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**Subject:** NEW 8/29 OFFERING of 'Successfully Negotiating SDS Agreements' Class

Good morning, Georgia County Officials, and Happy Friday!

This e-mail is being sent to all BOC Chairs, Commissioners, Sole Commissioners, Clerks, and Managers/Administrators. The purpose is to announce a new offering of the ACCG Lifelong Learning Academy class, ***Successfully Negotiating Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) Agreements*** class, on **Tuesday, August 29, 2017**, in **Appling County**.

Several weeks ago, and based on a list of due dates for each county's next mandated SDS Agreement renewal, ACCG reached out directly to approximately 50 counties who had not yet had any participants in one of the six previous offerings of this class, to offer those county officials two offerings of the class. One of the offerings filled up and was SOLD OUT in less than one week's time. The second offering at the location in Appling County on August 29 has already filled about half of the available seats, but there are still 20-25 spots available for this class. Therefore, as of today, we are opening this hugely popular class to all county officials in Georgia, elected and appointed, until all seats are filled.

To date, ACCG has delivered this class to approximately 200 county official participants and evaluations from those who have participated demonstrate feedback that is overwhelmingly positive ... I might even say off-the-charts! A course description for the class is included here:

*Since 1999, every county and city in Georgia has been required by state law to be included in a locally negotiated service delivery strategy (SDS) agreement. The purpose of this agreement is to identify the geographic areas where local services are to be provided by each county and the city governments located in each county. These agreements must specify the mechanisms for implementing services and the revenue sources used in funding them. Because the law requires these agreements to adapt to changing circumstances including comprehensive plan updates, many counties will be engaged in renegotiating service delivery agreements in the next few years. Service Delivery Strategy renegotiation can be a contentious and complex process with long-term implications and thus demands careful attention by county officials and staff. This course will provide participants with information outlining what is required and assist commissioners with appreciating the impact of their negotiations on service delivery, the imposition of taxes and fees on constituents county-wide and in the unincorporated areas, relationships with city governments, and developing short and long term strategies for successful negotiations.*

One thing that we, as ACCG staff, have discovered over the past year is that a county receives maximum value and maximum return on investment when it sends a combination, elected/appointed staff, small group (i.e., 1-3 commissioners, manager/administrator, finance director, clerk, etc.) to attend and participate in this highly interactive class. Not only is there a lot of information shared with the group by the instructors, but there are opportunities for folks to "get their hands on the clay"; or in other words, to wrestle with and devise solutions to real-world SDS issues and problems. As an added benefit, this class carries a full 6 hours of credit in the ACCG Lifelong Learning Academy and will provide all participants with those credits as a PRIMARY class in the 'Intergovernmental Relations' specialty track.

The August 29 offering of the 'SDS Agreements' class will take place at the BOC chambers at the Appling County Courthouse Annex in Baxley. The street address for the facility is: 69 Tippins Street, Baxley, GA 31513. This class is accompanied by the customary \$235 registration fee, which includes both a light breakfast and a lunch. A brief schedule for the class is as follows:

8:00 a.m. - Registration and Breakfast

9:00 a.m. - Class Begins

12:00 noon - Lunch

4:00 p.m. - Class Adjourns

Anyone who is interested in participating in this awesome educational opportunity should contact his/her County Clerk, or the person in your office who customarily handles registration for ACCG events. Registration and payment will be handled through the ACCG database and event registration system, just as for all other ACCG classes and events.

If you have any questions about this class or the information in this e-mail, please contact me directly at [JChristie@ACCG.org](mailto:JChristie@ACCG.org). We look forward to seeing a full house in Baxley/Appling County on Tuesday, Aug. 29<sup>th</sup>!

***Jeff***

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