



UPPER SAVANNAH

Council of Governments

ACTIVITY REPORT

AUGUST 2026

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

USCOG
to submit

3

CDBG grant
applications
in fall round

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

There are

10

active CDBG
projects in region,
totaling more than
\$8.4 million

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**\$11.27
million**

EDA

PTC Health Sciences
Building project
construction
progressing well

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

USCOG
has applied
for two

EDA

water
grants

AGING

More than

50,000

meals delivered
to seniors
in Region in
March through
July 2026

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

**Town of
Edgefield**

Progress
continues on
Comprehensive
Plan update

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**Regional
Job
Fair**

Sept. 24
at PTC

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

12,360

Customer
visits made
to SC Works
Centers
in FY '25

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Responding
to planning
and zoning
requests

See

DETAILS
on these and
other activities
in this report



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

APPLICANT	PROJECT NAME	GRANT AMOUNT
City of Clinton.....	Florida Street Sewer Rehab.....	\$924,300
Laurens County.....	Beards Fork Forcemain Replacement.....	\$999,970
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
Greenwood County.....	DSS Building Improvements.....	\$1,278,510
Town of Ridge Spring.....	Town of Ridge Spring Sewer Rehab.....	\$1,700,000
Greenwood County.....	Regional Planning.....	\$50,000
TOTAL		\$8,458,920

CDBG GRANT APPLICATIONS TO BE SUBMITTED

SEPTEMBER 2026 FALL ROUND

Town of Johnston Park – The Town is requesting \$300,000 in CDBG funds to construct a park and pavilion on a town-owned vacant lot located at 612 Calhoun Street in downtown Johnston. The park and pavilion would provide community space to host public events and entertainment. Currently the Town does not have space of this capacity. The location of the proposed park has potential to support economic development and private investments throughout downtown, while encouraging new business opportunities. The project would require a \$159,872 match from the Town.

Town of Edgefield Ten Governors Rail Trail – The Town is requesting \$300,000 in CDBG funds to extend the Ten Governors Rail Trail that connects downtown Edgefield to Slade Lake. The trail extension is proposed from Slade Lake to the newly constructed Edgefield County Law Enforcement Center and Recreational Facility that is under construction. The trail extension will provide a safe route from downtown to the newly constructed facility promoting safe and healthy communities and facilitating access to county resources and

recreational opportunities. The project area is located in the Town of Edgefield or on Town of Edgefield owned property that wraps the southwestern portion of Slade Lake and extends briefly West before connecting to an abandoned railroad bed that extends East, connecting to Star Road.

City of Abbeville Demolition – The City is requesting \$480,860 in CDBG funds to demolish 28 identified residential units that are dilapidated and are in the process of condemnation. These abandoned units are a health and safety threat. The City proposes to demolish these uninhabitable structures to eliminate slum and blight, reduce criminal activities, encourage private investment and promote economic development within the City. The units are on Ferry, Garlington, Haigler, Harrisburg, Robinson, Richey and Henry Streets, Main St. South, Main St. North, Morse Ave., Pinewood Circle, Spencer St. West, Thomas Lane, Virginia Dr., Williams Lane, Enright Lane, Secession Ave., and Hampton Court. The project will require a \$48,572 match from the City.

There are **10** active CDBG projects in the region, totaling

\$8,458,920

City of Clinton: Florida Street Sewer Rehabilitation – City of Clinton was awarded \$924,300 in CDBG funds in July 2026 and \$1,500,000 in Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) funds to rehabilitate sewer lines that provide service to the low-to-moderate income Florida Street community. The deteriorating sewer lines were installed around 1970 and are in need of immediate rehab. Project proposes cured-in-place piping and sections of dig and replace on E. Ferguson, Florida, Main, Hays, N. Holland, and Jones streets, and Prather Circle. No acquisition is anticipated, all work will take place in an existing easement or public right-of-way. Project construction is estimated to cost \$2,374,300. Project in start-up phase.

Laurens County: Beards Fork Forcemain Replacement – The County received \$999,970 in CDBG funding in July 2026 to replace Beards Fork Sewer Forcemain. This portion of line receives and conveys wastewater from approximately half of the City of Clinton. This trunkline and 10 inches force main receives approximately 273,500 gallons of wastewater per day. The ductile iron pipe was installed in 1981 and has deteriorated beyond repair. The construction will consist of approximately 6,900 linear feet (LF) of 10-inch PVC force main, 100 LF of 10-inch DIP force main, 40 LF of boring, 10 cubic yards trench excavation, 400 vertical foot manhole rehabilitation, 37 manhole ring and cover replacements, fittings, valves, controls, connections, testing, stone beddings, stabilization, mobilization, and gravel. Construction is estimated to cost \$999,970. The total project is estimated to cost \$1,189,970.” Project is in start-up phase.

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 interior and exterior 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 and expected to be bid in September.

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 minutes to an hour and a half depending on the extent of 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 at end of August.

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 will take place 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 high-density polyethylene 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 began 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. Project is out for bid; bid opening Sept. 2.

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 and window replacement is expected to be completed by the end of August.

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 which have since 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 cured-in-place piping and installation of approximately 42 manholes. Project costs estimated to be \$2,086,090, including \$386,090 from Town. Right of way acquisition is complete and engineers are working to complete the bid package. Project is out for bid; bid opening Sept. 2.

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 second 750,000 gallon holding tank has been installed, project has now been completed. Project monitoring was held in June and project will be officially closed out soon.

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. Project provides an additional 23 parking stalls. Construction of sidewalks, Veterans Memorial and speed table eliminated the majority of existing parking out front of Town Hall. Project has been completed and will be officially closed out soon.

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, City of Abbeville Chestnut Street Park

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

APPLICANT	PROJECT NAME	GRANT AMOUNT
Piedmont Technical College.....	Health Sciences Building.....	\$11,271,697
TOTAL		\$11,271,697

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 40 percent complete.

Upper Savannah has applied for two EDA water grants for Edgefield and Laurens counties. USCOG is applying on behalf of the **Edgefield County Water and Sewer Authority** for the Murrah Road Water Main Project, which includes an elevated water tank and booster pump station. The proposed project consists of construction of approximately 16,500 linear feet of 24-inch water main along Murrah Road, a one million gallon elevated water tank, 3.2-million gallon booster pump station, and associated work to the existing water system along Murrah Road. USCOG is also applying on behalf of the **Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission** for the Highway 221 Water Line Replacement Project. The project involves the construction of 15,400 linear feet of 24-inch water line and associated appurtenances including multiple connections to the existing water system. The proposed transmission main would be installed along Highway 221 from the intersection with Highway 39 North to the existing Maddens elevated water tank at Stagecoach Road. Both applications are pending EDA approval.



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	5	64
Total Dollars Loaned	\$160,000	\$4,543,620
Private Investment	\$897,960	\$32,206,448
Other Public Investment	\$0	\$2,140,500
Jobs Created and Retained	21	715
Cost Per Job	\$7,619	\$6,355
Private Investment Ratio	\$5.61: \$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	11	22
Total Dollars Loaned	\$591,546	\$1,004,096
Private Sector Investment	\$2,041,450	\$2,250,450
Other Public Investment	\$14,470	\$14,470
Jobs Created and Retained	55.5	112.5
Cost Per Job	\$12,107	\$8,925
Private Investment Ratio	\$3.45 : \$1	\$2.24 : \$1

AGING

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

Number of Clients/Month	March	April	May	June	July
Assessments	178	160	157	156	117
Caregiver Support/Respite	44	40	54	26	30
Assistive Technology	16	11	10	9	9
Home/Personal Care	31	35	35	46	45
Minor Home Repair	2	7	6	4	1
Seniors Raising Children	9	6	3	1	21
Transportation	170	164	158	161	147
Legal Assistance	8	9	7	5	7

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

County	March	April	May	June	July
Abbeville	410	416	396	422	428
Edgefield	290	349	242	339	359
Greenwood	743	778	789	859	861
Laurens	203	196	164	200	198
McCormick	311	305	310	345	400
Saluda	553	517	466	487	455

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

County	March	April	May	June	July
Abbeville	1,132	1,152	1,065	1,184	1,266
Edgefield	1,079	954	863	920	1,177
Greenwood	3,059	2,812	2,804	3,148	3,030
Laurens	1,105	1,115	1,090	1,065	1,390
McCormick	801	735	719	785	672
Saluda	390	448	440	507	502

Other highlights - The AAA hosted a Senior Day in McCormick County in June. This event was free for community members and seniors. This event was held at The Mims Center and offered a free lunch for the first 100 attendees. Numerous community resource vendors were in attendance along with Guest Speaker, Jo Ann Moore, SC Dementia Care Specialist. AAA staff attended the Self Regional Resource Luncheon on June 11, Resource Fair at Strom Thurmond High School on June 26, as well as several networking events throughout the Upper Savannah region. An annual favorite is the Veteran's Appreciation Day event held in July at the Greenwood Veteran's Affairs office.

More than

50,000

MEALS

served to seniors
in Region in

March through
July

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

- Continued work on Economic Development Administration (EDA) grants administration on one current grant in Laurens County (Metric Road water upgrade) and one for Piedmont Technical College (Health Sciences building).
- 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 funds to replace water lines along US Highway 221 between Maddens and Cold Point.
- Attended a meeting with SC Office of Resilience staff to discuss requirements for completing the resiliency element of comprehensive plans.
- Responded to several city planning and zoning requests for information from across the region.
- Assisted with state-mandated planning commissioner training for 36 individuals from Edgefield County and municipalities.
- Participated in statewide discussion group on encouraging more sidewalks, bike paths, and other non-motorized means of transportation in urban and rural parts of South Carolina.
- Met with consultants working with the City of Clinton Safe Streets for All grant to review potential projects.
- Updated Americans with Disabilities plan information for the awarded CDBG applications in Clinton and Laurens County.
- Attended a Leadership Abbeville meeting to discuss the ongoing public transit feasibility study. There is a group considering starting a nonprofit that will use volunteer drivers using their own cars to get people in need to medical appointments and to grocery shopping.
- Met with the Mayor and Town Clerk of the Town of Calhoun Falls to discuss municipal plans and needs.
- Met with the statewide Drought Committee to evaluate drought status across the region and state.
- Continued work on the Town of Edgefield Comprehensive Plan update.
- Continued grant administration of the SC Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP). COG administration was 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 monitoring for the Laurens CPW project. City of Abbeville, Town of Due West, Town of Edgefield, City of Clinton, and McCormick CPW are all still active.
- 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 and McCormick county SC 250 committees to update and install signs commemorating Revolutionary War events.
- Researched a potential accessory dwelling unit ordinance change for the City of Abbeville.
- 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. The Master Plan is an update to take into account the new partnership with Project HOPE and their emphasis on autism research and awareness. Project HOPE would like to begin housing clients and their families onsite at some point in the future as part of their Genetic Center collaboration.
- Continued assisting the Upper Savannah Land Trust with various planning activities including coordinating the annual meeting. 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.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Upper Savannah Workforce Services Update: Expanding Access, Training and Opportunities Across Our Region

The Upper Savannah Workforce Development Board closed out Program Year 2025–2026 with strong regional momentum, connecting job seekers and employers across Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, and Saluda counties. Through responsive community-based service models and strategic partnerships, SC Works centers and mobile units delivered vital career and business solutions.

Workforce Wins by the Numbers: Our SC Works system achieved significant regional reach during the past program year from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026:

12,360 Customer visits	3,362 New job seekers	33,458 Individualized job-search services
4,013 Employer services	2,144 Regional businesses served	1,467 Job seekers connected

Investing in High-Demand Career Pathways: To meet the needs of growing industries, Upper Savannah leveraged Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding, SC WINS scholarships, and Workforce Pell opportunities to expand credential-based training. Key focus areas included:

Healthcare	Manufacturing & Skilled Trades	Transportation & Logistics
Strong participant enrollment across high-demand pathways, including Registered Nursing, Patient Care Technician, Medical Billing and Coding, Phlebotomy, Nurse Aide, and Dental Assisting	Essential hands-on certifications in welding, mechatronics, logistics, industrial maintenance, and heavy equipment operation	Direct career pathways supported by high-demand Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training programs

Modernizing Service Delivery & Laurens County Relocation: To ensure flexible, rural access, traditional affiliate services in Abbeville, Edgefield, McCormick, and Saluda counties have transitioned to community-based models, utilizing local Connection Points, the SC Works Mobile Career Coach, and educational partner sites.

SC WORKS HAS A NEW HOME IN LAURENS COUNTY

291 Professional Park Road • Clinton, SC 29325

SC Works has relocated to 291 Professional Park Road, co-locating with the Laurens County Chamber of Commerce. This partnership bridges workforce development with economic recruitment to better align services with local business needs.

FALL REGIONAL JOB FAIR

Thursday, September 24, 2026 • Piedmont Technical College • Greenwood
Meet employers. Explore careers. Discover training opportunities.

This premier regional hiring event offers job seekers an opportunity to connect face-to-face with leading employers across high-growth industries, including advanced manufacturing, healthcare, and transportation and logistics. Whether you are actively seeking employment, looking to advance your career, or interested in exploring local training pathways, staff and participating businesses will be on-site to help guide your next step.

Get Connected whether you are a job seeker looking for no-cost career training or an employer seeking recruitment assistance, the Upper Savannah workforce system is here to help.

www.upsavannah.com • Phone: 864-941-8050 • Main Office: 430 Helix Road, Greenwood, SC 29646

UPPER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS | ACTIVITY REPORT | AUGUST 2026



George Hale

Greenwood County SC Works/WIOA Success Story

George Hale came to the Greenwood SC Works Center with a goal of earning his GED and creating a better future for himself. Like many individuals seeking education and employment opportunities, he faced several barriers along the way, including responsibilities at home that made it challenging to focus on his education and career goals. Determined to succeed, George enrolled in the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program while working toward his GED through Greenwood Adult Education. With support from Greenwood Adult Education and WIOA services, he remained committed to his goals and successfully completed his GED. After earning his

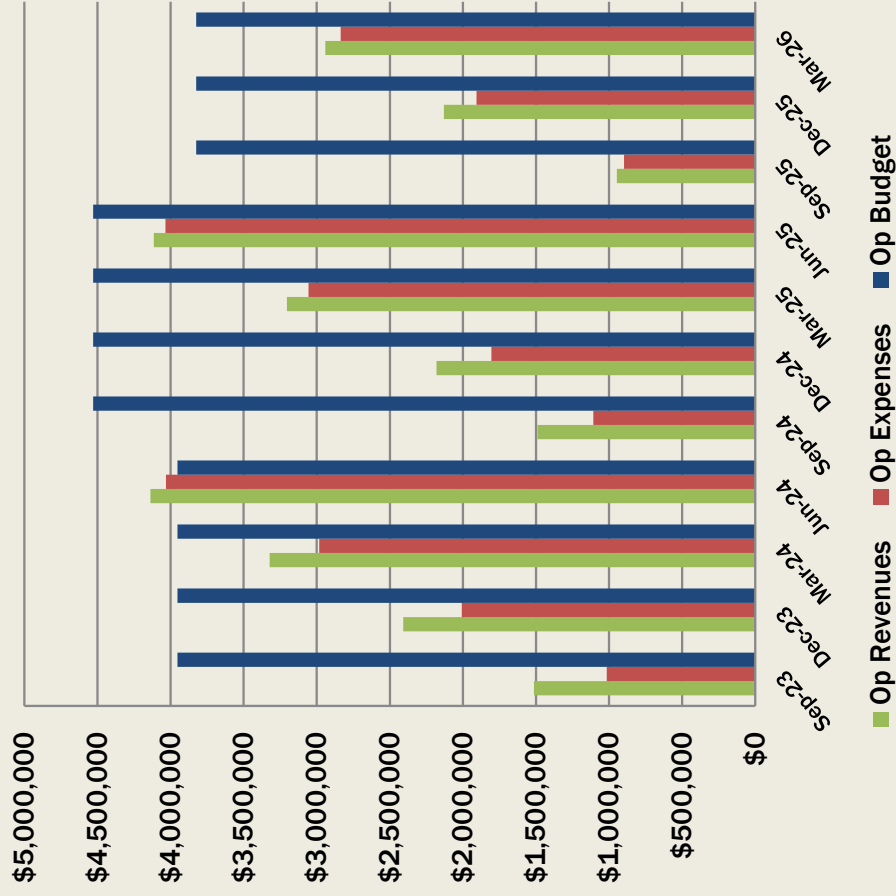
GED, George was provided an opportunity through the WIOA Work Experience (WEX) program to receive Administrative Assistant training at Greenwood Adult Education. This opportunity allowed him to gain valuable hands-on workplace experience while earning an income. Through his training, George developed administrative and professional skills that helped prepare him for future employment opportunities and strengthened his confidence in a professional work environment. George's commitment to growth did not stop there. He is currently participating in Vocational Rehabilitation's work program, where he continues to gain valuable work experience and expand his workplace skills. Through this opportunity, George is earning \$10.00 per hour while further developing the knowledge, professionalism, and experience needed to achieve his long-term career goals.

Because George went through SC Works and approved WIOA education partner, Greenwood Adult Education he can say, "I'm the next one!" Congratulations, George, on being the next one graduated, and the next one to achieve your dreams!

SC WORKS
UPPER SAVANNAH

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Operating Actual vs. Budget



Pass Through Budget

