



Jessica Worthington

With more than 15 years of experience in community, downtown, and economic development, Jessica Worthington specializes in building strong partnerships, communicating with purpose, and advancing programs that improve the quality of life across Georgia communities.

Jessica serves as the Director of the Office of Community Housing Development at the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, where she leads strategic initiatives focused on housing access and development, environmental review and federal compliance, disaster recovery, and community resilience. As the agency's Housing Recovery Support Function (RSF) Coordinator, Jessica helps bridge the agency's housing programs with external partners and resources to strengthen coordination and accelerate recovery in the aftermath of disasters.

Jessica holds a Master of Public Health with a concentration in Disaster Management from Tulane University, where her work in crisis communication was recently featured in *Risk Communication in Public Health Emergencies: Practical Guidance Rooted in Theory* (Cambridge University Press, 2025). A certified Economic Development Finance Professional and John Maxwell 5 Levels of Leadership instructor, she brings a cross-sector lens to her work—bridging housing, health, and leadership for long-term community impact.