



UPPER SAVANNAH

Council of Governments

ACTIVITY REPORT

OCTOBER 2024

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

USCOG
SUBMITS

2

CDBG grant
applications
in fall round

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

There are

13

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

\$11.27
million

EDA

Piedmont Tech
receives funding
for Health
Sciences Building

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LCWSC
\$5.4 million

EDA

Metric Road
water upgrade
to begin soon

AGING

More than

27,000

meals served
to seniors
in Region
in last 2 months

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Continuing
to assist
local
utility
providers
with
SCIIP
projects

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

285

job seekers
attend
Upper Savannah
Regional
Job Fair

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

1,232

job seekers
served
at SC Works
offices in Region
in September

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

CEDS

Important
document
update keeps
region eligible
for EDA
funding

See

DETAILS
on these and
other activities
in this report



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

APPLICANT	PROJECT NAME	GRANT AMOUNT
Laurens County.....	Clinton-Joanna WWTP Upgrade Phase II.....	\$1,618,000
City of Greenwood.....	Waller Avenue Streetscape.....	\$750,000
Greenwood County.....	DSS Building Improvements.....	\$1,278,510
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.....	Matthews Mill Phase II Sewer Upgrade.....	\$1,600,000
City of Abbeville.....	Structure Demolitions.....	\$221,564
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		\$13,404,286

CDBG GRANT APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED

SEPTEMBER 2024 FALL ROUND

Saluda County Library Improvements - Funds are being requested to renovate the new Saluda County Library location at 307 W. Butler Street. The current library consists of approximately 2,000 square feet of space, whereas the new library location consists of approximately 6,900 square feet. Improvements to include interior construction, parking improvements, ADA accessibility, and new HVAC. Improvements will provide this low-to-moderate income county with a larger facility, allowing for more educational materials, resources, and space for free library hosted activities and programs.

Town of Edgefield Fire Truck - Funds are being requested to purchase an additional fire truck to replace the Town's 1988 FMC Pumper. The department currently has three pumpers, a 2016 KME, 1997 Pierce and 1988 FMC. The older trucks are spending a significant amount of time down for service and repair due to the ongoing issue of locating parts. The Town is in need of reliable fire protection. An updated Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating may negatively impact the Town of Edgefield's current rating, last reviewed in 2016.

There
are

13

active CDBG
projects in the
region, totaling

\$13,404,286

Laurens County - Clinton-Joanna WWTP Upgrade Phase II: Laurens County was awarded \$1,618,000 in July 2024 for Clinton-Joanna Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade Phase II. This will help Laurens County continue the project that was awarded in August 2022 but came in over budget. In June 2023, the project for the plant was bid for construction, including installation of a second 750,000-gallon sludge holding tank as an alternate bid item. However, due to the high bids the second tank was unable to be funded. As a result, the project was awarded with the construction of only one 750,000-gallon tank. In the spring 2024 CDBG application round, funds were requested to continue upgrading the plant including the purchase and installation of the second sludge holding tank, aeration, mixers, pumps, controls, and other necessary fittings. Project cost is estimated to be \$1,780,000, with \$1.618,000 in CDBG funds and \$162,000 in matching funds provided by Laurens County Water & Sewer Commission. The improvements consist of installing the 750,000-gallon tank. The drying beds were removed as part of the original scope in Phase I. The location is already cleared and will provide the space necessary to house the second tank and its equipment, without acquisition and/or land clearing. This additional tank will be the completion of the 2022 original scope, providing the Clinton-Joanna plant its necessary capacity to not only sustain its increasing wastewater volume, but to handle the facility's max capacity.

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. Contract signed Sept. 9, 2024, construction beginning Nov. 11, 2024.

DSS Building Improvements: Greenwood County was awarded \$1,278,510 in CDBG funding in December 2023 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. Engineering contract signed June 2024. Project in 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 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 public right of way; no acquisition is anticipated. Project will benefit approximately 56 units, occupied by estimated 119 persons. Construction began July 8, 2024.

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. Improvements include playground equipment, picnic tables, mulch, and open-air pavilion. Additional work to include site preparation, installation of purchases, designated American Disabilities Act parking, and concrete work. Project estimated to cost \$275,000, going out to bid November 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 estimated to be \$2,086,090, including \$386,090 from Town. 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.

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. Demolition is now complete. Project in closeout phase. Closeout monitoring scheduled for Dec. 4, 2024; closeout expected January/February 2025.

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 October 31, 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. Construction began in May 2024. Completion expected around Feb. 27, 2025.

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 completed in July 2024. Closeout monitoring scheduled for Nov. 12, 2024; project closeout expected January/February 2025.

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 2025.

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. Project includes a \$102,562 local match for total cost of \$823,774. Construction began in May 2024.

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
Piedmont Technical College	Health Sciences Building.....	\$11,271,697
TOTAL.....		\$18,694,497

Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission has been awarded grant from the Economic Development Administration (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. Contracts have been signed and notice to proceed issued.

Piedmont Technical College has received an \$11,271,697 grant award from EDA for its Health Sciences Building project. 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 \$14,089,621. USCOG will administer the project.

Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission was 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 were 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 now complete.



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	7	64
Total Dollars Loaned	\$235,000	\$4,543,620
Private Investment	\$1,238,710	\$32,206,448
Other Public Investment	\$0	\$2,140,500
Jobs Created and Retained	33.5	715
Cost Per Job	\$7,015	\$6,355
Private Investment Ratio	\$5.27: \$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	17	22
Total Dollars Loaned	\$842,546	\$1,004,096
Private Sector Investment	\$2,250,450	\$2,250,450
Other Public Investment	\$14,470	\$14,470
Jobs Created and Retained	90.5	105.5
Cost Per Job	\$9,420	\$9,518
Private Investment Ratio	\$2.64 : \$1	\$2.24 : \$1

AGING

Upper Savannah Area Agency on Aging/Aging & Disability Resource Center Activity Report August 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	CLIENTS
Assessments	Determine client eligibility and needs for Aging services	236
Caregiver Supplemental Services	Assists with supplies, supplements, assistive technology	28
Assistive Technology	Provides Lifeline monitoring for seniors at risk	19
Home Care	Helps seniors with light housekeeping, chores, personal care	55
Minor Home Repair	Provides ramps, handrails, grab bars, safety upgrades	19
Seniors Raising Children Supplemental Services	Assists with school supplies, clothing, and miscellaneous	18
Transportation	Trips to congregate meal sites, medical, essential shopping	348
Legal Assistance	Provided by SC Legal Services	31
Caregiver Respite	Offers a break for daily caregivers	84

Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals Report | FY '24, August 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024

MEALS BY COUNTY	CONGREGATE MEALS	HOME-DELIVERED
Abbeville	714	3,035
Edgefield	672	2,427
Greenwood	1,596	9,194
Laurens	274	4,080
McCormick	511	2,247
Saluda	763	1,500
TOTALS	4,530	22,583

Other highlights - Medicare's Open Enrollment period has begun and will run through December 7, 2024. During this period, people can make certain changes to their Medicare coverage, including adding, dropping, or changing their Medicare Advantage or Part D coverage. Any changes made take effect January 1, 2025. Upper Savannah's Regional State Health Insurance Assistance Program Specialist (SHIP Specialist) is available to provide help, compare options, or make changes. SHIPs provide local, in-depth, and objective insurance counseling and assistance to Medicare-eligible individuals, their families, and caregivers. Schedule your appointment by calling 864-941-8093.

More than **27,000** MEALS served to seniors in Region over last **TWO MONTHS**

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

- Applied for and received \$11,271,697 in Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding for Piedmont Technical College to construct a Health Science building. The building is to be constructed on 1.5 acres on the PTC Greenwood Campus adjacent to the existing Health Science building. The building will include 10 nursing simulation spaces, six nursing skills labs, three classrooms, two computer labs, two debrief/collaboration rooms, an echo simulation lab, and a catheterization lab. USCOG will administer the project.
- Completed the annual update to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to keep the region eligible for EDA funding.
- Continued work on Economic Development Administration (EDA) grants administration on two current grants in Laurens County.
- Continued work on a potential EDA grant application in Gray Court.
- Met with the statewide Drought Committee to evaluate drought status across the region and state.
- 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.
- Continued administration of a grant on behalf of the Greenwood County and McCormick County SC 250 committees to update and install signs commemorating Revolutionary War events along the county line near the Town of Troy.
- Continued work on environmental reviews for CDBG and EDA projects.
- Attended a Vision Greenwood board meeting.
- Met with a housing developer and a Vision Greenwood committee to discuss affordable housing needs in the area.
- Attended the Small Business Development Center Board meeting for the Upper Savannah region.
- Facilitated state-mandated training for 14 planning commissioners, board of zoning appeals members, and staff in Edgefield and McCormick counties.
- Met with Greenwood County SC 250 Committee to review administration needs.
- Continued work on environmental reviews for Community Development Block Grant awards for Greenwood City and County.
- Continued administration of a Town of McCormick grant for electric vehicle charging stations was funded by the South Carolina Energy Office.
- Presented the final regional Roadway Departure Safety Implementation Plan to Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, McCormick and Saluda County Councils.
- Attended SCDOT meetings in all six counties to determine future transportation corridor improvement needs.
- Continued working with one community on the SC BEST program to pay for environmental assessments for potential economic development projects.
- Continued assisting the Upper Savannah Land Trust with various planning activities. Land Trust is helping protect 57,753 acres of land with over 131 easements across Abbeville, Aiken, Anderson, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee and Saluda counties.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SC Works/WIOA Youth Success Story -

Gaige Daughtry enrolled in the Workforce Investment and Opportunity ACT (WIOA) program in November 2023 to get assistance with getting his GED through the Abbeville Adult Education. Gaige also showed an interest in



Gaige Daughtry

After obtaining his GED in November, Gaige enrolled with Norris Mechanical for their Welding 101 Extended Course. Gaige graduated from Norris Mechanical in September 2024. Gaige started working with Permanent Metal Decking Company LLC on September 9, 2024 making \$23 per hour. He mentioned to his WIOA Career Coach, Crystal Cheatham, that he loves that he is able to get welding experience and being able to travel all over Southeast.

Upper Savannah Workforce Board Update - The Upper Savannah Workforce Development Board will have its next meeting on November 4, 2024. Recruiting efforts are still ongoing for the replacement of members who are stepping down. The Board will also be reappointing eight members who have chosen to continue to serve for another 3-year term. The following committee chairs will be seeking fellow board members to volunteer to serve:

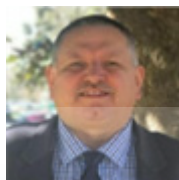
SC Works Operations (Chair, Roy Lowe, SC DEW)

Priority Populations (Chair, Chad Ulmer, SCVRD)

New Workforce Board Members - The Upper Savannah Workforce Board has two new members in Daniel Grove representing Lonza and Billy Morgan representing Greenwood County.



Daniel Grove



Billy Morgan

Upper Savannah Regional Job Fair Update -

SC Works and our partners hosted the Fall Regional Job Fair October 17, 2024 at Piedmont Technical College that featured over 70 employers and 285 job seekers.

The following Job Fairs took place in August and September:

- Abbeville County - 16 employers, 39 job seekers
- Laurens County - 27 employers, 136 job seekers
- Greenwood County - ES Foundry, 86 job seekers
- Abbeville County - ACS Manufacturing
- Greenwood County - Fibertex Wovens, 23 job seekers
- Laurens County - Nordson, 151 job seekers

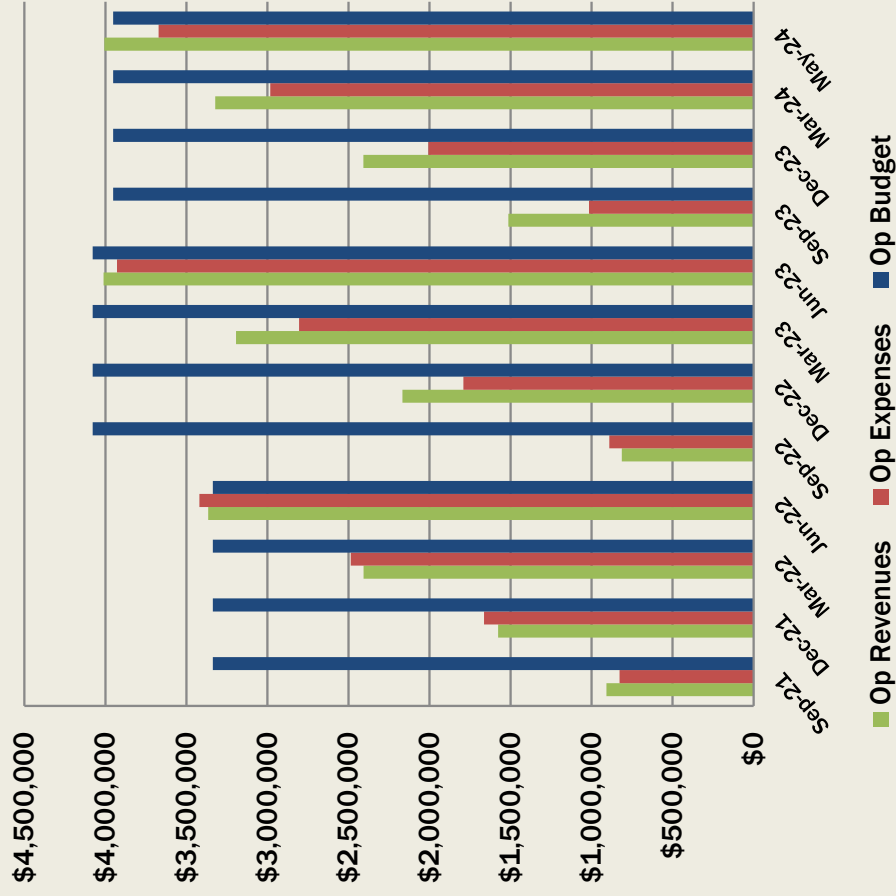
SC Works offered multiple workshops prior to job fairs that provided resume writing, “dress to impress”, and interviewing skills information to participants that intended on attending the hiring events.

SC Works Services Overview - Our SC Works offices throughout the region continue to support the needs of our community Job Seekers and Employers with the support of our many partners. Below are some of our service levels.

	Aug-24	Sep-24
WIOA CAREER SERVICES		
Enrollments (Active & F/U)		
Adult	19	7
Dislocated Workers	0	0
Youth	1	5
Follow-up (Adult, DW, & Youth)	150	156
TOTAL	338	
EMPLOYER SERVICES		
Employers Receiving Services		
Abbeville	17	14
Edgefield	3	2
Greenwood	48	45
Laurens	19	23
McCormick	2	3
Newberry	7	7
Saluda	1	4
TOTAL	195	
JOB SEEKER SERVICES		
Center Traffic		
Abbeville	14	18
Edgefield	23	19
Greenwood	656	505
Laurens	212	273
McCormick	17	6
Newberry	348	397
Saluda	18	14
TOTAL	2520	

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Operating Actual vs. Budget



Pass Through Budget

