



# UPPER SAVANNAH

Council of Governments

## ACTIVITY REPORT

### APRIL 2023

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**USCOG  
SUBMITS  
ONE**

CDBG grant application in spring round

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

There are  
**12**

active CDBG projects in region, totaling more than **\$10 million**

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**LCWSC  
\$5.4 million  
EDA**

water line, tank project in final stages of design phase

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CARES Act  
**RLF**

Revolving Loan Fund has closed 21 loans

#### AGING

More than  
**30,000**  
meals served to seniors in Region over last two months

#### GOVERNMENT SERVICES

**ASSISTING  
Towns  
of Gray Court  
and McCormick  
with  
Comprehensive  
Plan Updates**

#### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**91  
enrollees**

Workforce staff continues to support EMT, paramedic training as part of federal grant

#### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Workforce staff assisted with regional

**JOB  
FAIR**  
at Piedmont Tech

#### GOVERNMENT SERVICES

CARES Act  
**CDBG-CV**

more than 28,000 meals delivered to seniors in their homes

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



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## ACTIVE PROJECTS:

APPLICANT	PROJECT NAME	GRANT AMOUNT
City of Abbeville.....	Chestnut Street Park.....	\$250,000
Town of Ridge Spring.....	Town of Ridge Spring Sewer Rehab.....	\$1,700,000
Laurens County.....	Clinton-Joanna WWTP Upgrade.....	\$1,500,000
Greenwood County.....	Mathews 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.....	\$1,275,000
Town of McCormick.....	N. Main/Augusta Streetscape.....	\$750,000
Greenwood County.....	Baptist Avenue Sewer Upgrade.....	\$947,271
Laurens County.....	Highway 56/76 Sewer Upgrades.....	\$899,795
Greenwood County .....	Regional Planning .....	\$50,000
<b>TOTAL .....</b>		<b>\$10,414,842</b>

## CDBG GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTED

APRIL 2023 SPRING INFRASTRUCTURE ROUND

### Booker T. Washington Sewer Upgrade

The City of Greenwood applied for Community Development Block Grant funds during the Spring 2023 Infrastructure round to improve sewer service in the Booker T. Washington area/subdivision. Streets considered in these improvements are North Hospital Street, New Street, Brewer Avenue, Booker Street, Hillyard Street, Louvenia Avenue and Central Avenue. The grant application was submitted on April 13, 2023, by USCOG Community Development staff on behalf of the City.

There are **12** active CDBG projects in the region, totaling **\$10,414,842**

**City of Abbeville Chestnut Street Park:** City received \$250,000 in CDBG funds December 2022 to upgrade Chestnut Street Park located at 400 Chestnut St., which is owned by the City. 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. Project is estimated to cost \$275,000.

**Town of Ridge Spring Sewer Rehab:** Town received \$1,700,000 in CDBG funds 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 indicated conditions have significantly worsened. 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. 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 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 estimated 8,078 people of which 64.88 percent are considered LMI. Project to bid in May or June.

**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 to bid May or June.

**City of Abbeville Structure Demolitions:** City received \$221,564 in CDBG funding 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:** City received \$500,000 in CDBG funding in November 2021 for purchase of a new fire truck to replace a 2008 model in current use. The truck has been ordered with delivery date expected June 2024.

**Greenwood County Mathews Mill Sewer Phase I:** Project was awarded June 2021 with \$1 million in CDBG funds. Greenwood Metro (GMD) pursued funding through Greenwood County to improve infrastructure within LMI area of Mathews Mill Village in multiple phases. An additional \$275,000 in CDBG funding was required with GMD adding \$278,215. Project is expected to improve sewer service to 174 units of the Mathews Mill, a community located in Greenwood. Improvements 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 \$3,519,851. Construction began April 10, 2023.

**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. Project provides a safe pedestrian route for LMI residents who seek goods and services within the Town. The project awarded November 2020. Construction began in January 2023.

**Town of Saluda Streetscape:** Town received \$721,212 in CDBG funding November 2021 for streetscape at North Main and West Church streets. Project focuses on downtown beautification in hopes of providing a welcoming atmosphere for economic development. Improvements would encourage foot traffic, potentially stimulating business opportunities within the available storefronts. Finalizing engineering and design for bid in July 2023.

**Greenwood County Baptist Sewer Upgrade:** Project was awarded September 2020, with \$750,000 CDBG funds, \$262,317 in local match for total project cost of \$1,012,317. It 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. Project came in over budget by \$450,000; staff secured \$197,271 in additional funding. Project expected to be complete July 30, 2023.

**Laurens County Highway 56/76 Sewer Upgrades:** Project was awarded 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 include installing new lines, casings, and manholes. Project will benefit an estimated 2,300 households and businesses, approximately half of the City of Clinton's population. After a delay in the the arrival of materials, construction began Jan. 16, 2023. Completion expected in June 2023.

**City of Clinton Sewer Upgrade:** Project was awarded September 2020, with \$750,000 CDBG funds, \$500,000 from Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) and \$149,720 local match for a total project cost of \$1,399,720. Project involved upgrading sewer lines in Clinton Mill Village. The City was 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. It benefitted an estimated 180 units. When bids came in over budget, USCOG worked with Department of Commerce to secure an additional \$710,000 while the City contributed an additional \$250,000 to continue with project which would total approximately \$2,359,720. Construction complete; close-out to be submitted May 2023.

**Town of Johnston Fire Truck:** Town received \$454,545 in CDBG funding November 2019 for purchase of new fire truck to replace a 1973 model. New truck was delivered Aug. 5, 2022. Project was closed out in February 2023.

**Regional Planning Grant:** Community Development staff is continuing to provide assistance to local governments in project development, needs assessments and technical assistance in the 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
<b>TOTAL.....</b>		<b>\$7,630,800</b>

**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. This project is in the final stages of engineering and design.

**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. This project has been bid and a contract has been signed.

**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.





### Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program

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.

	Active Loans	All Loans
Loans Closed	9	64
Total Dollars Loaned	\$442,500	\$4,543,620
Private Investment	\$1,955,270	\$32,206,448
Other Public Investment	\$107,500	\$2,140,500
Jobs Created and Retained	52	715
Cost Per Job	\$8,510	\$6,355
Private Investment Ratio	\$4.42 : \$1	\$7.09 : \$1

### CARES Revolving Loan Fund (CARES RLF) Program

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.

	Active Loans	All Loans
Loans Closed	20	21
Total Dollars Loaned	\$754,096	\$804,096
Private Sector Investment	\$1,450,450	\$1,450,450
Other Public Investment	\$14,470	\$14,470
Jobs Created and Retained	106	113
Cost Per Job	\$7,114	\$7,116
Private Investment Ratio	\$1.92 : \$1	\$1.80 : \$1

# AGING

## Upper Savannah Area Agency on Aging/Aging & Disability Resource Center Activity Report February 1, 2023 - March 31, 2023

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	CLIENTS
Assessments .....	Determine client eligibility and needs for Aging services .....	267
<b>Caregiver Supplemental Services</b> .....	Assists with supplies, supplements, assistive technology .....	31
<b>Assistive Technology</b> .....	Provides Lifeline monitoring for seniors at risk .....	18
<b>Home Care</b> .....	Helps seniors with light housekeeping, chores, personal care .....	41
<b>Minor Home Repair</b> .....	Provides ramps, handrails, grab bars, safety upgrades .....	13
<b>Seniors Raising Children Supplemental Services</b> .....	Assists with school supplies, clothing, and miscellaneous .....	4
<b>Transportation</b> .....	Trips to congregate meal sites, medical, essential shopping .....	247
<b>Legal Assistance</b> .....	Provided by SC Legal Services .....	23
<b>Caregiver Respite</b> .....	Offers a break for daily caregivers .....	46

## Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals Report | February 1, 2023 - March 31, 2023

MEALS BY COUNTY	CLIENTS	NUMBER OF MEALS
Abbeville .....	117 .....	3,568
Edgefield .....	100 .....	3,112
Greenwood .....	409 .....	13,159
Laurens .....	188 .....	5,689
McCormick .....	89 .....	2,844
Saluda .....	71 .....	2,204
<b>TOTALS</b> .....	<b>974</b> .....	<b>30,576</b>

More than

# 30,000

MEALS

served to seniors  
in Region over last

# TWO MONTHS

# GOVERNMENT SERVICES

- The CDBG-CV Public Services projects are underway. The Home Delivered Meals project is in its 13th month. A total of 28,556 meals have been delivered with this program from March 2022 through March 2023. The Public Transit for Saluda County project is in its seventh month. Sixty-eight trips have been taken and 132 miles driven through March 2023.
- Began work on environmental review for a Spring CDBG project.
- Researched and responded to two requests for Textile Communities Act Distress area determination letters for projects in Laurens County.
- Attended an SCDOT planning workshop on updated requirements and procedures.
- Placed the Strategic Ten-Year Asset Management Plan (STAMP) out for public review and comment. This document will be an amendment to the Long Range Plan and will serve to combine traffic safety performance measures and goals into one document.
- Attended transit needs meeting in Greenwood County.
- Completed work on the Town of Gray Court Comprehensive Plan update.
- Began work on the Town of McCormick Comprehensive Plan update.
- Provided planning technical assistance to the municipalities of Abbeville and Clinton and Saluda County.
- Began working with several local governments on the SC Brownsfields Environmental Site Testing (BEST) Program to pay for environmental assessments for potential economic development projects. A brownfields site is a former industrial or commercial site where future use is affected by real or perceived environmental contamination.
- Began the process of collecting home internet access capabilities survey responses for the state Broadband office. These online surveys will be used to develop a statewide plan to draw down federal funds to support broadband expansion in underserved or no service areas. The five-minute survey is located at [cx.ravencsi.com/aK8qm](http://cx.ravencsi.com/aK8qm).
- Hosted regional lunch meetings for public administrators in February and for county and municipal clerks in March to discuss needs and issues in common.
- Attended small business support group meetings known as The Brew in Abbeville, Greenwood, and Laurens counties.
- Met with a Clemson University Landscape Architecture professor to review potential partnership opportunities between communities and current students.
- Participated in on-going meetings to develop a plan to encourage more online entrepreneurs in the area.
- Continued meeting with interested individuals seeking to start a “Friends” group to help the Ninety Six National Historic Site promote the park and apply for development funds as needed.
- Continued assisting Upper Savannah Land Trust with various planning activities including coordinating the annual meeting to be held April 27 at the Drummond Center, Lake Greenwood State Park. The Land Trust is helping protect more than 54,000 acres of land with 145 easements spread across Abbeville, Aiken, Anderson, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee and Saluda counties.
- Continued work on Economic Development Administration (EDA) grants administration on current grants.
- Discussed potential new EDA grant application in Greenwood County



# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Matched job seekers to employers. More than 3,600 referrals were made to 237 area employers in the Upper Savannah workforce area including industries, county government and health care facilities.
- Continue to support the Emergency Medical Technician and paramedic training as part of the Level Up Rural Healthcare federal grant designed to relieve EMT and paramedic shortages throughout the Upper Savannah region. There are 91 total enrollees to date, 48 currently working in emergency services. There are 31 active participants in the program, with 23 in training, 21 working as EMTs or AEMTs, and one currently working as a paramedic. Enrolled five new EMTs and seven AEMTs in the spring on 2023. Level Up program is funding tuition, books and fees, materials and travel reimbursement for all students.
- Helped 300 job seekers and 60+ employers at Upper Savannah SC Works/Piedmont Technical College Regional Job Fair March 16 at Piedmont Tech.
- Assisted Greenwood area manufacturer with wage and worker availability statistics.
- Surveyed 200 local employers to identify those who hire recent high school graduates.
- Assisted eight job seekers with welding training.
- Helped adult education design a pre Commercial Driver's License (CDL) class to help find high school dropouts.
- Participating in economic development summit for Newberry County.
- Prepared annual center budget and re-organized space in the Greenwood County SC Works Center.

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

