



UPPER SAVANNAH

*Council of Governments*

# ACTIVITY REPORT

JUNE 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 approved  
by EDA

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LCWSC  
**\$5.4 million**

**EDA**

Metric Road  
water upgrade  
70% complete

## AGING

More than

**5,000**

congregate meals  
served  
to seniors  
in Region in  
March/April

## GOVERNMENT SERVICES

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

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

200 job  
seekers  
attend  
recent

**Hiring  
events**  
in Region

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**1,125**

job seekers  
served  
at SC Works  
offices in Region  
in May

## GOVERNMENT SERVICES

**Transportation**

Feasibility  
study for transit  
in Abbeville,  
Laurens, Saluda  
counties making  
progress

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
<b>TOTAL .....</b>		<b>\$10,307,722</b>

## 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 June 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 an estimated 119 persons. Construction began July 8, 2024; completion expected June 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, bids opened, waiting on Commerce approval to sign contract.

**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 September 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 June/July 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. Monitoring completed June 3, working on closeout. Phase I construction was completed in July 2024 and 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
<b>TOTAL .....</b>		<b>\$16,694,497</b>

**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 70 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 approved by EDA and the project has been advertised. Bids are due July 10, 2025.



## 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	6	64
Total Dollars Loaned	\$200,000	\$4,543,620
Private Investment	\$983,710	\$32,206,448
Other Public Investment	\$0	\$2,140,500
Jobs Created and Retained	23	715
Cost Per Job	\$8,696	\$6,355
Private Investment Ratio	\$4.92: \$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	15	22
Total Dollars Loaned	\$779,546	\$1,004,096
Private Sector Investment	\$2,241,450	\$2,250,450
Other Public Investment	\$14,470	\$14,470
Jobs Created and Retained	95.5	112.5
Cost Per Job	\$8,163	\$8,925
Private Investment Ratio	\$2.88 : \$1	\$2.24 : \$1



# AGING

## Upper Savannah Area Agency on Aging/Aging & Disability Resource Center Activity Report March - April 2025

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	CLIENTS
Assessments .....	Determine client eligibility and needs for Aging services .....	221
Caregiver Supplemental Services .....	Assists with supplies, supplements, assistive technology .....	29
Assistive Technology .....	Provides Lifeline monitoring for seniors at risk .....	18
Home Care .....	Helps seniors with light housekeeping, chores, personal care .....	18
Minor Home Repair .....	Provides ramps, handrails, grab bars, safety upgrades .....	6
Seniors Raising Children Supplemental Services .....	Assists with school supplies, clothing, and miscellaneous .....	18
Transportation .....	Trips to meal sites, medical, essential shopping .....	23,189 miles
Legal Assistance .....	Provided by SC Legal Services .....	16
Caregiver Respite .....	Offers a break for daily caregivers .....	51

## Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals Report | March - April 2025

MEALS BY COUNTY	CONGREGATE MEALS	HOME-DELIVERED
Abbeville .....	771 .....	3,180
Edgefield .....	519 .....	2,691
Greenwood .....	1,750 .....	8,778
Laurens .....	351 .....	3,737
McCormick .....	552 .....	1,742
Saluda .....	1,076 .....	1,133
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>5,019 .....</b>	<b>21,261</b>

**Other highlights** - AAA/ADRC staff continue visiting county senior centers each month, and these visits are well received. The Family Caregiver Advocate hosted an event for caregivers of persons with dementia and Alzheimer's. Guest speaker, Tori Anderson, Dementia Care Specialist Program Manager with the SC Department on Aging, provided valuable insight into supporting loved ones living with dementia and Alzheimer's. She offered caregivers both knowledge and encouragement as they navigate their caregiving journeys. Staff continue attending community events such as Senior Day in Columbia, Laurens County DSS Resource Fair, and GLEAMNS Community Action Day. To schedule staff to speak at your next event, contact Christy Stroud at 864-941-8093 or [cstroud@uppersavannah.com](mailto:cstroud@uppersavannah.com).

More than

# 5,000

CONGREGATE  
MEALS

served to seniors  
in Region in

**March/April**

# GOVERNMENT SERVICES

- Continued work on Economic Development Administration (EDA) grants administration on one current grant in Laurens County and one for Piedmont Technical College.
- 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 Abbeville County Economic Development Strategic Planning meetings. Abbeville County is working with Future iQ on an Economic Development Strategic Action Plan, looking out to 2035. The objective of the strategic planning process is to build on Abbeville County's current success and incorporate new actions to maintain this success over the next 10 years. The outcome of this process, running October 2024 through June 2025, will be to produce a robust, comprehensive and sustainable Strategic Action Plan.
- 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). 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 working with the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission to support community development projects across the region.
- Attended a statewide Resilience Conference sponsored by the state Office of Resilience to learn how communities are responding to threats and disasters.
- 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.
- Continued working with a Montana State University group to update transportation feasibility studies for Abbeville, Laurens, and Saluda counties. The group visited those three counties for face-to-face meetings June 10-12.
- Submitted the Rural Planning Work Program (RPWP) to the USCOG Board of Directors for review and approval. This plan outlines required transportation related activities to be completed by the COG through 2027.
- Attended the groundbreaking for the new Piedmont Technical College Health Sciences Building. USCOG helped PTC get a grant from EDA to construct the building.
- Attended a water quality planning meeting to discuss the possibility of USCOG being involved in future wastewater permit reviews and recommendations.
- Continued working with one Greenwood County community on the SC BEST program to pay for environmental assessments for a potential community development project. The Promised Land School has an underground tank onsite with some type of liquid inside. The project is evaluating the liquid to see what it is and if it can be safely removed. If the liquid can be safely removed, the entire tank can be taken out and the site will be backfilled.
- Continued assisting the Upper Savannah Land Trust with various planning activities including coordinating the annual meeting. The Land Trust is helping protect 58,301 acres of land with more than 138 easement projects across Abbeville, Aiken, Anderson, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee and Saluda counties. The annual meeting was held May 9, celebrating 25 years of the Land Trust.



# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**SC Works/WIOA Adult Success Story:** Zachary faced some unforeseen challenges that forced him to leave high school. This resilient individual refused to let his circumstances dictate his future. Determined to continue his education and establish a fulfilling career, he persevered through significant obstacles. His journey took a positive turn when he enrolled in the WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) program. With dedicated support, he successfully earned his GED, marking a pivotal moment in his path to success. Motivated to build on this achievement, he pursued occupational training at the Village Career Center, earning a Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) certification.



**Zachary**

With aspirations of becoming a nurse, he remains committed to helping others who face similar challenges. To further his career, he is now working with his Career Coach to explore a Virtual WEX, aiming to overcome his transportation barriers to employment. His story is not only a testament to personal triumph but also an example of using hardship to inspire compassion and purpose. Grateful for the support he received, he attributes much of his progress to the WIOA program and his Career Coach, Melissa Brooks. As he put it, “Without the WIOA program and Melissa, I wouldn’t have had a chance.”

## Upper Savannah Workforce Board Update

The last Upper Savannah Workforce Development Board was June 2. The Board was presented a motion from the SC Works Operations subcommittee to move forward with the PY25 budget, approve the PY SC Works Recertification, and extend the PY 25 WIOA Eckerd contracts, to which the Board adopted unanimously. Director Kal Kunkel also informed the Board that the comprehensive Greenwood Center would not be relocated and remain at the United Way. The Board also welcomed several new Board members.

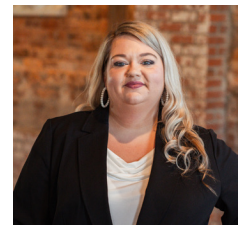
## New Workforce Board Members

Two new members have been appointed to the Workforce Development Board. Dabs Davis stepped into her new role in March. She’s worked extensively in education, workforce development, and business engagement. Most recently, she served as the Upper Savannah Regional Career Specialist for the SC Department of Education, where she was instrumental in connecting businesses, schools, and students to drive career readiness and workforce development. Before coming to education, Dabs spent 10 years in the healthcare industry in non-clinical operations: business development, event planning, and marketing. She is a graduate of Clemson University with a Master of Health Administration from the University of Phoenix. Dabs is deeply invested in the growth and prosperity of Laurens County. Courtney Gunter joined the Laurens County Disabilities and Special Needs Board in 2019 as



**Dabs Davis**

the Nursing Supervisor and now serves as the Director of Nursing as well as the Residential Director of our Intermediate Care Facilities Residential Program. She received her nursing degree from Piedmont Technical College and has served in nursing for 15 years. Her background includes long-term care, corrections, family medicine, rheumatology, and developmental disabilities.



**Courtney Gunter**

## Upper Savannah Hiring Events

SC Works and our partners have continued to offer multiple hiring events each month. To highlight a few: In April, a “Fresh Start” Career & Resource Fair was offered in Newberry with over 20 background friendly employers with 53 job seekers attending. May was really busy with 8 hiring events. A Sunland Logistics Solutions hiring event in Laurens resulted in 37 job seekers. Currently, June has 5 hiring events scheduled. Listed here are some events in May.

Abbeville Spring Into Your New Career Job Fair with 19 employers and 19 job seekers attending.

Greenwood ES Foundry Hiring Event with 83 job seekers, another ES Foundry Hiring Event with 8 job seekers

Laurens Sunland Logistics Solutions Hiring Event with 37 job seekers attending

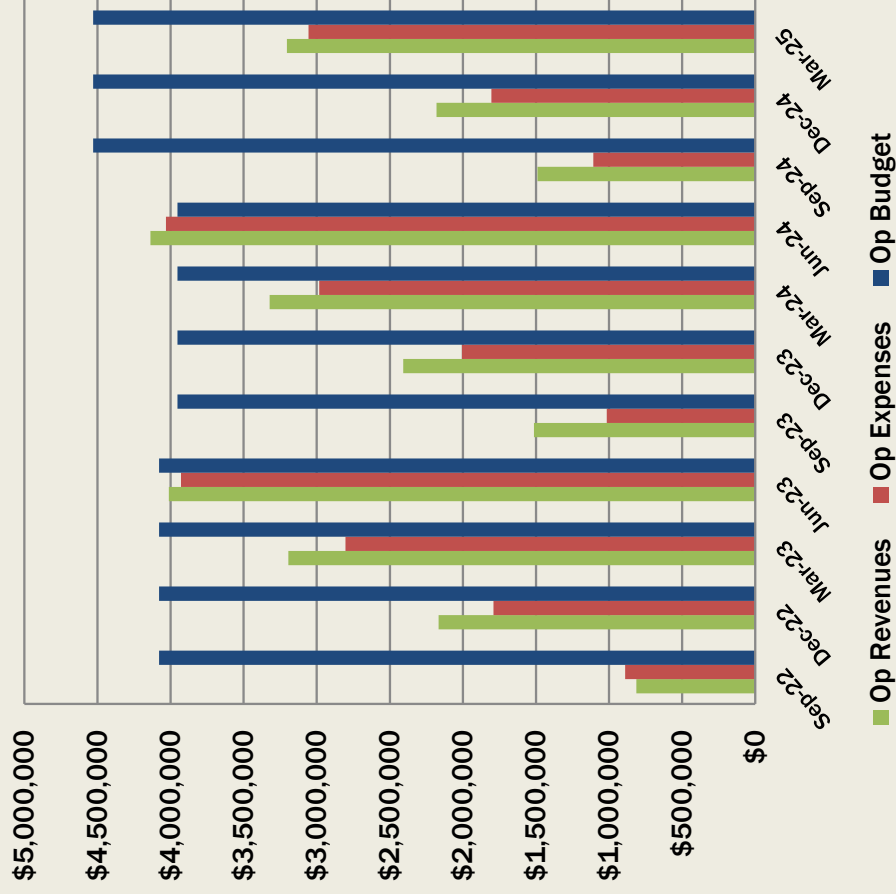
McCormick SC@Work offered a Job and Resource Fair with staff assisting with resume and interview skills

Saluda SC Works staff hosted a free resume workshop at the Saluda SC Works Offices.

May SC Works Center traffic numbers - Abbeville 30, Edgefield 22, Greenwood 533, Laurens 192, McCormick 8, Newberry 345, Saluda 28

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Operating Actual vs. Budget



Pass Through Budget

