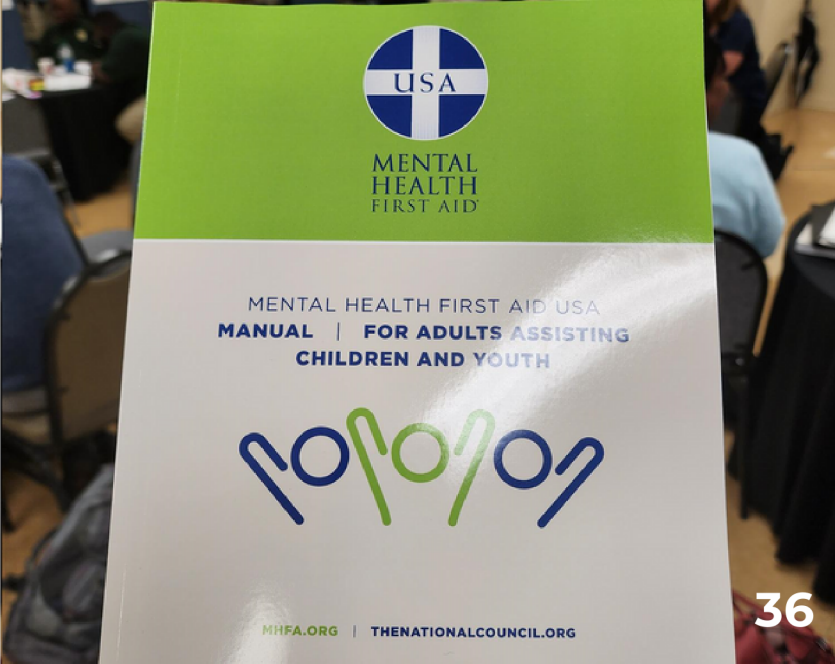
Innovative Partnerships: The Spencer Bradley Foundation for Mental Health

The Spencer Bradley Foundation for Mental Health supports families, communities, schools, and individuals with mental health awareness, education, and counseling opportunities.

The Foundation was established in memory of Spencer Bradley (pictured to the right with family), who lost his own mental health battle in 2022. Spencer's life was marked by an incredible compassion for others who shared their struggles with him. The Foundation continues Spencer's legacy through awareness and support of mental health programs for teens and young adults.

Since 2022, the Foundation has supported Youth Mental Health First Aid training opportunities for school staff and community members in Greene County, as well as a series of Out of the Darkness suicide prevention walk in local communities.

As a fund held at the Athens Area Community Foundation, the Spencer Bradley Foundation for Mental Health has connected with Resilient Northeast Georgia for connection to training opportunities in Greene County and beyond.



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



Meet our Regional Partners

Since partnering in October 2021, the coordinators of the regional Family Connection collaboratives have been an integral part of the Resilient Northeast Georgia coalition. As the lead implementing partners on the ground in each county, their collaboratives are on the forefront of planning and executing trainings and events around the region.

The coordinators and collaboratives also play a key role in guiding the coalition's direction, providing input through formal listening sessions and sharing their insights into community needs back as part of the planning process. Each county has implemented standard language around trauma-informed care into their annual operating plans, providing a regional baseline for the initiative as it plays out in each county.

The partnership with Family Connection in Region 5 has made the outcomes achieved in this grant cycle possible, opening the door to regional collaboration that is inclusive, innovative, and immersive for all partners. Their willingness to partner and openhandedness with sharing information, resources, and access to their communities has transformed the Resilient Northeast Georgia coalition immeasurably and for the better over the last two years.

From L to R: Velde Hardy, Tim Johnson, Laura Bertram, Laura Evans, Targie Folds, Meredith Lysaught, Dena Huff, Linda Foster, Sherry Deakin, April Moore, and Sonya Hope.

Not pictured:
Amanda Davis

PARTNERSHIP
BEGAN IN

2021

SINCE THEN:

12

COUNTIES
FULLY
ENGAGED IN
THE WORK

29

UNIQUE
TRAININGS
AND EVENTS
DELIVERED

1,665

NEW
PARTICIPANTS
REACHED BY
GRANT

4,988

CONTACT
HOURS
EARNED AT
EVENTS

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: COALITION IMPACT REFLECTIONS

"I've noticed that our initiative is building clout in our community. We are part of something bigger than just our Collaborative alone. Having a name as the Resilient Northeast Georgia coalition gives definition and substance to the work we have all done alone for so many years. Something about being a part of something bigger than we are individually, gives us purpose and renews our energy!"

Laura Evans

Community Partnership of Elbert County

"Being a part of this work has given me a common language that enables me to communicate with family members, the community, and service providers. I even find myself using CRM with my child."

Sherry Deakin

Madison Area Resource Team

Over the past two years, we have been able to provide new educational information about the impacts of trauma and training opportunities for our partners and communities. Through this partnership we have reached our partners, families and even the youth of our county. We are thankful for our partnership and for Meredith's leadership on the work we are doing with Resilient NE Georgia. We look forward to doing great things in the future and to our continued success because of the support of Resilient Northeast Georgia.

Dena Huff

The Partnership for Families, Children, and Youth

"The funds from Resilient Northeast Georgia have allowed us here in Oconee County to focus on crisis situations where we know children and families have experienced trauma. We are able to care for those in need."

Amanda Davis

Oconee Area Resource Council

The last few years have brought new challenges for families. However, we are blessed to have the hard work of those involved with the Resilient Northeast Georgia trauma project to bring us closer together and offering trauma support and trainings to our partners and collaborative groups.

April Moore

Oglethorpe County Family Connection

"Thanks to Resilient Northeast Georgia's leadership at the Athens Area Community Foundation, regional awareness and collaborative work toward being trauma-informed has increased extensively. Through this strengthened collaboration, we have achieved more awareness, training, and engagement at the regional, community, organizational, and individual level, including with our youth. We look forward to continuing this partnership."

Tim Johnson

Family Connection-Communities in Schools of Athens

"The leadership potential of young people is typically limited by their resources, and the Resilient Northeast Georgia fund has enabled us to do things we didn't know were possible in such a short time."

Tishia Fenn

Walton Youth Project



RESILIENT NORTHEAST GEORGIA

**A Fund at the Athens Area
Community Foundation**

It has been very rewarding to work alongside the Resilient Northeast Georgia coalition. Our community has been able to expand the number of persons who are trauma informed with trainings like Youth Mental Health First Aid and the Community Resiliency Model. This collaboration with Resilient Northeast Georgia is truly exciting. Together, we continue to provide the exposure and resources needed to increase awareness as we move forward with becoming a trauma-informed county.

Velde Hardy

Morgan County Family Connection

"Under the umbrella of Resilient Northeast Georgia, we've been able to move the needle for awareness and action with every training, summit, and resource brought to the region. To me, that's a dynamic legacy, and one we can continue to grow together!"

Meredith Lysaught

Athens Area Community Foundation

"The partnership with Resilient Northeast Georgia has totally changed our trajectory on becoming a trauma-informed and mental health educated community. The resources and support that has been provided to us has helped us become more educated and has encouraged our community leaders to come onboard. We have totally changed our focus moving forward. I think our community has only just begun in this vitally important work and I look forward to a strong partnership for many years to come. THANK YOU for all you do to support our county's work and to help us become trauma informed!"

Linda Foster

Jackson County Family Connection

We have a new appreciation for the resiliency of our students and realize the importance of a non-judgmental relationship. It is critical to practice self-care so that we are in the best position to give to our community what they need. None of this would have been possible without the partnership between Athens Area Community Foundation, Resilient Northeast Georgia and Georgia Family Connection Region 5. Our community has learned that it takes a village to produce change. We have enjoyed every training and looking forward to our continued growth together, one layer at a time. We are headed in the right direction and looking forward to making the community more aware!

Targie Folds

Greene and Jasper County Family Connection

"The successes we are experiencing is due to our leadership team creating an environment conducive to everyone achieving their individual and collective goals without the risk of the dreaded mission drift. This is a TRUE team approach and we are better together! "

Sonya Hope

Georgia Family Connection Region 5 Manager

We now have language about trauma and its effects. It has helped bring trauma to community conversations, and we are honored and excited to continue this partnership. Trauma is now included on meeting agendas and building resilient families is our guiding principle.

Laura Bertram

Newton County Family Connection

CELEBRATING A KEY PARTNER: TIM JOHNSON



“We are confronted by insurmountable opportunities.”

As we sat down for our first official meeting as the fledgling Resilient Northeast Georgia coalition, this is the very first thing Tim Johnson said to the group of us present. To this day, it's still posted on the wall by my desk as a reminder of where we started this work. I've Googled this phrase countless times since then and while it's been attributed to many sources, I still think of it as a Tim Johnson Original.

Tim is the Executive Director of Family Connection- Communities in Schools of Athens (FC-CIS), at least for a few more months, when he plans to retire from the position he's originated since 1991. As the founding director of FC-CIS, which was then known as Community Connections, Tim has been central to bringing many initiatives to Athens, including the 2-1-1 service, Neighborhood Leaders program, and the Early Head Start Program, to name just a few of the countless attributions on which he can hang his hat. He was also one of the original members of the Partners for a Prosperous Athens coalition, an initiative which led to the creation of the Athens Area Community Foundation in 2008. To say that Tim is integral to the work of this grant is an understatement.

Tim brings a wealth of knowledge in community organizing, cross-systems collaboration, and just plain wisdom to every table and is a significant part of what Resilient Northeast Georgia has grown into in the years since that first meeting. His retirement in June 2024 will be a momentous yet bittersweet occasion for all who have had the pleasure to work with him and know him. Knowing his work ethic, he will continue to tackle those insurmountable opportunities in retirement, but he sure will be missed around here! **Congratulations, Tim!! It's been a privilege to do this work with you!**

- Meredith Lysaught



RESILIENT NORTHEAST GEORGIA

A Fund at the Athens Area Community Foundation

Resilient Northeast Georgia is a special project fund at the Athens Area Community Foundation. Thank you to all the partners whose support and partnership makes the work of this coalition possible!

Statewide Leadership



THE PITTULLOCH FOUNDATION

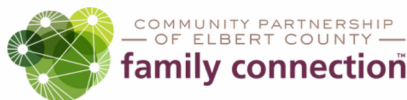
Coalition Leadership



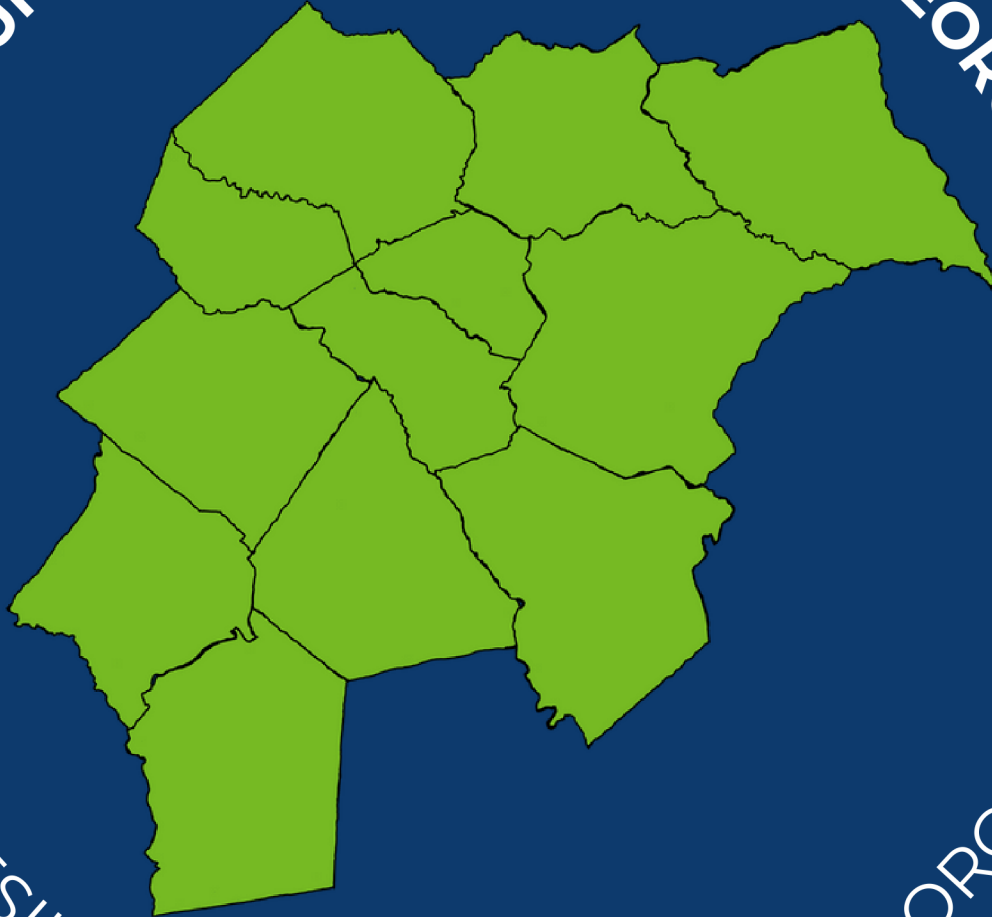
GEORGIA
family connection
PARTNERSHIP



Lead Implementing Partners



BUILDING A TRAUMA-INFORMED NORTHEAST GEORGIA TOGETHER



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