



UPPER SAVANNAH

Council of Governments

ACTIVITY REPORT

APRIL 2025

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**USCOG
SUBMITS**

1

**CDBG grant
application
in spring round**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

There are

11

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

\$11.27 million

EDA

PTC Health Sciences
Building bid package
has been submitted
to EDA for approval

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**LCWSC
\$5.4 million**

EDA

**Metric Road
water upgrade
under
construction**

AGING

More than

22,000

meals served
to seniors
in Region in
January/February

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

**Continuing
to assist
nine local
utility
providers
with
SCIIP
projects**

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Upper Savannah
Regional

Job Fair

187 job seekers
attended

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

1,351

job seekers
served
at SC Works
offices in Region
in March

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Transportation

Participating
in feasibility
study for transit
in Abbeville,
Laurens, Saluda
counties

See

DETAILS
on these and
other activities
in this report



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

APPLICANT	PROJECT NAME	GRANT AMOUNT
Saluda County.....	Library Improvements.....	\$750,000
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
Greenwood County.....	Matthews Mill Phase II Sewer Upgrade.....	\$1,600,000
Town of Saluda.....	N. Main/W. Church Streetscape.....	\$721,212
Town of McCormick.....	N. Main/Augusta Streetscape.....	\$750,000
Greenwood County	Regional Planning	\$50,000
TOTAL		\$10,307,722

CDBG GRANT APPLICATION TO BE SUBMITTED APRIL 2025 SPRING ROUND

Laurens County Joanna Sewer Rehabilitation

- Funds are being requested to upgrade a gravity main located along West and East Calhoun streets in Joanna. The Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission would be the subrecipient of this grant. This project is expected to benefit

approximately 150 units along Blalock Drive, Browning Avenue, and Reeder, Workman, East and West Calhoun, Moorehead, Banna and North Main streets in the Joanna community. Sample surveys, cost estimates and project details are currently under development.

There are **11** active CDBG projects in the region, totaling **\$10,307,722**

Saluda County Library Improvements - Saluda County was rewarded \$750,000 in December 2024 to renovate the new Saluda County Library location at 307 W. Butler Ave. The current library behind the courthouse 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 unit. 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. Bid package being prepared.

Clinton-Joanna WWTP Upgrade Phase II: Laurens County was awarded \$1,618,000 in July 2024 for the 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 the 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. Contract has been signed; construction to begin in July 2025.

Waller Avenue Streetscape: City of Greenwood was awarded \$750,000 in December 2023 for streetscape improvements to Waller Avenue in Uptown. Conditions on Waller included 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 are being used to install sidewalks, brick roadway, curbing, ADA accessibility, parking stall indicators, landscaping and outdoor seating. Construction is expected to be complete in May 2025.

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. Bid package is being prepared.

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 includes Central Avenue, North Hospital Street, Brewer Avenue, and New Street. Rehabilitation includes 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; completion expected May 2025.

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 at \$275,000, going out to bid in April.

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 right of way acquisition is complete.

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 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, completion expected in May/June 2025.

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 included 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. Project construction has been completed. Closeout monitoring scheduled for June 3, 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; project closed out in February 2025.

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
Piedmont Technical College	Health Sciences Building.....	\$11,271,697
TOTAL.....		\$16,694,497

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. Construction on both project components is under way; construction approximately 40 percent complete.

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. The bid package has been submitted to EDA for approval.



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	34	715
Cost Per Job	\$6,912	\$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	16	22
Total Dollars Loaned	\$789,546	\$1,004,096
Private Sector Investment	\$2,241,450	\$2,250,450
Other Public Investment	\$14,470	\$14,470
Jobs Created and Retained	96.5	112.5
Cost Per Job	\$8,182	\$8,925
Private Investment Ratio	\$2.59 : \$1	\$2.24 : \$1

AGING

Upper Savannah Area Agency on Aging/Aging & Disability Resource Center Activity Report January - February 2025

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	CLIENTS
Assessments	Determine client eligibility and needs for Aging services	228
Caregiver Supplemental Services	Assists with supplies, supplements, assistive technology	19
Assistive Technology	Provides Lifeline monitoring for seniors at risk	19
Home Care	Helps seniors with light housekeeping, chores, personal care	41
Minor Home Repair	Provides ramps, handrails, grab bars, safety upgrades	16
Seniors Raising Children Supplemental Services	Assists with school supplies, clothing, and miscellaneous	7
Transportation	Trips to meal sites, medical, essential shopping	20,214 miles
Legal Assistance	Provided by SC Legal Services	23
Caregiver Respite	Offers a break for daily caregivers	54

Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals Report | January - February 2025

MEALS BY COUNTY	CONGREGATE MEALS	HOME-DELIVERED
Abbeville	711	3,203
Edgefield	466	2,641
Greenwood	1,517	9,026
Laurens	398	4,282
McCormick	500	1,725
Saluda	866	1,138
TOTALS	4,458	22,015

Other highlights - AAA/ARDC staff continue visiting county senior centers each month, and these visits have been well received. The Long-Term Care Ombudsman program hosted a successful workshop for nursing homes, assisted living, and Department of Disabilities and Special Needs facilities to review the investigation process of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults. In addition to hosting events, staff continue attending community and church events to share AAA/ARDC programs and resources. Events include Senior Celebration Day at Red Bank Baptist Church in Saluda, Chamber of Commerce meetings, Upstate Senior Network meetings, and outreach at Westminster Presbyterian Church and Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. To schedule staff to speak at your next event, contact Christy Stroud 864-941-8093 or cstroud@uppersavannah.com.

More than **22,000** MEALS served to seniors in Region in **January/February**

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

- Continued work on Economic Development Administration (EDA) grants administration on one current grant in Laurens County and one for Piedmont Technical College.
- Hosted public administrators for the region to hear a presentation on potential outdoor recreation and trail grants from the S.C. Department of Parks and Recreation. Also discussed any ongoing needs from Hurricane Helene.
- Participated in statewide discussion group on encouraging more sidewalks, bike paths, and other non-motorized means of transportation in rural parts of South Carolina.
- Participated in a statewide call to discuss a potential USCOG role in the Section 208 water quality permitting process.
- Participated in Abbeville County Economic Development Strategic Planning meeting.
- Met with the statewide Drought Committee to evaluate drought status across the region and state.
- Attended an SC Department of Environmental Services meeting to find out about potential watershed planning grants.
- Continued grant administration of the SC Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP). COG administration is required for nine 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 across the county line.
- Continued work on environmental reviews for CDBG and EDA projects.
- Attended a Vision Greenwood board meeting.
- Responded to planning and zoning technical assistance requests from the Town of Edgefield.
- Participated in statewide COG/MPO transportation planning meeting.
- Continued working with a group to update transportation feasibility studies for Abbeville, Laurens, and Saluda counties.
- Attended meetings of non-profit organizations in Laurens and Saluda counties to discuss the transit feasibility study.
- Continued working with one community on the SC BEST program to pay for environmental assessments for a potential community development project.
- Continued assisting the Upper Savannah Land Trust with various planning activities including coordinating the annual meeting. The Land Trust is helping protect 57,884 acres of land with more than 132 easements across Abbeville, Aiken, Anderson, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee and Saluda counties. The annual meeting will be held May 9, celebrating 25 years of the Land Trust.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Carly Barton

SC Works/WIOA Adult Success Story: Carly Barton is a 25 year old single mother whom had dropped out of high school after becoming a young mom. She was determined to create a better future for herself and her child so she decided to start with working towards earning her GED.

When she graduated with her GED, she met a Workforce Career coach and it was at that moment she was introduced to the next steps of her career journey.

Carly enrolled into the Greenwood Medical Academy with the assistance of our Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program and earned her Certification in Medical Assistant in less than a year. She is now employed full time as a medical assistant at Rural Health Service’s Margaret J. Weston Clinic.

Carly expressed that Upper Savannah Workforce program provided her more than job placement, it gave her a second chance.

Upper Savannah Workforce Board Update

The last Upper Savannah Workforce Development Board was February 3, 2025. The Board voted to begin the process of restructuring several of our counties affiliate sites into connection points to allow for more service availability to the lower traffic centers. The Board also voted to begin looking for another location to relocate our Laurens Center to a more feasible facility. Our executive committee did move forward with the appointment of a board seat in Newberry County: Stacie Phylicia.

New Workforce Board Members

The Workforce Board has appointed two new board members.

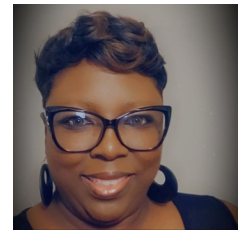
Samsung Electronics Director of Human Resources Stacie Phylicia is a trusted executive leadership coach, Human Resources Practitioner, and a U.S. Army veteran known for shattering human capital performance records, driving radical people performance and developmental growth, and building people strategy infrastructure of a billion dollar manufacturing enterprise.



Stacie Phylicia

Rawewan Aiken Ross of Greenwood earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Lander University in 1995 and a Masters of Arts Degree in Human Resource Management from Webster University in 2003. She also attended the University of Tennessee where she participated in an Orientation to Deafness Program to learn American

Sign Language. She is currently Area Supervisor for SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department in Greenwood, which serves Greenwood, McCormick, Saluda and Abbeville counties. She has been employed with SC Vocational Rehab for 21 years.



Rawewan Ross

Upper Savannah Regional Job Fair

SC Works and our workforce partners continue to offer at least one job fair each month, with multiple hiring events in between. Piedmont Technical College hosted the largest job fair for the region on March 27, 2025. This Upper Savannah Regional Job Fair showcased 64 employers with 187 job seekers attending.

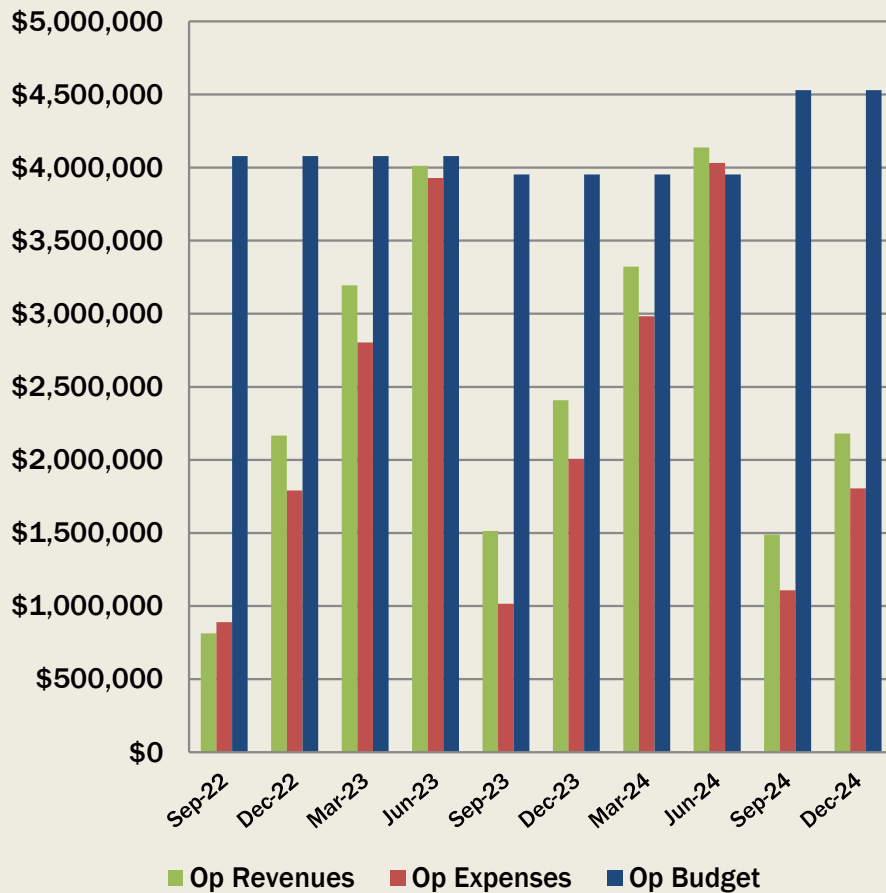
SC Works Services Overview

Our SC Works offices throughout the region continue to support the needs of community job seekers and employers with the support of our many partners. Below are some of our recent numbers:

March	Center Traffic	Job Seekers Registered (WP) New	Job Search Services	Hiring Events Job Seekers
Abbeville	15	19	43	0
Edgefield	52	15	19	0
Greenwood	643	131	333	192
Laurens	251	55	91	0
McCormick	30	9	9	0
Newberry	347	60	95	0
Saluda	13	10	14	0

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Operating Actual vs. Budget



Pass Through Budget

