

SCAC to Host 2022 Annual Conference and Institute of Government Classes Aug. 1 - 4

SCAC will host its annual conference and Institute of Government classes from Aug. 1 to 4 at Wild Dunes Resort, Isle of Palms.

Designed to help county leaders govern and serve more effectively, the conference will include educational sessions and other opportunities for county leaders to discuss common challenges and successful strategies. They will also be able to network and meet with SCAC's Corporate Partners and conference exhibitors to discuss products and solutions.

SCAC will elect new officers and board members, recognize graduates of the Institute of Government, and announce winners of SCAC's annual awards program.

Association groups will also meet.

Meetings, Workshops, and Institute Classes

Meetings, including a Rural Caucus and Urban Caucus Meeting, and workshops will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday. The President's/Corporate Partners' Reception will be held Tuesday evening, and the banquet will be held Wednesday evening.

Conference attendees will hear from a keynote speaker and state legislators during the Opening Session on Wednesday. On Thursday, county officials will receive a report from SCAC President Paul Cain as well as hear from the incoming NACo President Denise Winfrey and a second keynote speaker.

The following Institute of Government classes will be offered Monday, Aug. 1 and Tuesday, Aug. 2:

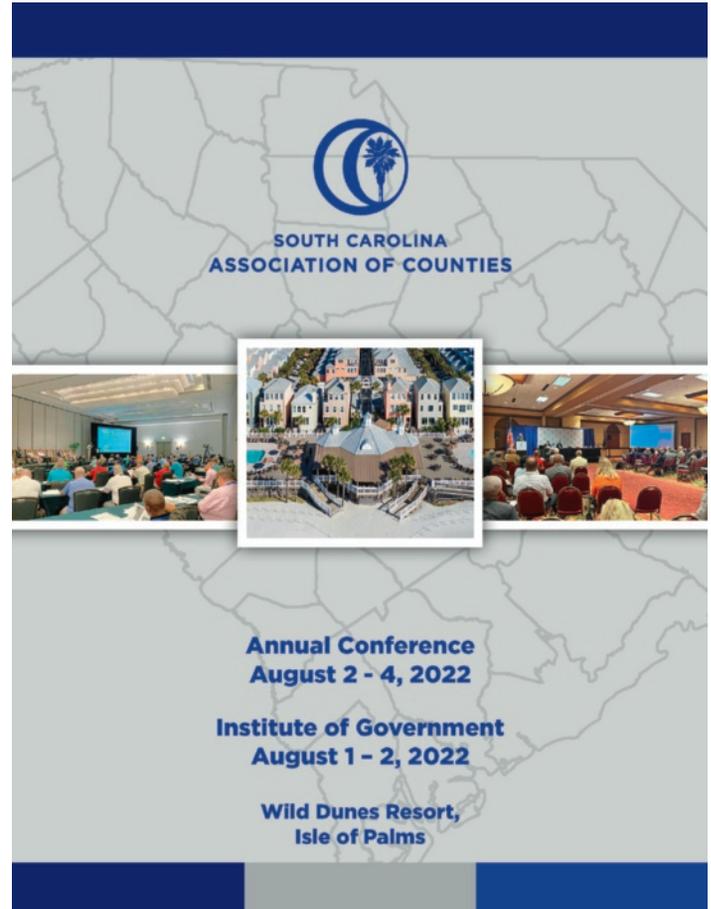
Monday, Aug. 1

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Level I (R): Planning and Land Use
Level II: The Policy Role of Council

2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Level I (R): Public Budgeting
Level II: Current Issues—Strengthening Your County's Cyber Resilience



Tuesday, Aug. 2

9:00 a.m. - Noon

Level I (E): Developing Good Leadership Skills
Level I (E): Managing and Conducting Meetings
Advanced: The Great Resignation and Other Human Resource Trends



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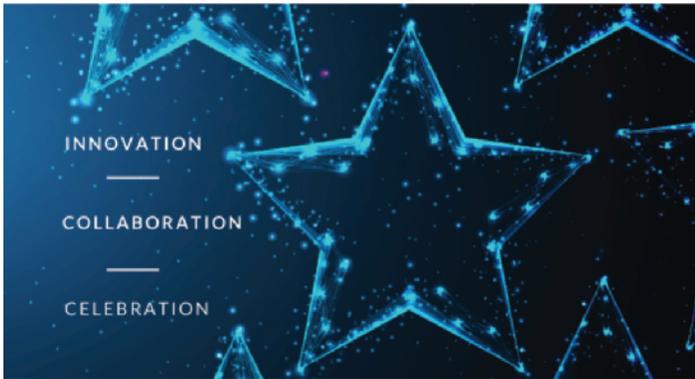
PLUS MORE

SCAC's 2022 Annual Awards Competition to be Held on June 9

SCAC's 2022 Annual Awards Competition will be held on June 9.

Competitors for the J. Mitchell Graham and the Barrett Law-rimore Regional Cooperation Memorial Awards will present their county initiatives and innovations to a panel of judges at SC ETV studios in Columbia, and the event will be streamed live to county audiences. County officials are encouraged to tune in to learn about new ideas, best practices, and county success stories throughout the state!

Award winners will be announced and all entrants will be recognized at the SCAC Annual Conference banquet on August 3.



For nearly 50 years, the Association has recognized innovative projects completed by South Carolina's counties. The awards program accepts applications that address all areas of county government—from simple, unique ideas that maximize limited resources to major collaborative efforts that tackle complex issues. To view videos and

Program at a Glance for SCAC's Annual Conference

Wild Dunes Resort, Isle of Palms

Aug. 1 - Aug. 4, 2022

Monday, Aug. 1, 2022

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. | Registration |
| 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Institute of Government Classes |
| 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Institute of Government Classes |

Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2022

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Registration |
| 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. | Worship Service |
| 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Exhibit Area Open |
| 9:00 a.m. – Noon | Institute of Government Classes |
| 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. | County Managers, Administrators and Supervisors' Business Meeting |
| 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Clerks to Council |
| 2:00 p.m. | Nominating Committee |
| 2:30 p.m. | Constitution, Resolutions and Bylaws Committee |
| 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. | S.C. Coalition of Black County Officials |
| 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. | President's/Corporate Partners' Reception |

Wednesday, August 3, 2022

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| 8:30 a.m. – Noon | Exhibit Area Open |
| 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Registration |
| 8:45 a.m. – Noon | Probate Judges |
| 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m. | Opening Session (Institute of Government Graduation) |
| 9:00 a.m. – Noon | Clerks to Council |
| 10:00 a.m. – Noon | Councils of Governments Executive Directors |
| 11:00 a.m. – Noon | Rural Caucus and Urban Caucus Meetings |
| 1:00 – 3:15 p.m. | Workshops |
| 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. | Banquet (Ticket Required) |
| 8:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. | Dessert Reception |

Thursday, August 2, 2022

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 9:00 a.m. | General Session |
|-----------|-----------------|



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Council Vice Chairman*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Timothy C. Winslow

EDITOR
W. Stuart Morgan III

applications from previous winners and to learn more about the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award and the Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award, visit SCCounties.org/awards.

If you have additional questions, please contact Susan Turkopuls at 1-800-922-6081 or sturkopuls@scac.sc.

Below is the Awards Program schedule of events:

- **June 9, 2022**—Awards competition held at SC ETV and live

streamed on SCCounties.org/livestream.

- **August 3, 2022**—Live streamed announcement of awards winners and recognition of entrants at SCAC Annual Conference Banquet

SCAC Awards Scholarships to Five High School Seniors

SCAC's 2022 Presidential Scholarship Winner



Ellenor Burrell
Walhalla High School
OCONEE COUNTY

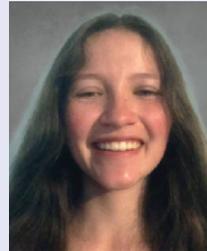
SCAC's 2022 Board of Directors Scholarship Winners



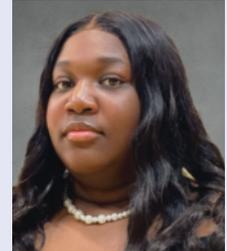
Jordan Carter
Allendale-Fairfax High School
ALLENDALE COUNTY



Jason D. Vipperman
Myrtle Beach High School
HORRY COUNTY



Lacy Hawkins
Newberry High School
NEWBERRY COUNTY



Alyssa D. McKnight
C.E. Murray High School
WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY

Each year, SCAC awards \$12,500 in one-time scholarships to five high school seniors planning to attend a South Carolina college or university, or two-year technical college in the fall.

SCAC awards a \$2,500 scholarship to a graduating high school senior who is a resident of the same county as the current SCAC President. In 2022, a student from Oconee County was awarded the scholarship in honor of Oconee Council Vice Chairman and SCAC President Paul Cain. The association also awards four \$2,500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are residents of counties chosen by lot. Counties selected in the 2022 draw were Allendale, Horry, Newberry, and Williamsburg counties.

SCAC's 2022 Presidential Scholarship Winner

SCAC awarded its 2022 Presidential Scholarship to Ellenor Burrell of Walhalla High School.

Burrell, the daughter of Robert and Christy Burrell of Tamasee, is ranked second in her class. She plans to study business with a banking and investment emphasis at Clemson University. She has won numerous academic awards, including Rotary Scholar, AP Scholar With Honors, the Great Debater Award for excellence in Honors English, the Herodotus Award for excellence in Honors World History, and the Thomas Edison Award for excellence in AP Chemistry.

Burrell is a Teacher Cadet and has served as treasurer of Anchor Club and as president of Mu Alpha Theta mathematics honor society. She also serves as the women's varsity soccer team captain and was named to the AAAA All-Region Women's Soccer Team. In addition to her academic studies and extracurricular sports activities, she works as a membership associate at the Foothills Area YMCA.

SCAC's 2022 Board of Directors Scholarship Winners

Allendale County

SCAC awarded its 2022 Board of Directors Scholarship for Allendale County to Jordan Carter of Allendale-Fairfax High School.

Carter, who is in the top 10 percent of her class, plans to study dental hygiene at Trident Technical College. She is in the National Honor Society and has served as both secretary and vice president of Beta Club. Carter is the daughter of Melanie Carter and Lynwood Thompson of Fairfax. She holds a part-time job and is a Girl Scout. She has participated in many service projects in her community through scouting.

Horry County

Jason D. Vipperman of Myrtle Beach High School is the recipient of the 2022 SCAC Board of Directors Scholarship for Horry County.

Vipperman plans to major in engineering and business at The Citadel. In addition to serving as a National Senior Beta Club representative, he is also a member of the National Honor Society and Students in Action. He is a three-sport varsity letter-winner and is captain of the men's cross country, men's wrestling, and men's track teams. He has served as a leadership staff officer and cadet corps executive officer in the NJROTC, as well as team captain of the varsity marksmanship and orienteering teams.

Vipperman is the son of Stephen and Mandy Vipperman of Longs. He is an active member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church where he participates in the youth group, serves as a youth Bible study leader, a youth assistant, and volunteers with the wheelchair ramp ministry. He completes 60+ hours of community service yearly and also works part time as a retail assistant for a building supply store.

(Continued on next page)

SCAC's 2022 Directory of County Officials

SCAC's 2022 *Directory of County Officials* will be published and distributed in February. So, order a copy if you want to know "Who's Who" in South Carolina county government.

The *Directory* identifies all elected and appointed county officials in the state. This popular, award-winning publication also identifies SCAC's Officers, Board of Directors and Corporate Partners; Regional Councils of Government; Federal and State Officials; and State Senators and Representatives. Addresses and telephone numbers are included for all county officials, state officials and members of the S.C. General Assembly.

Cost: \$25.00 per copy (including tax, postage, shipping and handling).

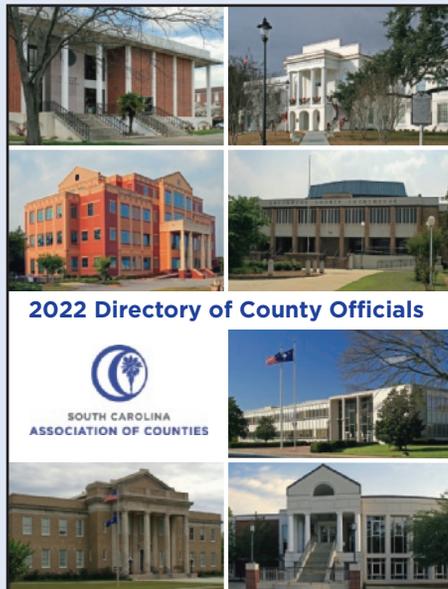
- To order your copy of the *2022 Directory of County Officials*, please contact:

SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

PO Box 8207
Columbia, SC 29202-8207

803-252-7255

E-mail: smorgan@scac.sc



Newberry County

SCAC awarded its 2022 Board of Directors Scholarship for Newberry County to Lacy Hawkins of Newberry High School.

Hawkins is the daughter of Wesley Jay and Andrea Hawkins of Newberry. Ranked first in her class, she plans to major in deaf and hard of hearing education at Converse College.

She serves as class secretary of the Student Government Association and was a member of the marching and concert bands. She is a member of First Baptist Church Newberry where she serves on the student leadership team and as a youth band member. She is also a Sunday nursery volunteer and has participated in Builders for Christ mission trips.

Hawkins has spent the last three years learning sign language through her church's deaf ministry and has become an advocate for accessibility. As a Teacher Cadet, she has had the opportunity to interact with students with learning disabilities, including deaf and hard-of-hearing students in her school district. Additionally, she is a video project consultant for CarterHears!, a company that serves the deaf community throughout South Carolina.

Williamsburg County

Alyssa D. McKnight of C.E. Murray High School received the 2022 SCAC Board of Directors Scholarship for Williamsburg County.

McKnight plans to study criminal justice at Claflin University. She is class valedictorian, participates on the academic challenge team, and is a member of the Future Business Leaders of America. She serves as secretary of the executive board for student council, participates in mock trial as an attorney, and is a member of the varsity women's volleyball team.

McKnight is the daughter of Rodney and Shana McKnight of Salters. In addition to her part-time job, she volunteers in her community with Polished Pearls and participates in several golfing organizations, including A Perfect Swing Foundation, LPGA Leadership Academy, and LPGA*USGA Girls Golf.

Pickens County to Host Activities in May for SAMHSA-Led Mental Health Awareness Program

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Pickens County has several activities planned throughout May to raise awareness and educate staff and citizens, including a Mental Health First Aid class to equip first responders with life-saving skills.

Pickens County Council supports mental health awareness, as evidenced by unanimous passage of Resolution 2021-15 recognizing May 2021 as Mental Health Month, Resolution 2021-19 recognizing September 2021 as National Suicide Prevention Month, and Resolution 2022-13 recognizing May 2022 as Mental Health Month in Pickens County. The ongoing efforts to educate and equip citizens with life-saving information and tools promoting mental wellness and safety in times of crisis springs from the county's involvement in the SAMHSA-led Crisis Intercept Mapping for Suicide Prevention among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) initiative.

Pickens County's SMVF Crisis Intercept Mapping (CIM) team includes local, regional, and state level stakeholders from both military and civilian government and nonprofit organizations who met over approximately six months to create a visual map of how individuals are ushered through the county's crisis care system, with particular focus on where there may be gaps in services as individuals move from one intercept to another. The county's Crisis Intercept Mapping team receives support from the SC Governor's Challenge for Suicide Prevention and from the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs and continues to work closely with all the team stakeholders to maintain momentum toward the goal of reducing the county's suicide rate.

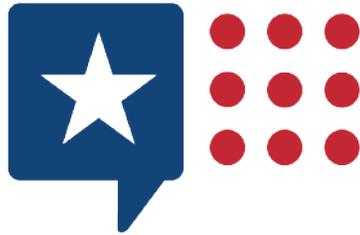
The Pickens County Gun Lock and Safety Plan Pilot launched February 1, 2022, as a collaboration between Pickens County Veterans Affairs, Pickens County Sheriff's Office, Pickens County Emergency Services, and the Columbia VA Health Center. This voluntary program offers free gun locks printed with the veterans crisis line number and access to a safety plan outline, providing individuals with an outline of what they will do to stay safe when experiencing a crisis and also putting more time between a suicidal thought and when he or she could pull the trigger of a loaded gun.

The county's SMVF CIM work has been recognized by the community and by the military population the team strives to serve. Pickens County's SMVF CIM Team Lead, Jessica Varney, was

nominated by her peers as a Hometown Hero and was recognized by the Shaw Air Force Base 20th Fighter Wing during the Shaw Air and Space Expo. Additionally, the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds selected Varney for a flight in an F-16 Fighting Falcon as part of the aerial demonstration squadron's Hometown Hero program, which salutes everyday American citizens doing amazing things in their communities all around the country.

Pickens County will continue to emphasize the importance of mental health for all citizens and especially those who are at higher risk of suicide, such as our military population. This May, as those who currently serve in the U.S. armed forces are recognized on Armed Forces Day, and as those who died while serving are remembered on Memorial Day, Pickens County will be mindful that all wounds are not visible and will continue to work to destigmatize mental health conditions.

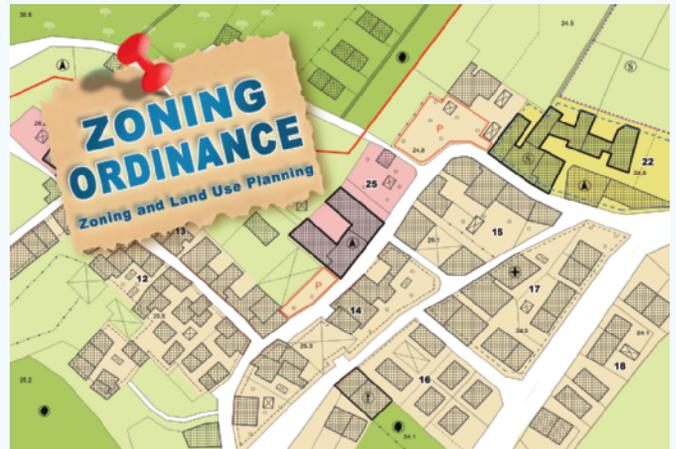
Veterans Crisis Line



1-800-273-8255

PRESS 1

SCAC Launches New Online Planning and Zoning Orientation Courses



SCAC has launched an updated online planning and zoning orientation course that consists of four modules. Each module lasts approximately 1.5 hours. Officials who complete all four modules will earn six hours of orientation training credit approved by the SC Planning Education Advisory Committee.

Planning and zoning officials in South Carolina are required by state law to complete a minimum of six hours of orientation training within one year of appointment or hiring. Thereafter, a minimum of three hours of continuing education training is required annually.

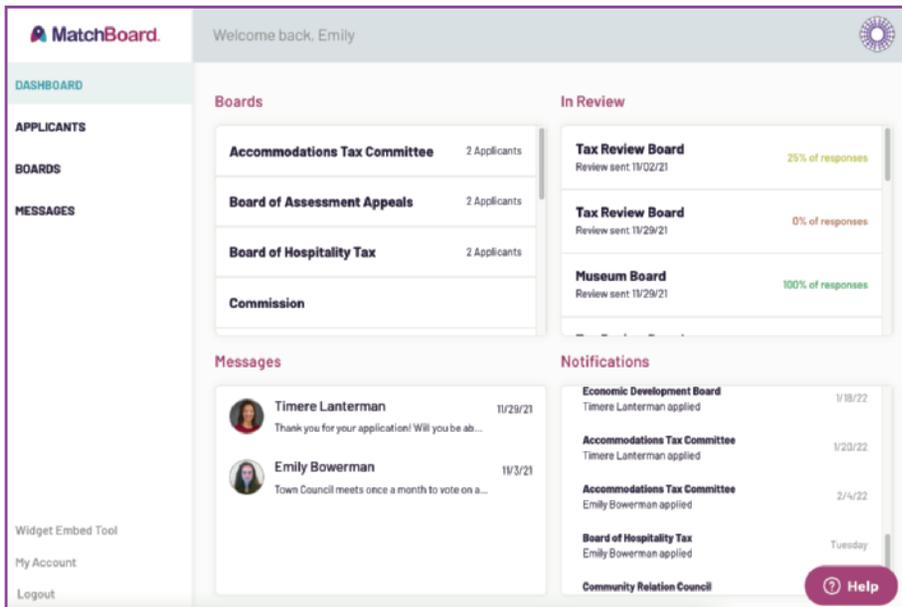
SCAC's planning and zoning training classes are offered at no cost to county planning and zoning officials. To access the courses, you can use your Member Portal credentials that you use to register for events and other training opportunities. If you do not have an account, you can create one at: SCCounties.site-ym.com/.

For additional information, visit SCAC's website at SCCounties.org/planning-zoning-education, or contact Ryan Tooley at rtooley@scac.sc.



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Contact Emily Bowerman at emily@scwomenlead.net for more information and to schedule a demo.

SCLEOA Names Lancaster County Sheriff's Lieutenant Officer of the Year

The S.C. Law Enforcement Officers Association (SCLEOA) named Lt. Christine "Christy" M. Rogers of the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office the SCLEOA Officer of the Year for 2021 at a ceremony, held on November 19 in Myrtle Beach.

The award recognizes accomplishments of the recipient that improve the quality of life of the citizens of the community which she serves and acts of heroism in the line of duty.

Lt. Rogers, who has been employed by the sheriff's office for more than 24 years, has worked her way through the ranks from patrol deputy to investigator and now serves as Crime Scene and Evidence Unit supervisor. She is a graduate of the National Forensic Academy in Knoxville, Tenn.

SCLEOA Awards Lancaster County Sheriff 2021 Jackie Swindler Award

The SCLEOA awarded Lancaster County Sheriff Barry S. Faile the association's 2021 Jackie Swindler Award for Ethics and Excellence in Law Enforcement.

Sheriff Faile has served his entire 32-year law enforcement career with the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office. He began as a patrol deputy and progressed through the ranks of criminal investigator, narcotics investigator, multijurisdictional drug task force commander, patrol captain and chief deputy. For the last 13 years, he has served as sheriff.

Jackie Swindler, director of the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy and for whom the award is named, recognized Sheriff Faile for all his impeccable work for Lancaster County. Swindler said Sheriff Faile

“has always been a steady hand who has had the forethought to fight for better training and education for his officers, and has steadily grown their department with grants and cooperation with local, state, and federal entities.”

PalmettoPride Announces Litter Crew Grant Recipients

PalmettoPride announced on Feb. 1 the grant recipients for its Litter Crew Grant (see below), providing local governments with funding and supplies needed for routine litter pickup on their roads.

“Our population has grown 23 percent in 20 years but the approach to litter prevention within infrastructure has remained largely reactive,” said Sarah Lyles, Executive Director of PalmettoPride. “Our local governments want to do more and we are here to help.”



The Litter Crew Grant is a competitive grant that provides funding of up to \$25,000 to public service districts, municipalities, and counties to pay for litter removal crews. The governing organization will prioritize municipal- or county-maintained roads respectively, secondary state roadways as needed, and hot spots.

PalmettoPride has worked with multiple counties in establishing litter crew programs. Spartanburg County established the Litter Heroes program last summer, working with the Spartanburg Opportunity Center to employ up to four individuals experiencing homelessness or housing instability as part of a litter crew. Participants engaged in case management and life skills training as assigned prior to heading to the work site.

(See *PalmettoPride*, P. 8)

| Recipient | Amount |
|---|--------------|
| Beaufort County | \$ 25,000.00 |
| Charleston County Environmental Enforcement | \$ 25,000.00 |
| Chesterfield County | \$ 25,000.00 |
| City of Barnwell | \$ 21,100.00 |
| City of Florence | \$ 25,000.00 |
| City of Fountain Inn | \$ 25,000.00 |
| City of Mauldin | \$ 25,000.00 |
| City of Rock Hill | \$ 25,000.00 |
| City of York | \$ 10,000.00 |
| Dorchester County | \$ 20,500.00 |
| Fairfield County Public Works | \$ 25,000.00 |
| Friends of Gardens Corner | \$ 10,000.00 |
| Georgetown County Environmental Services | \$ 25,000.00 |
| Greenwood County | \$ 25,000.00 |
| Keep OneSpartanburg Beautiful | \$ 25,000.00 |
| Lancaster County Stormwater | \$ 12,500.00 |
| Lexington County | \$ 25,000.00 |
| Oconee County | \$ 15,800.00 |
| Richland County | \$ 20,000.00 |
| Town of Bowman | \$ 25,000.00 |
| Town of Cheraw | \$ 14,200.00 |
| Town of Kershaw | \$ 15,000.00 |
| Town of Patrick | \$ 11,000.00 |

NEWS BRIEFS

County Millage Rate Increase Limitation FY 2022-23

S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) has released County Millage Rate Limitations for FY2022-23. Each county’s millage rate increase limit is based on 4.70 percent, plus any increase in population. Millage caps for FY 2023 are available online at SCCounties.org/research-information/millage-caps. Also available are the county millage caps for the previous three years, which counties may use to determine unused millage increase capacity. Please note that SCAC does not know what unused millage capacity a county may have.

U.S. Department of Transportation Releases \$29 Billion Notice of Funding Opportunity

On March 23, the U.S. Department of Transportation released a \$2.9 billion single-application Notice of Funding Opportunity for the National Infrastructure Project Assistance grants program (Mega), the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grant program (INFRA), and the Rural Surface Transportation Grant program (Rural). GFOA has summarized the application guidelines and requirements online at gfoa.org/infrastructure-law-1.2-billion-now-available-in-combined.

2020 County Census Profiles – Check them Out!

The U.S. Census Bureau’s searchable website allows users to drill down to specific datasets within a specific geographic area. Taking advantage of this powerful tool, SCAC has linked each county’s 2020 census profile to the corresponding county’s information page on the SCAC website. Information includes 2020 county population, demographics, income and poverty, educational attainment, employment, housing, economic, and health data. This information can be accessed at SCCounties.org. On SCAC’s home page, click on Resources and then County Information. Select a county from the table and scroll to 2020 Census County Profile.

Stay in the Know with SCAC’s Friday Report

The legislative session will be wrapping this May. To stay informed, be sure to read SCAC’s *Friday Report*. The reports are prepared and sent via e-mail every Friday during the legislative session. This publication keeps county officials informed about legislation that affects county government operations. It may be the only place that certain bills of interest to county officials are discussed in detail, and it provides a forum to discuss the impact of legislation upon county functions. Please contact SCAC if you would like to receive an emailed version of the *Friday Report*. You may also read the *Friday Report* online at SCCounties.org/friday-reports.

(PalmettoPride ... Continued from previous page)

Jamie Nelson, Director of Spartanburg County Environmental Enforcement Department stated, “Until individuals—whether living in or traveling through our beautiful state—choose not to litter or ensure a vehicle’s load is properly secured, we will have the need for routine pickups along our roadways systems.”

“When elected officials and administrations add regular litter pickup on roadways, we can create a culture change from the top down,” said Lyles.

The role of volunteers in litter prevention is at the heart of PalmettoPride. Because of the population increase and volume of traffic, many roads that were safe for volunteers are no longer safe. With litter pickup as part of routine maintenance, volunteers can focus on caring for neighborhoods and public green spaces.

“We all have a part to play in litter prevention,” said Lyles.

In addition to litter pickup, the recipients must also coordinate a litter prevention campaign to accompany pickup.

PalmettoPride maintains that litter prevention is best, but pickup is an important part of litter prevention. Routine pickup helps to reduce litter on the roads and to foster community pride.

For more information on PalmettoPride, contact info@palmettopride.org.

The Big Red Barn Retreat Helps First Responders

Sutton Shaw, *Executive Director,*
The Big Red Barn Retreat

Being on the front lines of serving the community and being exposed to critical incidents almost daily takes its toll on our first responders’ mental health and wellness.

“PTSD is real,” Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said. “I’ve watched numerous deputies struggle with PTSD due to critical incidents.”

It is estimated that 30 to 40 percent of first responders are struggling with mental health challenges. However, the vast majority do not seek help because it is inaccessible or ineffective. So, many live a life of struggle, suffering, and quiet desperation. The dangers and uncertainty of the Covid pandemic have contributed to their struggle. A new, innovative approach is available at the Big Red Barn Retreat and it’s called Warrior PATHH.

Warrior PATHH helps first responders learn to transform their struggle into profound strength and lifelong growth. The program begins with a seven-day immersive training



The advertisement features a background image of a person's hands holding a smartphone. The person's left hand is at the bottom, and their right hand is at the top, with their index finger pointing at the screen. The background is a soft-focus bokeh of colorful lights in shades of blue, green, and pink. In the top left corner, there is a small circular logo with a white crescent moon and a palm tree. The text "2022 SCAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE APP" is written in large, white, bold, uppercase letters on the right side. Below this, the text "DOWNLOAD NOW" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters. At the bottom left, there is a small block of text: "The app is free and available for download from the App Store or Google Play by searching for 'Grupio'. Once you've downloaded the Grupio app, simply search the app for 'SCAC'. SCAC2022 is set as a default password."

held onsite at the Big Red Barn Retreat and is facilitated by graduates of the Warrior PATHH program. Participants are educated on the impact of struggle on the mind, body, heart and spirit; and that they can find gain in loss and purpose in pain. They learn recognized techniques to regulate their thoughts, feelings, and actions; and are given the opportunity to make peace with their past experiences and struggle.

“I have seen firsthand the great results of this program...they save lives!” says Sheriff Lott. The program is free to participants and open to police, EMT, and fire fighters that have been involved in a critical incident. Moreover, participants must participate in the weekly online classes and wellness checks for up to 18 months following the initial training.

Since launching the Warrior PATHH program at the Big Red Barn Retreat, 19 classes, made up of both veterans and first responders, have finished the seven-day initial training. Each class

Lancaster County Council Demonstrates Commitment to Education

Lancaster County Council as a group has achieved the feat of each member graduating from the Institute of Government for County Officials!

The Institute of Government for County Officials is a training program designed to equip county officials with the tools needed to enhance their skills and abilities to function more effectively in their positions. The Institute is provided by SCAC in cooperation with the Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities at the College of Charleston, and Clemson University’s Master of Public Administration Program is a sponsor.

Each council member has completed at a minimum 27 hours of Level I coursework which includes topics such as legal issues, public budgeting, planning and land use, and ethical leadership. Furthermore, most of the council members have graduated from Level II which is accomplished by completing 18 hours of more advanced coursework, and those that have yet to graduate from Level

has up to seven participants and there are separate classes for males and females. Overall, graduates of the program report a 56 percent reduction in their PTSD symptoms as well as report experiencing closer and improved relationships, increased sense of personal strength, and a 58 percent positive spiritual or existential change.

“What they’re doing here is really amazing,” said Robert Stevens, former police officer and Warrior PATHH alumni. “They give you the training you need to deal with the struggle you’re dealing with,” says Stevens. Based on his experiences dealing with mental health struggles as a police officer, Stevens believes first responders don’t feel safe to open up with what they are struggling with for fear that they will ultimately lose their job and be unable to provide for their family. Stevens firmly believes Warrior PATHH is the change needed in the first responder community to get rid of the stigma that exists around mental health.

Big Red Barn Retreat hopes to expand the Warrior PATHH program to meet the ever-increasing demand among first responders from across the state with American Rescue Plan grant funding. For more information about Warrior PATHH, call (803) 716-9097 or email info@thebigredbarnretreat.org.



LANCASTER COUNTY COUNCIL—(Front row, left to right) Council Vice Chairman W. Brian Carnes, Council Chairman Steven R. Harper, Council Member Billy Mosteller; (back row, left to right) Council Members Allen Blackmon; Larry F. Honeycutt; Charlene McGriff; and Terry Graham.

II are working towards it.

The council in Lancaster County is composed of seven members each elected by single-member district. Term lengths are for four years. Lancaster County’s 2020 Census Population was 90,016.

SCAC applauds Lancaster County Council’s dedication to education!

Educate and Prepare Future County Leaders

National County Government Month is officially celebrated every year in April. But now is the perfect time to create public awareness about the services county governments provide, and to educate students on the subject.

Partnering with iCivics, NACo has created a full curriculum to educate students in grades six through 12 on the important role and functions of county government.

The curriculum, including an online game, "Counties Work,"

helps educators prepare lessons on county government.

Visit naco.org/counties/icivics to view a webinar overview of updated resources. Then, use the resources to educate students on county government.

When National County Government Month is officially celebrated next April, your students will be educated on the subject.

You'll be prepared to celebrate. You'll also be educating future county leaders!



SC Housing Helps South Carolina Residents Serving Communities Achieve Homeownership

By Chris Winston
Chief Communications Officer
SC Housing

With home prices and interest rates on the rise, achieving the goal of homeownership can be a challenge for many South Carolina residents.

With this in mind, SC Housing continues to work to help Palmetto State residents who serve their communities achieve that dream with down payment assistance and low-interest home loans through the Palmetto Heroes program.

SC HOUSING
Financing Housing, Building SC.

\$10,000
Down Payment Assistance



The program recognizes designated community service members, such as first-responders, teachers, and others, who provide vital support to their community. This year, the 2022 Palmetto Heroes program will assist qualifying South Carolina educators, law enforcement, corrections professionals, firefighters, emergency medical service personnel, licensed medical professionals, members

of the U.S. Armed Services, S.C. Army National Guard and S.C. Air National Guard, and veterans.

Eligible Palmetto Heroes homebuyers can get a low, fixed-rate mortgage through SC Housing's First-time Homebuyer Program, as well as \$10,000 in forgivable down payment assistance. The program has helped more than 1,800 homeowners purchase homes in excess of \$237 million over the past 15 years.

"At a time, when our state is experiencing mounting strains on our educators, programs like Palmetto Heroes helps to put homeownership in reach for those dedicated teachers whose paychecks are already stretched," said

SOCIAL MEDIA

 @SCCounties

 South Carolina Association of Counties

 @SCCounties



Follow SCAC on social media to learn what's happening at the State House and how SCAC's programs and services can benefit your county. Share what's happening in your county. Let's promote the many ways our counties are making a positive difference for our citizens across the state.

Steve Clements, director of single-family programs at SC Housing. “Home ownership is one of the country’s most valuable tools to build wealth, and we are proud to help families attain this goal at a challenging time.”

The program is available on a first-come, first-served basis, and borrowers must have an executed sales contract on a home. Mortgage loans are for 30 years and are available through any of SC Housing’s network of more than 100 participating lenders statewide. Borrower(s) must meet SC Housing’s first-time homebuyer requirements, as well as income requirements based on location and household size, which are available on the agency’s website. The program may not be used for refinancing.

Each year, the program is in high demand and loan reservations are typically exhausted within a few months. For more information about the Palmetto Heroes program or other SC Housing homeownership programs, contact SC Housing at (803) 896-2211 or visit the agency’s website: schousing.com.

State’s Broadband Office Promotes Collaboration Through Online Tools for Successful Internet Expansion

Online tools available through the South Carolina Broadband Office on SCdigitaldrive.org will be a vital element to the success of broadband expansion projects throughout our state. Through these online tools, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), as well as state and local leadership, can access:

- past, current, and future grant opportunities;
- a map of all available investments (accessible via the “Stakeholders” tab);
- the ability to upload projects and location data for communal awareness;
- a form to provide comments and feedback regarding challenges and potential solutions;
- a web-mapping application for determining eligibility of state-funded grants; and
- dashboards that provide analytics and other helpful information.

“As a team, we must constantly communicate and cooperate with each other to make the most of these funds and prevent overbuilding broadband infrastructure in an area that’s already been funded,” said Jim Stritzinger, Director of the S.C. Broadband Office, which is housed within the S.C. Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS). “Both the online tools we provide, as well as the transparency we promote between state and local governments, are the keys to minimize project duplication.”



Online tools offered on SCdigitaldrive.org encourage efficiency, which opens the door to the expansion of broadband investments across the state. Rural portions of South Carolina present the greatest challenge, but collaboration between all levels of government may ensure that more South Carolinians will have access to high-speed internet in an expeditious manner.

For questions regarding resources available on SCdigitaldrive.org, contact James Stritzinger, Director SC Broadband Office or Michael Herzberger, Deputy Director SC Broadband Office, ORS Staff at Broadband@ors.sc.gov. For additional information about the ORS and its mission, visit ors.sc.gov.

S.C. County Officials and Staff Graduate from NACo Leadership Academy

Nine South Carolina county officials recently participated in the NACo Leadership Academy, a 12-week online program that empowers county leaders with fundamental leadership skills. Across the country more than 4,600 county employees have participated.



South Carolina county officials completing the Academy in April were:

- Tres Atkinson, Fire Chief, Dorchester County
- Seth Housand, Director/CIO, Georgetown County
- Wayne Mullen, Senior HR Manager, Greenville County
- Jessica Stumpf, Director of Emergency Management, Greenville County
- Arthur Benjamin, Detention Center Director, Jasper County
- Russell Wells, Emergency Services Division Director, Jasper County
- Brad Carnes, Assessor, Lancaster County
- Angel Howell, Administrative Services Division Director, Orangeburg County
- Chuck Horton, Chief Information Officer, York County

Congratulations to all these individuals who completed the program. Through the SCAC/NACo partnership, SC counties are eligible for a registration fee of \$1,545 (instead of the \$2,495 retail price). To learn more about the High Performance Leadership Academy and to register, visit NACo’s website at naco.org. Registration for the next cohort is now open.



**SOUTH CAROLINA
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

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SCAC's 2022 Conference Calendar

Aug. 1 & 2

Institute of Government

Aug. 3 & 4

Annual Conference, Wild Dunes Resort,
Isle of Palms

Aug. 17

Setoff Debt/GEAR, DoubleTree, Columbia

Oct. 19

Institute of Government

Oct. 20

County Council Coalition, Embassy Suites,
Columbia

Nov. 18

S.C. Local Government Attorney's Institute,
Virtual

Dec. 1 & 2

Legislative Conference, AC Hotel, Greenville

Dec. 8

Newly Elected Officials, DoubleTree,
Columbia

NACo's 2022 Conference Calendar



July 21 - 24

Annual Conference, Adams County,
Colorado

SCAC's New Location and Schedule for 2022 Annual Conference



SCAC's 2022 Annual Conference will be held Aug. 1-4, 2022, at the Wild Dunes Resort on Isle of Palms.

To receive the lowest room rate for county officials, the conference schedule has been modified. County officials received conference and hotel registration information, including details on accommodation options, in early spring.

2022 Annual Conference Schedule

Monday, Aug. 1 — Institute Classes

Tuesday, Aug. 2 — Institute Classes, Committee Meetings, Group Meetings, President's/Corporate Partners' Reception

Wednesday, Aug. 3 — Opening Session, Group Meetings, Caucus Meetings, Workshops, Banquet

Thursday, Aug. 4 — General Session

Information registration for SCAC's annual conference is available at SCCounties.org/conferences-and-meetings.

Did You Know?

S.C. State Ethics Commission:

Did you know that you must continue filing Campaign Disclosures after your election is over?

Candidates for office must continue to file Campaign Disclosures as long as they maintain a balance in their campaign checking or savings account. Filing requirements cease when the account balance reaches \$0.00.

Campaign funds can be distributed in the following ways to bring an account balance to \$0.00: 1) donated to a 501(c)(3), 2) pro-rated and returned to contributors, 3) donated to the state's general fund. For more information see Section 8-3-370 of the Ethics Reform Act.



S.C. State Ethics Commission

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