



UPPER SAVANNAH

Council of Governments

ACTIVITY REPORT

OCTOBER 2022

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**USCOG
SUBMITS
ONE**

**CDBG grant
application
in fall round**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

There are
13
active CDBG
projects in region,
totaling almost
\$12 million

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**LCWSC
receives
\$5.4 million
EDA
grant award
to build
water line, tank**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

RLF

Revolving
Loan Fund
has closed
64 loans

AGING

More than
31,000
meals served
to seniors
in Region over
last two months

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

**ASSISTED
local
governments,
water and sewer
providers with
infrastructure
applications**

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**CAREER
DAY**
Workforce staff
assisted with event
for 1,600
eighth-graders

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Workforce staff
assisted with
**JOB
FAIR**
at Piedmont Tech

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

**CARES Act
CDBG-CV
PROJECTS**
moving forward
in various stages
including Saluda
transportation

See
DETAILS
on these and
other activities
in this report



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

APPLICANT	PROJECT NAME	GRANT AMOUNT
Town of Ridge Spring.....	Town of Ridge Spring Sewer Rehab.....	\$1,700,000
Laurens County.....	Clinton-Joanna WWTP Upgrade.....	\$1,500,000
Greenwood County.....	Matthews Mill Phase II Sewer Upgrade.....	\$1,600,000
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 Phase I 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.....	\$947,271
Laurens County.....	Highway 56/76 Sewer Upgrades.....	\$899,795
Town of Johnston.....	Fire Truck Purchase.....	\$454,545
Greenwood County	Regional Planning	\$50,000
TOTAL		\$11,804,387

CDBG GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTED

SEPTEMBER 2022 FALL INFRASTRUCTURE ROUND

City of Abbeville Chestnut Park

\$250,000

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are being requested to upgrade Chestnut Street Park located at 400 Chestnut St., which is owned by the City of Abbeville. The proposed park improvements involve purchasing fixed playground equipment, picnic tables, mulch, and an open-air pavilion. Additional work to include site preparation, installation of the purchases, designated American Disabilities Act (ADA) parking, and concrete work. The project is estimated to cost \$275,000, including a request for \$250,000 in CDBG funding.

There are **13** active CDBG projects in the region, totaling **\$11,804,387**

Town of Ridge Spring Sewer Rehab: Town received \$1,700,000 in CDBG funds in August 2022 to help 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 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 project costs are estimated to be \$2,086,090, including \$386,090 from the Town. Ridge Spring has an estimated population of 920 of which 68.47 percent are considered low-to-moderate income (LMI). Project in start-up phase.

Clinton-Joanna WWTP Upgrade: Laurens County received \$1,500,000 in CDBG funds in August 2022 to upgrade Clinton-Joanna Wastewater Treatment Plant in Kinards. 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, including \$1 million from State Revolving Fund (SRF) and \$526,000 from Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission. Project will benefit an estimated 8,078 people of which 64.88 percent are considered LMI. Project in start-up phase.

Greenwood County Mathews Mill Sewer Phase II: County received \$1,600,000 in CDBG funds in August 2022 to help provide continued sewer improvements to the Mathews Mill area. 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 to include Georgia Street, Bolt Avenue, Bond Avenue, Stevens Avenue, and Cross Street. Total project costs are estimated to be \$3,103,399, with \$1,503,399 from Greenwood Metro District. Project will benefit approximately 303 people; 92 percent considered LMI. Project in start-up phase.

City of Abbeville Structure Demolitions: 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 bid package is being assembled.

City of Clinton Fire Truck: The City received \$500,000 in CDBG funding in November 2021 for the purchase of a new fire truck to replace a 2008 model in current use. The bids were opened Sept. 21, 2022, and are currently being evaluated. Working on the contract package for Department of Commerce to approve so the truck can be ordered.

Greenwood County Mathews Mill Sewer Phase I: 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 were also acquired. Project costs are estimated to be \$2,966,636. Engineering for the project is currently underway. Project is expected to go to bid in November 2022.

Town of McCormick Streetscape Phase II: 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. The project scope was amended, the contract was signed, and construction will begin in January 2023.

Town of Saluda Streetscape: The Town received \$721,212 in CDBG funding in November 2021 for streetscape at intersection of North Main and West Church streets. 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 is currently in the engineering phase and expecting to go out for bids December 2022.

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. The project came in over budget by \$450,000 and staff secured \$197,271 in additional funding. The contract has been signed and construction began Oct. 3, 2022. The project is expected to be completed July 30, 2023.

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 will include installing new lines, casings, manholes and reconnection of force mains. Project will benefit an estimated 2,300 households and businesses, approximately half of the City of Clinton's population. After a delay in the arrival of materials, construction expected to begin December/January.

City of Clinton 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 involved upgrading sewer lines in the Clinton Mill Village area, an LMI neighborhood in the City of Clinton. The City was 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 in July 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 contributed an additional \$250,000 to continue with the entire project which will total approximately \$2,359,720. Construction is complete and will be followed by monitoring and the close-out package.

Town of Johnston Fire Truck: 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 new truck was delivered Aug. 5, 2022. The monitoring has been completed and project is in close-out phase.

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.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

APPLICANT	PROJECT NAME	GRANT AMOUNT
Laurens County Water & Sewer Commission.....	Laurens County Metric Rd. Water Upgrades.....	\$5,422,800
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		\$10,730,800

Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission has been awarded grant 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 grant amount is \$5,422,800 and the total project cost is \$6,778,500. The grant will fund 29,500 linear feet of 16-inch water line and a 500,000-gallon elevated water tank on Metric Road.

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.

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 complete.



Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program has closed 64 loans totaling \$4,543,620 as of June 30, 2022. 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 21 loans totaling \$804,096. These loans have helped create or retain 102.5 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:

JUNE 30, 2022				SEPTEMBER 30, 2022		
	NUMBER	AMOUNT	BALANCE	NUMBER	AMOUNT	BALANCE
Current	7	\$407,500	\$309,813	7	\$407,500	\$300,610
Delinquent	1	\$25,000	\$8,273	1	\$25,000	\$8,273
Default	1	\$10,000	\$9,177	1	\$10,000	\$9,177
Active Loans	9	\$442,500	\$327,263	9	\$442,500	\$318,060
Written off	13	\$1,138,250	\$639,693	13	\$1,138,250	\$639,893
Repaid	42	\$2,962,870	-	42	\$2,962,870	-
TOTAL	64	\$4,543,620	-	64	\$4,543,620	-

CARES REVOLVING LOAN FUND:

JUNE 30, 2022				SEPTEMBER 30, 2022		
	NUMBER	AMOUNT	BALANCE	NUMBER	AMOUNT	BALANCE
Current	20	\$754,096	\$644,668	20	\$754,096	\$652,738
Delinquent	0	0	0	0	0	0
Default	0	0	0	0	0	0
Active Loans	20	\$754,096	\$644,668	20	\$754,096	\$652,738
Written off	0	0	0	0	0	0
Repaid	1	\$50,000	0	1	\$50,000	0
TOTAL	21	\$804,096	-	21	\$804,096	-

AGING

Upper Savannah Area Agency on Aging/Aging & Disability Resource Center Activity Report August 1, 2022 - September 30, 2022

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	CLIENTS
Assessments	Determine client eligibility and needs for Aging services	270
Caregiver Supplemental Services	Assists with supplies, supplements, assistive technology	32
Assistive Technology	Provides Lifeline monitoring for seniors at risk	18
Home Care	Helps seniors with light housekeeping, chores, personal care	21
Minor Home Repair	Provides ramps, handrails, grab bars, safety upgrades	6
Seniors Raising Children Supplemental Services	Assists with school supplies, clothing, and miscellaneous	2
Transportation	Trips to congregate meal sites, medical, essential shopping	230
Legal Assistance	Provided by SC Legal Services	11
Caregiver Respite	Offers a break for daily caregivers	53

Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals Report | August 1, 2022 - September 30, 2022

MEALS BY COUNTY	CLIENTS	NUMBER OF MEALS
Abbeville	123	4,318
Edgefield	109	3,265
Greenwood	364	13,115
Laurens	156	5,396
McCormick	77	2,684
Saluda	93	2,276
TOTALS	922	31,494

More than

31,000

MEALS

served to seniors
in Region over last

TWO MONTHS

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

- The CDBG-CV (Coronavirus) Public Services projects are underway. The Home Delivered Meals project is beginning its eighth month. A total of 15,039 meals have been delivered to senior citizens with this program so far in Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens and Saluda counties since March 7, 2022. The Public Transit for Saluda County project scope was amended to include transit to healthcare appointments within a five-mile circle of Saluda. Contract and Memorandum of Understanding have been signed with an effective date of Sept. 29, 2022.
- Continued helping local governments and water/sewer providers needing assistance with the application for the state Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) Infrastructure Investment Plan grants. Grant applications were completed in-house for Laurens Commission of Public Works and McCormick County. Other applications were reviewed for completeness. Awards are expected to be made in the first quarter of 2023.
- Continued work on Economic Development Administration (EDA) grants administration on current grants.
- Continued work on the Town of Gray Court Comprehensive Plan update.
- Submitted a grant application on behalf of a neighborhood association in Ninety Six for landscaping and improving the area around the old Ninety Six Mill employee turnstile at the park.
- Participated in the Vision Greenwood board meeting.
- Attended Zoom meetings for broadband education training provided by the State.
- Attended a planning workshop on improving the McCormick County Airport.
- Continued work on environmental reviews for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects.
- Provided state-mandated training for 24 planning commissioners, Board of Zoning Appeals members, and staff in the Town of Gray Court and Edgefield County.
- Hosted a lunch meeting for all public administrators and economic developers in the Region. Michael McCauley from Watershed Consulting Group spoke about funding opportunities in the State made possible by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act. Kent Lesesne from the S.C. Association of Counties gave Legislative update. Plans are for more lunch meetings for administrators and economic developers at USCOG in the future as had occurred regularly before COVID-19.
- Continued meeting with interested individuals seeking to start a “Friends” group to help the Ninety Six Historic Site promote the park and apply for development funds as needed.
- Continued assisting the Upper Savannah Land Trust with various planning activities including coordinating the annual meeting. The Land Trust is helping protect more than 54,000 acres of land with 140 easements spread across Abbeville, Aiken, Anderson, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee and Saluda counties.
- Submitted successful Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) mini-grant applications for the Town of Ridge Spring and the Promised Land community. Ridge Spring received funding for a bicycle rack to be placed at the town Farmer’s Market as well as new playground equipment that will encourage musical play and sensory interaction at the playground outside the Civic Center. Promised Land received funding for tables, swings, and trash cans to be used at the community walking track. Those were two of 13 HEAL grants awarded state-wide.

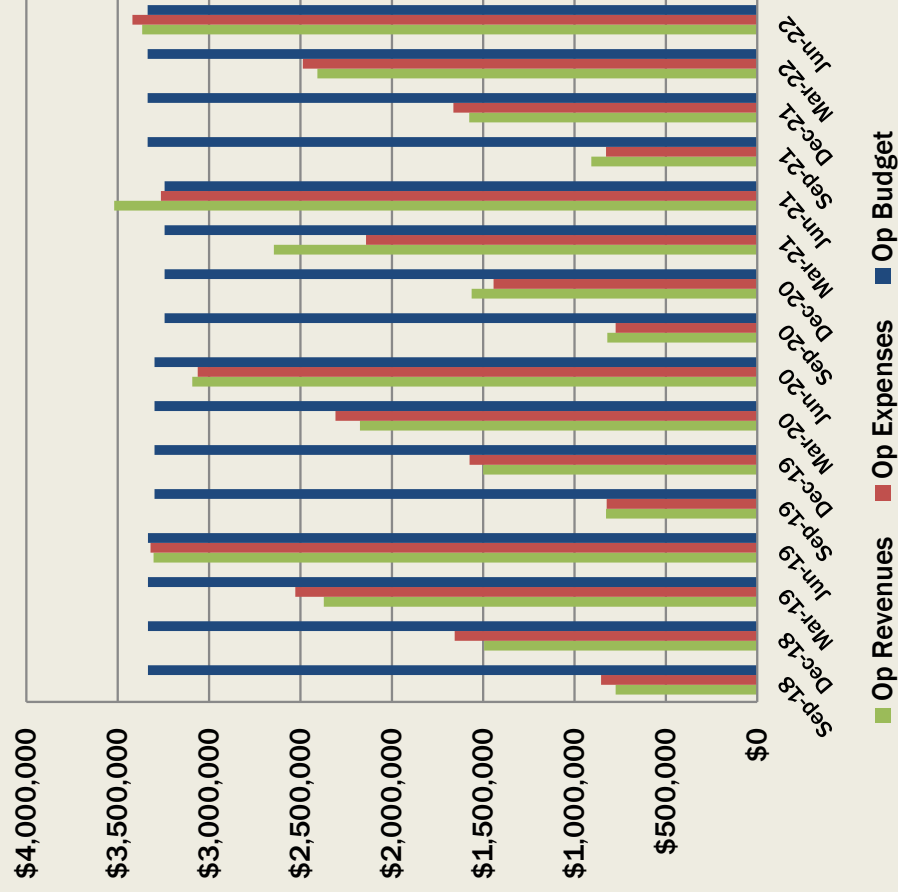
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Launched Laurens County Direct Connect, a pilot program which seeks to find (and place) some of the unemployed. Upper Savannah is taking a lead in visiting all of the nonprofit and faith-based organizations. The South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce is beginning the program in which they will connect qualified unemployed individuals with a job, or multiple job options, that fit their specific needs.
- Held career exploration activities day for 1,600 eighth grade students from throughout the Region, featuring hands-on demonstrations and computer simulations from several area employers. Planning a second event for November.
- Responded to layoff events in Edgefield and Laurens counties.
- Planned a 70+ employer job fair held October 6 at Piedmont Technical College. It featured Greenwood's newest employer E.A. Sween who provided lunch for all attendees.
- Midway through recruiting and training 100 emergency medical technicians and paramedics for a federal Rural Health grant to help solve EMT/paramedic shortages across the Upper Savannah Region.
- Five South Carolina workforce development areas were awarded a \$2.8 million grant to offer On-the-Job training and other services for more than 260 dislocated workers in those five areas, including the Upper Savannah Region. USCOG is coordinating outreach campaign and providing technical assistance. Postcards have been mailed out to more than 20,000 S.C. residents.
- Upper Savannah workforce development staff wants to help job seekers find employment or training. Anyone looking for a job and or considering training can call (864) 229-8826 or email WIOArecruitment@gleamsnhrc.org to get more assistance.
- Met new employer in Abbeville County to create game plan for start-up staffing.
- Aided with Incumbent Worker Training Grants for three manufacturing companies.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Operating Actual vs. Budget



Pass Through Budget

