



UPPER SAVANNAH

Council of Governments

# ACTIVITY REPORT

## *SPECIAL COVID-19 EDITION*

### OCTOBER 2021

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

USCOG  
SUBMITS

**THREE**

CDBG grant  
applications  
in fall round

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

There are

**8**

active CDBG  
projects in region,  
totaling

**\$5,357,116**

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CARES Act

**RLF**

has made  
**16 loans**

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**EDA**

LAURENS  
COUNTY  
WATERLINE  
UPGRADE,  
WATER TANK  
NEAR  
COMPLETION

#### AGING

More than

**30,000**

Meals served  
to seniors  
in region over  
last two months

#### GOVERNMENT SERVICES

**PLANNING**

provided  
training for  
commissioners  
in Edgefield  
County

#### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**FUJI**

workforce staff  
continuing  
to assist  
400 workers  
at the plant

#### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**ON-THE-JOB  
TRAINING  
GRANT**

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

#### GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Assisting local  
governments,  
non-profits  
with  
**AMERICAN  
RESCUE  
PLAN**  
funding  
opportunities

See

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



# COVID-19 RESPONSE

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development staff are continuing social distancing and utilizing virtual platforms to prepare for applications. The fall 2021 grant applications have been submitted and all memos have been addressed, and currently awaiting grant awards to be released November/December time frame. The virtual method is still being used for document screen-sharing and project meetings which minimizes close contact, while still allowing successful communication. Laurens County Water and Sewer and the Community Development team are still working to become the first in the state to participate in surveying through QR codes. This method will allow survey participants to scan a barcode with their mobile device camera. Once scanned the mobile device will display a link directly to a secured web address to submit their survey information. This method will reduce person-to-person contact and allow survey participation 24/7. This method has not been as successful as anticipated. LCWSC is still working to gather survey data. The team will re-evaluate the survey method and options closer to Spring application time frame.

Community Development staff are still working closely with the localities to continue to determine community development needs. Staff is continuing to connect through virtual methods to help reduce exposure rates. Localities are still utilizing the virtual platform for project hearings.

HUD has allocated \$1,287,725 in CARES Act funds to the Upper Savannah region for pandemic relief. The funding is specific to Community Development Block Grant eligible projects that prevent, prepare and respond to the coronavirus. CD staff has been working with COG Economic Development staff and Region localities to help determine community development needs that meet CDBG eligibility. Localities have submitted their needs and staff has submitted a Public Services application and a Public Facilities application. Upper Savannah received word of the grant awards during late summer (listed on next page of this document).

## AGING

All senior centers are currently open in the Upper Savannah Region after being closed for several months due to COVID-19. The seniors are happy to be back in the centers and are enjoying a nutritious lunch, socializing with friends and participating in fun activities.

The Upper Savannah AAA will be receiving American Rescue Plan funding to assist seniors in the Region's counties. Funding will be used to expand home care services, meals, transportation and evidenced-based programs. The AAA is also in the process of setting up a dental service reimbursement program for seniors meeting eligibility criteria.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Five South Carolina workforce areas were awarded a \$2.8M grant to offer On-the-Job training and other services for more than 260 dislocated workers. So far, more than 20,000 text messages have been sent to unemployment insurance claimants alerting them of opportunities.

Upper Savannah is one of four areas in the state offering a National Emergency Grant Disaster Recovery Program. So far 15 people have been placed in public service jobs helping their communities. Two have been placed in County Emergency Management Departments.

# COVID-19 RESPONSE

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EDA announced the availability of CARES Act funding in early May 2020 to fund projects that “prevent, prepare for or respond to coronavirus” or respond to “economic injury as a result of coronavirus.” USCOG was invited to apply for and awarded two new grants. The first is for an additional planning grant and the other is for funds to establish a new revolving loan fund program. Both grant awards are designed to help the region respond and recover from the economic collapse caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of \$1.5 billion is available nationwide for traditional infrastructure projects, revolving loan fund programs, studies etc. A total of \$248 million is available in the Atlanta Region. USCOG has prepared and submitted four grant applications to fund water infrastructure projects in Edgefield, Laurens, McCormick and Saluda counties. These projects represent a combined total project cost of \$12,652,600, with \$10,122,080 in combined grant funds requested. Unfortunately, none of these projects were funded.

The EDA funded projects in the Upper Savannah region continue to progress without interruption from COVID-19. The Piedmont Technical College Upstate Center for Manufacturing Excellence is complete and operational. A project in Abbeville has been completed and a project in Laurens County is near completion. The Long Cane Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade in Abbeville is complete, while Stagecoach Road Waterline and the Milam Road Elevated Water Tank in Laurens County are near completion.

Upper Savannah Revolving Loan Fund small business borrowers are experiencing challenges as one might expect due to COVID-19 closures. After speaking with all borrowers, USCOG identified five that were experiencing severe economic distress. For these, USCOG offered a short-term payment deferral. All but one has resumed making regular payments. Some businesses had not experienced any downturn in sales and have been able to make their regular payments on schedule and more importantly maintain their workforce.

## GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Grant Award received for CDBG-CV (coronavirus) Public Services at \$632,000. In the process of start-up to be able to access funds as soon as possible. Funded projects are:

**Upper Savannah Region- Home Delivered Meals for Seniors \$390,000**

**Laurens School District 55- Air Purifiers for Schools \$192,000**

**Saluda County- Public Transportation Contract \$50,000**

Grant Award received for CDBG-CV (coronavirus) Public Facilities at \$86,900. In the process of start-up to be able to access funds as soon as possible. Funded projects are:

**Abbeville Civic Center, City of Abbeville- HVAC Upgrade and Installation of UVC Lights \$65,400**

**Abbeville Opera House, City of Abbeville- Installation of UVC Lights in Existing HVAC System \$21,500**

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) has announced \$3 billion in American Rescue Plan programs. Upper Savannah staff is currently researching possible projects for funding.

Continued to develop draft updates to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to cover potential impacts of a pandemic on local economies.

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## ACTIVE PROJECTS:

APPLICANT	PROJECT NAME	GRANT AMOUNT
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 Sewer Upgrade.....	\$750,000
Laurens County.....	Highway 56/76 Sewer Upgrades.....	\$715,000
Town of Johnston.....	Fire Truck Purchase.....	\$454,545
City of Greenwood.....	Demolition.....	\$177,571
Greenwood County.....	Regional Planning.....	\$50,000
<b>TOTAL.....</b>		<b>\$5,357,116</b>

## CDBG GRANT APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED

SEPTEMBER 2021 FALL ROUND

### City of Clinton Fire Truck

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

Funds being requested to purchase a new fire truck to serve the LMI City. The new truck is a critical need to provide adequate fire protection to the City residents, businesses and industries. The City recently decommissioned a 1995 truck due to transmission failure, resulting in one fewer pumper.

### City of Abbeville Structure Demolitions

\$321,210 CDBG request, \$32,445 local match, \$353,655 total project cost

Funds being requested for the demolition and clearance of 21 condemned structures throughout the City. These uninhabitable structures are hazardous to the community. The structures are located on Bowie, Brooks, Brown, Ferry, Greenwood, Haigler, Harrisburg, Hickory, Maple, Poplar, Raymond, Secession and Wilson streets.

### Town of Saluda Streetscape

\$713,984 CDBG request, \$99,498 local match, \$813,482 total project cost

Funds being requested to provide streetscape improvements to portions of downtown. Town needs improved accessibility and beautification to promote economic growth. Improvements would encourage foot traffic, potentially stimulating business opportunities within the available storefronts. The proposed project would include the intersection of Main and Church streets.

There  
are

8

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region, totaling

\$5,357,116

**Greenwood County:** Mathews Mill Village Sewer Upgrade. Project awarded June 2021 with \$1 million in CDBG funds. Greenwood Metro successfully 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. The project involves installation of approximately 480 ft of 12” gravity sewer line, 7,200 ft of 8” gravity sewer line, 26 new pre-cast concrete manholes and 150 ft of PVC/HDPE with approximately 151 reconnections that service 174 units. Improvements are proposed on 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. Project in start-up phase.

**Town of McCormick:** Main Street Streetscape II, N. Main and Augusta Streets. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds were requested to continue Town’s streetscape efforts by improving intersections, restriping of parking stalls and crosswalks, landscaping, ADA accessible parking and fencing along the railroad. Improvements are proposed on North Main and Augusta streets. Cameras will be installed as a public safety element. Project provides a safe pedestrian route for LMI residents who seek goods and services within the Town of McCormick. Project was awarded November 2020 and is currently in the Engineering phase, will go to bid in November/December 2021.

**City of Clinton:** Clinton Mill Sewer Upgrade. Project 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 an original total project cost of \$1,399,720. Project involves upgrading sewer lines in Clinton Mill Village area, an LMI neighborhood in City of Clinton. City is currently under Consent Order from SCDHEC due to sanitary sewer overflows in its collection system. Project will aid in reduction of inflow and infiltration to the City’s collection system. Project improvement will benefit an estimated 180 units. Bids opened on 7/22/21. All bids were over budget. The COG was notified that an additional \$710,000 in CDBG funds has been awarded and the City will contribute an additional \$250,000 to continue the entire project, bringing the total project cost to \$2,359,720. A pre-construction meeting to sign documents was held Oct. 19. Construction to begin in November 2021.

**Greenwood County:** Baptist Sewer Upgrade. Project awarded in September 2020, with \$750,000 CDBG funds and \$262,317 local match for total project cost of \$1,012,317. Project involves upgrading sewer lines in Baptist Avenue Area in Greenwood, including Gilliam Avenue, Baptist Avenue, Evans Street, Percival Avenue, Singleton Street, Byrd Street, Tanyard Avenue, Bay Street and Milwee Avenue. Project will benefit an estimated 90 units and is currently in the engineering phase. Bid package being assembled and will go out to bid in November 2021 or January 2022.

**Laurens County:** Highway 56/76 Sewer Upgrades. Project awarded in September 2020, with \$715,000 CDBG funds, \$120,000 local match for total project cost of \$835,000. 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, pipes and manholes and reconnection of force mains. Project improvement would benefit an estimated 2,300 households and businesses, approximately half of the City of Clinton’s population. Engineering and bid package are complete. Acquisition is being completed and will go to bid November 2021.

**Town of Johnston:** Fire Truck Purchase. Town received \$454,545 in CDBG funding in November 2019 for purchase of new fire truck to replace a 1973 model currently used by the Town of Johnston Fire Department. Fire Truck is on order and is 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 St., Park Alley, Park Ave., and Washington Ave., in City of Greenwood. Bid opened for the testing and air monitoring. Demo package is being assembled and will go to bid November 2021. Package has been approved for asbestos testing and contract has been signed.

**Greenwood County:** College Heights Sewer Upgrade. CDBG request of \$260,000 funded in June 2019, with local match of \$194,121. Partnering with Greenwood Metro for sewer upgrade off Cambridge Avenue between Bypass NE and Central Avenue in Greenwood, including Beadle and Turman avenues and Joe Louis Boulevard. Project and monitoring are complete. Project has been closed out.

**Laurens County:** Lydia Mill Sewer Upgrade Phase II. CDBG request of \$750,000 funded in June 2019, with local match of \$107,700. Partnering with Laurens County Water & Sewer Authority, the upgrade will include Sycamore, Peachtree, Oak, Elm, Chestnut, Magnolia, Spruce, Pine and Poplar streets in City of Clinton. In addition to the residential areas, the project will include section of trunk sewer line which not only serves the entire Lydia Mill area but also other areas of the City of Clinton. Project and monitoring are complete. Project has been closed out.

**Regional Planning Grant:** CDBG continuing support to provide staff assistance to local governments in project development, needs assessments and technical assistance in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Currently staff is gathering documents and finalizing close-out for the open (2019 Funds) Regional Planning Grant, and preparing submission for the new (2020 Funds) Regional Planning Grant on May 6, 2021.

#### 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
<b>TOTAL.....</b>		<b>\$5,862,000</b>

**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. Bid opening was held Oct. 24, 2019 and contract was awarded April 6, 2020. The project is complete and the request for final reimbursement has been submitted.

**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. Bids were opened for both project components on Jan. 14, 2020, and both contracts have been awarded. 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 September 30, 2021. The RLF has helped create or retain 715 jobs and leveraged \$34,346,948 in private and other public investment.

**CARES Revolving Loan Fund (CARES RLF) Program** has closed 16 loans totaling \$586,710. These loans have helped create or retain 44 jobs, leverage \$892,000 in private investment and \$14,470 in other public investment.

## REVOLVING LOAN FUND:

SEPTEMBER 30, 2021				JUNE 30, 2020		
	NUMBER	AMOUNT	BALANCE	NUMBER	AMOUNT	BALANCE
Current	8	\$425,500	\$338,854	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
<b>Active Loans</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>\$460,500</b>	<b>\$356,300</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>\$870,500</b>	<b>\$497,624</b>
Written off	13	\$1,138,250	\$639,693	13	\$1,138,250	\$639,893
Repaid	41	\$2,944,878	-	38	\$2,534,870	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>\$4,543,620</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>\$4,543,620</b>	<b>-</b>

## CARES REVOLVING LOAN FUND:

SEPTEMBER 30, 2021				SEPTEMBER 30, 2020		
	NUMBER	AMOUNT	BALANCE	NUMBER	AMOUNT	BALANCE
Current	16	\$586,710	\$540,137	1	\$62,500	\$61,963
Delinquent	0	0	0	0	0	0
Default	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Active Loans</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>\$586,710</b>	<b>\$540,137</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$62,500</b>	<b>\$61,963</b>
Written off	0	0	0	0	0	0
Repaid	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>\$586,710</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$62,500</b>	



# AGING

## Upper Savannah Area Agency on Aging/Aging & Disability Resource Center Activity Report August 1, 2021 - September 30, 2021

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	CLIENTS
Assessments .....	Determine eligibility and needs for Aging services .....	395
Caregiver Supplemental Services .....	Assists with supplies, supplements, assistive technology .....	26
Assistive Technology .....	Provides Lifeline monitoring for seniors at risk .....	22
Home Care .....	Helps seniors with light housekeeping, chores, personal care .....	49
Minor Home Repair .....	Provides ramps, handrails, grab bars, safety upgrades .....	16
Seniors Raising Children Supplemental Services .....	Assists with school supplies, clothing, and miscellaneous .....	8
Transportation .....	Trips to congregate meal sites, medical, shopping .....	228
Legal Assistance .....	Provided by SC Legal Services .....	14
Caregiver Respite .....	Offers a break for daily caregivers .....	56

## Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals Report | August 1, 2021 - September 30, 2021

MEALS BY COUNTY	CLIENTS	NUMBER OF MEALS
Abbeville .....	133 .....	4,236
Edgefield .....	109 .....	3,425
Greenwood .....	353 .....	12,805
Laurens .....	206 .....	5,365
McCormick .....	68 .....	2,364
Saluda .....	91 .....	2,546
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>960 .....</b>	<b>30,741</b>

More than

# 30,000

MEALS

served to clients  
in Region over last

# TWO MONTHS

## GOVERNMENT SERVICES

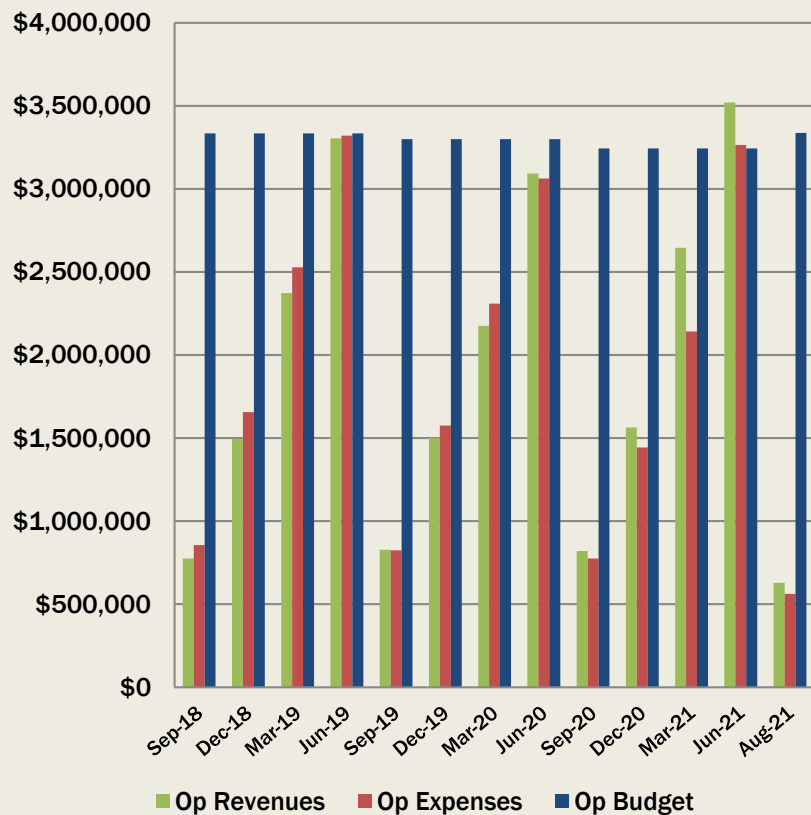
- Continued work on Economic Development Administration (EDA) grants administration on current grants. Listened to numerous webinars on new EDA funding opportunities through American Recovery Plan funding. Met with a potential grantee to discuss a possible project. Conference called with our state EDA representative to discuss potential projects.
- Continued work on environmental reviews for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects.
- Conducted a training session on planning regulations for Laurens County.
- Attended a regional meeting of the area Small Business Development Center board.
- Attended The Brew, a small business discussion group meeting quarterly in the City of Abbeville and the City of Greenwood.
- Presented a planning program overview for a subcommittee of the Laurens County Development Corporation.
- Provided state-mandated training for planning commissioners in Edgefield County municipalities.
- Assisted in writing a grant application for a neighborhood association.
- Attended McCormick County Zoning Ordinance update meetings.
- Contacted all communities in the Upper Savannah region that have not yet drawn down American Rescue Plan Act funds and offered assistance.
- Attended a broadband expansion planning meeting hosted by Vision Greenwood.
- Continued assisting the Upper Savannah Land Trust, which has preserved almost 53,000 acres of land in an eight-county area that includes the Upper Savannah region.

## 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 [WIOAreruitment@gleamsnhrc.org](mailto:WIOAreruitment@gleamsnhrc.org) to get more assistance.
- Met with FUJIFILM to coordinate services for 400 workers. SC Works planned a job fair and has assisted with resumes.
- Working with Ready SC and Edgefield County to help Generac Power Systems start onboarding production workers. Generac is a leading global power and energy technology company serving the residential, commercial and industrial markets. The company is expecting to hire at least 500 workers.
- Started recruiting and training emergency medical technicians and paramedics for a federal Rural Health grant. Upper Savannah will guide nearly a half million dollars in efforts to train 100 new medics. Ten have been enrolled and staff anticipated having 20 trainees by September. The COG is working with County EMS departments to fill openings.
- Met with potential new company considering Greenwood.
- Assisting with planning for job fair which was held Oct. 20 at Piedmont Technical College.
- 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. So far more than 20,000 text messages have been sent to unemployment insurance claimants alerting them of opportunities.

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## Operating Actual vs. Budget



## Pass Through Budget

