

Georgia Planning Memorial Foundation 2010 Program

The Georgia Planning Memorial Foundation is focusing on two programs for financial assistance to be offered through the Denise Abboud Fund in 2010, with the intent of expending all of the money generously provided by the Foundation's Auction at the last GPA Fall Conference.

GPA Fall Conference. One program is to cover or defray the travel costs of recipients to attend the GPA Fall Conference this year. Additionally, some registration costs for GPA members may be defrayed by the Georgia Planning Association.

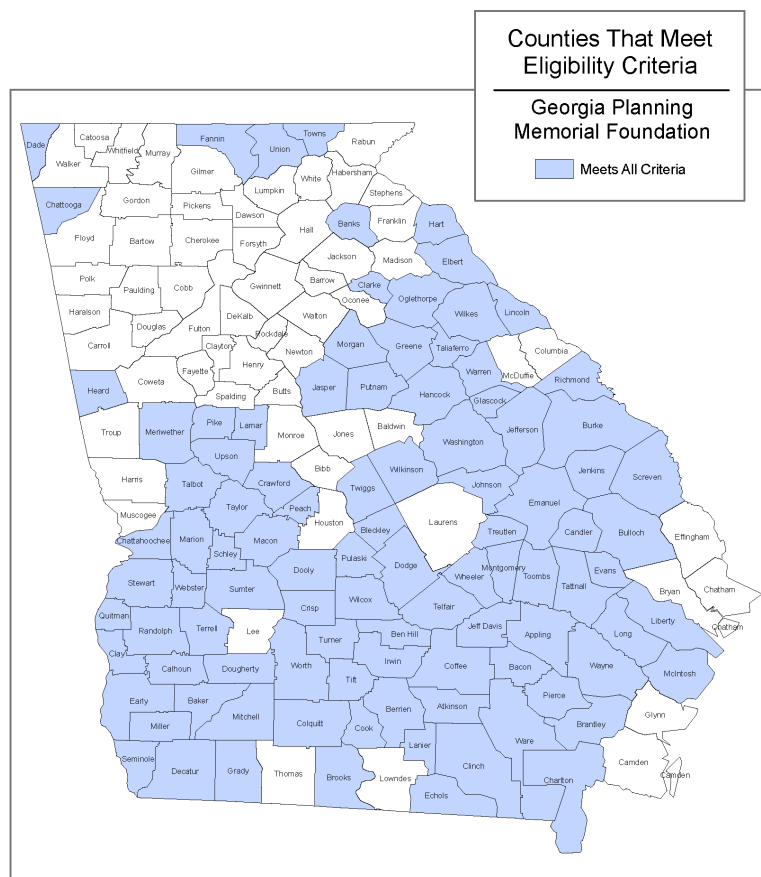
Community Planning Institute. New for 2010, the Foundation is offering \$100 grants to reduce the registration fee for eligible recipients to attend a CPI course. The CPI is offered three times a year at locations around the state, and is coordinated by DCA. For more information on a CPI course near your community and the available dates, contact DCA.

The specific purpose of the Denise Abboud Fund is to help with the education and ongoing professional development of those who work in or serve rural or poorer Georgia communities that would otherwise not be able to obtain such opportunities. Those qualified to receive assistance from the Fund are planners, planning commissioners and other persons in similar official roles, who work in or serve such cities and counties.

The Foundation adopted criteria to define eligible communities consistent with the Fund's specific purpose. Across Georgia, some 99 counties, and all of the cities within those counties, meet the eligibility criteria to apply for assistance from the Fund.

In addition, the Foundation adopted criteria to guide the selection process among requests received from recipient localities. The criteria examine such factors as the extent to which the city or county meets the eligibility criteria, the need for assistance expressed by the locality, and the potential for lasting beneficial results.

More information on the eligibility and selection criteria and on the Georgia Planning Memorial Foundation itself is available under the Foundation's page on the GPA web site, along with application forms for the two grant programs.





The **Denise Abboud Memorial Fund** was created to honor Denise's ideals and contributions to the planning profession during her life. The outpouring of love for Denise from friends and colleagues across the state following her tragic and sudden death, and the donations spontaneously offered to establish a lasting memorial to her work and legacy, resulted in creation of the Fund by the GPA Board.

The Denise Abboud Fund is dedicated to helping communities that otherwise could not afford it expand the skills and knowledge of their professional and citizen planners. This is particularly something Denise would have been interested in pursuing – she strongly supported GPA reaching out to include everyone in its programs and offerings, and she made sure that practical, useful programs were always included in the many conferences she put together as GPA Vice President.

The Denise Abboud Fund is now included within the umbrella of the Georgia Planning Memorial Foundation, established in 2008 as a 501(c)(3) corporation through the efforts of GPA and the pro bono assistance of David Kirk and his associates at Troutman Sanders.