



UPPER SAVANNAH

Council of Governments

# ACTIVITY REPORT

## AUGUST 2025

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

USCOG  
TO SUBMIT

4

CDBG grant  
applications  
in fall round

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

There are

12

active CDBG  
projects in region,  
totaling more than  
\$11.6 million

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

\$11.27  
million

EDA

EDA approves PTC  
Health Sciences  
Building bid package

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LCWSC  
\$5.4 million

EDA

Metric Road  
water upgrade  
85% complete

### AGING

More than

23,000

meals served  
to seniors  
in Region in  
May/June

### GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Assisting  
Edgefield  
County Water  
& Sewer with

EDA  
grant  
application

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

341

job seekers  
attend  
Upper Savannah  
Regional  
Job Fair  
August 21

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

15,375

visits  
to SC Works  
Centers across  
Region in FY '25

### GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Continuing  
to assist  
nine local  
utility  
providers  
with

SCIIP  
projects

See

**DETAILS**  
on these and  
other activities  
in this report



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## ACTIVE PROJECTS:

APPLICANT	PROJECT NAME	GRANT AMOUNT
Laurens County.....	Joanna Sewer Rehab.....	\$1,321,050
Saluda County.....	Library Improvements.....	\$750,000
Laurens County.....	Clinton-Joanna WWTP Upgrade Phase II.....	\$1,618,000
City of Greenwood.....	Waller Avenue Streetscape.....	\$750,000
Greenwood County.....	DSS Building Improvements.....	\$1,278,510
City of Greenwood.....	Booker T. Washington Sewer Upgrade.....	\$840,000
City of Abbeville.....	Chestnut Street Park.....	\$250,000
Town of Ridge Spring.....	Town of Ridge Spring Sewer Rehab.....	\$1,700,000
Greenwood County.....	Matthews Mill Phase II Sewer Upgrade.....	\$1,600,000
Town of Saluda.....	N. Main/W. Church Streetscape.....	\$721,212
Town of McCormick.....	N. Main/Augusta Streetscape.....	\$750,000
Greenwood County .....	Regional Planning .....	\$50,000
<b>TOTAL .....</b>		<b>\$11,628,772</b>

## CDBG GRANT APPLICATIONS TO BE SUBMITTED

### SEPTEMBER 2025 FALL ROUND

**Abbeville County DSS Parking Lot Improvements** - A total of \$447,327 in CDBG funds are being requested to improve the Abbeville County DSS parking lot. The project will address substantial cracks in parking lot foundation, uneven surfaces, and need for ADA parking signage markings and ramps.

**Town of Edgefield Fire Truck** - A total of \$750,000 in CDBG funds are being requested to purchase an additional fire truck to replace the Town's 1988 FMC Pumper. The department currently has three pumpers, a 2016 KME, 1997 Pierce and 1988 FMC. The older trucks are spending a significant amount of down time for service and repair due to the ongoing issue of locating parts. The Town is in need of reliable fire protection. An updated Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating may negatively impact the Town of Edgefield's current rating, last reviewed in 2016.

**Greenwood County Department of Public Health** - A total of

\$1,692,276 in CDBG funds are being requested for improvements including exterior and interior ADA accessibility enhancements, sidewalk and parking lot renovations, asbestos abatement, HVAC system replacement and installation, installation of drop ceilings, door and flooring replacements, and updated lighting.

**Saluda County Medical Services** - A total of \$65,872 in CDBG funds are being requested to provide the residents of Saluda County with life-saving pre-hospital blood to aid in medical trauma calls. The County does not have any emergency medical facilities to aid in trauma calls, relying on the availability of air medical services and ambulance transportation to the nearest emergency medical facility. Medical facilities can range from 40 mins to an hour and a half depending on the extent of the medical needs. Funds would purchase equipment to store, transport, and administer blood while on scene or during transport to the nearest medical trauma facility.

There are **12** active CDBG projects in the region, totaling **\$11,628,772**

**Laurens County Joanna Sewer Rehabilitation** - Laurens County was awarded \$1,321,050 to upgrade water and sewer in the Joanna community. Improvements are proposed on W. Calhoun Street, E. Calhoun Street, Reeder Street across Workman Street, across N. Main Street (HWY 76), along Taylor Street, and crossing under the railroad to Sumter Street. Water construction will consist of 1,600 linear feet (LF) of 6" water line, 70 LF of 12" steel casing pipe (bored and jacked under SC Hwy 76), four fire hydrants assemblies, re-connection to the existing water mains, and 43 water service re-connections. Sewer construction will consist of 1,850 LF of 8" gravity sewer line (remove and replace), 580 LF of HDPE pipe bursting, 180 LF of 20" steel casing pipe (bored and jacked under SCDOT roads and railroad), six manholes, rehabilitation of approximately eight existing manholes and 33 sewer service re-connections. The project will require no acquisition and is estimated to cost approximately \$1,688,300, including \$367,280 from Laurens County Water & Sewer Commission. Bid package being prepared.

**Saluda County Library Improvements** - Saluda County was rewarded \$750,000 in December 2024 to renovate the new Saluda County Library location at 307 W. Butler Ave. The current library behind the courthouse consists of approximately 2,000 square feet of space, whereas the new library location consists of approximately 6,900 square feet. Improvements to include interior construction, parking improvements, ADA accessibility, and new HVAC unit. Improvements will provide this low-to-moderate income county with a much larger facility, allowing for more educational materials, resources, and space for free library-hosted activities and programs. Bid package being prepared.

**Clinton-Joanna WWTP Upgrade Phase II:** Laurens County was awarded \$1,618,000 in July 2024 for the Clinton-Joanna Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade Phase II. This will help Laurens County continue the project that was awarded in August 2022. In June 2023, the project for the plant was bid for construction, including installation of a second 750,000-gallon sludge holding tank as an alternate bid item. However, due to the high bids the second tank was unable to be funded. As a result, the project was awarded with the construction of only one 750,000-gallon tank. In the spring 2024 CDBG application round, funds were requested to continue upgrading the plant including the purchase and installation of the second sludge holding tank, aeration, mixers, pumps, controls, and other necessary fittings. Project cost is estimated to be \$1,780,000, with \$1.618,000 in CDBG funds and \$162,000 in matching funds provided by the Laurens County Water & Sewer Commission. The improvements consist of installing the 750,000-gallon tank. The drying beds were removed as part of the original scope in Phase I. This additional tank will be the completion of the 2022 original scope, providing the Clinton-Joanna plant its necessary capacity to not only sustain its increasing wastewater volume, but to handle the facility's max capacity. Construction began in July 2025.

**DSS Building Improvements:** Greenwood County was awarded \$1,278,510 in CDBG funding in December 2023 to improve the Department of Social Services building. The building needs a new roof, HVAC, improved restrooms, asbestos abatement, ADA accessibility, lobby/waiting area improvements, flooring, lighting, repainting, parking lot and safety improvements. Bid package is being prepared.

**City of Abbeville Chestnut Street Park:** City received \$250,000 in CDBG funds in December 2022 to upgrade Chestnut Street Park, which is owned by the City and located at 400 Chestnut St. Improvements include playground equipment, picnic tables, mulch, and open-air pavilion. Additional work to include site preparation, installation of purchases, designated American Disabilities Act parking, and concrete work. Project estimated at \$275,000. Bid package approved by Commerce; will sign contract during pre-construction meeting August 26.

**Town of Ridge Spring Sewer Rehab:** Town received \$1,700,000 in CDBG funds in August 2022 to rehabilitate three major sections of the Town's main sewer trunkline. A study completed in 2005 indicated excessive inflow and infiltration within the Town's system. Recent inspections indicated conditions significantly worsened. Project includes approximately 2,541 linear feet (LF) of 8" gravity sewer, 2,151 LF of 10" gravity sewer, 200 LF of 16" steel encased pipe (bore), 3,361 LF of CIPP and installation of approximately 42 manholes. Project costs estimated to be \$2,086,090, including \$386,090 from Town. Upper Savannah and the Town are in the process of acquiring the right of way. Project will go out to bid once right of way acquisition is complete.

**Town of McCormick Streetscape Phase II:** A total of \$750,000 in CDBG funds were requested to continue the Town's streetscape efforts. Phase I was completed in 2020. Phase II includes improvements to W. Augusta St in front of Town Hall to include sidewalks, curbing, speed table, and Veterans Memorial. Additional improvements were made to the parking area behind Town Hall and the Fire Department, including new parking, alternative exit and entrance, and required underground retention pond. The Town committed an additional \$215,637 towards the completion of the project. The alternate exit from Town Hall parking to SC Works parking involved the removal of several large trees and required relocation of the Town's Emergency Services generator. Project provides an additional 23 parking stalls. Construction of sidewalks, Veterans Memorial and speed table will result in eliminating the majority of existing parking out front of Town Hall. Construction completion expected September 2025.

**Town of Saluda Streetscape:** Town received \$721,212 in CDBG funding in November 2021 for streetscape at North Main and West Church streets. Project focused on downtown beautification in hopes of providing a welcoming atmosphere for economic development. Improvements would encourage foot traffic, potentially stimulating business opportunities within the available storefronts. Project included a \$102,562 local match for total cost of \$823,774. Construction completion expected September 2025.

**Waller Avenue Streetscape:** City of Greenwood was awarded \$750,000 in December 2023 for streetscape improvements to Waller Avenue in Uptown. Conditions on Waller included broken, pieced and misaligned sections of sidewalk, unsecure fencing, root overgrowth, ADA accessibility concerns, poorly patched sections of road, worn curbing, and lack of parking stall signage. Funds were used to install sidewalks, brick roadway, curbing, ADA accessibility, parking stall indicators, landscaping and outdoor seating. Construction was completed in June 2025; working on closeout package.

**Booker T. Washington Sewer Upgrade:** City of Greenwood received \$840,000 in CDBG funds in June 2023 to improve sewer service in Booker T. Washington neighborhood. The project included Central Avenue, North Hospital Street, Brewer Avenue, and New Street. Rehabilitation included approximately 4,800 feet of 8-inch sewer line with Cured in Place Pipe (CIPP), rehabilitation of 25 brick manholes, and installation of new frames and covers. There were approximately 65 service connections in public right of way. Project is benefiting approximately 56 units, occupied by an estimated 119 persons. Construction was completed June 2025; working on closeout package.

**Greenwood County Mathews Mill Sewer Phase II:** County received \$1,600,000 in CDBG funds in August 2022 to continue sewer improvements to the Mathews Mill area. Improvements included installation of approximately 825 ft. of 12-inch and 5,200 ft. of 8-inch gravity sewer line, 23 new pre-cast concrete manholes and reconnection of 109 structures. Construction to include Georgia Street, Bolt Avenue, Bond Avenue, Stevens Avenue, and Cross Street. Total project costs were estimated to be \$3,103,399, with \$1,503,399 from Greenwood Metro District. Project is benefiting approximately 303 people. Project construction has been completed; working on closeout.

**Regional Planning Grant:** Community Development staff is continuing to provide assistance to local governments in project development, needs assessments and technical assistance in the CDBG program.



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## ACTIVE PROJECTS:

APPLICANT	PROJECT NAME	GRANT AMOUNT
Laurens County Water & Sewer Commission.....	Laurens County Metric Rd. Water Upgrades.....	\$5,422,800
Piedmont Technical College	Health Sciences Building.....	\$11,271,697
<b>TOTAL .....</b>		<b>\$16,694,497</b>

**Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission** has been awarded grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to fund water system improvements to serve Malouf Companies and generally upgrade water services in the area around the Interstate 385 and US 221 interchange. The grant amount is \$5,422,800 and the total project cost is \$6,778,500. The grant will fund 29,500 linear feet of 16-inch water line and a 500,000-gallon elevated water tank on Metric Road. This project was bid out in March 2024 and bids were opened April 9, 2024. Construction approximately 85 percent complete.

**Piedmont Technical College** has received an \$11,271,697 grant award from EDA for its Health Sciences Building project. This project consists of the construction of a new 27,000 square foot building for the Health Science programs. The building is to be constructed on 1.5 acres on the Piedmont Technical College Greenwood Campus adjacent to the existing Science Building. This project will provide spaces that simulate real-world conditions which align with industry standards to prepare the students to be work-ready upon graduation. The project cost is estimated at \$14,089,621. Piedmont Technical College opened bids on July 10. Eleven bids were received. A contract with the low bidder will be signed after due diligence is completed.





## Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program

The RLF is a locally controlled source of capital used to assist in financing start-up and expanding businesses. To be eligible, a potential borrower's project must result in the creation of permanent jobs and leverage private sector investment.

	Active Loans	All Loans
Loans Closed	6	64
Total Dollars Loaned	\$200,000	\$4,543,620
Private Investment	\$983,710	\$32,206,448
Other Public Investment	\$0	\$2,140,500
Jobs Created and Retained	23	715
Cost Per Job	\$8,696	\$6,355
Private Investment Ratio	\$4.92: \$1	\$7.09 : \$1

## CARES Revolving Loan Fund (CARES RLF) Program

Funded by the CARES Act, this locally controlled source of small business capital was established to help the region recover from the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

	Active Loans	All Loans
Loans Closed	15	22
Total Dollars Loaned	\$779,546	\$1,004,096
Private Sector Investment	\$2,241,450	\$2,250,450
Other Public Investment	\$14,470	\$14,470
Jobs Created and Retained	95.5	112.5
Cost Per Job	\$8,163	\$8,925
Private Investment Ratio	\$2.88 : \$1	\$2.24 : \$1

# AGING

## Upper Savannah Area Agency on Aging/Aging & Disability Resource Center Activity Report May - June 2025

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	CLIENTS
Assessments .....	Determine client eligibility and needs for Aging services .....	319
Caregiver Supplemental Services .....	Assists with supplies, supplements, assistive technology .....	15
Assistive Technology .....	Provides Lifeline monitoring for seniors at risk .....	18
Home Care .....	Helps seniors with light housekeeping, chores, personal care .....	30
Minor Home Repair .....	Provides ramps, handrails, grab bars, safety upgrades .....	12
Seniors Raising Children Supplemental Services .....	Assists with school supplies, clothing, and miscellaneous .....	11
Transportation .....	Trips to meal sites, medical, essential shopping .....	195
Legal Assistance .....	Provided by SC Legal Services .....	12
Caregiver Respite .....	Offers a break for daily caregivers .....	69

## Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals Report | May - June 2025

MEALS BY COUNTY	CONGREGATE MEALS	HOME-DELIVERED
Abbeville .....	780 .....	2,543
Edgefield .....	560 .....	2,539
Greenwood .....	1,794 .....	7,703
Laurens .....	292 .....	2,854
McCormick .....	598 .....	1,467
Saluda .....	1,086 .....	1,048
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>5,110 .....</b>	<b>18,154</b>

**Other highlights** - AAA/ARDC staff continued visiting county senior centers each month. Family Caregiver Advocate Aeriell Bowick planned a Caregiver Day luncheon May 19 for caregivers currently enrolled in caregiver support services. AAA staff participated in this event and Tori Anderson, Dementia Care Specialist with SC Department on Aging, was the guest speaker. Anderson presented on dementia-related topics while providing support and resources for individuals with dementia and Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers. AAA staff also participated in community outreach events such as the Laurens County DSS Community Resource Fair, GLEAMNS Community Action Day, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day at Elite Day Care, and Greenwood County Veteran's Appreciation Day. To schedule staff to speak at your next event, contact Christy Stroud 864-941-8093 or [cstroud@uppersavannah.com](mailto:cstroud@uppersavannah.com).

More than

# 23,000

MEALS

served to seniors  
in Region in

May/June

## GOVERNMENT SERVICES

- Continued work on Economic Development Administration (EDA) grants administration on one current grant in Laurens County and one for Piedmont Technical College Health Sciences Building.
- Continued work on an EDA grant application for Edgefield County Water and Sewer Authority. The application proposes to build a new water tank and install new water lines in the southern part of Edgefield County to increase capacity and make the water system more resilient in the face of potential natural or manmade disruptions.
- Attended the Abbeville County Economic Development Strategic Plan meeting. Abbeville County is working with Future iQ on an Economic Development Strategic Action Plan, looking out to 2035. The objective of the strategic planning process is to build on Abbeville County's current success and incorporate new actions to maintain this success over the next 10 years. The outcome of this process will be to produce a robust, comprehensive, sustainable Strategic Action Plan.
- Attended a program to fulfill state-mandated annual training requirements for Edgefield County and municipal planning commissioners and staff.
- Attended an SC Office of Resilience meeting to discuss a housing rehab/replacement program.
- Met with SC Office of Resilience staff assigned to work the Saluda, Savannah, and Edisto watersheds.
- Attended a webinar on upcoming public transit planning grants from SCDOT.
- Attended a Greenwood County Safe Streets for All project meeting. Greenwood County was awarded a U.S. Department of Transportation grant to fund a study on improving pedestrian safety in the county. The consultants gave a brief update on where they were in the planning process. Several intersections on Main Street were noted as needing more pedestrian safety features. The plan should be completed later this year.
- Met with the Saluda County Planning Director to discuss the comprehensive plan update.
- Met with the statewide Drought Committee to evaluate drought status across the region and state.
- Participated in statewide discussion group on encouraging more sidewalks, bike paths, and other non-motorized means of transportation in rural parts of South Carolina.
- Continued grant administration of the SC Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP). COG administration is required for nine grants totaling \$26,598,719, including projects for City of Abbeville, Town of Due West, Town of Edgefield, Ninety Six CPW, Town of Ware Shoals, City of Clinton, Laurens CPW, McCormick CPW and Town of Ridge Spring.
- Continued working with the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission to support community development projects across the region.
- Continued administration of a grant on behalf of the Greenwood County and McCormick County SC 250 committees to update and install signs commemorating Revolutionary War events across the county line.
- Continued work on environmental reviews for CDBG and EDA projects.
- Attended a Vision Greenwood board meeting.
- Continued working with a Montana State University group Western Transportation Institute to create a transportation feasibility study for Abbeville, Laurens, and Saluda counties. The consultants hope to help create a transit system for each county.
- Attended a National Regional Transportation Conference in Des Moines, Iowa.
- Continued working with one community on the SC BEST program to pay for environmental assessments for a potential community development project.
- Continued assisting the Upper Savannah Land Trust with various planning activities. The Land Trust is helping protect 58,301 acres of land with more than 138 easement projects across Abbeville, Aiken, Anderson, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee and Saluda counties. The annual meeting was held May 9, celebrating 25 years of the Land Trust.



# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**Laurens County SC Works/WIOA Adult Success Story:** Sekema spent 29 years working in manufacturing before unexpectedly losing her job when the plant she worked at shut down. Faced with uncertainty and the challenges of re-entering the workforce, she knew she wanted a fresh start in a meaningful career. Healthcare had always interested her, but going back to school after so many years and without stable employment felt overwhelming.

After learning about the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program, Sekema applied and was accepted. With support from Ms. Tamika Goggins, she enrolled in the Phlebotomy Technician program at Greenwood Medical Academy in Greenwood. Through WIOA, her tuition was fully covered, and she received personalized support throughout her training. Sekema also benefited



Sekema

from job search assistance, which kept her motivated and focused on her goals. Upon completing the program, Sekema was hired by Grifols Plasma as a Phlebotomist I. She began working on June 26, 2025, earning \$17 per hour and working 40 hours per week. Today, she is thriving in a career she's passionate about, with a stable and promising future ahead. With support from WIOA, Sekema turned a challenging chapter into a stepping-stone toward long-term career success.

## Upper Savannah Workforce Board Update; SC Works Virtual Engagement Center

The next Upper Savannah Workforce Board meeting is Sept. 8. We are currently in the process of preparing to launch a Virtual Engagement Center, allowing job seekers to receive real-time assistance from the comfort of their home or a connection point via a link. This link will bring them into an online platform where they can connect with workforce development staff to chat or video conference. The tentative launch date is Sept. 1.

We've also partnered with SC DEW on an initiative within the local K-12 school system to offer a "Workforce Prep" two-day event. We successfully piloted two of these events last school year and are now scheduled for several for the current school year. Day 1 is covered by DEW, who will present "Get the Job" with students, working on dress and interviews. Day 2, staff will help provide resume assistance for students to have a completed resume.

There are no newly appointment board members at this time. However, we are currently awaiting appointment for a new representative for Edgefield County. We are still soliciting for members from Newberry and Saluda counties.

## Upper Savannah Hiring Events

SC Works and our partners have continued to offer multiple hiring events as well as workshops each month.

ESS (Virtual), July 15, 33 attendees

McCormick Summer Job Fair, July 16 @ PTC, 10 attendees.

Sage Automotive @ SCWorks Greenwood, July 23, 14 attendees

## Upper Savannah Regional Job Fair

A total of 341 job seekers attended the Upper Savannah Regional Job Fair August 21 at Piedmont Technical College's Medford Center in Greenwood. More than 70 employers including businesses, industries, health care facilities, local governments, law enforcement, retail, etc., attended.

## SC Works Center Traffic by County July 2025

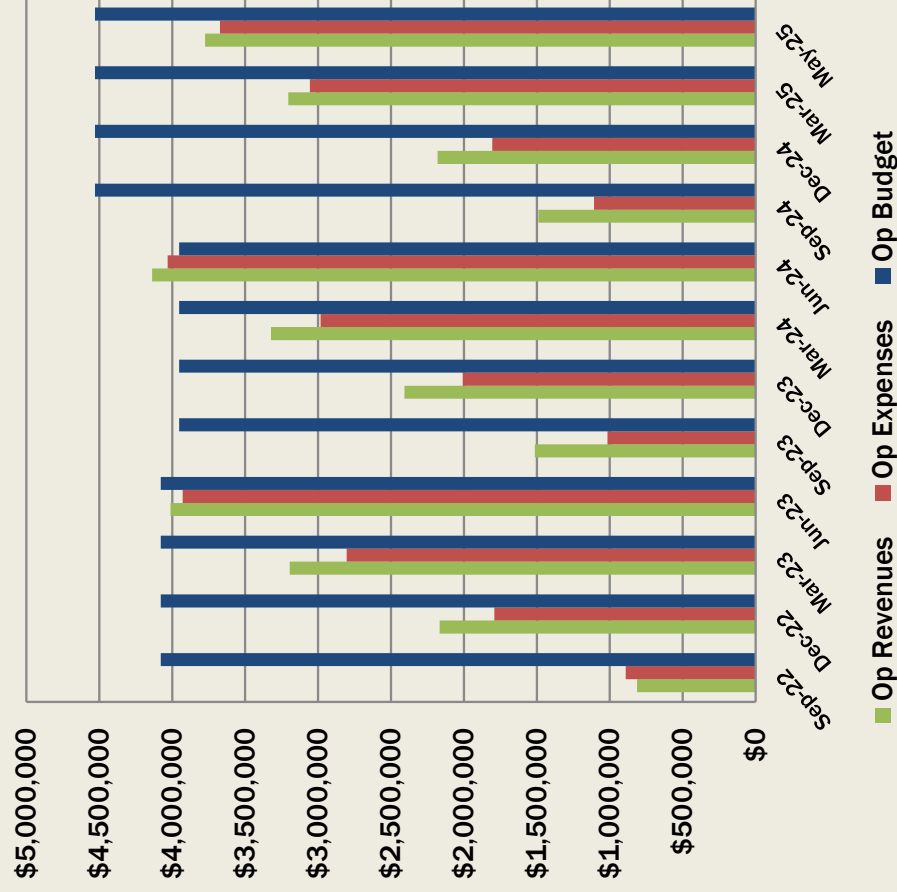
Abbeville	7
Edgefield	10
Greenwood	732
Laurens	177
McCormick	2
Newberry	364
Saluda	0

## FY '25 Job Seeker Services Totals Throughout Region

SC Works Center Traffic	15,375
New Job Seekers Registered	3,790
Job Search Services	6,827
Total Attendance at All Job Fairs	3,412
Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Orientation	387
Adults Enrolled in WIOA	87
Dislocated Workers Enrolled in WIOA	5
Youth Enrolled in WIOA	54

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Operating Actual vs. Budget



Pass Through Budget

