

Housing demographic and needs Millen/Jenkins county

One-Page Brief: Housing Needs in Jenkins County/Millen, Georgia and MARS CDC's Role

Jenkins County and the City of Millen, Georgia are rural communities with significant housing and economic development needs. With an estimated population of approximately 8,836 residents, Jenkins County includes families, seniors, and low-to-moderate income households who may face barriers to safe, stable, and affordable housing. The county's median household income is approximately \$44,389, while about 28.8% of residents live in poverty, creating challenges for families seeking quality rental housing, homeownership opportunities, home repairs, and long-term housing stability. The community also has a meaningful senior population, with about 18.1% of residents age 65 or older, making housing preservation, accessibility, and aging-in-place support important priorities.

MARS Community Development Corporation (MARS CDC) seeks to support Jenkins County and Millen by aligning its housing and community development work with Georgia's broader housing initiatives, including the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. The Georgia Initiative for Community Housing provides participating communities with a three-year program focused on collaboration, technical assistance, training, facilitation, networking, and the development of locally driven housing and revitalization strategies. Through this model, communities identify housing needs, develop solutions, learn best practices, create a community housing plan, and begin implementation of an action plan.

With this initiative in mind, MARS CDC will work to support local housing goals by helping connect residents, community leaders, nonprofit partners, public agencies, and other stakeholders around practical solutions for housing stability and neighborhood revitalization. MARS CDC's role may include outreach and education, housing resource coordination, support for rehabilitation and preservation efforts, assistance with identifying housing gaps, and partnership development to help advance affordable housing opportunities. This approach is especially important in rural communities where limited housing options, aging housing stock, infrastructure needs, and financial barriers can affect the quality of life for residents.

By working in alignment with Georgia's housing initiative framework, MARS CDC aims to help Jenkins County and Millen strengthen families, stabilize neighborhoods, and promote long-term community growth. The goal is to support locally driven housing strategies that improve access to safe and affordable housing, preserve existing homes, encourage responsible revitalization, and create stronger pathways to economic opportunity. Through collaboration, planning, and implementation support, MARS CDC is committed to contributing to a healthier, more resilient, and more sustainable future for Jenkins County and the City of Millen.