



UPPER SAVANNAH

Council of Governments

ACTIVITY REPORT

JUNE 2023

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**USCOG
Region
Receives

ONE**

**CDBG grant
award
in spring round**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

There are
13
active CDBG
projects in region,
totaling more than
\$11 million

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**LCWSC
\$2 million
EDA**

**sewer upgrade
construction
under way
at Fibertex**

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
local
governments
with
Brownfields
environmental
testing projects**

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**91
enrollees**

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

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Workforce staff
updated, distributed

**YOUR
NEXT
STEP**
booklets
to high school grads

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

CARES Act
CDBG-CV

more than 32,500
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 Greenwood.....	Booker T. Washington Sewer Upgrade.....	\$840,000
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.....	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.....	\$1,275,000
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
TOTAL		\$11,254,842

CDBG GRANT APPLICATION AWARDED

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 neighborhood. The project will take place on Central Avenue, North Hospital Street, Brewer Avenue, and New Street. Rehabilitation will include approximately 4,800 feet of 8-inch sewer line with Cured in Place Pipe (CIPP), rehabilitation of 25 brick manholes, and installation of new frames and covers. There will be approximately 65 service connections in the public right of way; no acquisition is anticipated. This project will benefit approximately 56 units, occupied by an estimated 119 persons. USCOG Community Development staff submitted the grant application April 13 on behalf of the City. The grant award announcement was made June 7.

There are **13** active CDBG projects in the region, totaling **\$11,254,842**

City of Abbeville Chestnut Street Park: City received \$250,000 in CDBG funds in December 2022 to upgrade Chestnut Street Park, which is owned by the City and located at 400 Chestnut St. 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. Project going out to bid in August 2023.

Town of Ridge Spring Sewer Rehab: Town received \$1,700,000 in CDBG funds in August 2022 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 indicated conditions significantly worsened. Project includes approximately 2,541 linear feet (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 in August 2022 to upgrade Clinton-Joanna Wastewater Treatment Plant. 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 out for bids.

Greenwood County Mathews Mill Sewer Phase II: County received \$1,600,000 in CDBG funds in August 2022 to 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 pre-cast 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 in June 2023.

City of Abbeville Structure Demolitions: 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 City of Abbeville. Asbestos testing to bid in June 2023.

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 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. The project was amended since its original proposal. The scope of the project was reduced due to high bids reflective of current inflation. Improvements were reduced to W. Augusta St in front of Town Hall to include sidewalks, curbing, speed table, and Veterans Memorial. Additional improvements will be made to the parking area behind Town Hall and the Fire Department, including new parking, alternative exit and entrance, and required underground retention pond. The Town committed an additional \$215,637 towards the completion of the project. The alternate exit from Town Hall parking to SC Works parking would involve the removal of several large trees and require relocation of the Town's Emergency Services generator. The project provides an additional 23 parking stalls for public use. The construction of the sidewalks, Veterans Memorial and speed table will result in eliminating the majority of existing parking out front of Town Hall. The additional parking behind Town Hall directs the pedestrians towards safe crossing points and promotes larger public attendance for festivals and community events held by the Town, as well as encourages economic development in this LMI community. Construction began in January 2023.

Town of Saluda Streetscape: Town received \$721,212 in CDBG funding in 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.

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
TOTAL.....		\$7,630,800

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. 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. Project construction is under way.

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 April 1, 2023 - May 31, 2023

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	CLIENTS
Assessments	Determine client eligibility and needs for Aging services	249
Caregiver Supplemental Services	Assists with supplies, supplements, assistive technology	31
Assistive Technology	Provides Lifeline monitoring for seniors at risk	23
Home Care	Helps seniors with light housekeeping, chores, personal care	47
Minor Home Repair	Provides ramps, handrails, grab bars, safety upgrades	14
Seniors Raising Children Supplemental Services	Assists with school supplies, clothing, and miscellaneous	4
Transportation	Trips to congregate meal sites, medical, essential shopping	341
Legal Assistance	Provided by SC Legal Services	30
Caregiver Respite	Offers a break for daily caregivers	53

Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals Report | April 1, 2023 - May 31, 2023

MEALS BY COUNTY	CLIENTS	NUMBER OF MEALS
Abbeville	108	3,628
Edgefield	136	3,048
Greenwood	397	12,788
Laurens	185	5,835
McCormick	88	2,894
Saluda	75	2,186
TOTALS	989	30,379

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 15th month. From March 2022 through May 2023, 32,510 meals have been delivered with this program. The Public Transit for Saluda County project is in its ninth month. Eighty-two trips have been taken and 146 miles driven through May 2023.
- Attended statewide meeting to discuss implementation of recently awarded infrastructure grants from the SC Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP). Grants totaling \$79,891,066 were awarded to the Upper Savannah region, including at least one in each county. Of that total, COG administration is required for grants totaling \$26,598,719.
- Continued work on environmental review for a Spring Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application.
- Reviewed Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant application for the Town of Due West and recommended its funding by SCDOT
- Continued working with a Federal Highways Administration group studying the cause of roadway departure crashes in our region. A full report is expected in early fall.
- Met Town of Ninety Six administrator to discuss possible grants
- Placed the Rural Planning Work Program (RPWP) out for public review and comment. This document specifies how SCDOT wants planning administration money to be spent in each region.
- Continued work on the Town of McCormick Comprehensive Plan update.
- Continued working with several local governments on the SC Brownfields Environmental Site Testing (BEST) program to pay for environmental assessments for potential economic development projects. Applications for the City of Clinton and McCormick County have been approved by the USCOG Board of Directors and recommended for further consideration. Applications from the Town of Edgefield and Abbeville County will be presented at the June board meeting.
- Continued the process of collecting survey responses for the state Broadband office through the end of May. These surveys will be used to develop a statewide plan to draw down federal funds to support broadband expansion in underserved or no service areas.
- Hosted regional lunch meeting for Mayors in May. Seven mayors attended.
- Participated in on-going meetings to develop a plan to encourage more online entrepreneurs in the Region.
- 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 held in April at the Drummond Center.
- Continued work on Economic Development Administration (EDA) grants administration on two current grants in Laurens County.
- Began work on a new EDA grant application in Greenwood County.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Matched job seekers to employers. Nearly 4,000 referrals were made to 200 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 nearly one hundred 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. Staff negotiated for more funding to serve another 20 trainees.
- Held job fair for Newberry County June 14 and scheduled events for Saluda June 27 and Laurens July 19.
- Helped adult education design a pre Commercial Driver's License (CDL) class to help find high school dropouts.
- Identified a need for a Laurens County manufacturer who is pursuing building components for electric vehicles. Communicated with SC Department of Commerce, SC DEW and SC Manufacturing Extension Partnership.
- Distributed "Your Next Step" booklet to the more than 2,000 high school seniors across the Upper Savannah Region before graduation; includes list of employers who hire recent graduates as well as job search tips.