



UPPER SAVANNAH

Council of Governments

ACTIVITY REPORT

APRIL 2022

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**USCOG
SUBMITTED**

THREE

**CDBG grant
applications
in spring
round**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

There are

11

active CDBG
projects in region,
totaling almost
\$7 million

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**LCWSC
receives
\$2 MILLION**

EDA

**grant award
to upgrade
industrial
sewer facility**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EDA

CONSIDERING
\$5.4 MILLION
GRANT FOR
WATER SYSTEM
IMPROVEMENTS IN
LAURENS COUNTY

AGING

More than

1,000

**Seniors have
received meals
in Region over
last two months**

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

**CARES Act
CDBG-CV
PROJECTS**
moving forward
in various stages
across Region

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**HIGH SCHOOL
SENIORS**

Staff finalizing
booklet to help
new graduates
identify companies
who might hire them

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

FUJI

workforce staff
has assisted
more than 150
workers
with resumes

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

**REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION
WORKSHOP
helps provide
updates
on projects
across region**

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.....	\$899,795
Town of Johnston.....	Fire Truck Purchase.....	\$454,545
City of Greenwood.....	Structure Demolitions.....	\$177,571
Greenwood County.....	Regional Planning.....	\$50,000
TOTAL.....		\$6,984,687

CDBG GRANT APPLICATIONS

SUBMITTED IN APRIL 2022 SPRING INFRASTRUCTURE ROUND

Town of Ridge Spring Sewer Rehab

CDBG funds requested 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 indicate the conditions have significantly worsened. The proposed project includes approximately 2,541 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. The proposed project costs are estimated to be \$2,086,090. Project is considered a town-wide benefit. Ridge Spring has an estimated population of 920 of which 68.47% are LMI.

Clinton-Joanna WWTP Upgrade

CDBG funds requested to upgrade Clinton-Joanna Wastewater Treatment Plant located at Treatment Plant Rd., Kinards. Proposed improvements include removing existing drying beds and upgrading the WWTP process by installing two large sludge holding tanks, aeration, mixers, pumps, controls, and other necessary fittings for liquid land application of the digested sludge. Project cost is estimated to be \$3,026,000. Proposed project will benefit the City of Clinton, Joanna and neighboring communities which utilize the sewer service. The project will benefit an estimated 8,078 people of which 64.88 %, are estimated to be LMI.

Mathews Mill Phase II Sewer Upgrade

CDBG funds were requested to provide continued sewer improvements to the Mathews Mill area. Proposed improvements include installation of approximately 825 ft of 12-inch and 5,200 ft of 8-inch gravity sewer line, 23 new precast concrete manholes and reconnection of 109 structures. Construction is proposed on Georgia St, Bolt Ave, Bond Ave, Stevens Ave, and Cross St. Acquisition is anticipated. Total project costs are estimated to be \$3,103,399. This project will benefit approximately 303 people, of which 92% are considered LMI.

There are **11** active CDBG projects in the region, totaling **\$6,984,687**

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. The bid package is currently being assessed.

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 engineering 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. Project is expected to go to bid in June 2022.

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 April 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 came in over budget by \$450,000 and staff is working to secure additional funding.

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 at the end of May through mid June 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 contract is signed, demolitions started April 20, 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
Laurens County Water & Sewer Commission.....	Laurens County Industrial Sewer.....	\$2,000,000
Greenwood County.....	Greenwood East Rail Park Feasibility Study.....	\$208,000
Laurens County Water & Sewer Commission.....	Water system upgrades (water tank, water lines).....	\$3,100,000
TOTAL.....		\$5,308,000

Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission has been awarded a \$2,000,000 grant to upgrade the sewer facilities serving the Fibertex manufacturing facility in Gray Court. Specifically, the existing pump station and existing sewer line serving the plant will be replaced providing additional capacity to accommodate the increased flow. The infrastructure improvements will help the company create 50 jobs and leverage \$50,000,000 in private investment. The total estimated project cost is \$2,735,000.

Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission has received a letter of further consideration from 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 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 EDA's 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.

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 18 loans totaling \$689,096. These loans have helped create or retain 78 jobs, leverage \$1,450,450 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:

MARCH 31, 2022				JUNE 30, 2021		
	NUMBER	AMOUNT	BALANCE	NUMBER	AMOUNT	BALANCE
Current	8	\$425,500	\$319,950	8	\$425,500	\$349,020
Delinquent	1	\$25,000	\$8,273	1	\$25,000	\$8,273
Default	1	\$10,000	\$9,177	1	\$10,000	\$9,177
Active Loans	10	\$460,500	\$337,400	10	\$460,500	\$366,520
Written off	13	\$1,138,250	\$639,693	13	\$1,138,250	\$639,893
Repaid	41	\$2,944,878	-	41	\$2,944,878	-
TOTAL	64	\$4,543,620	-	64	\$4,543,620	-

CARES REVOLVING LOAN FUND:

MARCH 31, 2022				JUNE 30, 2021		
	NUMBER	AMOUNT	BALANCE	NUMBER	AMOUNT	BALANCE
Current	18	\$689,096	\$580,109	12	\$423,700	\$405,537
Delinquent	0	0	0	0	0	0
Default	0	0	0	0	0	0
Active Loans	18	\$689,096	\$580,109	12	\$423,700	\$405,537
Written off	0	0	0	0	0	0
Repaid	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	18	\$689,096	-	12	\$423,700	-

AGING

Upper Savannah Area Agency on Aging/Aging & Disability Resource Center Activity Report February 1, 2022 - March 31, 2022

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	CLIENTS
Assessments	Determine client eligibility and needs for Aging services	266
Caregiver Supplemental Services	Assists with supplies, supplements, assistive technology	30
Assistive Technology	Provides Lifeline monitoring for seniors at risk	18
Home Care	Helps seniors with light housekeeping, chores, personal care	41
Minor Home Repair	Provides ramps, handrails, grab bars, safety upgrades	2
Seniors Raising Children Supplemental Services	Assists with school supplies, clothing, and miscellaneous	10
Transportation	Trips to congregate meal sites, medical, essential shopping	240
Legal Assistance	Provided by SC Legal Services	11
Caregiver Respite	Offers a break for daily caregivers	43

Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals Report | February 1, 2022 - March 31, 2022

MEALS BY COUNTY	CLIENTS	NUMBER OF MEALS
Abbeville	128	4,501
Edgefield	112	3,371
Greenwood	373	12,932
Laurens	208	6,076
McCormick	97	2,839
Saluda	99	3,034
TOTALS	1,017	32,753

More than

1,000

SENIORS

received meals in
Region over last

TWO MONTHS

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

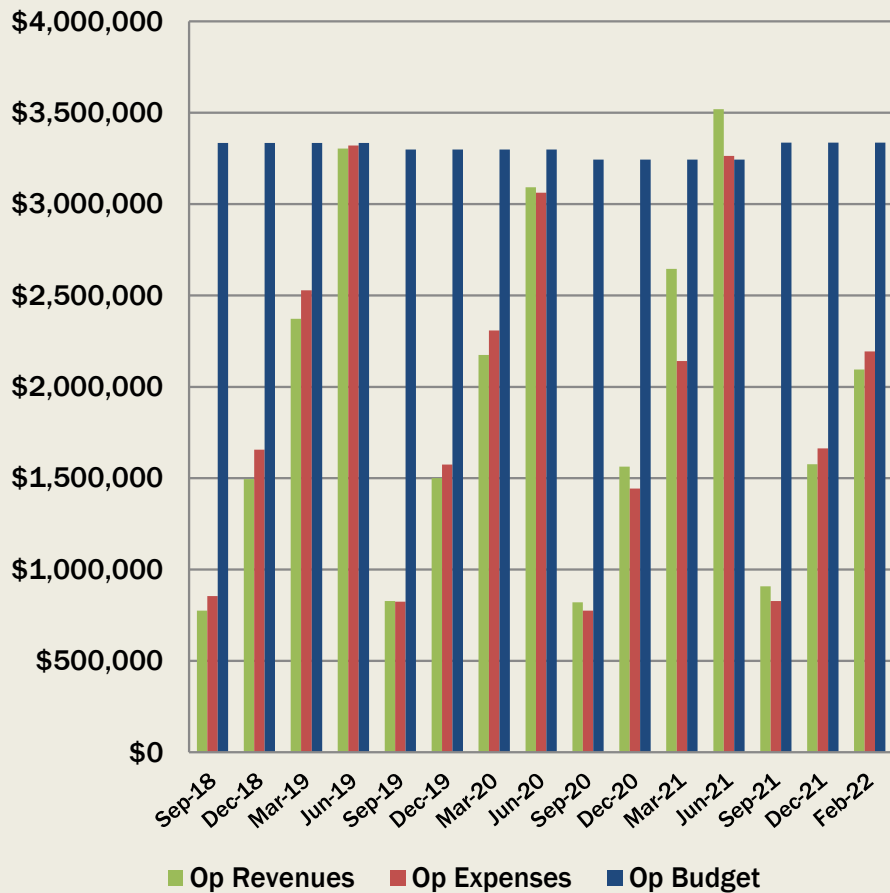
- Continued work on the Town of Due West Comprehensive Plan update.
- Continued work on Economic Development Administration (EDA) grants administration on current grants.
- CARES Act - CDBG-CV Public Facilities contract, Notice of Intent to Award, Notice of Award, and Notice to Proceed have been signed. Projects include HVAC upgrade and installation of UVC lights at the Abbeville Civic Center and installation of UVC lights in existing HVAC system at the Abbeville Opera House. Work to begin when contractor receives necessary equipment from vendor. Proposed start date late-May.
- CARES Act - The CDBG-CV Public Services project for air purifiers for Laurens School District 55 has been approved for reimbursement and a draw request has been made. The Home Delivered Meals project is underway, having begun March 7. The Public Transit Contact project Memorandum of Understanding is being drafted. Once that is approved and signed, along with the contract, Public Transit will commence for Saluda County. Held conference call with one potential transit provider to discuss level of interest to participate in transit service provision.
- Continued developing the Resiliency Plan to add to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) update. This plan is on schedule to be presented to the USCOG Board of Directors in April.
- Met with the Edgefield County Transportation Committee to discuss projects.
- Continued work on environmental reviews for CDBG projects.
- Met with City of Abbeville to discuss comprehensive planning and hear update on the Downtown Plan.
- Met with all COG planners in Florence to discuss current projects and activities.
- Attended a regional meeting of the area Small Business Development Center Board. Attended meetings of The Brew in Abbeville and Greenwood to support small businesses.
- Hosted a Regional Transportation Workshop with SCDOT on April 20. Forty-two attended the workshop at Piedmont Tech where they learned about SCDOT programs and received updates on roads and bridges projects in the Region.
- Met with municipal clerks in Edgefield, Saluda, and McCormick on April 18 to discuss business license reporting issues with Jeff Shacker of the Municipal Association of SC (MASC).
- Attended ribbon cutting for walking track in the Promised Land community of Greenwood County on April 23. USCOG assisted the Promised Land Association in applying for a grant to fund a rubberized surface on the track.
- Attended a Housing Summit sponsored by the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce
- Continued assisting the Upper Savannah Land Trust with various planning activities including coordinating the annual meeting held in March.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Upper Savannah COG workforce development staff wants to help job seekers. Anyone looking for a job and or considering training for a new career can call (864) 229-8826 or email WIOArecruitment@gleamsnhrc.org for more assistance.
- Met with FUJIFILM to coordinate services for 400 workers who will be affected by closure of one of its plants. More than 150 workers have received resume assistance.
- Held joint job fair with Piedmont Technical College and Western Piedmont Educational Consortium. More than 300 job seekers connected with 50 employers.
- Hosted Be Pro Be Proud bus at Boys and Girls Club in Greenwood and coordinated mini job fair with Lakelands Home Builders Association.
- Held job fair for Saluda County, April 20, offering local government jobs.
- Scheduled job for Laurens County May 4.
- Created outreach materials for DSS to get referrals from foster care system.
- Negotiated memorandum of agreement with Apprenticeship Carolina for rural EMT grant.
- Helped with annual business meeting for SC Works Centers.
- Finalizing booklet for high school seniors listing employers who hire recent graduates and listing other resources. The booklet was first produced last year and was a success.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Operating Actual vs. Budget



Pass Through Budget

