



UPPER SAVANNAH

Council of Governments

ACTIVITY REPORT

JUNE 2026

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

USCOG submits

2

CDBG grant applications in spring round

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

There are

11

active CDBG projects in region, totaling more than \$9 million

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

\$11.27 million

EDA

PTC Health Sciences Building project construction making progress

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LCWSC \$5.4 million

EDA

Metric Road water upgrade is completed

AGING

More than

29,000

meals delivered to seniors in Region in March through May 2026

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Town of Edgefield

Progress continues on Comprehensive Plan update

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Workforce System Changes

new service delivery model in rural areas

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SC Works staff served

998

job seekers across Region

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Researching GRANT opportunities in two rural communities

See

DETAILS on these and other activities in this report



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

| APPLICANT | PROJECT NAME | GRANT AMOUNT |
|---------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Greenwood County..... | Department of Public Health Building Improvements..... | \$923,890 |
| Abbeville County..... | DSS Parking Lot Improvements..... | \$445,328 |
| Saluda County..... | EMS Station Blood Storage Equipment..... | \$65,872 |
| 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 |
| Greenwood County..... | DSS Building Improvements..... | \$1,278,510 |
| City of Abbeville..... | Chestnut Street Park..... | \$250,000 |
| Town of Ridge Spring..... | Town of Ridge Spring Sewer Rehab..... | \$1,700,000 |
| Town of McCormick..... | N. Main/Augusta Streetscape..... | \$750,000 |
| Greenwood County | Regional Planning | \$50,000 |
| TOTAL | | \$9,152,650 |

CDBG GRANT APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED

APRIL 2026 SPRING ROUND (AWARDS TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON)

City of Clinton: Florida Street Sewer Rehabilitation

– A total of approximately \$924,300 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and \$1,500,000 in Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) funds requested for sewer improvements for residents, businesses on East Ferguson, East Florida, East Main, Hays, North Holland, and Jones streets, and Prather Circle in City of Clinton. deteriorating sewer lines installed around 1970 need immediate rehab. Project proposes CIPP and sections of dig and replace, no acquisition anticipated. All work will take place in an existing easement or public right of way. Approximate project cost \$2,374,300. Additional funds from RIA are pending for completion of project.

Laurens County: Beards Fork Forcemain Replacement

– Requesting \$999,970 in CDBG funding to replace Beards Fork Sewer Forcemain. This portion of line receives and transports wastewater from approximately half of the City of Clinton. This trunkline and 10" forcemain receives approximately 273,500 gallons of wastewater per day. The ductile iron pipe was installed in 1981 and has deteriorated beyond repair. The proposed construction will consist of approximately 6,900 linear feet of 10" PVC Forcemain, plus trench excavation, manhole rehabilitation, fittings, valves, controls, connections, testing, stone beddings, stabilization, mobilization and gravel. Total project estimated to cost \$1,189,970.

There are **11** active CDBG projects in the region, totaling

\$9,152,650

Greenwood County Department of Public Health Building Improvements - Greenwood County was awarded \$923,890 in December 2025 for both interior and exterior building improvements, which will cover 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. Project is in start-up phase.

Abbeville County DSS Parking Lot Improvements - Abbeville County was awarded \$445,328 in December 2025 for parking lot improvements, addressing substantial cracks in parking lot foundation, uneven surfaces, and need for ADA parking signage markings and ramps. The project will include asphalt replacement, striping, signage, sidewalk, curb stop and speed bumps. Project is in start-up phase.

Saluda County EMS Station Blood Storage Equipment - Saluda County was awarded \$65,872 in December 2025 to provide residents and visitors 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 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. The funds will provide for an autonomous portable refrigerator unit, cables, adaptors, vehicle mount, blood warmer, backup battery, and blood. Expect to bid project around mid July.

Laurens County Joanna Sewer Rehabilitation - Laurens County was awarded \$1,321,050 in June 2025 to upgrade water and sewer in Joanna. 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, rehab of approximately eight existing manholes and 33 sewer service re-connections. Project requires no acquisition and is estimated to cost approximately \$1,688,300, including \$367,280 from Laurens County Water & Sewer Commission. Contract signed June 9, construction to begin July 6, 2026.

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 residents with a much larger facility, allowing for more educational materials, resources, and space for free library-hosted activities and programs. Bid package has been reviewed, and project should go out to bid in June or July 2026.

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. The second 750,000 gallon holding tank has been installed, project has now been completed. Project monitoring was held in June, working on project closeout.

Greenwood County 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. The engineers are working on the bid package, interior asbestos has been removed, and exterior asbestos removal is expected to be completed around July 20, 2026.

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. The playground equipment, pavilion and picnic tables have been installed, and park-style grills were added. The project has been completed and Grand Re-Opening was held March 21, attended by elected officials and many members of the public. Project was monitored in June, working on closeout.

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. Right of way acquisition is complete and the engineers are working to complete the bid package. Project expected to go out to bid in July 2026.

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. Crews completed landscaping and installing medallions. Project has been completed and Grand Opening celebration was held April 2. Working on project 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.

Projects Closed out in 2026: Town of Saluda Streetscape

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 was completed in December 2025. Start-up operations and water tank certifications are complete. Final pay application is being prepared.

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. Construction is 20 percent complete.



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 | 12 | 22 |
| Total Dollars Loaned | \$641,546 | \$1,004,096 |
| Private Sector Investment | \$2,041,450 | \$2,250,450 |
| Other Public Investment | \$14,470 | \$14,470 |
| Jobs Created and Retained | 72.5 | 112.5 |
| Cost Per Job | \$9,958 | \$8,925 |
| Private Investment Ratio | \$3.18 : \$1 | \$2.24 : \$1 |

AGING

Upper Savannah Area Agency on Aging/Aging & Disability Resource Center Activity Report March - May 2026

| Number of Clients/Month | March | April | May |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-----|
| Assessments | 178 | 160 | 157 |
| Caregiver Support/Respite | 44 | 40 | 54 |
| Assistive Technology | 16 | 11 | 10 |
| Home/Personal Care | 31 | 35 | 35 |
| Minor Home Repair | 2 | 7 | 6 |
| Seniors Raising Children | 9 | 6 | 3 |
| Transportation | 170 | 164 | 158 |
| Legal Assistance | 8 | 9 | 7 |

Congregate Meals (# of meals) | March-May 2026

| County | March | April | May |
|-----------|-------|-------|-----|
| Abbeville | 410 | 416 | 396 |
| Edgefield | 290 | 349 | 242 |
| Greenwood | 743 | 778 | 789 |
| Laurens | 203 | 196 | 164 |
| McCormick | 311 | 305 | 310 |
| Saluda | 553 | 517 | 466 |

Home-Delivered Meals (# of meals) | March-May 2026

| County | March | April | May |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| Abbeville | 1,132 | 1,152 | 1,065 |
| Edgefield | 1,079 | 954 | 863 |
| Greenwood | 3,059 | 2,812 | 2,804 |
| Laurens | 1,105 | 1,115 | 1,090 |
| McCormick | 801 | 735 | 719 |
| Saluda | 390 | 448 | 440 |

Other highlights - AAA staff have participated in outreach and networking events across the region. AAA staff organized and hosted the 2026 Seniors & Caregivers Community Expo on May 19th at St. Paul UMC in Saluda County and on June 16th at the Mims Center in McCormick County. Both events provided a free lunch for the first 100 attendees, offered many resources from community vendors, and door prizes. Dementia Care Specialist Jo Ann Moore with SC Department on Aging was the guest speaker at both events, which were funded through the Family Caregiver Support Program. AAA staff will participate in the Veteran's Day Celebration next month in Greenwood County. Every year, SC Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program commemorates World Elder Abuse Day (WEAAD) throughout the month. WEAAD is commemorated annually on June 15th. AAA staff provided information to the consumers and staff about abuse, neglect and exploitation at both community and long-term care facilities.

More than

29,000

MEALS

served to seniors
in Region in

March through
May

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

- Continued work on Economic Development Administration (EDA) grants administration on one current grant in Laurens County and one for Piedmont Technical College.
- Continued work on an EDA grant application for Edgefield County Water and Sewer Authority.
- Continued work on an EDA grant application for Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission.
- Attended a City of Abbeville Economic Development Strategic Plan meeting.
- Researched and developed a Textile Communities Revitalization Act letter of determination of distress for a set of properties in the City of Laurens.
- Met with Town of Donalds Mayor and Councilmember to discuss a potential grant project.
- Continued meetings with SC Office of Resilience staff assigned work the Saluda, Savannah, and Edisto watersheds.
- Attended a statewide Water Summit sponsored by the SC Department of Environmental Services. The goal of this meeting is to plan for and manage water resources for various uses across the state.
- Researched grant opportunities for equipment needed by McCormick County Emergency Services.
- Responded to several city planning and zoning requests for information from across the region.
- Will attend state-mandated planning commissioner training for Edgefield County and municipalities.
- Met with Leadership Abbeville to discuss transit planning, speaking about the ongoing public transit feasibility study being conducted by the Western Transportation Institute. The group was interested in the different types of transit and some of the barriers that people face in accessing transit in Abbeville County.
- Participated in statewide discussion group on encouraging more sidewalks, bike paths, and other non-motorized means of transportation in urban and rural parts of SC. Edgefield was the host site for this meeting in May.
- Met with the statewide Drought Committee to evaluate drought status across the region and state.
- Met with the Town of Edgefield Planning Commission to review updates to the town's Comprehensive Plan. This plan is required to be reviewed every five years and updated every 10 years. The planning commission recommended the plan to Town Council for their review and another public hearing is coming up later this summer.
- Continued grant administration of the SC Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP). COG administration is required for nine grants totaling \$26,598,719. Participated in closeout monitoring for the Ware Shoals and Ninety Six SCIIP projects. Participated in monitoring for Laurens CPW project.
- 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. The committees revealed painted renditions of the Revolutionary War Battle of Long Canes April 18 during a ceremony at Wisteria Park in the Town of Troy.
- Continued work on environmental reviews for CDBG and EDA projects.
- Attended a Vision Greenwood board meeting.
- Attended a United Way of the Lakelands board meeting.
- Attended a meeting on the Greenwood Genetic Center Master Plan.
- Continued assisting the Upper Savannah Land Trust with various planning activities. The Land Trust is helping protect 60,140 acres of land with more than 150 easement projects across Abbeville, Aiken, Anderson, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee and Saluda counties since its establishment in 2000.
- Attended a public meeting on the Short Cut Road interchange project in Edgefield County. The traffic study has been completed and the meeting about the future of the project was held at nearby Fox Creek High School.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Expanding Opportunities Across Upper Savannah Region

The Upper Savannah Workforce Development Board continues to strengthen workforce development efforts across Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry and Saluda counties by connecting job seekers with employment opportunities, supporting local businesses, and investing in the future workforce of our region.

Employer Hiring Events Deliver Results

The Upper Savannah workforce team continues to partner with local employers to address workforce needs through customized recruitment events and hiring initiatives.

A recent hiring event for Aerofoam in Abbeville County attracted 46 job seekers seeking employment opportunities with the company. Additional recruitment efforts included employer-specific hiring events with Express Employment Professionals in Greenwood County and collaborative hiring initiatives with SwipeJobs and the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

These events provide employers with direct access to qualified candidates while helping residents secure meaningful employment opportunities close to home.

SC Works Centers Continue Serving Residents

SC Works staff served 998 job seekers across the Region during the month on May, providing career services, job search assistance, training referrals, workshops, and business services to hundreds of individuals throughout the region. In addition to in-person services, residents continue to access virtual career services through SC Works Online Services (SCWOS), virtual workshops, and one-on-one career coaching.

Workforce System Transformation - Expanding Access Through Connection Points and Mobile Services

Effective June 30, 2026, affiliate SC Works locations in Abbeville, Edgefield, McCormick, and Saluda counties will transition to a new service delivery model utilizing community-based Connection Points, partner locations, and the SC Works Mobile Career Coach. This transition allows workforce resources to remain available throughout the region while maximizing investments in direct customer services and workforce training opportunities.

Services will continue to be available through:

- SC Works Comprehensive Center (Greenwood)
- SC Works Affiliate Centers (Laurens & Newberry)
- Adult Education partner sites
- Piedmont Technical College locations
- Community Connection Points
- SC Works Mobile Career Coach
- Virtual and online services

Building the Workforce of Tomorrow - Piedmont Tech Health Sciences Building Moves Forward

A major investment in regional workforce development is underway with construction of Piedmont Technical College's new Health Sciences Building.

The \$11.27 million project, funded through the U.S. Economic Development Administration from a grant submitted by USCOG staff, will significantly expand healthcare training capacity in the region and support workforce pipelines for hospitals, healthcare providers, and long-term care facilities.

Upon completion, the facility will help prepare the next generation of nurses, healthcare technicians, and allied health professionals needed to meet growing workforce demands.

Supporting Business Growth Through Workforce Training

The Workforce Development Board will continue offering Career & Training Services opportunities for eligible job seekers seeking to upgrade their skills that align with the needs of our local employers. The SC Works system continues to leverage SC WINS Scholarships, the new implementation of Workforce Pell Grants, and our local Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding to invest in our workforce. These investments help businesses remain competitive while creating advancement opportunities for existing employees in high-demand industries including Healthcare, Advanced Manufacturing, Skilled Trades, Transportation and Logistics, and Information Technology.

Upper Savannah Workforce Activities

The Upper Savannah Workforce Development Board has completed or is currently preparing for several key initiatives during Program Year 2026, including:

- Completed the procurement of WIOA Career Services and One-Stop Operator services through a competitive Request for Proposals process with EckerdConnects awarded the contract.
- Preparing updates to the PY 2024–2028 Regional and Local Workforce Plans.
- Rebuilding our Business Services & Engagement strategies and services throughout the region.
- Increased utilization of the SC Works Mobile Career Coach to serve rural communities.
- Continued implementation of workforce system security enhancements funded through the SC Department of Employment and Workforce Security Grant Program.

The Board is also actively recruiting new members to ensure representation from business, education, economic development, labor, and community organizations throughout the Region.

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FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

