



UPPER SAVANNAH

Council of Governments

ACTIVITY REPORT

FEBRUARY 2022

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

REGION RECEIVED THREE

CDBG grant awards in fall round

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

There are **11**

active CDBG projects in region, totaling **\$6.8 million**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CARES Act RLF has closed 16 loans

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EDA

CONSIDERING \$7.4 MILLION IN GRANTS FOR WATER, SEWER IN LAURENS COUNTY

AGING

More than **62,000** Meals served to seniors in region over last four months

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

SCDOT discussed moving Region's top intersection projects into engineering phase

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING GRANT

\$2.8 million federal grant assisting dislocated workers in Upper Savannah, other regions

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

FUJI

workforce staff has assisted more than 100 workers with resumes

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Wrote two successful grant applications for **NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS**

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



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

APPLICANT	PROJECT NAME	GRANT AMOUNT
City of Abbeville.....	Structure Demolitions.....	\$221,564
City of Clinton.....	Fire Truck Purchase.....	\$500,000
Town of Saluda.....	N. Main/W. Church Streetscape.....	\$721,212
Greenwood County.....	Mathews Mill Village Sewer Upgrade.....	\$1,000,000
Town of McCormick.....	N. Main/Augusta Streetscape.....	\$750,000
City of Clinton.....	Clinton Mill Sewer Upgrade.....	\$1,460,000
Greenwood County.....	Baptist Avenue Sewer Upgrade.....	\$750,000
Laurens County.....	Highway 56/76 Sewer Upgrades.....	\$715,000
Town of Johnston.....	Fire Truck Purchase.....	\$454,545
City of Greenwood.....	Structure Demolitions.....	\$177,571
Greenwood County.....	Regional Planning.....	\$50,000
TOTAL.....		\$6,799,892

CDBG GRANT AWARDS

2021 FALL ROUND AWARDS ANNOUNCED IN NOVEMBER

City of Abbeville Structure Demolitions

\$221,564 CDBG request, \$22,381 local match, \$243,945 total project cost

Funds were requested for the demolition and clearance of condemned structures throughout the City.

City of Clinton Fire Truck

\$500,000 CDBG request, \$250,000 local match, \$750,000 total project cost

Funds were requested to purchase a new fire truck to serve the City.

Town of Saluda Streetscape

\$721,212 CDBG request, \$102,562 local match, \$823,774 total project cost

Funds were requested to provide streetscape improvements to portions of downtown.

There are **11** active CDBG projects in the region, totaling **\$6,799,892**

City of Abbeville: Demolition Project. The city received \$221,564 in CDBG funding in November 2021 to demolish and clear 17 vacant and condemned houses located on 102 Brooks St. East, 106 Brown St., 412 Cambridge St. West (Lots 3, 4, 7 & 9), 110 Gip Edwards Rd., 403 Poplar St.; 100, 208 and 209 Raymond Rd.; 102 Secession Ave; and 101, 103, 106, 109 and 112 Wilson St., in the City of Abbeville. The project is currently in start-up phase.

City of Clinton: Fire Truck Purchase. The city received \$500,000 in CDBG funding in November 2021 for the purchase of a new fire truck to replace a 2008 model currently used by the city. The project is currently in start-up phase.

Town of Saluda: North Main and West Church Streetscape. The town received \$721,212 in CDBG funding in November 2021 for streetscape. The project focuses on beautification throughout downtown in hopes of providing a welcoming atmosphere for economic development, while improving and providing accessibility for all. Improvements would encourage foot traffic, potentially stimulating business opportunities within the available storefronts. The project will include the intersection of Main and Church streets. The project is currently in the start-up phase.

Greenwood County: Mathews Mill Village Sewer Upgrade. The project was awarded in June 2021 with \$1 million in CDBG funds. Greenwood Metro pursued funding through Greenwood County to improve infrastructure within the LMI area of Mathews Mill Village in multiple phases. The project is expected to provide improved sewer service to 174 units of the Mathews Mill Village, an LMI community located in Greenwood. Improvements are to include Florida Avenue, Truett Avenue, Holloway Avenue, Grier Street, Kirksey Drive West, and Palmer Street. Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) funds have been secured. Project costs are estimated to be \$2,966,636. Engineering for the project is currently underway.

Town of McCormick: Main Street Streetscape II, N. Main, and Augusta Streets. A total of \$750,000 in CDBG funds were requested to continue the Town's streetscape efforts by improving intersections, restriping parking stalls and crosswalks, landscaping, ADA accessible parking and fencing along the railroad. Improvements will include North Main and Augusta streets. Cameras will be installed as a public safety element. The project provides a safe pedestrian route for LMI residents who seek goods and services within the Town. The project was awarded in November 2020 and is currently in the Engineering phase, SCDOT permitting has been approved and project will go out to bid in March 2022.

City of Clinton: Clinton Mill Sewer Upgrade. The project was awarded in September 2020, with \$750,000 in CDBG funds, \$500,000 from the Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) and a \$149,720 local match for a total project cost of \$1,399,720. The project involves upgrading sewer lines in the Clinton Mill Village area, an LMI neighborhood in the City of Clinton. The City is currently under a Consent Order from SCDHEC due to sanitary sewer overflows in its collection system. The project will aid in reduction of inflow and infiltration to the City's collection system. It will benefit an estimated 180 units. The bids were opened on July 22, 2021, and all bids were over budget. USCOG worked with the Department of Commerce to secure an additional \$710,000 and the City of Clinton will contribute an additional \$250,000 to continue with the entire project which will be approximately \$2,359,720. The project is under construction.

Greenwood County: Baptist Sewer Upgrade. The project was awarded in September 2020, with \$750,000 CDBG funds and \$262,317 in local match for a total project cost of \$1,012,317. It involves upgrading sewer lines in the Baptist Avenue Area in Greenwood. Area includes Gilliam Avenue, Baptist Avenue, Evans Street, Percival Avenue, Singleton Street, Byrd Street, Tanyard Avenue, Bay Street and Milwee Avenue. The project will benefit an estimated 90 units and is currently in the engineering phase. The project is currently out for bids.

Laurens County: Highway 56/76 Sewer Upgrades. The project was awarded in September 2020, with \$715,000 in CDBG funds, \$120,000 local match for total project cost of \$835,000. The project involves repairing two major sections of trunk line at intersections of Hwy 76/Springdale Drive and Hwy 56/Springdale Drive. Improvements to intersections would include installing new lines, casings, manholes and reconnection of force mains. The project will benefit an estimated 2,300 households and businesses, approximately half of the City of Clinton’s population. The pre-construction meeting was held on February 16, 2022, with construction to begin in October 2022, due to delays in materials.

Town of Johnston: Fire Truck Purchase. The town received \$454,545 in CDBG funding in November 2019 for the purchase of a new fire truck to replace a 1973 model currently used by the Town. The fire truck is on order and due for delivery in April 2022.

City of Greenwood: Demolition Project. City received \$177,571 in CDBG funding in November 2019 to demolish and clear 10 vacant and condemned houses located on Owens Street, Park Alley, Park Avenue, and Washington Avenue in the City of Greenwood. Asbestos testing is complete, the COG has received the reports, the demo package is currently out for bid and will be opened on March 8, 2022.

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

Projects completed in 2021:

Greenwood County College Heights Sewer Upgrade.....	\$260,000
Laurens County Lydia Mill Sewer Upgrade - Phase II.....	\$750,000

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

APPLICANT	PROJECT NAME	GRANT AMOUNT
Greenwood County.....	Greenwood East Rail Park Feasibility Study.....	\$208,000
City of Abbeville.....	Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades.....	\$2,554,000
Laurens County Water & Sewer Commission.....	Water system upgrades (water tank, water lines).....	\$3,100,000
TOTAL.....		\$5,862,000

Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission has received two letters of further consideration from EDA to fund sewer system improvements to serve Fibertex Nonwoven Inc. and water system improvements to serve Malouf Companies and generally upgrade water services in the area around the I-385 and US 221 interchange. The sewer system improvements project grant amount receiving further consideration is \$2,000,000 and the total project cost is \$2,735,000. The water system improvements grant amount receiving further consideration is \$5,422,800 and the total project cost is \$6,778,500. A further consideration letter requires the submission of additional documents that weren't requested in the application. While it is not guaranteed, the further consideration letter usually indicates EDAs intention to make a grant award.

Greenwood County has been awarded a \$208,000 Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant to fund three studies to determine the feasibility of certain infrastructure improvements at a major industrial site known as the Greenwood East Rail Park. The project will study transportation access, the feasibility of raw water line to serve the site, and a safe yield study to model and recommend water withdrawal limits on Lake Greenwood.

City of Abbeville was awarded a \$2,554,000 grant to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant on Long Cane Creek. The grant was awarded under EDA's supplemental funding in response to natural disasters occurring in 2017. The damage and impacts of Hurricane Irma resulted in a presidentially declared disaster in South Carolina, which made this project eligible. Total project cost is \$3,192,500. The project is complete and the final reimbursement has been received.

Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission was awarded a \$3,100,000 grant to upgrade a waterline along Stagecoach Road and to construct a water tank at Milam Road. Both project components will enhance the water system operations and help maximize the benefits of the new water plant. The damage and impacts of Hurricane Irma resulted in a presidentially declared disaster in South Carolina which made this project eligible. Total project cost is \$3,875,000. Two reimbursement requests have been paid by EDA. Project is approximately 95 percent complete.



Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program has closed 64 loans totaling \$4,543,620 as of December 31, 2021. The RLF has helped create or retain 715 jobs and leveraged \$34,346,948 in private and other public investment. 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.

CARES Revolving Loan Fund (CARES RLF) Program has closed 16 loans totaling \$586,710. These loans have helped create or retain 76.5 jobs, leverage \$906,470 in private investment and \$14,470 in other public investment. 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.

REVOLVING LOAN FUND:

DECEMBER 31, 2021				JUNE 30, 2020		
	NUMBER	AMOUNT	BALANCE	NUMBER	AMOUNT	BALANCE
Current	8	\$425,500	\$329,235	11	\$835,500	\$479,637
Delinquent	1	\$25,000	\$8,273	1	\$25,000	\$8,810
Default	1	\$10,000	\$9,177	1	\$10,000	\$9,177
Active Loans	10	\$460,500	\$346,685	13	\$870,500	\$497,624
Written off	13	\$1,138,250	\$639,693	13	\$1,138,250	\$639,893
Repaid	41	\$2,944,878	-	38	\$2,534,870	-
TOTAL	64	\$4,543,620	-	64	\$4,543,620	-

CARES REVOLVING LOAN FUND:

DECEMBER 31, 2021				SEPTEMBER 30, 2020		
	NUMBER	AMOUNT	BALANCE	NUMBER	AMOUNT	BALANCE
Current	16	\$586,710	\$534,150	1	\$62,500	\$61,963
Delinquent	0	0	0	0	0	0
Default	0	0	0	0	0	0
Active Loans	16	\$586,710	\$534,150	0	\$62,500	\$61,963
Written off	0	0	0	0	0	0
Repaid	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	16	\$586,710	-	1	\$62,500	-

AGING

Upper Savannah Area Agency on Aging/Aging & Disability Resource Center Activity Report October 1, 2021 - January 31, 2022

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	CLIENTS
Assessments	Determine client eligibility and needs for Aging services	564
Caregiver Supplemental Services	Assists with supplies, supplements, assistive technology	46
Assistive Technology	Provides Lifeline monitoring for seniors at risk	23
Home Care	Helps seniors with light housekeeping, chores, personal care	55
Minor Home Repair	Provides ramps, handrails, grab bars, safety upgrades	13
Seniors Raising Children Supplemental Services	Assists with school supplies, clothing, and miscellaneous	25
Transportation	Trips to congregate meal sites, medical, essential shopping	304
Legal Assistance	Provided by SC Legal Services	18
Caregiver Respite	Offers a break for daily caregivers	59

Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals Report | October 1, 2021 - January 31, 2022

MEALS BY COUNTY	CLIENTS	NUMBER OF MEALS
Abbeville	167	9,592
Edgefield	116	5,823
Greenwood	475	25,583
Laurens	228	11,097
McCormick	85	4,882
Saluda	133	5,779
TOTALS	1,204	62,756

More than **62,000** MEALS served to clients in Region over last **FOUR MONTHS**

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

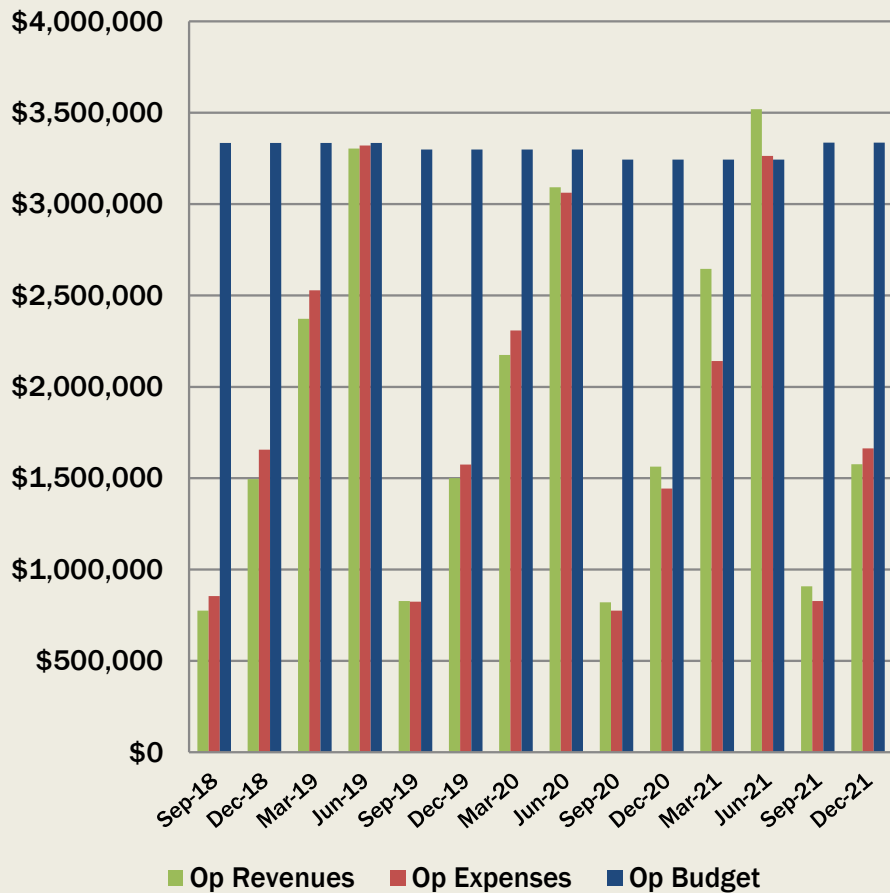
- Continued work on Economic Development Administration (EDA) grants administration on current grants.
- Submitted a grant application on behalf of the Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission for a waterline expansion and upgrade project. A letter of further consideration was received for this project and more information was submitted to EDA.
- Submitted a grant application on behalf of the City of Greenwood to EDA for a Tourism development project.
- Met with Greenwood CPW staff to discuss potential grant funded projects.
- Attended and assisted in planning a regional grant workshop for CDBG, RIA, and EDA. Forty-two attended the workshop in person at Ninety Six Baptist Church on Jan. 12 while five participated virtually.
- Continued work on environmental reviews for CDBG projects.
- Conducted a training session on planning regulations for Laurens County.
- Attended a regional meeting of the area Small Business Development Center board.
- Met with SCDOT Planning to discuss moving the top three intersection projects in the region into the engineering phase. A public comment period will begin in April and an USCOG board vote will be requested on April 25 to move these projects forward in the planning process. These intersections are: Short Cut Road and US 25 in Edgefield County, SC 14 and SC 101 in Laurens County, and Sweetwater Road and the US 25 Bypass in Greenwood County.
- Presented a planning program overview for the Laurens Forestry Association.
- Provided state-mandated training for planning commissioners in the Town of Due West. Began work on a town comprehensive plan update.
- Presented a program on regional planning to graduate students at Clemson University.
- Provided state-mandated training for planning commissioners in Edgefield County.
- Assisted in writing a grant application for two neighborhood associations in Greenwood County. Both were awarded for a total of \$3,500 from the Greenwood County Community Foundation Open Grants Cycle. The Promised Land Association received \$2,500 towards enhancing the community walking track currently under construction with a rubberized, low-impact surface while the Ninety Six Mill Village received \$1,000 for licensing fees and event insurance for its on-going outdoor Movies in the Park series.
- Assisted Abbeville County Council with goal setting meeting.
- The CDBG-CV Public Facilities projects have been bid. Currently putting together the necessary documents to send to Guidehouse/Commerce for approval to sign the contract.
- The CDBG-CV Public Services project for air purifiers for Laurens School District 55 will begin advertising for bids on February 22, 2022. Bids will be opened on March 28, 2022.
- Procurement for the Public Services projects for home delivered meals and contracted public transit for Saluda County is close to being complete.
- Attended an update meeting on the Ninety Six sidewalk projects funded through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) from SCDOT. Construction is expected to start later this year.
- Continued assisting the Upper Savannah Land Trust.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Upper Savannah workforce staff wants to help job seekers. Anyone looking for a job and or considering training can call 864.229.8826 or email WIOArecruitment@gleamsnhrc.org to get more assistance.
- Met with FUJIFILM to coordinate services for 400 workers. More than 100 workers have received resume assistance. Held onsite events at DSV in Laurens for 120 logistics workers.
- Started recruiting and training emergency medical technicians and paramedics for a federal Rural Health grant. Upper Savannah is guiding nearly a half million dollars in efforts to train 100 new medics. Thirty have been enrolled. The COG is working with County EMS departments to fill openings.
- Held job fair for Abbeville County highlighting Abbeville County jobs.
- Submitted letters of support for EDA Build Back Better and Good Jobs Challenge grants. If the Good Jobs Challenge grant is funded, the area will get two truck driver simulators.
- Five SC workforce areas were awarded a \$2.8M grant to offer On-the-Job training and other services for more than 260 dislocated workers. Upper Savannah is taking the lead in developing an outreach campaign.
- Assisted Piedmont Technical College with grant application for high school bridge program.
- Exploring the needs of youth aging out of foster care to offer job training and employment.
- Helping McCormick County train new employees by offering On-the-Job Training assistance.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Operating Actual vs. Budget



Pass Through Budget

