



# UPPER SAVANNAH

Council of Governments

## ACTIVITY REPORT

### JUNE 2024

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**USCOG  
SUBMITS**

**1**

**CDBG grant  
application  
in spring round**

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

There are

**13**

active CDBG  
projects in region,  
totaling more than  
**\$12 million**

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**LCWSC  
\$2 million**

**EDA**

**sewer upgrade  
construction  
completed**

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**\$6 million**

**EDA**

**PTC receives  
letter of further  
consideration for  
Health Sciences  
building project**

#### AGING

Almost

**32,000**

**meals served  
to seniors  
in Region over  
last two months**

#### GOVERNMENT SERVICES

**Continuing  
to assist  
local  
utility providers  
with**

**SCIIP  
projects**

#### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**USCOG  
assists with  
community**

**Job Fairs**

#### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**1,061**

**job seekers  
served  
at SC Works  
offices in Region  
in May**

#### GOVERNMENT SERVICES

**CARES Act  
CDBG-CV**

**more than 67,000  
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
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
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
<b>TOTAL .....</b>		<b>\$12,286,286</b>

## CDBG GRANT APPLICATION 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.

There are **13** active CDBG projects in the region, totaling **\$12,286,286**

**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. Project went out to bid June 17, 2024.

**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. Engineering contract signed June 2024.

**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. Contract signed June 6, 2024. Construction to begin July 8, 2024.

**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 1995 model that was decommissioned. City provided a match of \$144,911. The truck (pictured here) was delivered May, 29, 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 involve purchasing fixed playground equipment, picnic tables,

mulch, and open-air pavilion. Additional work to include site preparation, installation of the purchases, designated American Disabilities Act parking, and concrete work. Project estimated to cost \$275,000. Project going out to bid June/July 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.

**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 July 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. Demolition contract signed June 4, 2024, completion expected by July 27, 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 begin in June 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
<b>TOTAL.....</b>		<b>\$7,422,800</b>

**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. An award recommendation has been made and a contract will be executed soon.

**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.

**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	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 April 1, 2024 - May 31, 2024

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	CLIENTS
Assessments .....	Determine client eligibility and needs for Aging services .....	277
Caregiver Supplemental Services .....	Assists with supplies, supplements, assistive technology .....	37
Assistive Technology .....	Provides Lifeline monitoring for seniors at risk .....	24
Home Care .....	Helps seniors with light housekeeping, chores, personal care .....	65
Minor Home Repair .....	Provides ramps, handrails, grab bars, safety upgrades .....	9
Seniors Raising Children Supplemental Services .....	Assists with school supplies, clothing, and miscellaneous .....	27
Transportation .....	Trips to congregate meal sites, medical, essential shopping .....	252
Legal Assistance .....	Provided by SC Legal Services .....	24
Caregiver Respite .....	Offers a break for daily caregivers .....	79

## Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals Report | April 1, 2024 - May 31, 2024

MEALS BY COUNTY	CLIENTS	NUMBER OF MEALS
Abbeville .....	114 .....	4,251
Edgefield .....	108 .....	3,574
Greenwood .....	390 .....	14,155
Laurens .....	144 .....	4,527
McCormick .....	111 .....	2,863
Saluda .....	78 .....	2,499
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>945 .....</b>	<b>31,869</b>

**Other highlights** - The Upper Savannah AAA Family Caregiver Advocate purchased 35 summer baskets for Seniors Raising Children to give each child something to look forward to this summer. These included indoor and outdoor activities such as kites, jump ropes, frisbees, water bottles, water balloons, coloring books, color pencils, crayons, markers, chalk, bubbles, soccer balls, footballs, basketballs, keychains, word search books, grow your own plant kits, build your own bird house kits, board games, tumblers, fishing poles/lures, first aid kits, and water bottles.

Almost

# 32,000

MEALS

served to seniors  
in Region over last

# TWO MONTHS

# GOVERNMENT SERVICES

- The CDBG-CV Public Services projects are underway. The Home Delivered Meals project is in its 20th month. From March 2022 through June 2024, over 67,500 meals have been delivered with this program.
- 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 on behalf of the Greenwood County and McCormick County SC 250 committees for funds to update and install signs commemorating Revolutionary War events along the county line.
- Continued work on environmental reviews for Spring CDBG applications and current EDA applications.
- Continued work with the Town of Ninety Six to discuss environmental and historic preservation clearance for a building demolition project.
- Attended the ribbon cutting of the Gray Court Park, a town goal from its comprehensive plan.
- Attended a Vision Greenwood board meeting
- Provided state-mandated training for all Edgefield County and municipal planning commissioners, board of zoning appeals members, and staff.
- Continued work on environmental reviews for new CDBG grant awards for Greenwood City and County.
- Submitted a Town of McCormick grant application for electric vehicle charging stations to the South Carolina Energy Office.
- Assisted the Area Agency on Aging in reviewing bids for services to area Senior Citizens.
- Attended a community meeting to discuss trail planning in Edgefield County.
- Attended the Small Business Development Center's partnership presentation with Lander University business students.
- Continued work on revisions and updates to an EDA grant application for a potential project at Piedmont Technical College.
- Attended an SCDOT training to discuss updating road system functional classification reviews.
- Completed working with a Federal Highways Administration group studying the cause of roadway departure crashes in our region. A full report and maps are ready for use.
- Submitted a grant application to purchase equipment for the Ninety Six National Historic Site.
- Continued working with several local governments on the SC BEST (Brownfields Environmental Site Testing) program to pay for environmental assessments for potential economic development projects. All six counties in the Region have projects. Sites include Lydia Mill (Laurens County), \$4,500; Augusta Pines (McCormick County), \$3,500; Academy Mill (City of Clinton), \$4,500; Pottersville (Town of Edgefield), \$3,600; Crest Manufacturing (Town of Edgefield), \$3,200; former Edgefield High School (Town of Edgefield), \$3,500; Calhoun Falls Rail Site C (Abbeville County), \$3,800; Plantation House (Town of Edgefield), \$3,500; Ninety Six Community Building (Town of Ninety Six), \$7,000; Riverside School (Town of Saluda), \$3,500.
- Continued assisting the Upper Savannah Land Trust with various planning activities including coordinating the annual meeting held 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:** David Johnson was working full time as an Emergency Medical Technician for Abbeville County EMS. He heard about Level UP from some of his coworkers who were receiving assistance for Advanced Emergency Medical Technician programs. David decided that Level UP’s services were just what it would take for him to be able to enroll into the Paramedic Certificate program at Piedmont Technical College. That is just what he did in January 2023.

David will be the first to tell you that the Paramedic Certificate program was difficult. He explained that it was tough juggling his full-time schedule as a working EMT, alongside the required Paramedic courses, schoolwork, studying for tests, and completing clinical hours. However, he kept his head in the game and officially earned his Paramedic Certificate in December 2024. He passed his National Registry Skills Test for Paramedic Licensure the first time, leaving only the written portion to complete. In January 2024, after two attempts, David passed the written portion, completing the testing requirements, and fully earning his Paramedic License to practice as a Paramedic.

David moved into a Paramedic position with Abbeville County EMS and is still working in a full-time capacity with them to date. After earning his Paramedic License, he stated that he did not intend to pursue any further training. He successfully achieved his long-term goal of becoming a Paramedic and is

very happy with the pay raise that came with that title at Abbeville County.

**Upper Savannah Regional Jobs:** SC Works in partnership with SC DEW and Piedmont Technical College hosted Community Resource & Re-Entry Career Fair with 15 Employers and 85 Job Seekers.

SC Works in partnership with SC DEW hosted Career Fairs in Newberry on May 9th & 31st with the Fire Department and at Adult Education with 12 Employers and 91 Job Seekers.

**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 5/31/24)					
YTD					
COUNTY	Adult	Dislocated Worker	Youth	Post Program Follow-up (Employment)	Job Seekers Services May 24
Abbeville	8	3	2	4	10
Edgefield	3	0	4	3	19
Greenwood	70	5	10	34	591
Laurens	31	5	9	17	169
McCormick	3	0	0	0	6
Newberry	36	2	10	16	225
Saluda	13	1	1	11	41
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>1061</b>
		<b>216</b>			

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

