



UPPER SAVANNAH

Council of Governments

ACTIVITY REPORT

AUGUST 2023

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**USCOG
TO SUBMIT**

3

**CDBG grant
applications
in September**

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

RLF

Revolving
Loan Fund
has closed
64 loans

AGING

A/C

Area Agency
on Aging
has provided 16
window A/C units
to seniors
who lacked
sufficient cooling

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

ASSISTING

local
governments
with several
potential
projects
and other needs

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

91

enrollees

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

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Workforce staff
assists with

JOB FAIR

in
Laurens County

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

**CARES Act
CDBG-CV**

nearly 35,000
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 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 APPLICATIONS TO BE SUBMITTED

SEPTEMBER 2023 FALL ROUND

City of Greenwood - Waller Streetscape

Greenwood County - DSS Improvements

Town of Ninety Six - Community Center Demolition

CDBG funds are being requested for streetscape improvements to Waller Avenue. Current conditions on Waller include broken, pieced, and misaligned sections of sidewalk, unsecure fencing, root overgrowth, ADA accessibility concerns, poorly patched sections of road, worn curbing, and lack of parking stall signage. Funds would be used to install sidewalks, brick roadway, curbing, ADA accessibility, parking stall indicators, landscaping, and outdoor seating. These improvements will provide accessibility and opportunity to those seeking services provided by the businesses on Waller Ave., especially the LMI who utilize these services. Estimated project cost \$1,232,368.

Greenwood County is requesting CDBG funds to improve the county owned Department of Social Services (DSS) building. The current building needs include a new roof, HVAC, improved restrooms, asbestos abatement, ADA accessibility, lobby/waiting area improvements, flooring, lighting, repainting, parking lot and safety improvements. The buildings current conditions pose health and safety concerns for those seeking DSS services, as well as those working to provide these valuable services. Estimated project cost \$1,462,787.00.

Town is requesting CDBG funds to demolish the Ninety Six Mill Village Community Center. This building was constructed around the 1930's. Currently the structure has outlived its useful life. The abandoned building is now condemned due to mold, asbestos, and poor unstable interior conditions. The biggest concern is the amount of water the building's basement regularly holds. The Community Center is an eyesore, nuisance and a safety hazard to the community. The town would like to use CDBG funds to demolish the structure and turn the site into greenspace. Estimated project cost 344,600.

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

Booker T. Washington Sewer Upgrade: 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. Project in start-up phase.

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 November 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). Engineer working on bid package. Upper Savannah and the Town are working to acquire right of way. Project going out to bid in fall 2023.

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 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. Bid came in over budget, working with Laurens County Water & Sewer Commission and the Department of Commerce to seek more funding.

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 is out to bid.

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 was bid out in August 2023 and the overall project will go out to bid in October 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 expected to improve sewer service to 174 units. 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 includes improvements 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 September 2023.

Laurens County Highway 56/76 Sewer Upgrades: Project awarded in September 2020, with \$715,000 in CDBG funds, \$120,000 local match for total project cost of \$835,000. Project repaired two major sections of trunk line at intersections of Hwy 76/Springdale Drive and Hwy 56/Springdale Drive, including installation of new lines, casings, and manholes benefitting an estimated 2,300 households and businesses. Construction began Jan. 16, 2023 and is now complete. Waiting on Department of Commerce to monitor project before it can be closed out.

Greenwood County Baptist Sewer Upgrade: Project awarded September 2020, with \$750,000 CDBG funds, \$262,317 in local match for total project cost of \$1,012,317. It upgraded sewer lines on Gilliam Avenue, Baptist Avenue, Evans Street, Percival Avenue, Singleton Street, Byrd Street, Tanyard Avenue, Bay Street and Milwee Avenue, benefitting an estimated 90 units. Project came in over budget by \$450,000; staff secured \$197,271 in additional funding. Project has been completed. Department of Commerce monitored the project Aug. 2, 2023; CD staff current working on closeout.

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	8	64
Total Dollars Loaned	\$335,000	\$4,543,620
Private Investment	\$1,900,270	\$32,206,448
Other Public Investment	\$0	\$2,140,500
Jobs Created and Retained	49	715
Cost Per Job	\$6,837	\$6,355
Private Investment Ratio	\$5.67: \$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 June 1, 2023 - July 31, 2023

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	CLIENTS
Assessments	Determine client eligibility and needs for Aging services	418
Caregiver Supplemental Services	Assists with supplies, supplements, assistive technology	37
Assistive Technology	Provides Lifeline monitoring for seniors at risk	24
Home Care	Helps seniors with light housekeeping, chores, personal care	65
Minor Home Repair	Provides ramps, handrails, grab bars, safety upgrades	23
Seniors Raising Children Supplemental Services	Assists with school supplies, clothing, and miscellaneous	4
Transportation	Trips to congregate meal sites, medical, essential shopping	331
Legal Assistance	Provided by SC Legal Services	28
Caregiver Respite	Offers a break for daily caregivers	62

Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals Report | June 1, 2023 - July 31, 2023

MEALS BY COUNTY	CLIENTS	NUMBER OF MEALS
Abbeville	107	3,269
Edgefield	106	2,997
Greenwood	354	12,360
Laurens	158	4,762
McCormick	88	2,703
Saluda	76	2,335
TOTALS	889	28,426

Other highlights - Delivered 18 window air conditioning units to seniors in the Region who lacked sufficient cooling in their homes; delivered six NOAA Weather radios to seniors; Upper Savannah was recognized by the S.C. Department on Aging for setting USCOG's record for most assessments completed in one month, 255 in June 2023.

More than

28,000

MEALS

served to seniors
in Region over last

TWO MONTHS

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

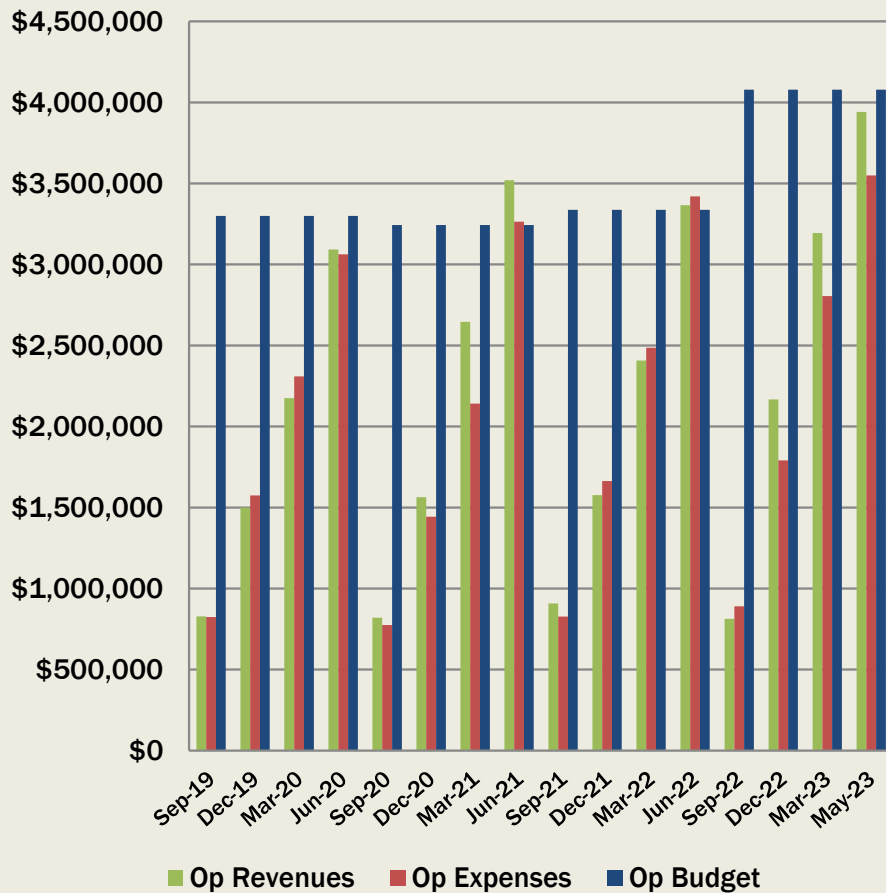
- The CDBG-CV Public Services projects are underway. The Home Delivered Meals project is in its 15th month. From March 2022 through July 2023, 34,875 meals have been delivered with this program. The Public Transit for Saluda County project wrapped up at the end of June. Eighty-six trips were taken and 149 miles driven through the conclusion of the program on June 30, 2023.
- Received approval to extend the CDBG-CV Public Services grant. This will allow the Home Delivered Meals project to continue to serve meals to seniors in our region through June 5, 2024.
- Held a state-mandated training session for planning commissioners, board of zoning appeals members, and staff for Edgefield County and all municipalities.
- Assisted Town of Edgefield with zoning research and questions.
- Provided Town of Johnston with a voting district map.
- Continued grant administration of the SC Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP). The Upper Savannah region is receiving almost \$80 million in grant funding to assist with improvements for clean drinking water, sanitary sewer and stormwater resilience. Sixteen projects totaling \$79,891,066 were awarded throughout the region, with projects in all six counties. COG administration is required for nine of these grants totaling \$26,598,719, including projects for City of Abbeville, Town of Due West, Town of Edgefield, Ninety Six CPW, Town of Ware Shoals, City of Clinton, Laurens CPW, McCormick CPW and Town of Ridge Spring.
- Continued work on environmental reviews for Spring CDBG applications.
- Met with Abbeville County staff to discuss a potential federal land access grant application.
- Met with Greenwood County Economic Development staff to discuss potential grants.
- Updated Americans with Disabilities Act plan for Greenwood County to use to apply for CDBG funds.
- Updated the Needs Assessment for the Town of Ninety Six to use to apply for CDBG funds.
- Attended Edgefield Street Corridor Plan Meeting and Public Input session.
- 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.
- 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. Three projects in the region have been approved for funding: former McCormick County Administration Building, Lydia Mill in Clinton, and Project Academy in Clinton.
- Participated in ongoing meetings to develop a plan to encourage more online entrepreneurs in 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 Upper Savannah Land Trust with various planning activities including coordinating annual meeting. Land Trust is helping protect more than 54,000 acres of land with over 140 easements across Abbeville, Aiken, Anderson, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee and Saluda counties.
- Continued work on Economic Development Administration (EDA) grants administration on two current grants in Laurens County, including one to fund water system improvements to serve Malouf Companies and generally upgrade water services in area around Interstate 385 and US 221 interchange, and one to upgrade the sewer facilities serving the Fibertex manufacturing facility in Gray Court.

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 at Newberry County Career & Resource June 14.
- Served 38 people at Saluda County Summer Job Fair June 27.
- Served 70 job seekers at Laurens County Summer Job Fair 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.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Operating Actual vs. Budget



Pass Through Budget

