



**2013 Annual Awards Entry Form**  
(Complete one for each entry.)

**Entry Name** Great Promise Partnership, Inc.

Fill out the entry name *exactly* as you want it listed in the awards program.

**Georgia Department of Community Affairs/Georgia Housing and Finance**

**HFA Authority**

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Entry form with description, check(s), and visual aids (optional) must be received by NCSHA by **Monday, July 1, 2013.**

Use this header on the upper right corner of each page.

HFA: Georgia Department of Community Affairs/Georgia Housing and Finance Authority

Entry Name: Great Promise Partnership, Inc.

Communications	Homeownership	Legislative Advocacy	Management Innovation
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Report <input type="checkbox"/> Promotional Materials and Newsletters <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Media	<input type="checkbox"/> Empowering New Buyers <input type="checkbox"/> Home Improvement and Rehabilitation <input type="checkbox"/> Encouraging New Production	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Advocacy <input type="checkbox"/> State Advocacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial <input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources <input type="checkbox"/> Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Technology
Rental Housing	Special Needs Housing	Special Achievement	Are you providing visual aids?
<input type="checkbox"/> Multifamily Management <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation and Rehabilitation <input type="checkbox"/> Encouraging New Production	<input type="checkbox"/> Combating Homelessness <input type="checkbox"/> Housing for Persons with Special Needs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Special Achievement	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

**Great Promise Partnership™** (GPP) is a program designed cooperatively by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), the Fanning Institute, 4-H, and numerous public and private sector leaders, and modeled on the successful *12 for Life™* program at Southwire Company in Carrollton, Georgia. Through this program, at-risk students receive extra support to help them stay in school and graduate. Students 16 years old or older who are at risk of not graduating are provided opportunities for on-the-job training, as well as mentoring and career coaching. Younger students receive mentoring and prepare for college and career while working on leadership skills and community service projects. *Great Promise Partnership™* gives students a reason to stay in school and complete their education by showing them that they have a place in Georgia's economic future.

Education remains the largest factor in both personal success and the state's future attractiveness as a business location. Through DCA's extensive work in local communities, including Georgia's 91 counties of persistent poverty, and through the Governor's Competitiveness Initiative regional forums, educational attainment and the reduction of the drop-out rate ranks at the top of every wish list for governments, companies, and families alike. The attainment of a high school diploma followed by further education or a career path is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty that so many children experience.

*Great Promise Partnership™* brings together both public and private resources in a non-profit organization in support of those students most likely to drop-out, beginning in middle school and continuing through high school. As students reach 16 years old, many are offered an opportunity for part-time work in GPP's cooperative work program titled *12 for Life™ Workplace*. Students spend part of the day at their regular school assignment and part of the day at a job location. While at work students have a minimum of two hours each week of non-work activities such as tutoring, mentoring, professional skills training and group projects, including a service-learning project. The remainder of the work week is spent developing skills on the job and exploring career options and pathways. Jobs for GPP students are substantive entry level jobs with real outcomes and evaluations. Raises are based on academic progress at school, attendance at both work and school, and supervisor reports from the job.

At-risk students in middle school and ninth grade participate in *Great Promise Partnership Community* which utilizes research from the field of positive youth development as tested and applied by 4-H, and leadership development programming by the UGA Fanning Institute. GPP focuses on keeping students interested and involved in their education, through investigating college and career paths, and involving them with adults in local communities who will mentor and support the youth through a community service project. Leadership development will be accomplished by involvement in positive youth development programming such as 4-H, and with established local community partners.

All GPP students also participate in a Leadership Adventure Weekend where students get away from their usual environments and delve into goal setting, career and college investigation, leadership skills, while having fun with other GPP students from across the state.

A network of statewide recognized positional and reputational leaders supported Great Promise Partnership™ during planning and implementation, and continues to have input during expansion and evolution of the program. Best practices have been incorporated in the development of a program with the greatest possibility of early adoption, replication and student success. Joining the *12 for Life™* programs at Southwire and the Department of Corrections, students from Cross Keys HS began working at DCA in January 2012 in a pilot partnership with DeKalb County Schools. Pilots of *GPP Community* launched in Coffee, Putnam and Clarke counties in the 2011-2012 school years and expanded to Union and Chattooga high schools in 2012-13.

New GPP *12 for Life™ Workplace* programs were started for the 2012-13 school year at the Technical College System of Georgia, Georgia Student Finance Foundation, the City of Atlanta, The HON Company, and the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice. Of the 101 seniors in GPP during the 2012-13 school year, 89% of these at-risk students graduated, and of those graduates, 79% are going on to post-secondary education, 7% to the military and 11% straight into the workforce.

*Great Promise Partnership's* goal is to have the program available for Georgia's at-risk students in every region of the state within five years. Programs are currently in development in Haralson, Polk, Whitfield, Walton, Clarke, DeKalb, Baldwin, Coweta, Jackson, Rockdale, and Hall counties, as well as in the cities of Atlanta, Warner Robins, Jefferson, Savannah, Macon and Valdosta. Companies partnering with GPP include Home Depot, Flint Energies, American

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Yazaki, Marel Stork, Porche of America, Buehler Yarns, Beaulieu, Carmichael's, Mike Cash, HON Company, Shaw Industries, Georgia Power, AT&T and Southwire Company.