



## GEORGIA MASS TIMBER ACCELERATOR

# 2025 PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**SUBMISSIONS DUE JUNE 20, 2025**



GEORGIA FORESTRY  
FOUNDATION



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## GEORGIA MASS TIMBER ACCELERATOR

# Catalyzing Efficient, Sustainable Construction Across Georgia

The Georgia Mass Timber Accelerator is a competitive grant and technical assistance program designed to help development teams assess and integrate structural mass timber systems into early-stage projects. Backed by the Georgia Forestry Foundation (GFF), USDA Forest Service, the Softwood Lumber Board, and other partners, the Accelerator aims to jumpstart sustainable development across the state—one mass timber building at a time.

### PROGRAM BASICS:

The 2025 program will select a maximum of four (4) private development projects to receive:

- » \$25,000 grant funding to offset early planning and design costs (awarded upon completion).
- » Technical design and construction contractor support from WoodWorks, the national leader in timber innovation.
- » Preliminary cost-benefit analysis of mass timber vs. traditional construction.
- » Optional carbon accounting to quantify your project's environmental impact using the WoodWorks Carbon Calculator.

Project teams will provide a final case study / report to inform future projects in Georgia. **Preference will be given to projects using regionally sourced Southern Yellow Pine.**

### WHY MASS TIMBER? WHY GEORGIA?

- » **Sustainability:** Swapping steel and concrete for mass timber cuts embodied carbon by up to 60%.
- » **Speed & Savings:** Off-site fabrication slashes construction time and cost—by 20-30% per square foot on select office builds.
- » **Beauty & Biophilia:** Exposed wood interiors offer both aesthetic appeal and wellness benefits.
- » **Safety:** Wood buildings are designed to meet the same level of fire performance as buildings made from alternative materials.
- » **Supply:** Georgia is the #1 forestry state with over 22 million acres of working forests and more trees growing than being harvested—by 48%.

### APPLICATION & CONTACT INFORMATION:

Applications open May 1, 2025, and close June 20, 2025.

- » **APPLY ONLINE:** [seedlingstosolutions.org/the-accelerator](https://seedlingstosolutions.org/the-accelerator)
- » **QUESTIONS:** Gloria Camacho, GFF Director of Programs & Engagement, [glo@gfagrow.org](mailto:glo@gfagrow.org)



# Program Structure & Key Components

Selected development teams will receive a \$25,000 grant (awarded upon completion) and technical assistance to explore the integration of structural mass timber into early-stage projects. Participation includes structured engagements with WoodWorks, GFF, and program partners over the course of the year.

## **ACCELERATOR COMPONENTS:**

- 1. Project Kickoff Meeting (Virtual, Business Hours):** All project teams will participate in a kickoff meeting with their full design/construction team, WoodWorks, GFF, and program partners. This session will:
  - » Define program expectations and collaboration structure
  - » Provide mass timber education (product options, code compliance, early design considerations)
  - » Review cost estimating tools and service providers
- 2. Interim Charrette Event (In-Person / Potential Evening):** Around months 4-5, teams will join a collaborative design workshop with advisors and peers to:
  - » Share project progress
  - » Discuss technical mass timber solutions
  - » Identify opportunities and barriers to implementation
- 3. Progress Meetings (Virtual, Business Hours):** Each team will schedule at least two 1-on-1 meetings with WoodWorks—one before and one after the Charrette. These sessions will:
  - » Review design progress and mass timber feasibility
  - » Offer tailored technical support and detailing guidance
- 4. General Contractor Engagement:** General contractors for the selected projects must complete at least two hours of project-related discussion, education, and technical support with the WoodWorks Mass Timber Construction Management Team.
- 5. Final Program Showcase (Format TBD, Month 9–11):** All teams will present their project outcomes at a concluding Accelerator event, highlighting:
  - » Design decisions
  - » Lessons learned
  - » Opportunities realized

## **POST PROJECT:**

- 1. Carbon Accounting Analysis (Optional):** To highlight the sustainability benefits of mass timber, each team will receive support from WoodWorks to conduct a high-level carbon accounting analysis using the WoodWorks Carbon Calculator.
- 2. Mass Timber Project Summary Report:** At the conclusion of the Accelerator, each team will submit a brief Project Summary Report including:
  - » Design illustrations and drawings
  - » Technical analysis
  - » Lessons learned and implementation insights
  - » Recommendations for future mass timber projects
- 3. Project Promotion & Storytelling (Optional):** GFF and program partners aim to promote participating teams and their projects by sharing outcomes, insights, and success stories. Program partners will manage and produce all content.



# Program Eligibility & Requirements

The Georgia Mass Timber Accelerator is designed to support early-stage development projects that are exploring the use of efficient and sustainable mass timber construction. To ensure a focused and equitable selection process, the following eligibility guidelines and submission requirements apply:



**Location:** Projects must be located in Georgia to be eligible for selection.

- » Provide the personal name, phone number, email address, firm name, and firm address for the principal team contact. All application and selection process communications will be with the Applicant Contact.



**Planning and Permitting Status:** Applicant projects should be in the early stages of planning and permitting with the capacity and sufficient project planning and design time to actively participate in the Accelerator Program, fulfill Accelerator Program requirements (including fully assessing mass timber building solutions), and the potential to implement mass timber building practices.

**Project Description:** The applicant must provide the following descriptions:

- » Building Program and uses
- » Building characteristics, including area (sf) and height (stories and feet)
- » Development illustrations, including site plans, building plans, and elevations



**Priority Building Uses, Typologies, and Heights:**

- » Commercial – Large office and lab
- » Commercial – Warehousing and industrial facilities
- » Institutional – Large academic learning and residential/dorm
- » Science / Technology – Innovation hubs, server farms, R&D facilities
- » Residential – Large multifamily affordable and market rate housing
- » Residential – Medium multifamily affordable and market rate housing
- » Six to seven stories (no podium / non-highrise building code)
- » Tall Mass Timber – Eight stories, plus



**Team Description**

- » Provide the firm name and lead representative for the primary project team disciplines including developer, architect, engineering, code, sustainability, cost estimating, and construction.
- » Provide a brief description of the project team's expertise and experience. There is no expectation of prior experience or expertise with mass timber construction.
- » Firms and professionals may participate in multiple project teams; however, each project must be submitted as its own application to be considered individually.



**Sustainability and Resiliency:** The GFF has identified low carbon mass timber construction as a critical emerging practice for reducing carbon emissions from building construction materials. Applicant projects should have an overarching commitment and approach to sustainable development and to reducing carbon emissions.

**Preference will be given to projects that plan on using regionally sourced mass timber materials made with Southern Yellow Pine.**



**Statement of Interest and Commitment to Building with Mass Timber:** Provide a brief explanation of the project team's reasons for applying to the Accelerator Program and for building with mass timber.



# Application Information

**DEADLINE:** All applications must be submitted by Friday, June 20, 2025, at 11:59 PM (EST). Late submissions will not be accepted.

**HOW TO APPLY:** Applications must be submitted online using the official application form: Click here to access the form. In addition to completing the form, applicants will be required to upload supporting materials, including:

- » Development illustrations
- » Site plans
- » Building plans
- » Elevations

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY ONLINE!](#)

**QUESTIONS:** Please direct all questions via email to Gloria Camacho at [glo@gfagrow.org](mailto:glo@gfagrow.org).

**Note: Only completed applications submitted through the online form will be considered.** The Georgia Mass Timber Accelerator Program is an initiative of the Georgia Forestry Foundation. All application reviews, determinations, and awards are at the sole discretion of the Foundation.

<b>MAY 1, 2025</b>	Program launch and application posting
<b>MAY 21, 2025</b>	Virtual information session at 1:00 PM (EST)
<b>JUNE 20, 2025</b>	Applications due by 11:59 PM (EST)
<b>AUGUST 1, 2025</b>	Applicant selection announcement



## **GEORGIA MASS TIMBER ACCELERATOR**

The Georgia Forestry Foundation (GFF), established in 1990, is a 501(c)3 organization that focuses on the long-term sustainability of Georgia's 22 million acres of private working forests. GFF seeks to educate and engage Georgians with the story of working forests and capitalize on our most important opportunities to capture carbon, filter water, provide wildlife habitat, create jobs and build sustainable communities.

**GFFGROW.ORG**

