

UPPER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
 Annual Report to the Board Members Representing Laurens County
 For the Fiscal Year Ending 2018

Financial Review - Upper Savannah COG Revenue Highlights

Local Government Funding	\$152,336
State Aid to COG	40,965
Federal & State	2,214,619
General, In-kind & Miscellaneous	80,900
Contractual & Direct Services	<u>3,721,041</u>
TOTAL	\$6,209,861

Return on Investment – Laurens County – Fiscal Year 2018

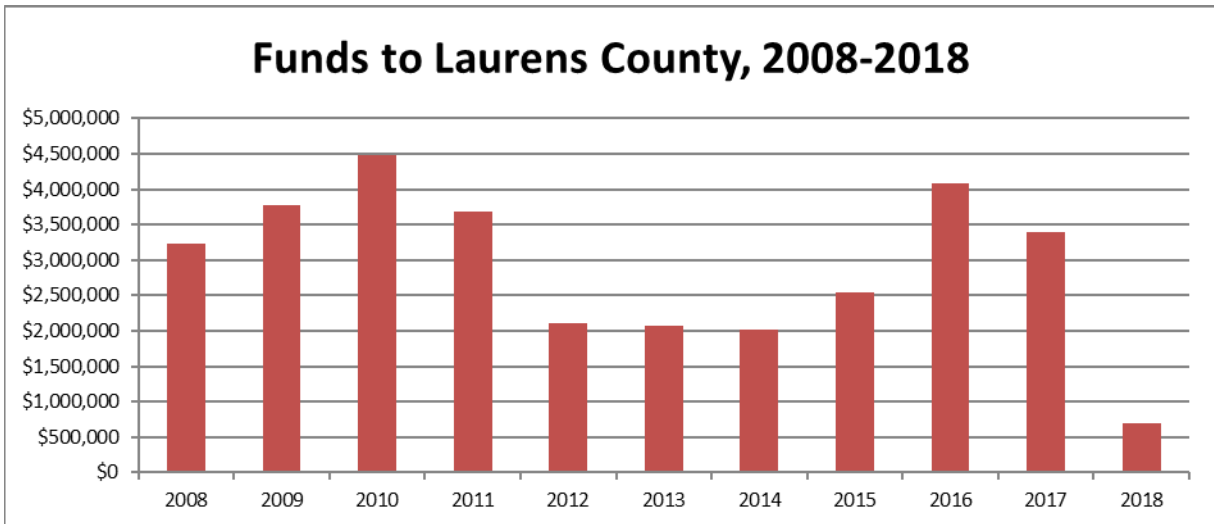
Local Government Investment	\$46,636
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Funds to Laurens County

Aging Direct Services	\$430,679
Workforce Development Direct Services	210,638
Rural Guideshare Allocation (U.S. 221 widening)	<u>50,760</u>

TOTAL	\$692,077
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Return on Investment: 15:1



Direct Services funding consists of federal and state dollars for Workforce Development and Aging program services provided to the counties in the Upper Savannah region based on performance, need and eligibility. The COG administers these two programs under contract for direct service delivery and is responsible for the allocation and fiscal administration of these dollars. The funds assist in delivering services that provide for the health, welfare and employment of certain segments of a county’s population, thus easing the financial and administrative burden on local governments. Rural Guideshare funds are Federal Highway Administration dollars designated for highway system improvements. USCOG Board of Directors prioritizes the projects for final consideration by the SCDOT Commission.

Direct grant awarded in Fiscal Year 2018:

- **EDA (Regional) - \$1,500,000** – Piedmont Technical College to construct the Upstate Center for Manufacturing Excellence.

Laurens County Highlights

City of Clinton Mill Village Water Upgrade II – Project awarded June 2017. Waterline upgrade in the Clinton Mill Village around Beauregard/Davis Street area. Engineering underway and re-certification of surveys underway began in FY 2018.

Laurens County, Joanna V Sewer Upgrade – Project awarded June 2017. Continuation of sewer upgrades in Joanna Mill Village around N. Marion, Moultrie, and N. Ellis streets. Construction underway.

Laurens County Water & Sewer Commission – The LCWSC was awarded an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant to construct a sewer project that will serve industries just north of the Town of Gray Court. The grant award amount is \$1,298,000. The total project cost is \$1,622,500. The project will serve Mogul South Carolina Nonwovens Corporation and the creation of 80 new jobs and \$17,600,000 million in capital investment. The project was nearly complete by the end FY 2018.

Laurens County Water & Sewer Commission - LCWSC is working with Upper Savannah staff to submit an application to EDA to fund upgrades to its water system including a waterline replacement and an elevated water tank.

Industrial Training Center - Piedmont Technical College was awarded a \$1,500,000 EDA grant to fund a portion of the Upstate Center for Manufacturing Excellence. This 45,000 square foot state of the art industrial training center will benefit workers and industries in the college's service area. The total project cost is \$12,453,414.

County Finance Directors - Coordinated meetings of County Finance Directors to share ideas and information about computer systems, revenue generation, audits and many other topics.

Economic Development Professionals - Upper Savannah COG hosted group of economic development professionals who discussed various economic development topics of local and regional interest.

S.C. Ethics Act - Upper Savannah COG hosted a local government training session on the SC Ethics Act. SC Ethics Commission Interim Executive Director Steve Hamm presented information about recent changes to the Act and provided practical advice to help local officials stay in compliance.

Laurens County SC Works Center Relocation – Moved the SC Works Center to Laurens Adult Education on W. Main Street.

Assisting Laid off Workers - Assisted workers affected by closures of Chicago Bridge & Iron (CB&I) and the Walmart Operations center.

Focus on Manufacturing - The largest workforce need in the Upper Savannah area is preparing workers for jobs in manufacturing. There are hundreds of jobs which are unfilled and several thousand job seekers in the Upper Savannah region. The Upper Savannah Workforce Development Board works with both businesses and job seekers to address short-term and long-term needs. Upper Savannah developed linkages with workforce boards in Anderson, Greenville and Spartanburg to start improving the pool of manufacturing workers in the Greater Upstate Region.

SC Works Centers - SC Works Centers are the focal point of the workforce development system. About 1,500 job seekers were matched with jobs through the SC Works System.

WIOA Enrollment – Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA) enrollment was down due to decreased demand and a reduction in funding, but 300 clients were enrolled in the program year.

Outreach - Upper Savannah COG is best known for its innovative approaches to reaching job seekers and employers. It has two large regional job fairs. Its Facebook and Twitter feeds reach thousands each week. Upper Savannah debuted its new website at www.upperscworks.com. Piedmont Technical College co-hosted the job fairs and provided billboards to advertise the events.

Laurens County Job Fair - Planned job fair for Laurens in conjunction with the Laurens Economic Development Corporation and Piedmont Technical College.

City of Clinton Comprehensive Plan - Continued working with the City on a comprehensive plan update.

Town of Gray Court - Revised zoning maps for the Town.

CEDS Update – Completed an update to the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to keep the region eligible for EDA funding.

Planning Commissioner Certification – Hosted numerous workshops to get planning commissioner, zoning appeals board members, and staff certified. A total of 101 people received the required training in FY 2018.

Upper Savannah Land Trust - Assisted the Upper Savannah Land Trust (USLT) in achieving recognition as a nationally-accredited organization. Continuing to assist the USLT, which has helped protect 47,562 acres (147 easements in eight counties) for future generations. USCOG helped start the Land Trust in 2000. It received its national accreditation in February 2018. There are seven easements totaling 2,587 acres in Laurens County.

Transportation Planning – Continued working with the SC Department of Transportation (SCDOT) on various transportation planning projects.

Transit – Received and reviewed transit grants from regional providers and forwarded them on to SCDOT.

Environmental Reviews – Completed environmental reviews for all Community Development Block Grant projects.

Municipal Association – Hosted training teleconferences for the municipal elected officials.

Americans with Disabilities Act – Continued updating ADA plans for local governments

County and Municipal Clerks Meeting – Organized and hosted a regional meeting for county and municipal clerks to discuss topics of common interest. These meetings earned Upper Savannah COG a 2018 National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Innovation Award.

HOME – Continued work with the HOME Investment Partnership Program. HOME is a HUD-funded program that provides rehab or new construction funding for homes of low income individuals and rental units.

InfoMentum – Continued working with the data management and mapping tool accessed through ACOG and the Upstate Alliance.

Planning – Continued assisting various municipal and county planning commissions with development or zoning questions as needed.

Grant writing – Assisted with grant writing for local governments as requested.

Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Services - The Upper Savannah Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) provides, coordinates and contracts for services to the Upper Savannah region’s senior population. In addition to the regional services through the ADRC described below, Upper Savannah contracts with the region’s senior centers and other providers to meet the needs of senior adults. Contracted services include transportation, home-delivered meals, congregate dining with activities, home care, and health and wellness promotion.

State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) – The SHIP program helps seniors and individuals with disabilities research and understand Medicare coverage options with their Medicare prescription drug plans and Medicare Advantage plans. This Program also counsels and assists beneficiaries with Medicare Part A & B issues and Medigap coverage, and alerts seniors to fraudulent Medicare and Medicaid practices through the Senior Medicare Patrol Program.

The Upper Savannah SHIP Program totals from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

SHIP Contacts	
Phone	833
Face to face	416
Emails	42
Mail	290
Total	1,581
Medicare application screenings	898
Medicaid application assistance	42
Medicare & OMB claims	512
Extra Help screenings	806
Medicaid savings plans	858

Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP) - Program provided funding to 394 caregivers as well as information, assistance, education, support, and referrals to many more throughout the region. The program provides respite, which is a break from daily care-giving that is important in helping caregivers do a better job over a longer period of time. The program also helps caregivers with supplemental services, such as incontinent supplies and assistive technology. The FCSP also continues to be available for grandparents 55 and older caring for grandchildren 18 and younger. Many grandparents take on the parental role in order to keep the grandchildren out of the overburdened foster care system. The FCSP helps those grandparents who have stepped into the role of parent due to death, incarceration or other parental problems with some funded services as well as information and support groups.

Information, Referral and Assistance (IR&A) - The IR&A program is designed to provide seniors and people with disabilities access to helpful resources. Upper Savannah staff includes four certified IR&A specialists.

Home Safety Program - The program has helped many individuals throughout the region with projects that improve unsafe areas in the home, including the building of grab bars and ramps, etc. Partnerships with area churches have maximized the funding potential. The AAA helped 29 people with Minor Home Repair throughout the region during FY 2018.

Assistive Technology (lifelines) – Program assisted approximately 31 seniors throughout the region with lifelines.

Legal Services Program - Program served 64 seniors with various legal concerns such as Power of Attorney, will preparation, and grandparent custody issues. Attorneys throughout the region have agreed to work with the ADRC at reasonable rates to better serve the senior population.

Home Care Program - Upper Savannah AAA provides a Home Care Program that helps seniors who are in need of services such as light housekeeping and some personal care. The program provides consumer choice for the seniors and their families and adds support to keeping older persons in their homes as long as possible. The program served 134 people in FY 2018.

Advocate for Senior Citizens - Continued to serve as an advocate for 2,233 seniors in the region's nursing homes and residential care facilities through the continued administration of the Regional Ombudsman Program.