



www.swgau.org

SOUTHWEST GEORGIA UNITED

Southwest Georgia United is a nonprofit community development financial institution (CDFI) located in Cordele, Georgia. Southwest GA United began in 1994 through the federal Empowerment Zone program, with a mission of reducing poverty and improving quality of life in rural Georgia. USDA recognized Southwest GA United for operating one of the most successful rural Empowerment Zones in the nation. Growing its assets from less than \$250,000 in 1999 to more than \$12 million today, Southwest GA United serves both rural and urban communities throughout Georgia.

By stressing both opportunity for all residents and the common community heritage as the links that bind the past with the future, Southwest GA United helps individuals, organizations, and communities set the stage for sustainable growth and development while protecting the natural, cultural, and historic character of the area.

Success Story – Gillespie Selden Institute, Cordele, GA

With financing from Southwest GA United, the historic Gillespie Selden Institute continues to serve the economically-challenged Black population in the area of Cordele, which has been a persistent poverty county in Georgia for more than twenty years. The education facility started in 1902 when it was determined that the Cordele area needed to provide education for Blacks. Today, with financing from Southwest GA United, the ongoing daycare operation serves forty to fifty students, with Southwest GA United's financing helping to provide jobs for sixteen employees.

Southwest GA United feels proud to be part of the learning center and serve children in the Cordele area.

Financial and Social Impact

- \$12 million in total assets, with net assets of \$5.8 million in 2019, up from \$231,000 in 1999
- More than \$30 million in grant funds and more than \$10 million in loan funds provided to community development, housing improvement, and small business support

Contact

123 South 7th Street
Cordele, Georgia 31015

Contact: Cornelia Griffin

P: 229.273.8582 ext. 290

E: cornelia.griffin@swgau.org

May 2020

