

PalmettoPride Offers Litter Crew Grants to Local Governments

PalmettoPride announced the opening of its Litter Crew Grant process on September 23, and the deadline to apply is December 1. Visit: palmettopride.org/grants/litter-crew-grant/

Eligible Applicants

The grants are open to town, city or county governments. Funds may be used to start up a local cleanup program or to supplement an existing program. Trash bags will be provided by PalmettoPride. Applicants must provide a litter pickup plan including a full budget and use PalmettoPride's grant reporting website on Submittable.



the application guidelines will result in the application not being considered for funding.

Purpose

Each Litter Crew Grant, awarded on a competitive basis, provides funding of up to \$25,000 to municipalities and counties to pay for litter removal crews. The governing organization should prioritize municipal or county maintained roads that would be unsafe for volunteers, roads that require routine maintenance, state highways, as needed, and hot spots.

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

Program mentors are available for establishment of new programs.

Additional Program Requirements

PalmettoPride requires that recipients use these funds to implement a litter prevention campaign in their counties if there is not one

already. PalmettoPride can assist in this part of the program upon request.

Grant Period

Each Litter Crew Grant will be for one year, with a targeted start date of Jan. 1, 2022. Special requests will be taken on an as-needed basis. PalmettoPride will dispense funds bi-annually dependent on activities and reports submitted and approved.

NACo Calls for Counties to Share Their Untold Stories

The National Association of Counties (NACo) wants counties to share their stories on how they have made a difference in the lives of their residents through the American Rescue Act, a direct investment in the nation's counties.

Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, counties have highlighted the critical role and the key services they provide, demonstrating to the public and to our federal partners that counties matter.

Visit: [NACo.org/UntoldStories](https://naco.org/UntoldStories) to submit your county stories and access a letter-to-the-editor template, a media relations guide, social media templates, as well as resources to engage residents to help them share their own untold story.

For more information, contact: Paul Guequierre, NACo, at (202) 942-4271 or pguequierre@naco.org.



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SCAC Offers Institute of Government Courses Online

Due to the increasing availability and adoption of technology and the COVID-19 pandemic, SCAC has placed an emphasis on making Institute of Government for County Officials (Institute) courses available online. Historically the courses have only been offered in-person three times per year.

Now, however, the online versions of the courses are always accessible for county officials with a computer and internet connection. This includes from the comfort of home. Further, the online courses can be started, stopped, and resumed allowing participants to complete them at their own pace.

The online courses may contain interactive elements such as drag-and-drop questions, quizzes, videos, and recorded training by qualified instructors. Upon completion, participants will earn the

same credit as if the course was taken in-person.

The following are the courses currently available online as of November 2021:



Level I

Orientation to County Government I [R] and **Orientation to County Government II [R]** are both offered online free of charge for county officials. These two courses are required to be taken in Level I of the Institute of Government as they cover foundational topics that all county officials should know. Furthermore, these courses are not offered individually in-person at SCAC conferences, so county officials are encouraged to take them online or attend SCAC's Newly-Elected Orientation for County Officials when it is hosted next in-person to earn credit for

both courses.

Strategic Planning [E] and **Managing and Conducting Meetings [E]** are also currently offered online. **Strategic Planning** focuses on the importance of planning and goal setting within the policy-making process including the importance of a shared county vision and mission and linking the plan with the budget is stressed. **Managing and Conducting Meetings** is designed to help county officials learn how to conduct successful meetings. Additionally, this course is approved to provide planning and zoning continuing education credit in accordance with the state requirements set by the South Carolina Planning Education Advisory Committee (SCP-EAC). Both courses have an \$80 registration fee.

Level II

The following three Level II courses are currently offered online: **Financial Management**, **The Policy Role of Council**, and **The Property Taxation Process**.

Financial Management focuses on the basic elements of financial management and the role elected officials have in county financial decisions along with exploring various budgeting methods and other topics.

The Policy Role of Council is designed to help council members understand and carry out their responsibility as the elected policy-making body.

The Property Taxation Process examines the property taxation process in South Carolina with an emphasis on the most recent changes. All three courses have an \$80 registration fee.

Finally, SCAC currently offers one **Advanced** course online which is available for any county official to take but designed for participants who have already completed Level I and Level II coursework. The course is **Putting Dollars to Work for Your County: State & Local Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Funds** and consists of a panel discussion on the American Rescue Plan Act's



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(ARPA) Fiscal Recovery Fund and Treasury's guidance in addition to the Government Finance Officers Association's recommended principles for local governments to consider when deciding how to use the money. Information is also covered on the General Assembly budgetary plan and on the state's investment and grant opportunities for broadband. This course has an \$80 registration fee.

For more information and to check out the Institute of Government for County Officials program brochure, visit: SCCounties.org/institute-government or contact Ryan Tooley at rtooley@scac.sc.

NEWS BRIEFS

Decennial Census—The South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs office (RFA) posted the Federal Decennial Census Data as adopted by the State on its website (rfa.sc.gov) on August 18, 2021. This data is necessary for each county to complete its redistricting process as required by the South Carolina Code of Laws.

Redistricting—All county council districts must be reapportioned as to population by the county council within a reasonable time prior to the next scheduled general election following the state's adoption of the Federal Decennial Census (SC Code Section 4-9-90). Counties will need to complete this process for the next general election on November 8, 2022. SCAC recommends that county officials consult with your county attorney to begin the redistricting process if you have not already done so. Please reach out to SCAC or Victor Frontroth with the RFA if you have any questions about this process. Mr. Frontroth can be reached at (803) 734-0969 or victor.frontroth@rfa.sc.gov.

SCAC Scholarships—Applications are now open for SCAC's Presidential and Board of Directors Scholarships. This year's Presidential Scholarship will be awarded in the amount of \$2,500 to one graduating High School Senior from Oconee County. The Board of Director's Scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$2,500 to one High School Senior from each of the following counties chosen by lot: Allendale, Horry, Newberry, and Williamsburg counties. Scholarship applications are due by February 1, 2022.

ARPA—SCAC continues to provide counties with updates for ARPA funding programs and deadlines. Check SCAC's COVID-19 resources webpage at SCCounties.org for the latest ARPA guidance, FAQs, and updates.

Elected Office Vacancy Resource for Counties—A new resource is available at SCCounties.org detailing actions counties should take if there is a vacancy in a county elected office. The guide includes information about county council vacancies, other elected official vacancies, and providing notice.

Cybersecurity Resources—Check out SCAC's cybersecurity webpage at SCCounties.org/cybersecurity to learn strategies and best practices for preventing and mitigating cyberattacks. Resources include expert advice from NACo, ICMA, SC Cyber and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, as well as insights from counties who have experienced breaches.

The SC Office of Resilience Seeks Public Input—Plans are underway by SCOR to develop a Strategic Statewide Resilience and Risk Reduction Plan which will identify major flood and potential losses that could occur from extreme weather events. The Plan will provide strategies for local governments to mitigate potential flood risks. SCOR is requesting participation in a flooding experience survey at scor.sc.gov/resilience.



MatchBoardSM

SCAC is partnering with South Carolina Women in Leadership on MatchBoard, a new web-based platform through which counties can manage their boards and commissions. This dynamic application will digitize and streamline your boards and commissions management allowing you to post information about boards, recruit diverse qualified applicants, review applications, communicate directly with citizens, and more. Learn more and sign up today at MatchBoard.Tech.

"I think MatchBoard will be a great tool for Orangeburg when trying to recruit qualified applicants for our boards and commissions. It will let citizens know that the appointment process is impartial and not political."

— **Johnny Wright, Orangeburg County Council Chairman**

"Beaufort County currently has 29 agencies, boards, and commissions consisting of 211 members. The clerk's office has the daunting task of keeping up with applications, appointments, reappointments, resignations, rosters, meeting schedules, agendas, and minutes while also serving the needs of the 11-member county council. I am incredibly excited to move away from the antiquated excel spreadsheet tracking method and into MatchBoard, a program that will streamline the clerk's operations and better serve our agencies, boards, and commissions, while saving us time and creating consistency expected in 2021."

— **Sarah Brock, Beaufort County Clerk to Council**

TRSWA Dedicates Administration Building in Honor of David K. Summers Jr.

The Three Rivers Solid Waste Authority (TRSWA) Board of Directors dedicated its administration building in Jackson on July 15 in honor of Calhoun County Council Chairman David K. Summers Jr.

Summers chaired the TRSWA from its inception in December 1992 and the landfill's opening in July 1998 to his resignation from the agency's board due to health reasons in February 2021. Although he always wanted the TRSWA's administration building to be constructed at the landfill site, the building was not completed until 2013.

"David is a true leader, a great leader and, without him, the TRSWA and its landfill would probably never have happened," said Eric Thompson, former General Manager

of the TRSWA. "Because of his dedication, he made a tremendous contribution to the Three Rivers Solid Waste Authority and the nine counties that it serves."

Summers represented Calhoun County as part of the TRSWA, governed by a representatives of nine counties: Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Edgefield, McCormick, Orangeburg and Saluda. He was one of the agency's longest serving founding board members.

About 50 people attended the dedication ceremony, including TRSWA staff members; TRSWA and Solid Waste Technology Center board members; county administrators and council members; and Summers' family.

Eric Thompson, First General Manager of the TRSWA, described the many accomplishments made under Summers' leadership. Theresa H. Taylor, Allendale County Council Chairwoman, and Charles T. Jennings, McCormick County Council Chairman, presented Summers a plaque that is placed in his honor within the building's foyer.



David K. Summers Jr.



TRSWA's David K. Summers administration building. (Inset above-right) Signage above the building's entrance.

SCAC Announces New Location and Schedule for 2022 Annual Conference

The Association'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 will receive conference and hotel registration information, including details on accommodation options, in early spring. The room block at Wild Dunes will open to county officials after they have registered for the Institute of Government and/or the Annual Conference. The room block will not open before this time.

2022 Annual Conference Schedule

Monday, August 1 — Institute Classes

Tuesday, August 2 — Institute Classes, Committee Meetings,

Group Meetings, President's/Corporate Partners' Reception

Wednesday, August 3 — Opening Session, Group Meetings,

Caucus Meetings, Workshops, Banquet

Thursday, August 4 — General Session

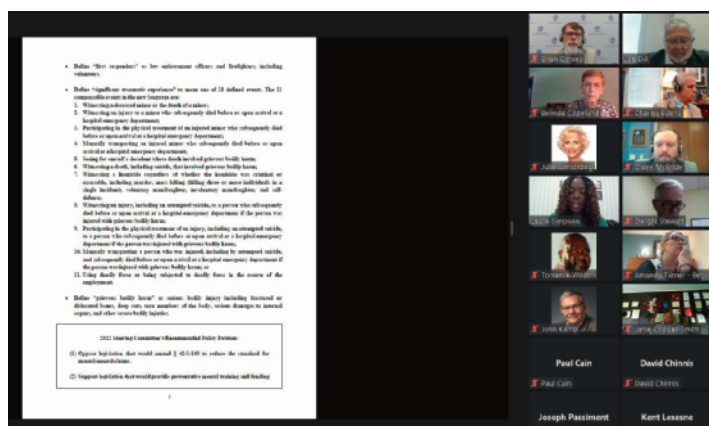
Information regarding SCAC's future annual conferences is available at SCCounties.org/conferences-and-meetings.

County Council Coalition Meets to Provide Input on SCAC's Draft Legislative Policy Positions

The County Council Coalition met virtually on Oct. 21. During the meeting, county council members heard from experts on land conservation banks, redistricting, and the Statewide Ortho Mapping Program.

SCAC's policy steering committee chairs provided reports on the draft legislative policy positions for 2022 and asked the County Council Coalition members for input. County Council Coalition President Brian Carnes, Lancaster County Council Vice Chairman, encouraged all members to be actively engaged with their legislators and SCAC staff during the legislative session.

A recording of the presentations and handouts are available on SCCounties.org.



SCAC to Host Mid-Year Conference and Institute Classes Feb. 23 – 25, 2022

SCAC will host its Mid-Year Conference on Wednesday, Feb. 23 at Embassy Suites Hotel in Columbia.

Members will hear from speakers on current topics and visit with their delegation members at the State House. A legislative reception will be held at The Palmetto Club that evening from 5 to 7 p.m.

The following Institute of Government for County Officials classes will be offered following the conference on Thursday, Feb. 24 and Friday, Feb. 25.

Thursday, February 24

- 9 a.m. – Noon Level I (E): Building Effective Intergovernmental Relations
- 9 a.m. – Noon Level II: Current Issues - ARPA
- 1 – 4 p.m. Level I (E): Employment Law: What Counties Need to Know
- 1 – 4 p.m. Level II: Decision Making in a Political Environment (See *Mid-Year Conference*, P. 6)

Now Available Online!

Level I: Strategic Planning [E] and Advanced: Putting Dollars to Work for Your County

SCAC has now made **Level I: Strategic Planning [E]** and **Advanced: Putting Dollars to Work for Your County – State & Local Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Funds Institute** classes available online!

Both courses were recorded at the in-person classes conducted at the August 2021 Institute of Government held in conjunction with the SCAC Annual Conference. Upon completion, participants will receive credit in the Institute of Government for County Officials. There is an \$80 registration fee for each course matching the amount for the in-person version of the course.



Strategic Planning is a Level I Elective that focuses on the importance of planning and goal setting within the policy-making process. Participants will be introduced to models of annual and strategic planning; goal development and prioritization; and methods for determining goal progress and accomplishment. The importance of a shared county vision and mission and linking the plan with the budget will be stressed.

Putting Dollars to Work for Your County is a panel discussion on the American Rescue Plan Act's (ARPA) Fiscal Recovery Fund and Treasury's guidance in addition to the Government Finance Officer's Association's recommended principles for local governments to consider when deciding how to use the money. Information is also covered on the General Assembly budgetary plan and on the state's investment and grant opportunities for broadband.

In order to access the courses on SCAC's Learning Portal, officials will need to first have an account with SCAC. For assistance, please contact Ryan Tooley at rtooley@scac.sc or (803) 252-7255.



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SCAC's 2021-22 Conference Calendar

Dec. 2 - 3

Legislative Conference
Renaissance, Charleston

2022

Jan. 26 & 27

S.C. Insurance Trusts Membership Meeting
Marriott Grand Dunes, Myrtle Beach

Feb. 23

Mid-Year Conference
Embassy Suites, Columbia

Feb. 24 & 25

Institute of Government
Embassy Suites, Columbia

Aug. 1 & 2

Institute of Government

Aug. 3 & 4

Annual Conference, Wild Dunes Resort,
Isle of Palms

You may register and pay online for SCAC
conferences at SCCounties.org/meetings.

NACo's 2022 Conference Calendar



Feb. 12 - 16

Legislative Conference
Washington Hilton
Washington, D.C.

July 21 - 24

Annual Conference
Adams County, Colorado

(Mid-Year Conference, Continued from P. 5)

Friday, February 25

- 9 a.m. – Noon Level II: Measuring and Reporting County Performance
- 9 a.m. – Noon Level II: Economic Development

A Council Chairperson's Workshop will be held concurrently with Institute classes on Feb. 24 from 1 – 4 p.m. This event will provide council chairpersons and vice chairs with an opportunity to explore topics and discuss issues relevant to their leadership roles on county council. This session is open to council chairs and vice chairs only.

Registration information will be shared with county officials in December. Please contact SCAC staff at (803) 252-7255 or tollfree at (800) 922-6081 if you have any questions.

Did You Know?

S.C. State Ethics Commission:

Did you know that public employees should not use government resources to assist candidates for office, including incumbents, with filing their campaign reports?

This means that public employees should not be working on campaign activity during business hours, while using government issued property such as computers or cellphones. This does not preclude a public employee from working on a political campaign on their own time, using their own property. For more information please see 8-13-1346 of the Ethics Reform Act.



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