



UPPER SAVANNAH

Council of Governments

ACTIVITY REPORT

OCTOBER 2025

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

USCOG
submits

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

PTC Health Sciences
Building project
holds groundbreaking

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LCWSC
\$5.4 million

EDA

Metric Road
water upgrade
to be complete
in November

AGING

More than

24,000

meals served
to seniors
in Region in
July/August

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Participated
in

**Town of
McCormick**

Economic
Development
Strategic
Planning meeting

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**Virtual
Engagement
Center**

available
for job search
assistance
from home

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

1,077

visits
to SC Works
Centers across
Region
in September

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Participated
in closeout
monitoring for
Ware Shoals,
Ninety Six
CPW

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
TOTAL		\$11,628,772

CDBG GRANT APPLICATIONS 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 in June 2025 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, and 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. Contract signed August 26, construction has begun.

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 are 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 December 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 complete, waiting on cameras to be installed.

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; closeout package at Department of Commerce.

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
TOTAL		\$16,694,497

Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission was 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. Construction expected to be completed in November 2025.

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 Tech opened bids on July 10. Eleven bids were received. A contract with the low bidder, Hogan Construction, has been signed and the project is underway.



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 July - August '25

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	CLIENTS
Assessments	Determine client eligibility and needs for Aging services	216
Caregiver Supplemental Services	Assists with supplies, supplements, assistive technology	33
Assistive Technology	Provides Lifeline monitoring for seniors at risk	17
Home Care	Helps seniors with light housekeeping, chores, personal care	29
Minor Home Repair	Provides ramps, handrails, grab bars, safety upgrades	4
Seniors Raising Children Supplemental Services	Assists with school supplies, clothing, and miscellaneous	18
Transportation	Trips to meal sites, medical, essential shopping	143
Legal Assistance	Provided by SC Legal Services	15
Caregiver Respite	Offers a break for daily caregivers	116

Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals Report | July - August 2025

MEALS BY COUNTY	CONGREGATE MEALS	HOME-DELIVERED
Abbeville	823	2,672
Edgefield	606	2,659
Greenwood	1,814	8,074
Laurens	384	3,288
McCormick	648	1,712
Saluda	974	1,124
TOTALS	5,249	19,529

Other highlights - Upper Savannah AAA sponsored a Senior Day Celebration at Harris Baptist Church in Greenwood Sept. 25. A total of 124 seniors from across the Region enjoyed the celebration, which included a “senior swag” temporary tattoo station, 38 vendors providing info on community resources, a relaxation station for hand and neck massages, an ice cream truck provided by the Ice Cream Xperience, local DJ Ben Meredith, and renowned Elvis Presley impersonator Jacob Eder. The AAA participated and sponsored a hole at the Hospice and Palliative Care of the Piedmont 6th annual Swing Fore Hospice Golf Tournament. This event brought together community partners, sponsors, and golfers for a day of fun and fundraising. Recent staff outreach visit highlights include United Way of Laurens County, Abbeville and McCormick county libraries, McCormick County Resource HUB, Martha Franks Community, and The Oaks in Greenwood. AAA staff sponsored Lunch and Learn with the Senior Network Group of Greenwood County. To schedule staff to speak at your next event, contact Christy Stroud 864-941-8093 or cstroud@uppersavannah.

More than

24,000

MEALS

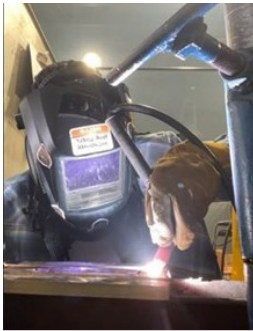
served to seniors
in Region in

July/August

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

- Continued work on Economic Development Administration (EDA) grants administration on one current grant in Laurens County and one for the 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.
- The SC Department of Commerce is helping the Town of McCormick develop an economic development strategic plan to support local businesses and improve the local economy by addressing community needs and tapping into tourism potential.
- Met with Edgefield County to discuss updates to the land development ordinance.
- Attended an SC Office of Resilience meeting to discuss a housing rehab/replacement program for Hurricane Helene victims.
- Met with SC Office of Resilience staff assigned to work the Saluda, Savannah, and Edisto watersheds.
- Responded to several city planning and zoning requests for information from across the region.
- Attended state-mandated training for planning and zoning commissioners in Due West and in the Town of McCormick.
- Hosted municipal and county clerks to learn about records retention policies.
- Participated in statewide discussion group on encouraging more sidewalks, bike paths, and other non-motorized means of transportation in rural parts of SC.
- Met with the statewide Drought Committee to evaluate drought status across the region and state.
- Continued grant administration of SC Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) projects focusing on upgrading the state's water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure. 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. Participated in closeout monitoring for the Ware Shoals and Ninety Six SCIIP projects.
- Hosted public administrators from the region to learn about State Energy Office grants.
- Met with a Lander University professor to discuss their Emergency Management degree program and potential partnership with existing grant programs.
- Met with the State Office of Resiliency to kick off a Sustainability planning program in Greenwood County.
- 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 including Town of Troy.
- Continued work on environmental reviews for CDBG and EDA projects.
- Attended a Vision Greenwood board meeting.
- Continued working with a group from the Western Transportation Institute at Montana State University to update transportation feasibility studies for Abbeville, Laurens, and Saluda counties.
- Submitted a regional transit funding priority list to SCDOT Office of Public Transit.
- Attended an SCDOT Partnering Meeting.
- Continued working with one community (Promised Land) 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 58,673 acres of land with more than 140 easement projects across Abbeville, Aiken, Anderson, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee and Saluda counties. The Land Trust is celebrating 25 years.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Avondre Moton

Crafting a Career: Avondre Moton's Welding Journey - Avondre Moton, 25, joined the WIOA program on August 16, 2024, determined to overcome significant personal barriers, including not having a GED and facing transportation challenges. Over the past year in the program, he has worked steadily to build a better future and pursue a career in the welding industry. During his time in the program, Avondre took deliberate steps to achieve his goals. He earned his GED through Greenwood Adult Education and participated in Career Smart workshops, where he developed key job-readiness skills such as resume building, interview preparation, and workplace professionalism. These efforts demonstrated his resilience, focus, and determination to succeed. After completing his GED and skill-building activities, Avondre enrolled in welding training at Norris Mechanical School in Anderson. He successfully completed the initial level of training, gaining the hands-on skills necessary to advance in his chosen career path. Avondre is now actively seeking employment while preparing to begin Welding 102, the next level of instruction that will further enhance his expertise. With his dedication and perseverance, he is steadily moving toward his long-term dream of owning and operating his own welding company, turning his hard work into a sustainable and rewarding career.



Upper Savannah Workforce Board Update

Several key action items were approved during the Upper Savannah Workforce Board September meeting. The committee voted to transfer up to \$125,000 from the Dislocated Worker fund stream to the Adult fund stream to better align resources with current service demands. Additionally, Ashley Shaffer, Workforce Operations Manager, was appointed as the new Local Equal Opportunity (EO) Officer. The committee also approved updates to the Supportive Services Policy related to transportation and incentive amounts. These adjustments were made to align with other regions and reflect current budget considerations. Lastly, the committee approved the hiring of the current security guard as a permanent staff member, with United Way covering benefits, ensuring continued consistency in center security services.

Upper Savannah also will welcome a new Board Member, Tracy Freeman, of Edgefield County to the next meeting in October. Tracy is a long-time resident of Edgefield County and the President of FidelityOne Construction Company. Upper Savannah is still soliciting for members from Newberry, Laurens, and Saluda County.



Tracy Freeman

Sept. 1 was the official launch date of the Virtual Engagement Center, a partnered venture with the SC Department of Employment and Workforce that allows participants to get services from a

real SC Works representative via a link to a virtual platform to instant message or video call from their home. The link is available at www.upperscworks.com. The Index Journal featured a story on this project to assist with further reaching the community to increase traffic to the platform.

Upper Savannah September Hiring Events

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

SwipeJobs (multiple dates), 71 attendees

Laurens Job Fair @ PTC Sept. 25, 39 attendees

Newberry Job @ PTC Sept. 30, 44 attendees

SC Works Center Traffic by County September 2025

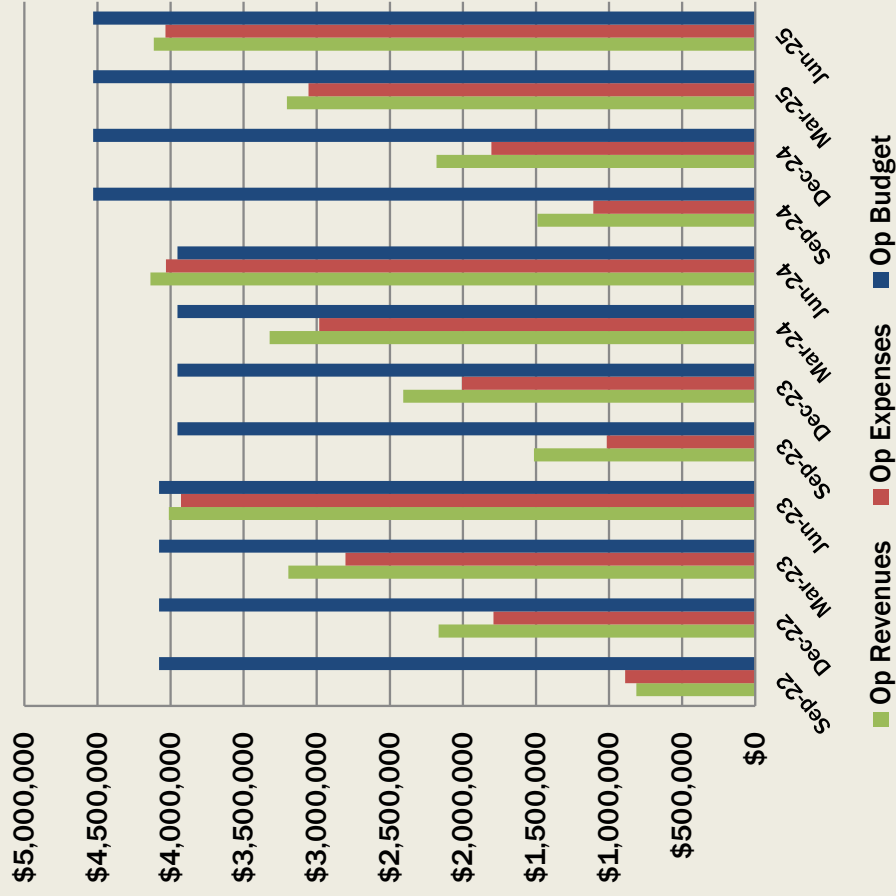
Abbeville	2
Edgefield	8
Greenwood	593
Laurens	138
McCormick	4
Newberry	327
Saluda	5

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

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Operating Actual vs. Budget



Pass Through Budget

