

Building Infrastructure Capacity

**SC Association of
Counties**

July 2026



South Carolina
Rural Infrastructure Authority
Creating water solutions.
Improving communities statewide.



Agenda

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



Bonnie Ammons, Executive Director



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



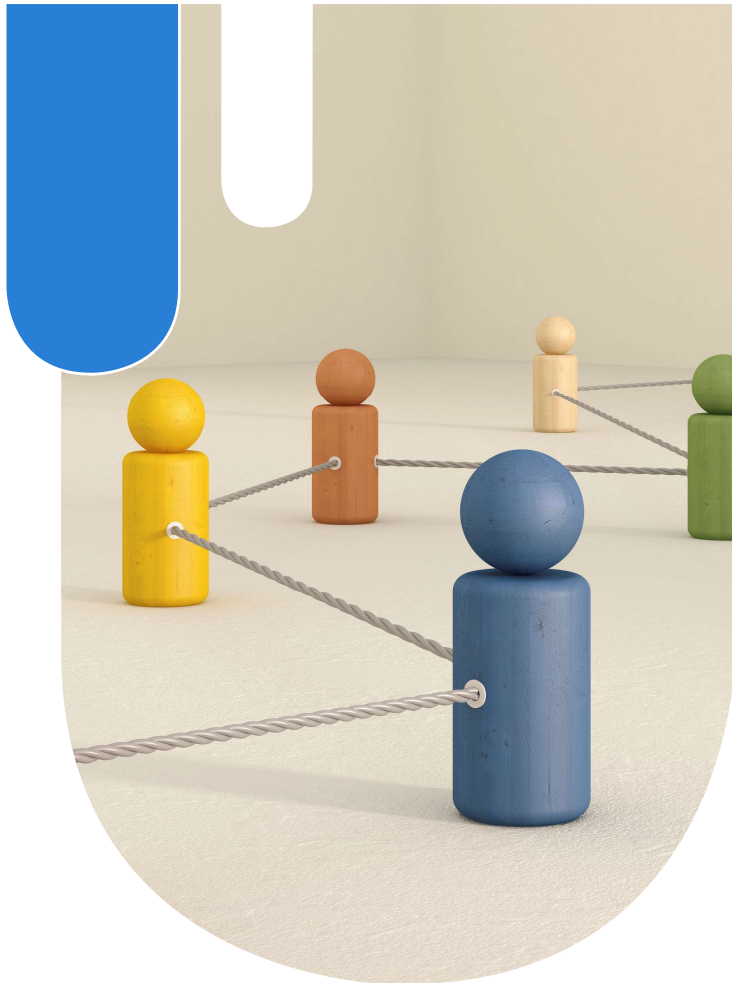
Infrastructure Needs

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



Infrastructure for Economic Development





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

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

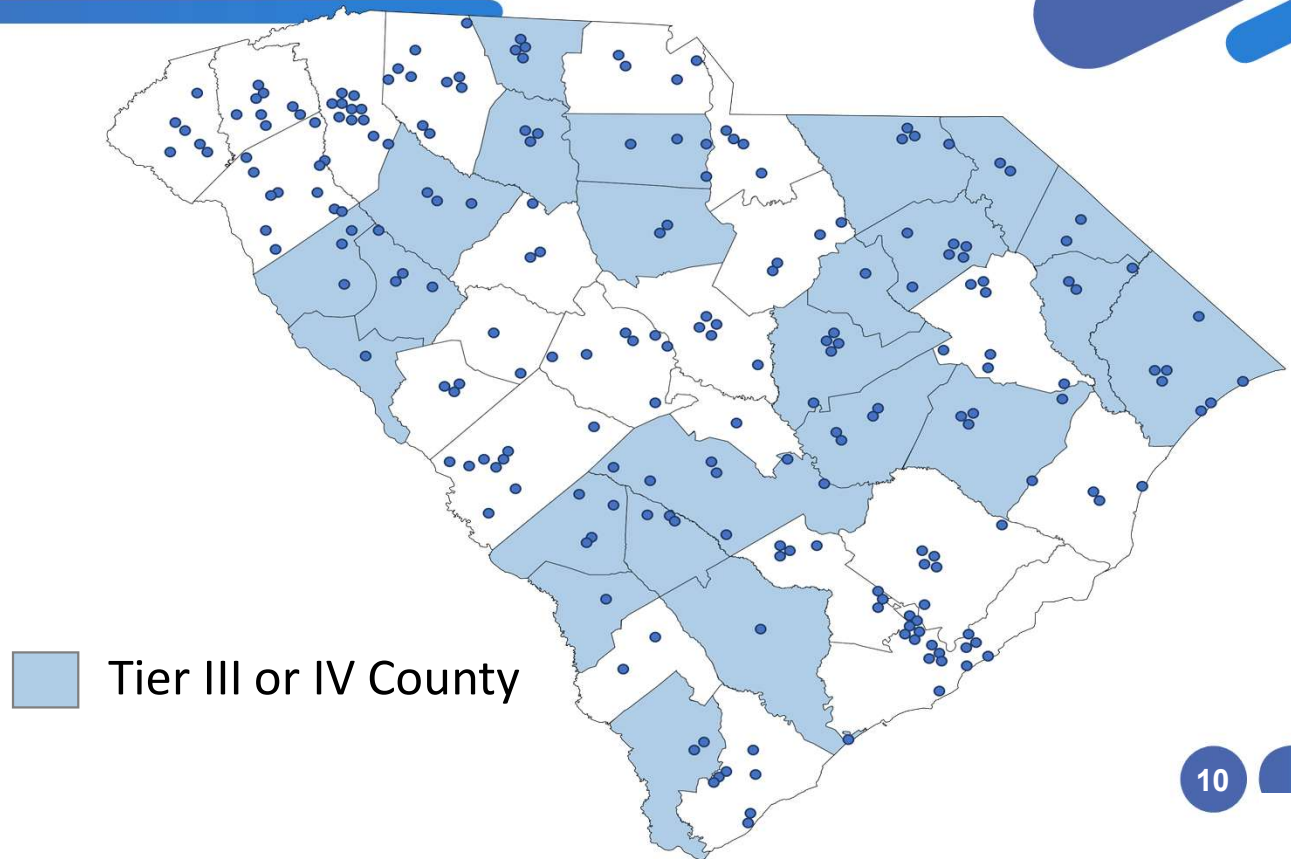


SC Infrastructure Investment Program

\$1.469 B

219

Grants Awarded

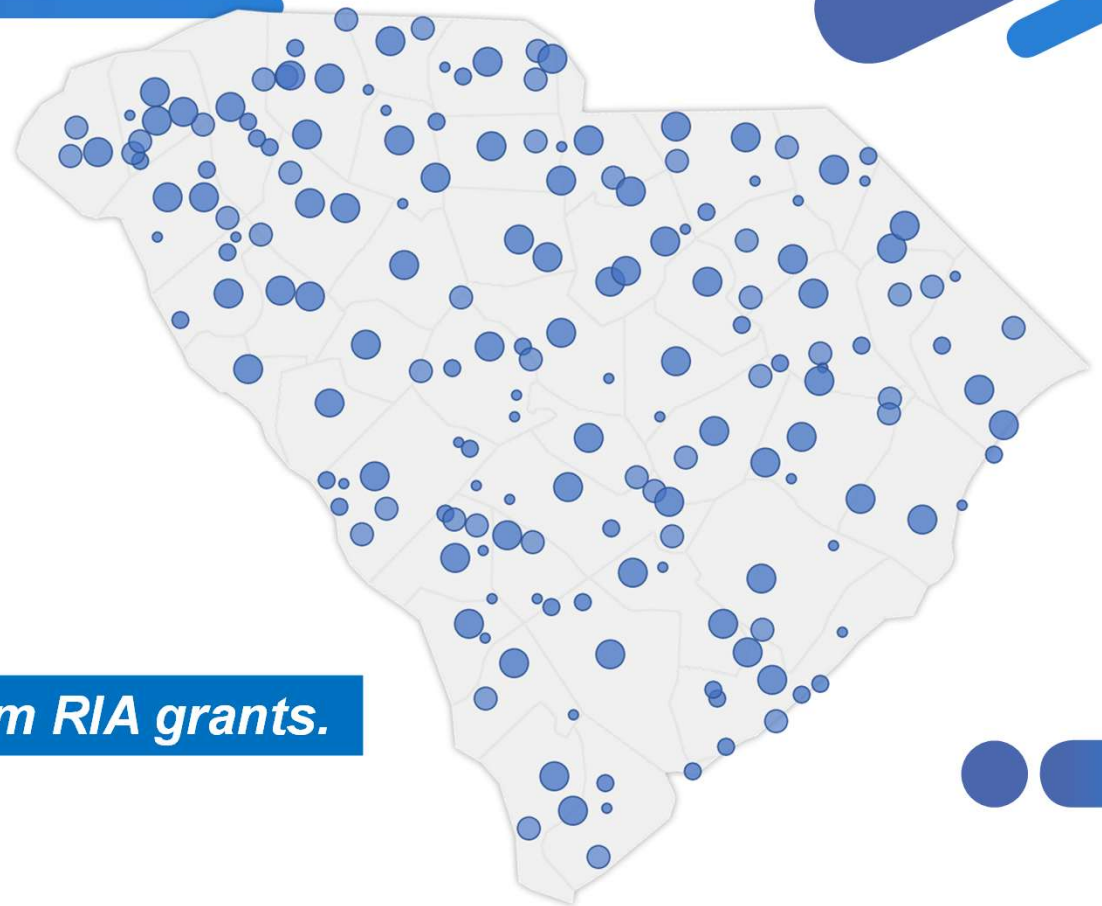


Total State Grant Funding Awarded

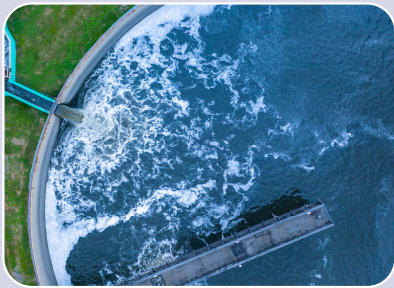
2013-2026

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

Every county has benefitted from RIA grants.

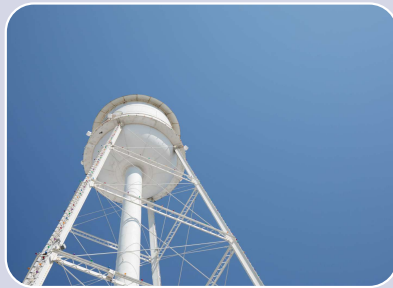


FY 27 State Grant Funding - Estimated



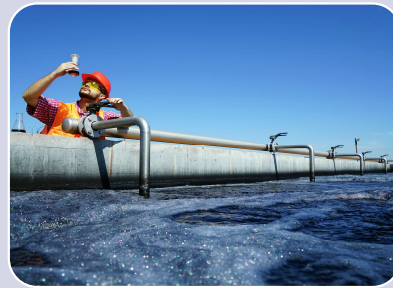
**Basic
Infrastructure**

\$26M



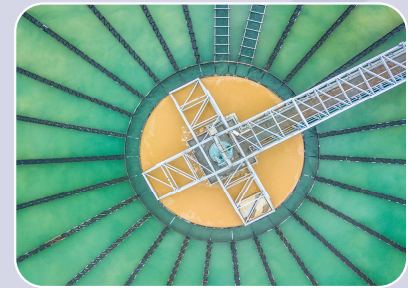
**Economic
Infrastructure**

\$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**

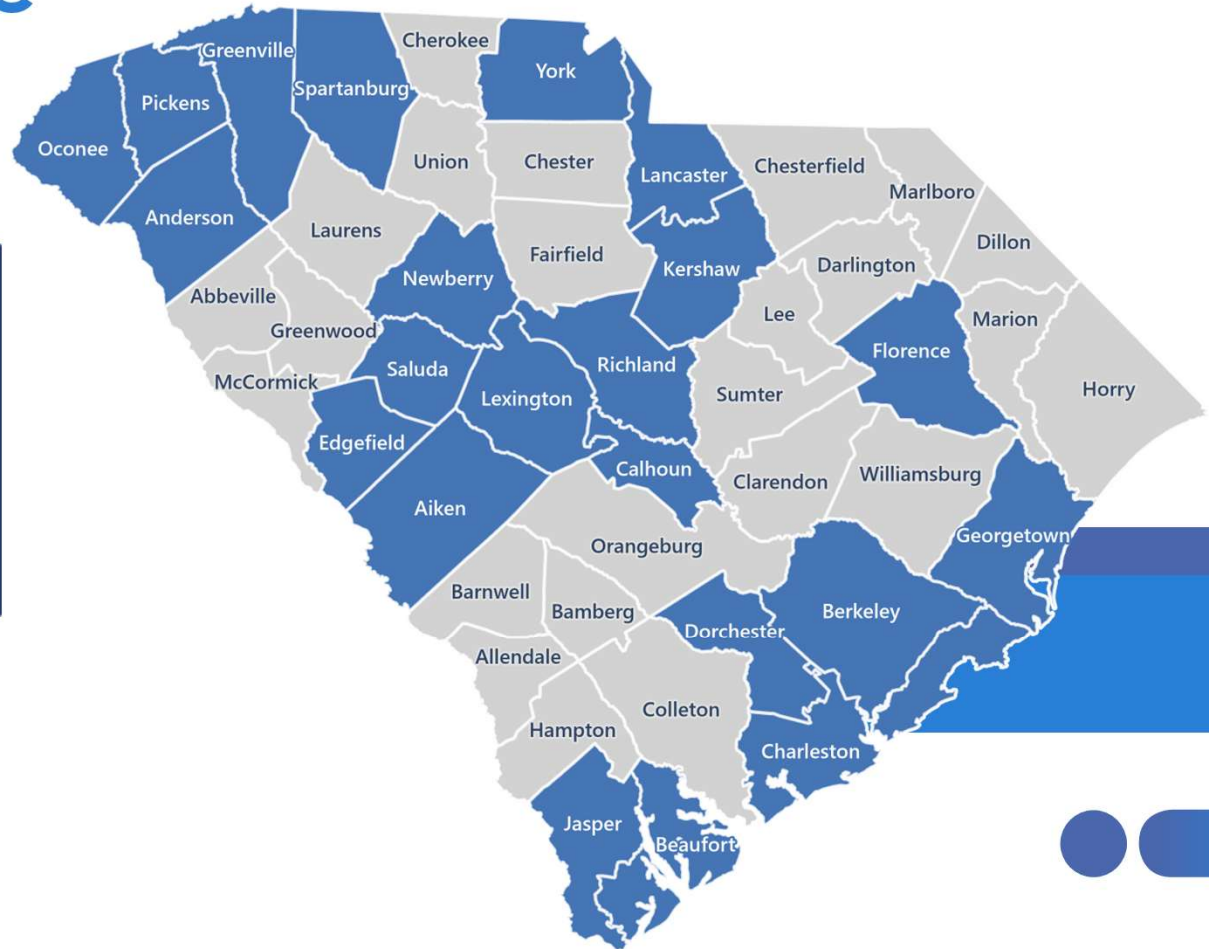
Basic & Economic Infrastructure

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

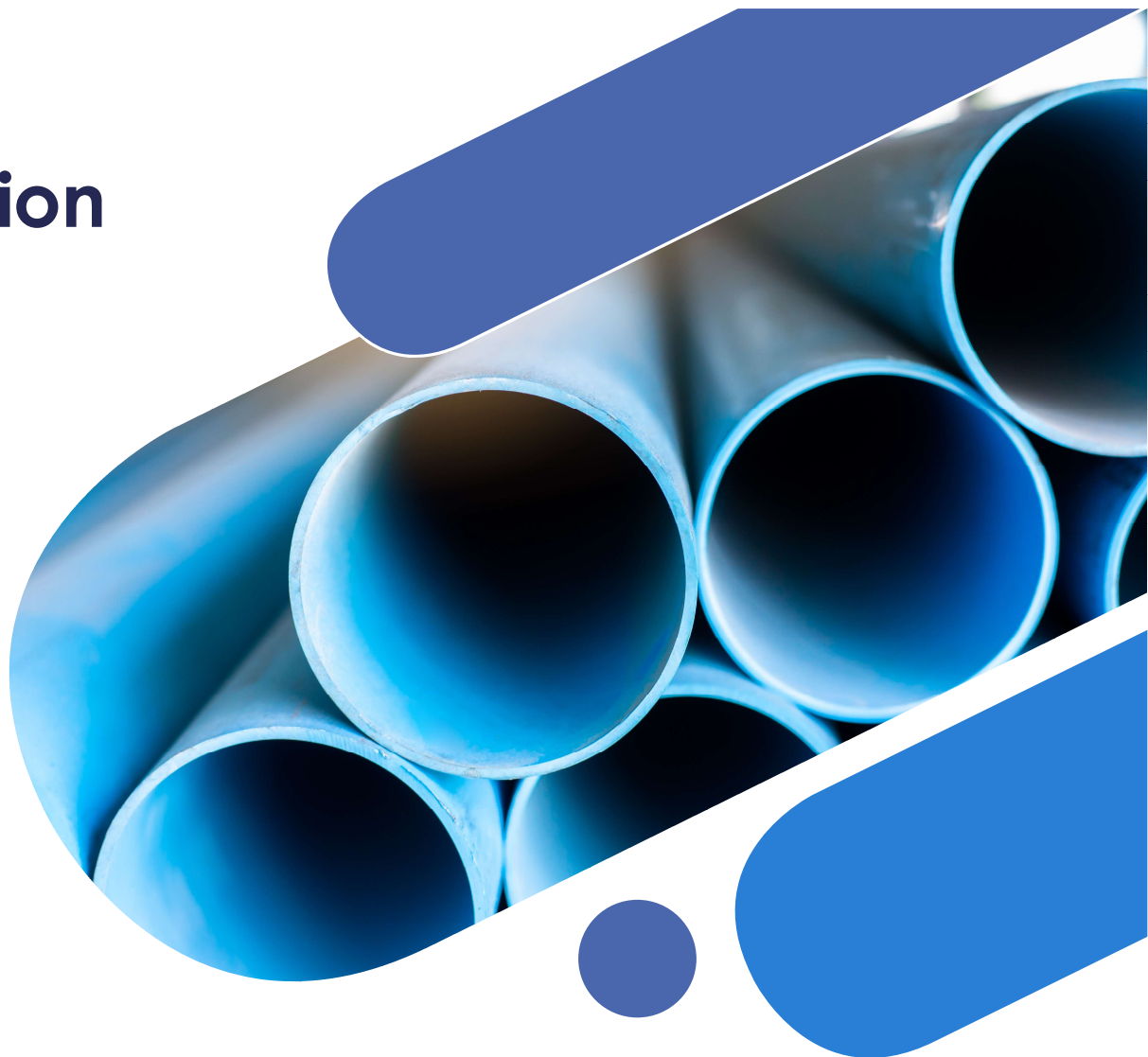
Aiken County – Breezy Hill
Water & Sewer Company

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



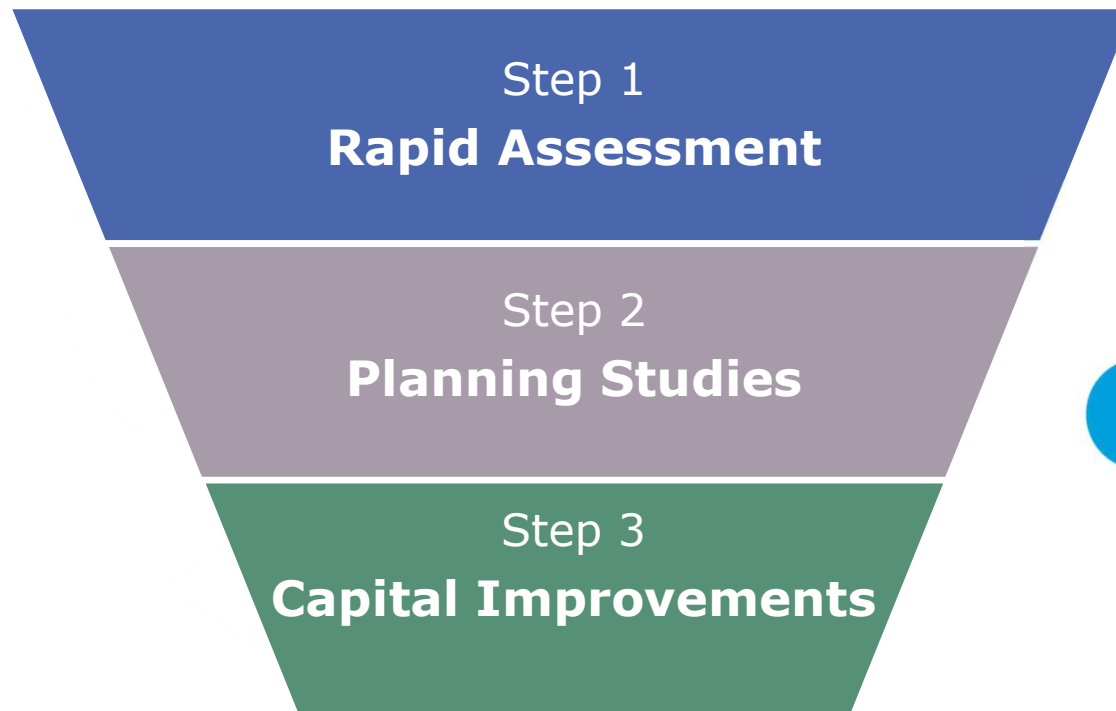
Viability Improvement Program - VIP

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



**Working Together:
A Path to Water 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

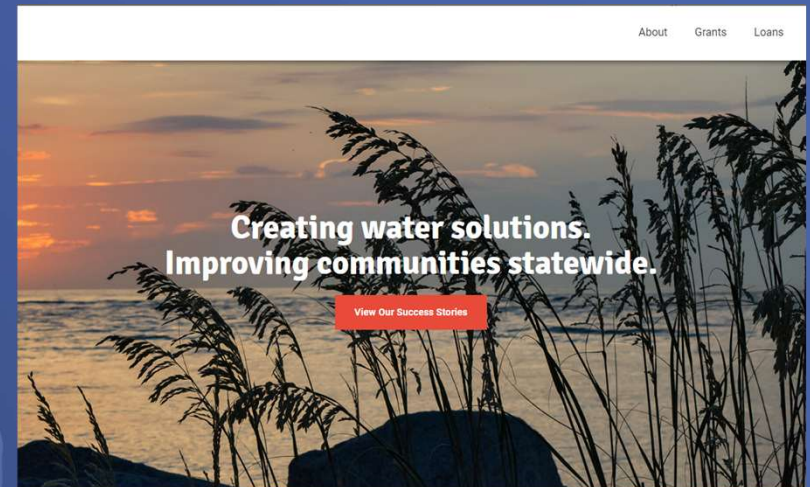
- Below-market interest rates
- Fixed-rate financing
- 100% financing of eligible costs
- Up to 30-year term
- Low closing costs

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



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.

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*

RIA GRANT PROGRAM STAFF

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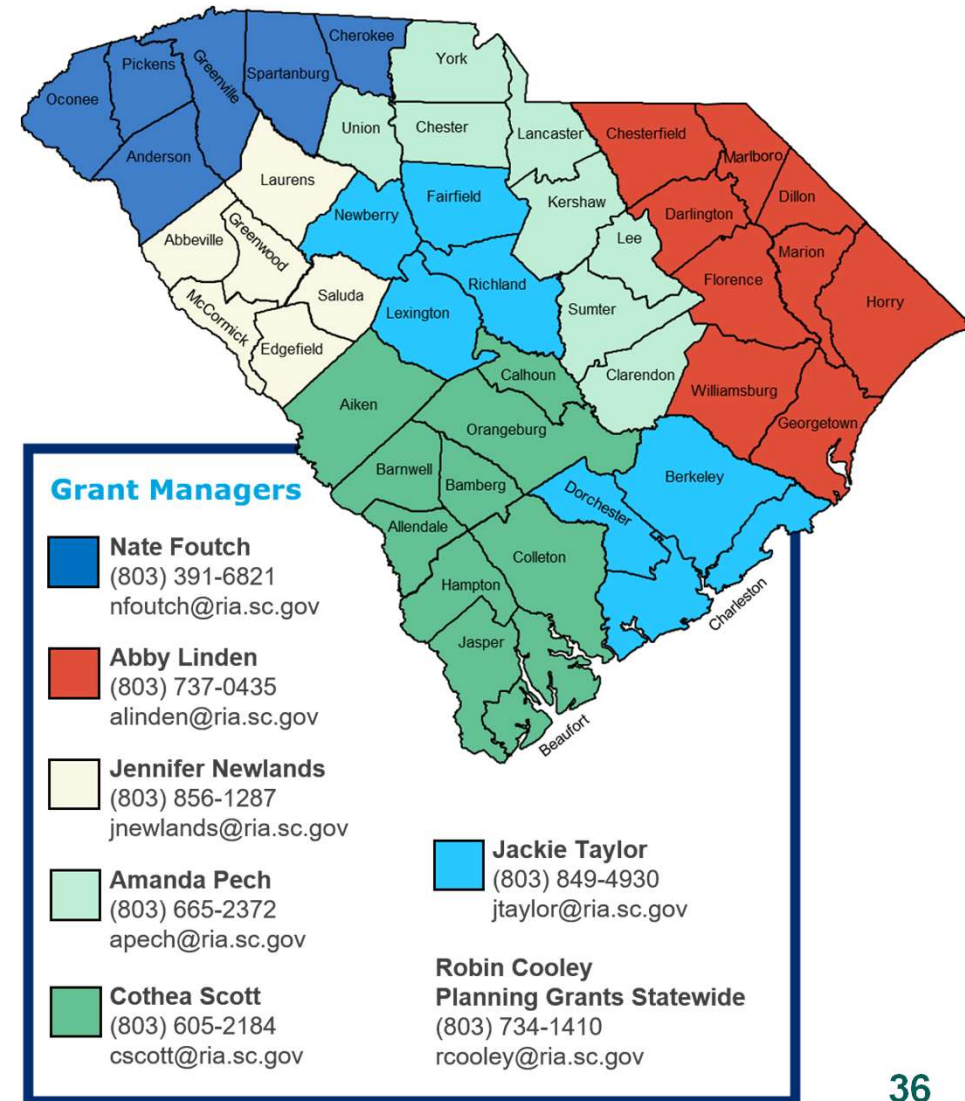
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Thank you for your time today!

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