

March 25, 2024

Senator Raphael Warnock
Russell Senate Office Building, Suite 416
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Warnock:

The Douglas County Chamber, a coalition of community stakeholders and businesses in Douglasville and Douglas County, are writing in support of Goodwill of North Georgia's request for congressionally directed spending to expand critically needed workforce development services in Douglasville and the surrounding communities. Access to workforce development training programs is all too often determined by where an individual lives. This new Goodwill Career Center will be located in an area that has not had a lot of redevelopment. The Center will provide the short-term credential-based skills training programs—a shortfall that currently hurts both our region's job seekers and employers.

As a unified, collaborative representation of our community, we believe that a Goodwill Career Center in Douglasville will provide the career and skilled based opportunities that are currently not accessible to job-seekers, or are missing in Douglas. Fostering partnerships between Goodwill of North Georgia, West Georgia Technical College, and others will provide the access and opportunity to our residents and create opportunities for upskilling our current working and assisting those looking to come into the workforce of today and the future.

The Douglasville Goodwill Career Center will not just create opportunities for large employers seeking to hire locally, but also support the small business community. By offering short-term credential-based skills training, this creates an opportunity to cultivate a skilled workforce and ultimately elevate the economy in Douglas. This letter serves as a representation that no matter the size of the business, our community truly supports workforce development and the Douglasville Goodwill Career Center because we are a community where partnerships and business don't just exist, they THRIVE.

Goodwill of North Georgia's proposed expansion of workforce development training aims to narrow the gap of services and opportunities for more than 2,500 job seekers a year in the Douglasville region. Goodwill career centers serve as community-based hubs providing employment resources and coaching at no cost to the public. The centers also partner directly with local companies and industry groups to help them meet their workforce needs and to give them direct access to potential employees.

Workforce development training and resources are especially important for individuals with barriers to employment, such as people with disabilities, opportunity youth, and those with prior involvement in the justice system. Goodwill's formula of individualized coaching, soft skills instruction, access to credential-based skills training in high-demand jobs, and wraparound supportive services is proven to help job seekers overcome employment barriers and succeed in the workplace.

For these reasons, we fully support Goodwill of North Georgia's proposal for CDS funding and look forward to working with them. This project not only gives Georgians access to valuable workforce development opportunities, but it also will have a meaningful and sustainable impact for communities and businesses across the state.

Sincerely,



Sara Ray
Douglas County Chamber
President and CEO

Douglas County Chamber Board & Stakeholders



Douglas County Chamber Goodwill Career Center Supporters

