



UPPER SAVANNAH

Council of Governments

ACTIVITY REPORT

APRIL 2024

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**USCOG
SUBMITS**

2

CDBG grant applications in spring round

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

There are

14

active CDBG projects in region, totaling more than **\$12.6 million**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**LCWSC
\$2 million**

EDA

sewer upgrade construction 90 percent complete

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

\$6 million

EDA

PTC receives letter of further consideration for Health Sciences building project

AGING

More than

29,000

meals served to seniors in Region over last two months

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Continuing to assist local utility providers with

SCIIP projects

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

383

job seekers attended

Regional Job Fair

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

1,300

job seekers served at SC Works offices in Region in March

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

CARES Act CDBG-CV

more than 61,000 meals delivered to seniors in their homes since March '22

See

DETAILS on these and other activities in this report



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

APPLICANT	PROJECT NAME	GRANT AMOUNT
City of Greenwood.....	Waller Avenue Streetscape.....	\$750,000
Greenwood County.....	DSS Building Improvements.....	\$1,278,510
Town of Ninety Six.....	Community Center Demolition.....	\$324,600
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.....	\$2,350,000
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.....	Regional Planning.....	\$50,000
TOTAL		\$12,610,886

CDBG GRANT APPLICATIONS RECENTLY SUBMITTED

APRIL 2024 SPRING ROUND

Laurens County - Clinton-Joanna WWTP Upgrade Phase II

The Clinton-Joanna Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase I was funded through CDBG in 2022 and is currently under construction to upgrade the facility for the land application process. In April 2020, Laurens County Water & Sewer Authority entered into an agreement with Synagro to land apply the biosolids from the Clinton-Joanna WWTP. EPA describes biosolids as primarily organic materials produced during wastewater treatment which may be put to beneficial use. An example is the addition of biosolids to soil to supply nutrients and replenish soil organic matter. This is known as land application. Additional funds are needed to install the

second 750,000 gallon holding tank that will meet the facility's max capacity. The tank will replace the function of the drying beds and significantly reduce the harmful vector attraction to the facility by removing the environment in which they thrive. The second tank will also reduce the regional demand for landfill space and landfill slope failures attributed to biosolids. Construction is estimated to cost \$1,780,000. Approximately 8,078 persons would benefit from the improvements, of which 4,662 are considered low-to-moderate income (58%). The project will benefit more than 4,000 households and hundreds of businesses, based on the sample surveys completed in 2022.

City of Greenwood - Mathews Mill Phase III
The project is located between South Main Street

and Highway 225 S Bypass. Construction will take place on Chace Avenue, Wright Avenue, Grier Street, Edgefield Street and Kirksey Drive West. The project involves the installation of approximately 7,200 feet of 8-inch gravity sewer line with 26 pre-cast concrete manholes, replacing the existing 6-inch and 8-inch clay sewer lines and brick manholes, reconnecting service laterals to 128 homes. Where possible, the new sewer lines will be constructed in the existing roadways which will allow the homes to be served from the front of the property and the existing sewer lines that are located behind and under the houses to be abandoned. It is anticipated that new rights-of-way will be required on 17 properties. Cost of construction is still being determined; project beneficiary surveys are also in progress.

There are **14** active CDBG projects in the region, totaling **\$12,610,886**

Waller Avenue Streetscape: City of Greenwood was awarded \$750,000 in December 2023 for streetscape improvements to Waller Avenue in Uptown. 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 will be used to install sidewalks, brick roadway, curbing, ADA accessibility, parking stall indicators, landscaping and outdoor seating. The engineering phase has begun.

DSS Building Improvements: Greenwood County was awarded \$1,278,510 in CDBG funding also in December to improve the Department of Social Services building. The building needs a new roof, HVAC, improved restrooms, asbestos abatement, ADA accessibility, lobby/waiting area improvements, flooring, lighting, repainting, parking lot and safety improvements. The County has recently met with the engineer for the project.

Community Center Demolition: Town of Ninety Six was awarded \$324,600 in CDBG funding to demolish the Ninety Six Mill Village Community Center. The structure is condemned due to mold, asbestos, and unstable interior conditions. The Town would like to use CDBG funds to demolish the structure and turn the site into greenspace. This project is in the start-up phase.

Booker T. Washington Sewer Upgrade: City of Greenwood received \$840,000 in CDBG funds in June 2023 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 bids opened, working on package for SC Department of Commerce approval.

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 May 2024.

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 in the process of acquiring the right of way. Project will go out to bid once acquisition is complete.

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 was estimated to be \$3,026,000, including \$1 million from State Revolving Fund and \$526,000 from Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission (LCWSC). Project will benefit estimated 8,078 people. Bids came in over budget, worked with LCWSC and Department of Commerce to acquire additional \$850,000, contract was signed Oct. 17, 2023 and construction began in December 2023. Completion expected Aug. 30, 2024.

Greenwood County Mathews Mill Sewer Phase II: County received \$1,600,000 in CDBG funds in August 2022 to continue 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. Contract has been signed and construction scheduled to begin May 2024. Completion expected around Feb. 27, 2025.

City of Abbeville Structure Demolitions: City received \$221,564 in CDBG funding in November 2021 to demolish and clear 12 vacant and condemned houses located on 102 Brooks St. East, 106 Brown St., 412 Cambridge St. West (Lots 3, 7 & 9), 403 Poplar St.; 102 Secession Ave; and 101, 103, 106, 109 and 112 Wilson St., in City of Abbeville. Asbestos testing has been completed, working on contract package for Commerce approval, bids to open April 11.

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 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. Project provides an additional 23 parking stalls. Construction of sidewalks, Veterans Memorial and speed table will result in eliminating the majority of existing parking out front of Town Hall. Construction began in January 2023, completion expected June 2024.

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. The project includes a \$102,562 local match for total cost of \$823,774. Construction to begin in May 2024.

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. Construction began Jan. 16, 2023, and is complete. Project has been closed out.

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
TOTAL.....		\$7,422,800

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 was bid out in March 2024 and bids were opened April 9, 2024.

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 approximately 90 percent complete.

Piedmont Technical College has received a letter of further consideration from EDA for its Health Sciences Building project. Usually, this is a preliminary step towards a formal grant award. This project consists of the construction of a new 27,000 square foot building for the Health Science programs. The building is to be constructed on 1.5 acres on the Piedmont Technical College Greenwood Campus adjacent to the existing Science Building. This project will provide spaces that simulate real-world conditions which align with industry standards to prepare the students to be work-ready upon graduation. The project cost is estimated at \$13,930,487 and the EDA request was for \$6,000,000.



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	19	22
Total Dollars Loaned	\$902,546	\$1,004,096
Private Sector Investment	\$2,250,450	\$2,250,450
Other Public Investment	\$14,470	\$14,470
Jobs Created and Retained	94	105.5
Cost Per Job	\$9,602	\$9,518
Private Investment Ratio	\$2.49 : \$1	\$2.24 : \$1

AGING

Upper Savannah Area Agency on Aging/Aging & Disability Resource Center Activity Report February 1, 2024 - March 31, 2024

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	CLIENTS
Assessments	Determine client eligibility and needs for Aging services	223
Caregiver Supplemental Services	Assists with supplies, supplements, assistive technology	28
Assistive Technology	Provides Lifeline monitoring for seniors at risk	23
Home Care	Helps seniors with light housekeeping, chores, personal care	64
Minor Home Repair	Provides ramps, handrails, grab bars, safety upgrades	5
Seniors Raising Children		
Supplemental Services	Assists with school supplies, clothing, and miscellaneous	13
Transportation	Trips to congregate meal sites, medical, essential shopping	256
Legal Assistance	Provided by SC Legal Services	19
Caregiver Respite	Offers a break for daily caregivers	58

Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals Report | February 1, 2024 - March 31, 2024

MEALS BY COUNTY	CLIENTS	NUMBER OF MEALS
Abbeville	120	3,927
Edgefield	109	3,253
Greenwood	379	12,765
Laurens	136	4,070
McCormick	100	2,687
Saluda	84	2,475
TOTALS	928	29,177

Other highlights - Aging staff will participate in Children's Day at the Greenwood YMCA April 27, Senior P.R.E.P. (Planning Resources for Emergency Preparedness) event at Walgreens in Laurens May 3, and GLEAMNS Community Action Day at Piedmont Tech in Greenwood May 17, as well as volunteering for Senior Day May 1 in Columbia. Our Volunteer Ombudsman Coordinator hosted a Resident and Family Workshop for current volunteers and a Family Council drop-in where families could gather information on starting a family council in their facility. We are having a recognition ceremony for our current volunteer ombudsman this month. The COG received all Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for Older Americans Act meals and for in-home and community-based services and a Review and Evaluation Committee evaluated each proposal. Next step is contract negotiations for each provider.

More than **29,000** MEALS served to seniors in Region over last **TWO MONTHS**

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

- The CDBG-CV Public Services projects are ongoing. The Home Delivered Meals project is in its 18th month. From March 2022 through March 2024, more than 61,000 meals have been delivered to eligible seniors with this program.
- Continued working with 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.
- Attended a Digital Economy Entrepreneurship meeting in Greenwood.
- Met with the new Economic Development Director in Abbeville County.
- Discussed grant potential with a new non-profit in Joanna seeking to improve a local baseball stadium and honor textile baseball history. The renovation is proposed as a three-phase plan including field surface, stadium renovation, and additions of baseball facilities.
- Continued grant administration of the SC Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP). 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.
- Submitted a grant application to the state Energy Office on behalf of the Town of McCormick for an electric vehicle charging station in the new public parking lot behind Town Hall.
- Assisted the McCormick County SC 250 group in applying for and receiving \$15,000 for new signage at the Fort Charlotte site near Mount Carmel. The group is highlighting Revolutionary War era events in the County.
- Continued work on environmental reviews for Spring CDBG applications and current EDA applications.
- Continued work on revisions and updates to an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant application for a potential project at Piedmont Technical College.
- Attended the SCDOT County Transportation Committee Statewide meeting to hear about the CTC programs' potential updates and changes.
- Attended an SCDOT meeting to discuss local planning requirements and changes for the upcoming years.
- Continued working with a Federal Highways Administration group studying the cause of roadway departure crashes in our region. A full report is ready and awaiting cost estimates from SCDOT.
- Took part in Zoom meetings to discuss national trends in rural road safety and regional transportation planning in rural areas.
- Continued working with several local governments on the SC Brownfields Environmental Site Testing (SC BEST) program to pay for environmental assessments for potential economic development projects. There are projects in all six Upper Savannah Region counties.
- Hosted regional meeting for county administrators and public works directors to learn about a potential money-saving trash compaction service that would reduce hauling costs and provide convenience site monitoring assistance.
- 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 scheduled for May 2, at the Drummond Center at Lake Greenwood State Park. Land Trust is helping protect more than 55,000 acres of land with over 120 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.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Success Story, Noella Polatty is a somewhat different journey than previously showcased but that just makes her case more special. In the Fall semester of 2021, Noella was enrolled in the Emergency Medical Technician training program with Upper Savannah’s WIOA program assisting. Level UP was introduced to Noella in November of 2021 at which time she was then co-enrolled. Noella completed her EMT program Dec. 14, 2021, and successfully passed her National Registry EMT Certification exams to earn her full EMT license. Noella accepted full-time employment as an EMT with Greenwood County EMS. However, this is not where her story ends. Noella still wanted to learn and grow within the emergency services field. In January of 2023, she made the first step to do just that. Level UP assisted Noella in enrolling into Piedmont Technical College’s Paramedic Certificate course and starting that very same month. Noella continued to work full-time as an EMT in the busiest agency in the region and juggled the Paramedic Program’s demanding coursework. She continued to earn great grades and had the most positive attitude. She completed the program in December 2023 and went on to successfully complete the National Registry Paramedic Certification exams on the first attempt. On Jan. 20, 2024, Noella officially moved into a Paramedic position with Greenwood County EMS. With all of Noella’s continued success in the programs, she still has the drive to go all the way to the top. Noella intends to enroll in the five remaining General Technology courses at Piedmont Technical College (PTC) that will allow her to earn an Associates Degree in General Technology with a concentration in Paramedicine. This is a fairly new career track offered by PTC so Level UP is excited to see Noella complete this and add to her resume. Noella has been a star student and an asset to her community.



Noella Polatty

Noella completed her EMT program Dec. 14, 2021, and successfully passed her National Registry EMT Certification exams to earn her full EMT license. Noella accepted full-time employment as an EMT with Greenwood County EMS. However, this is not where her story ends. Noella still wanted to learn and grow within the emergency services field. In January of 2023, she made the first step to do just that. Level UP assisted Noella in enrolling into Piedmont Technical College’s Paramedic Certificate course and starting that very same month. Noella continued to work full-time as an EMT in the busiest agency in the region and juggled the Paramedic Program’s demanding coursework. She continued to earn great grades and had the most positive attitude. She completed the program in December 2023 and went on to successfully complete the National Registry Paramedic Certification exams on the first attempt. On Jan. 20, 2024, Noella officially moved into a Paramedic position with Greenwood County EMS. With all of Noella’s continued success in the programs, she still has the drive to go all the way to the top. Noella intends to enroll in the five remaining General Technology courses at Piedmont Technical College (PTC) that will allow her to earn an Associates Degree in General Technology with a concentration in Paramedicine. This is a fairly new career track offered by PTC so Level UP is excited to see Noella complete this and add to her resume. Noella has been a star student and an asset to her community.

Upper Savannah Workforce Development Board Update: The Board met on April 1, with a full agenda with much discussion on several topics. The meeting concluded with Board Member orientation as two

new members were added from Laurens County, including Amanda Munyan who is the President & CEO of the Laurens County Chamber of Commerce.

Munyan has more than 14 years of non-profit sector experience. She’s known for fostering collaboration as Secretary/Treasurer on the Ten at the Top Board. Amanda, a dedicated Rotarian and Communications



Amanda Munyan

Committee Chair for the Laurens Club, connects the community in numerous ways. She contributes to various initiatives, serving on boards like the Laurens County Development Corporation, Lakelands YMCA, Crime Stoppers of Laurens County, and the Laurens County 250th Revolutionary War Committee. Amanda’s commitment to education and opportunity is evident through her involvement with the Laurens County Future Scholarship Board. Eager to broaden her impact, she joins the Upper Savannah Workforce Board, continuing her mission to enhance regional prosperity and quality of life.

Upper Savannah Regional Job Fair - Almost 400 job seekers made productive connections with potential employers at the Job Fair at Piedmont Technical College on March 21. Eighty employers attended. There has been positive feedback from both job seekers and employers.

SC Works Services Overview - SC Works offices throughout region continue to support the needs of community job seekers and employers with the support of many partners. Below are some service levels year-to-date by county.

CAREER SERVICES ACTIVE (7/1/23 to 3/31/24)					
COUNTY	Adult	Dislocated Worker	Youth	Post Employment Follow-up	Job Seekers Services March 24
Abbeville	2	0	1	5	60
Edgefield	9	0	2	2	67
Greenwood	40	1	4	92	537
Laurens	19	1	4	13	283
McCormick	1	0	0	0	32
Newberry	21	2	4	14	252
Saluda	6	1	1	11	69
TOTALS	98	5	16	137	1300
		119			

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

