

UPPER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
 Annual Report to the Board Members Representing Greenwood County
 For the Fiscal Year Ending 2018

Financial Review - Upper Savannah COG Revenue Highlights

Local Government Funding	\$152,336
State Aid to COG	40,965
Federal & State	2,214,619
General, In-kind & Miscellaneous	80,900
Contractual & Direct Services	<u>3,721,041</u>
TOTAL	\$6,209,861

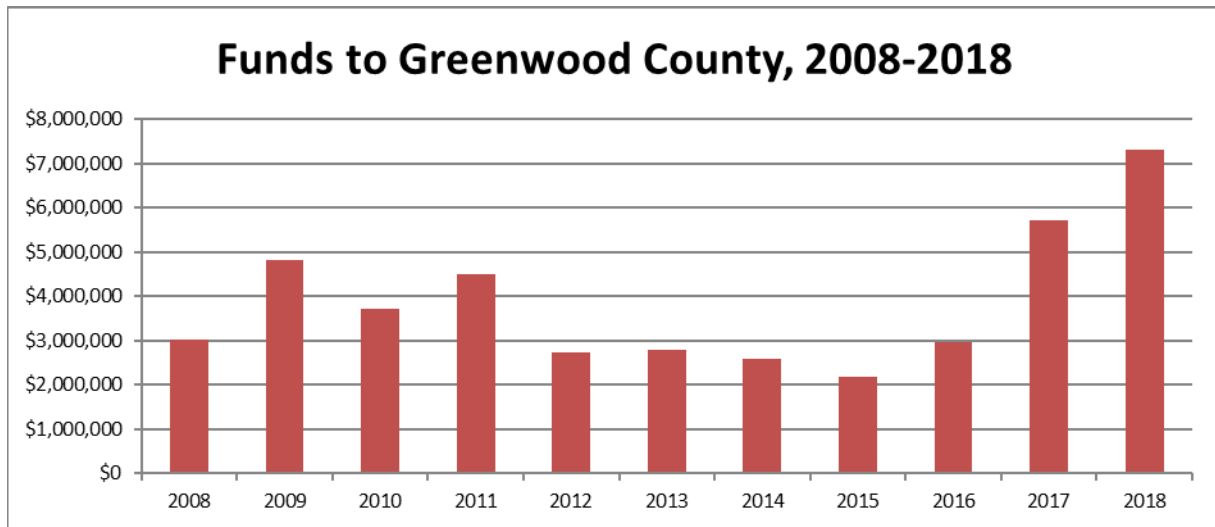
Return on Investment – Greenwood County – Fiscal Year 2018

Local Government Investment	\$48,887
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Funds to Greenwood County

Aging Direct Services	\$693,718
Workforce Development Direct Services	546,736
Rural Guideshare Allocation (S.C. 225 Intersection Improvement)	1,647,036
Grants by USCOG Initiation – FY 2018 (see page 2)	<u>4,420,000</u>
TOTAL	\$7,307,490

Return on Investment: 149:1



Direct Services funding consists of federal and state dollars for Workforce Development and Aging program services provided to the counties in the Upper Savannah region based on performance, need and eligibility. The COG administers these two programs under contract for direct service delivery and is responsible for the allocation and fiscal administration of these dollars. The funds assist in delivering services that provide for the health, welfare and employment of certain segments of a county’s population, thus easing the financial and administrative burden on local governments. Rural Guideshare funds are Federal Highway Administration dollars designated for highway system improvements. USCOG Board of Directors prioritizes projects for final consideration by the SCDOT Commission.

Direct grants awarded in Fiscal Year 2018:

- **CDBG - \$750,000** - Greenwood County Milwee Sewer Upgrade
- **CDBG - \$500,000** - City of Greenwood East Court Street Streetscape
- **CDBG - \$500,000** - Town of Ware Shoals Fire Truck Grant
- **EDA - \$2,620,000** – Greenwood Metropolitan District and Greenwood Commissioners of Public Works to construct water and sewer infrastructure to serve the Teijin Holdings USA site.
- **EDA (Regional) - \$1,500,000** – Piedmont Technical College to construct the Upstate Center for Manufacturing Excellence.
- **Planning Grant * - \$50,000** – Regional project development and application preparation

* Greenwood County is the lead agency for CDBG regional planning projects

Greenwood County Highlights

Greenwood County Milwee Area Sewer Upgrade – CDBG request of \$750,000 funded June 2018. Greenwood Metro (GMD) to provide local match of \$644,572 for total project estimate of \$1,394,572. Sewer replacement project involves upgrading existing clay lines with approximately 4,200 feet of new PVC line. Project also proposes to install approximately 22 new concrete manholes. CDBG funds will be used to reconnect all 77 occupied houses in the rights-of-way. GMD funds will be used to reconnect the 13 vacant, occupiable units and five businesses while replacing service lines on private property as needed. The target area is located in the City of Greenwood between Milwee and McLees avenues. The area includes portions of Bowie, Franklin, Gage, Meadows, Milwee, Montgomery, Squires, Taggart, and Weldon streets.

City of Greenwood East Court Avenue Streetscape – CDBG request of \$500,000 funded November 2017. Local match of \$276,679 for total project estimate of \$776,679. The project will continue the ongoing streetscape efforts by providing lighting, upgrading curb, guttering and sidewalks, repaving, and adding parking on East Court Avenue to Main Street in the City of Greenwood. Construction is underway.

Town of Ware Shoals Fire Truck – New fire truck will replace an outdated pumper to provide adequate fire protection for the Town. CDBG request of \$500,000 funded November 2017 with a local match of \$50,000 for total project estimate of \$550,000. Project out for bid.

Greenwood County Sullivan II Sewer Upgrade – Project awarded June 2017. Sewer upgrades in the Sullivan II target area off Cokesbury, Walker, Pearl, Spring Valley and Osbourne streets Engineering and acquisition are complete and project bids received Sept. 26, 2018.

City of Greenwood Mineral Court Apartment Demolition – Project awarded November 2016. The City, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity, demolished a vacant, dilapidated apartment complex in the center of the city to provide cleared property for Habitat to build low-to-moderate income housing. CDBG request \$500,000, local match \$134,815 for total project estimate \$634,815. Demolition work is complete, site cleanup complete, final payment pending. Project closeout to be submitted in the fall.

Town of Ware Shoals Fairview Ave. Apartment Demolition – Project awarded November 2016. The Town demolished a vacant, dilapidated apartment complex in the center of the town to provide cleared property for greenspace. CDBG request \$228,670, local match \$51,000 for total project estimate \$279,670. The complex included six individually deeded properties attached into one long brick building, with each of the six properties divided into two apartments for a total of 12 apartments. The Town purchased the property several years ago in a tax sale. The building demolition began late summer of 2017 and was completed, followed by the seeding of grass seed to form an attractive greenspace. Project was completed in FY 2018.

Greenwood County Grendel II Sewer Upgrade – CDBG project awarded in FY 2016 will complete sewer upgrades needed in the Grendel Mill Village area. Sixty-eight homes are to benefit from the upgrade. Project to be completed fall 2018.

Greenwood County Stockman II Sewer Upgrade – CDBG project awarded in FY 2016 involved sewer upgrades in low-to-moderate income area. Construction is now complete and was closed out in FY 2018.

Regional Planning Grant – CDBG continuing support to provide staff assistance to local governments in project development, needs assessments and technical assistance in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

Revolving Loan Fund Program – RLF closed a \$56,000 loan to a business in Greenwood County to finance a building purchase. Project will leverage \$244,000 in private investment and will retain two jobs.

Greenwood Metropolitan District and Greenwood Commissioners of Public Works – GMD and CPW were awarded \$2,600,000 in EDA funding to construct sewer and water infrastructure to serve the site where Teijin Holdings USA, Inc. will locate a carbon fiber plant. The total project cost is \$3,325,500. The industry has committed to the creation of 220 jobs and \$600 million in capital investment. As of late this summer, the waterline portion of this project received bids, were reviewed and a contract was awarded. The sewer portion of the project has been advertised for bids.

Industrial Training Center - Piedmont Technical College was awarded a \$1,500,000 EDA grant to fund a portion of the Upstate Center for Manufacturing Excellence. This 45,000 square foot state of the art industrial training center will benefit workers and industries in the college's service area. The total project cost is \$12,453,414.

County Finance Directors - Coordinated meetings of County Finance Directors to share ideas and information about computer systems, revenue generation, audits and many other topics.

Economic Development Professionals - Upper Savannah COG hosted group of economic development professionals who discussed various economic development topics of local and regional interest.

S.C. Ethics Act - Upper Savannah COG hosted a local government training session on the SC Ethics Act. SC Ethics Commission Interim Executive Director Steve Hamm presented information about recent changes to the Act and provided practical advice to help local officials stay in compliance.

Greenwood Edge – Workforce development staff helped establish Greenwood Edge, which offers pre-manufacturing courses to select high school students.

Focus on Manufacturing - The largest workforce need in the Upper Savannah area is preparing workers for jobs in manufacturing. There are hundreds of jobs that are unfilled and several thousand job seekers in the Upper Savannah region. The Upper Savannah Workforce Development Board works with both businesses and job seekers to address short-term and long-term needs. Upper Savannah developed linkages with workforce boards in Anderson, Greenville and Spartanburg to start improving the pool of manufacturing workers in the Greater Upstate Region.

SC Works Centers - SC Works Centers are the focal point of the workforce development system. About 1,500 job seekers were matched with jobs through the SC Works System.

WIOA Enrollment – Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA) enrollment was down due to decreased demand and a reduction in funding, but 300 clients were enrolled in the program year.

Outreach - Upper Savannah COG is best known for its innovative approaches to reaching job seekers and employers. It has two large regional job fairs. Its Facebook and Twitter feeds reach thousands each week. Upper Savannah debuted its new website at www.upperscworks.com. Piedmont Technical College co-hosted the job fairs and provided billboards to advertise the events.

CEDS Update – Completed an update to the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to keep the region eligible for EDA funding.

Planning Commissioner Certification – Hosted numerous workshops to get planning commissioner, zoning appeals board members, and staff certified. A total of 101 people received the required training in FY 2018.

Upper Savannah Land Trust - Assisted the Upper Savannah Land Trust (USLT) in achieving recognition as a nationally-accredited organization. Continuing to assist the USLT, which has helped protect 47,562 acres (147 easements in eight counties) for future generations. USCOG helped start the Land Trust in 2000. It received its national accreditation in February 2018. There are 40 easements covering 14,284 acres in Greenwood County.

Transportation Planning – Continued working with the SC Department of Transportation (SCDOT) on various transportation planning projects.

Transit – Received and reviewed transit grants from regional providers and forwarded them on to SCDOT.

Environmental Reviews – Completed environmental reviews for all Community Development Block Grant projects.

Municipal Association – Hosted training teleconferences for the municipal elected officials.

Americans with Disabilities Act – Continued updating ADA plans for local governments

County and Municipal Clerks Meeting – Organized and hosted a regional meeting for county and municipal clerks to discuss topics of common interest. These meetings earned Upper Savannah COG a 2018 National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Innovation Award.

HOME – Continued work with the HOME Investment Partnership Program. HOME is a HUD-funded program that provides rehab or new construction funding for homes of low income individuals and rental units.

In FY '18, a total of \$206,424 was committed to a project in Greenwood County. The project involves the construction of two three-bedroom rental units by Nehemiah Community Revitalization Corporation (Nehemiah).

The Consortium also completed two projects that had been committed prior to the beginning of FY18. The projects included two homebuyer homes through Greenwood Area Habitat for Humanity. Each of the homebuyer projects were three bedroom single-family homes, which were sold to eligible low-income families.

In addition, the Consortium has three ongoing projects in Greenwood County to which HOME funding was committed prior to FY18 but were not yet complete before the end of FY18. They include two homebuyer projects through Greenwood Area Habitat for Humanity and one rental project through Nehemiah. The ongoing homebuyer projects are each three-bedroom single-family homes. Both projects are expected to be closed out in the near future. The ongoing rental project consists of two three-bedroom single-family rental units. Construction is nearing completion and potential tenants from the waiting list are being screened to determine eligibility.

InfoMentum – Continued working with the data management and mapping tool accessed through the Appalachian Council of Governments and the Upstate Alliance.

Planning – Continued assisting various municipal and county planning commissions with development or zoning questions as needed.

Grant writing – Assisted with grant writing for local governments as requested.

Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Services - The Upper Savannah Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) provides, coordinates and contracts for services to the Upper Savannah region's senior population. In addition to the regional services through the ADRC described below, Upper Savannah contracts with the region's senior centers and other providers to meet the needs of senior adults. Contracted services include transportation, home-delivered meals, congregate dining with activities, home care, and health and wellness promotion.

State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) – The SHIP program helps seniors and individuals with disabilities research and understand Medicare coverage options with their Medicare prescription drug plans and Medicare Advantage plans. This Program also counsels and assists beneficiaries with Medicare Part A & B issues and Medigap coverage, and alerts seniors to fraudulent Medicare and Medicaid practices through the Senior Medicare Patrol Program.

The Upper Savannah SHIP Program totals from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

SHIP Contacts	
Phone	833
Face to face	416
Emails	42
Mail	290
Total	1,581
Medicare application screenings	898
Medicaid application assistance	42
Medicare & OMB claims	512
Extra Help screenings	806
Medicaid savings plans	858

Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP) - Program provided funding to 394 caregivers as well as information, assistance, education, support, and referrals to many more throughout the region. The program provides respite, which is a break from daily care-giving that is important in helping caregivers do a better job over a longer period of time. The program also helps caregivers with supplemental services, such as incontinent supplies and assistive technology. The FCSP also continues to be available for grandparents 55 and older caring for grandchildren 18 and younger. Many grandparents take on the parental role in order to keep the grandchildren out of the overburdened foster care system. The FCSP helps those grandparents who have stepped into the role of parent due to death, incarceration or other parental problems with some funded services as well as information and support groups.

Information, Referral and Assistance (IR&A) - The IR&A program is designed to provide seniors and people with disabilities access to helpful resources. Upper Savannah staff includes four certified IR&A specialists.

Home Safety Program - The program has helped many individuals throughout the region with projects that improve unsafe areas in the home, including the building of grab bars and ramps, etc. Partnerships with area churches have maximized the funding potential. The AAA helped 29 people with Minor Home Repair throughout the region during FY 2018.

Assistive Technology (lifelines) – Program assisted approximately 31 seniors throughout the region with lifelines.

Legal Services Program - Program served 64 seniors with various legal concerns such as Power of Attorney, will preparation, and grandparent custody issues. Attorneys throughout the region have agreed to work with the ADRC at reasonable rates to better serve the senior population.

Home Care Program - Upper Savannah AAA provides a Home Care Program that helps seniors who are in need of services such as light housekeeping and some personal care. The program provides consumer choice for the seniors and their families and adds support to keeping older persons in their homes as long as possible. The program served 134 people in FY 2018.

Advocate for Senior Citizens - Continued to serve as an advocate for 2,233 seniors in the region's nursing homes and residential care facilities through the continued administration of the Regional Ombudsman Program.