

Building Infrastructure Capacity

SC Association of Counties

July 2026



Agenda

- Water Infrastructure Needs
- RIA Overview
- Grant
- Other Resources



Bonnie Ammons, Executive Director



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Infrastructure is a Smart Investment

- Protects public health and the environment
- Improves the quality of life
- Lays the groundwork for economic development
- Enhances community sustainability



Infrastructure Needs

- New public health and environmental regulations
- Aging infrastructure
- Operation and maintenance
- Capacity for growth and development



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Infrastructure for Economic Development



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County Role in Infrastructure

- Direct provider of water, sewer or drainage services
- Other local government, SPDs, non-profit providers serve residents in county
- Planning for economic development and growth
- Financial support
- Regional cooperation

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System Viability & Regional Cooperation

- **Challenges?**
 - Cost of Services
 - Capital Improvement Needs
 - Staffing and Management
 - Affordability
- **Solutions?**
 - Shared services /Regional partnerships
 - Financial Assistance
 - Training and Technical Assistance



About RIA

Mission

To provide resources for strategic investments that will strengthen and modernize critical community infrastructure.

RIA Programs of Assistance

- Competitive Grants
- Loans
- Technical Assistance

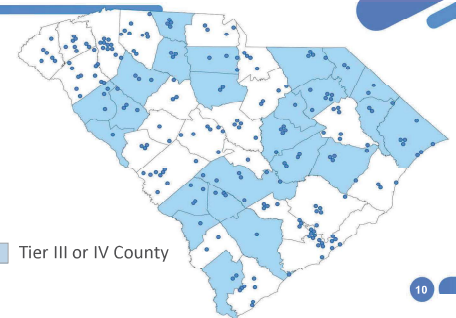


SC Infrastructure Investment Program

\$1.469 B

219

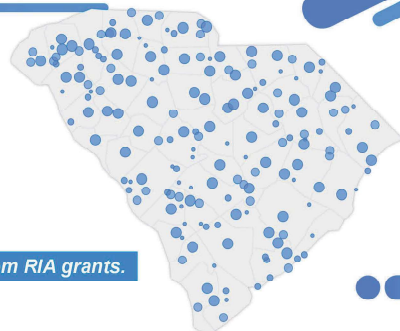
Grants Awarded



Total State Grant Funding Awarded

2013-2026

- Under \$500,000
- \$500,000 - \$1M
- Over \$1M - \$2M
- Over \$2M



Every county has benefitted from RIA grants.

FY 27 State Grant Funding - Estimated



Basic
Infrastructure
\$26M



Economic
Infrastructure
\$7M



Regional
Planning
\$1 M



Viability
Improvement
\$4 M

Total Estimated Available: **\$38 million**

Basic and Economic Infrastructure Grants



Who Is Eligible?

- Local Governments*
- Special Purpose & Public Service Districts
- Public Works Commissions



* A local government may also apply on behalf of a not-for-profit water/sewer company operating within their jurisdiction.

Basic & Economic Infrastructure

Eligible Activities

- Publicly owned:
 - Water
 - Wastewater
 - Stormwater
- Construction activities



Basic & Economic Infrastructure

Grant Request

Up to **\$1,500,000**

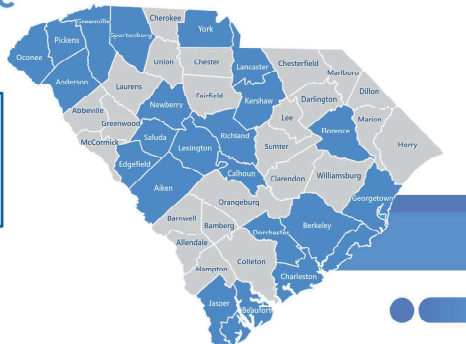


Basic & Economic Infrastructure

Match Requirement by County FY 2026-2027

- 25% of Construction Costs (designated as Tier I/II county)
- No Match on Construction Costs (designated as Tier III/IV county)

Applicants pay for non-construction costs



Basic Infrastructure Priorities

- 1 Regional solutions
- 2 Consent Orders; Unsatisfactory ratings; Emergencies
- 3 Needs Improvement ratings; Frequent violations
- 4 Aging facilities; End of useful life

CASE IN POINT: Water Interconnection

Grantee
Aiken County – Breezy Hill
Water & Sewer Company

Grant Award
\$500,000

Total Project Cost
\$741,699



CASE IN POINT: Stormwater Drainage

Grantee
Florence County

Grant Award
\$4,441,090

Total Project Cost
\$6,963,130



CASE IN POINT: Sewer Capacity

Grantee
Dorchester County

Grant Award
\$1,500,000

Total Project Cost
\$1,906,484



Economic Infrastructure



Economic Infrastructure Priorities

- 1 Jobs
- 2 System capacity
- 3 Product development

CASE IN POINT: Sewer Upgrades to Support New Industry

Jobs Project

Grantee
Dillon County

Grant Award
\$300,000

Total Project Cost
\$328,908



CASE IN POINT:

Peach Road Water Main

Product Development Project

Grantee

Fairfield County

Grant Award

\$500,000

Total Project Cost

\$697,375



Regional Planning



Regional Planning Grants

Purpose	Planning for utilities seeking greater long-term viability through regional solutions
Grant Amount	Up to \$500,000
Match	None

Viability Improvement Program - VIP

Pilot Program:

To assist utilities through technical assistance and improvement to strengthen long term viability

Viability Improvement Program

Participation provides resources to support a pathway to viability



Application Deadline

- Fall 2026:
September 14
- Spring 2027
March 22

Regional Planning applications may be submitted at any time



OTHER RESOURCES



State Revolving Funds

Co-administered by DES & RIA



Programs

- Clean Water
- Drinking Water

An Affordable Financing Tool

- Below-market interest rates
- Fixed-rate financing
- 100% financing of eligible costs
- Up to 30-year term
- Low closing costs

Other Infrastructure Funding Resources

- US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development
- Appalachian Regional Commission
- Community Development Block Grant Program
- Economic Development Administration
- SC Office of Resilience

County	Water	Sewer
Oconee		
Salem, Town of	\$ 45.66	
Savannah, City of	\$ 19.45	\$ 35.83
Wayhalla, City	\$ 26.40	\$ 23.00
West Union, Town	\$ 37.80	\$ 40.00

www.ria.sc.gov

Website Resources:

includes interactive map on the agency's website, allowing visitors to view water and sewer rates for all systems within a single county.

RIA South Carolina
Rural Infrastructure Authority

In Closing...



Infrastructure Matters
Building block for community and economic development



Financial Assistance
RIA offers grants to fill infrastructure funding gaps



Customer Service
RIA staff are here to help with technical assistance

SC RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

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Thank you for your time today!

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