**Americus Housing Authority Building Façade and Expansion Design**

**Participants:**
- **Sumter Archway Professional:** Barbara Grogan
- **Community Members:** Cal Anderson, CEO, Housing Authority of Americus
  Housing Authority of Americus Board Members (5)
- **UGA Archway Partnership:** Mario Cambardella, CED Graduate Student

The Housing Authority of Americus is currently in a position to consider façade rehabilitation and expansion of housing units located on North Jackson Street and Reddick Drive. The existing conditions of the units include flat facades, limited porch space, energy efficiency loss, and limited access to food. The focuses of the project were an expansion to each unit of approximately 100 square feet, as well as landscape considerations. There are typically three to four units per building, and a total of 50 buildings in all.

The final product included expansions to each unit, built according to the current floor plan of each unit and incorporating access through current openings such as windows. The expansions included nooks in bedroom areas and vestibules. By expanding the building structure, the porch/patio areas were adjusted to include ramps as needed and cisterns to be used in gardening and plant areas. Additionally, skylights were incorporated into the designs, as well as solar panels which would be beneficial to the Housing Authority as well as the tenant.

Security of tenants is a concept embraced by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the concept was repeated within the designs proposed. These include energy security with the solar panels, water security with the cisterns, and food security by the inclusion of front yard gardens for the units.

The final designs were shared and well received by the Housing Authority of Americus board members and staff, and they hope to move forward with implementation of the elements as funding allows.