

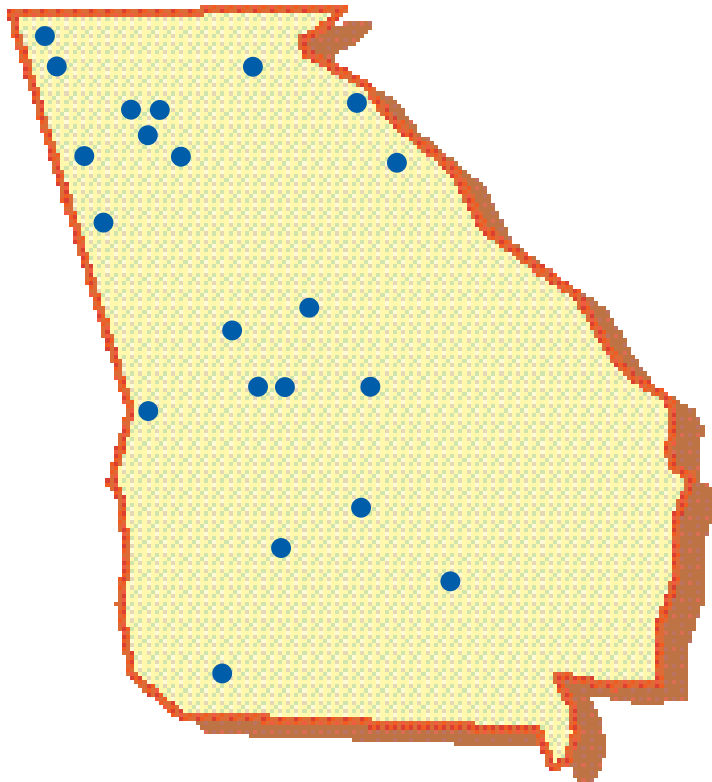
# Workforce Training: Adding New Life to Georgia's Existing Industries

Last year the Georgia State Legislature allocated \$1 million to allow Quick Start to serve existing industries, a step that will have dramatic positive benefits across the state. In the past, Quick Start was limited to assisting industries that were new to Georgia or adding employees. But in 2001, thanks to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the state legislature, and the Georgia Rural Development Council, who supported Quick Start in this new direction, Quick Start was provided with the funding to serve existing companies in the effort to retain workers.

Since July 2001, Quick Start has broadened its delivery of services to numerous established clients and has helped energize employers who are not necessarily adding new jobs, but who are in serious need of upgrading employees' skills to meet the new demands in the workplace. This will have a profound effect on Georgia's rural communities specifically, and, as can be seen on the map, this is a broad-based effort.

As of this writing, Quick Start has been able to start projects with more than 20 existing industries. The first was Applied Thermoplastic Resources in Cartersville (see story on p. 10), which recycles product leftovers from the nearby carpet industry. Since then other "home-grown" companies like Woodbury Box in Thomaston and the Blue Bird Bus Corporation in Fort Valley have initiated retraining programs.

The companies noted here employ more than 10,000 Georgians. In our current volatile economy, it is no wonder established companies are grateful for the legislature's decision to allow Quick Start to work its magic in upgrading skills and preparing employees for new demands. Known nationally for its flexibility and quick response to industry needs, Quick Start is on new turf at the home playing field. **QS**



I Applied Thermoplastic Resources	Cartersville
I Bayer Corporation	Columbus
I Blue Bird Bus Corporation	Fort Valley
I Blue Bird Bus Corporation	Lafayette
I Chemical Products Corporation	Cartersville
I Delphi Automotive	Fitzgerald
I Fabritex	Hartwell
I Freudenburg-NOK	White County
I GNB Technology	Columbus
I Heatcraft	Tifton
I Inland Paperboard and Packaging	Rome
I Keebler Company	Macon
I Lynch Systems	Bainbridge
I Morrison Products	Canton
I Mount Vernon Mills	Trion
I Piolax	Canton
I Pliant	Wilkes County
I Purafil	Doraville
I Rockwell Automation	Dublin
I Wanderlodge	Fort Valley
I Woodbury Box	Thomaston