

A scenic view of a mountain range with a person on a rocky outcrop in the foreground. The sky is blue with white clouds. A large tree branch is visible in the upper right corner. A person is standing on a rocky outcrop in the foreground, looking out over the valley. The text is overlaid on the middle of the image.

Appalachian Council of Governments 2018 Annual Report



Serving the Counties of Upstate South Carolina
Anderson | Cherokee | Greenville | Oconee | Pickens | Spartanburg





Our purpose is to enhance the lives of people living in the six-county South Carolina Appalachian Region. Since our establishment in 1965, we have maintained a commitment to provide quality services to local governments and special purpose districts in Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens, and Spartanburg County.

The heart of the organization is its team of board members and staff who are trusted, committed, multi-disciplined, analytical, and solutions oriented individuals who love the Appalachian Region they serve. We build and foster regional relationships, provide solutions for communities, and fill gaps in staff and administrative resources. The team serves as a regional facilitator, bringing diverse stakeholders to the table to address the most important issues facing the region, delivering holistic and collaborative planning, and facilitation for a wide range of constituents.

In 2018, the Appalachian Council of Governments improved the lives of the region's citizens through economic and community development, transportation, infrastructure development, resource management, senior advocacy, and workforce development. Our programs for the elderly, such as home-delivered meals, congregate dining, transportation, and counseling, benefit seniors across our region every day. Our focus on work skills development ensures people in our region keep up with the ever changing skill sets required by business and industry. Our focus on economic development through our InfoMentum economic development support system, assistance with grant funding for infrastructure, workforce development programs, and transportation planning, ensures our region is equipped to compete in a global economy.

While our programs are broad and widely varied, they all come back to serving the people of the Upstate. Whether it is general administration, assistance with grants, planning, or economic development support, we want to be a key resource for getting the job done.

We are pleased to provide this Annual Report for the Appalachian Council of Governments, covering our activities and accomplishments in 2018. I hope that you find it informative and thank you for supporting our region.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joe Dill'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Joe Dill, Chair
Board of Directors

“The most enjoyable part of the [Volunteer Ombudsman] program is simply bringing a little companionship and happiness to the resident. Since I visit a memory care facility, the relationships are a bit different from other types of long term care residents. The humanity that I see beneath the memory struggles is truly inspiring. The stories of these men and women are amazing.”

—Stewart, Volunteer Ombudsman

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About ACOG

The Appalachian Council of Governments (ACOG) is a voluntary organization of local governments in Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens, and Spartanburg Counties of Upstate South Carolina. The organization began in 1965 as the Appalachian Advisory Commission, a 12-member board created to advise the Governor on the use of Appalachian Regional Commission funds. In 1971, the Council of Governments system emerged. The organization became the Appalachian Council of Governments with a 44-member Board of Directors to set policy for the organization.

In the years since 1971, ACOG has evolved into a multifaceted service organization for local governments, providing public administration, planning, information systems and technology, grants, workforce development, and services for the elderly population. The ACOG works in close collaboration with our community partners toward building a competitive economy and promoting healthy, livable communities that preserve our residents' quality of life.

Funding for ACOG's programs and services comes from a variety of sources, including grants from federal and state agencies, as well as dues from member local governments. Major federal funding sources include the Appalachian Regional Commission, Economic Development Administration, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), and Older Americans Act. In 2018, approximately 75% of ACOG revenue came from federal sources, allowing us to provide many services at no charge. We encourage all community partners in our region to utilize this funding.

53
Years

6
Counties

42
Municipalities

5
Program Areas

41
Employees

Who We Serve

Anderson	Cherokee	Greenville	Oconee	Pickens	Spartanburg
Anderson	Blacksburg	Fountain Inn	Salem	Central	Campobello
Belton	Gaffney	Greenville	Seneca	Clemson	Central Pacolet
Honea Path		Greer	Walhalla	Easley	Chesnee
Iva		Mauldin	West Union	Liberty	Cowpens
Pelzer		Simpsonville	Westminster	Norris	Duncan
Pendleton		Travelers Rest		Pickens	Greer
Starr				Six Mile	Inman
West Pelzer					Landrum
Williamston					Lyman
					Pacolet
					Reidville
					Spartanburg
					Wellford
					Woodruff

ACOG Board of Directors

Joe Dill | Greenville County | 2018-2019 Board Chair
Representative Mike Forrester | Spartanburg County | Vice Board Chair
Mayor Henry Jolly | Cherokee County | Board Secretary
Dennis Claramunt | Anderson County
Mayor Mack Durham | Anderson County
Ray Graham | Anderson County
Rick Laughridge | Anderson County
Ted Mattison | Anderson County
Mayor Terence Roberts | Anderson County
Representative Anne Thayer | Anderson County
Cindy Wilson | Anderson County
David Cauthen | Cherokee County
Lyman Dawkins, III | Cherokee County
Ed Elliott | Cherokee County
Representative Dennis Moss | Cherokee County
Mayor Brandy Amidon | Greenville County
Representative Mike Burns | Greenville County
Reverend Grady Butler | Greenville County
Ennis Fant, Sr. | Greenville County
Lillian Brock Flemming | Greenville County
George Fletcher | Greenville County
Don Godbey | Greenville County
Butch Kirven | Greenville County
Willis Meadows | Greenville County
Senator Thomas Alexander | Oconee County
Bennie Cunningham | Oconee County
John Elliott | Oconee County
Dana Moore | Oconee County
Bob Winchester | Oconee County
Mayor Larry Bagwell | Pickens County
Representative Neal Collins | Pickens County
Roy Costner | Pickens County
Ensley Feemster | Pickens County
Margaret Thompson | Pickens County
Mayor Larry Chappell | Spartanburg County
Michael Fowler | Spartanburg County
Jane Hall | Spartanburg County
Manning Lynch | Spartanburg County
Jack Mabry | Spartanburg County
Roger Nutt | Spartanburg County
Elbert Tillerson, Sr. | Spartanburg County
Mayor Junie White | Spartanburg County
Francis Crowder | Regional
Ernest Riley | Regional

Appalachian Development Corporation

The Appalachian Development Corporation (ADC) is a non-profit economic development lending corporation offering multiple financing options that can be structured to meet client needs through "gap-financing" loans. The ADC administers ACOG's small business lending program. The ADC works in conjunction with local lending institutions to provide a structure that works by including long-term, fixed-rate funding sources that lower the overall debt service requirements and allows for the maximum leverage of the applicant's resources. The funding comes primarily from public dollars, thus the ADC's purpose is to create jobs for our area.

Among the ADC programs is the Appalachian Loan Fund (ALF). The ALF is a loan pool capitalized by grants from the Appalachian Regional Commission and the State of South Carolina. The ALF is a locally controlled source of low-cost, long-term, fixed-rate financing for businesses whose projects will result in the creation of permanent full time jobs and leverage private sector investment.

WorkLink

The WorkLink Workforce Development Board (WDB) develops the link between employers and employees in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens Counties. The volunteer board of directors ensures that the local workforce development system is market-driven and responsible in meeting the employment and training needs of businesses and job seekers. The board implements the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014 in partnership with local service providers through a comprehensive SC Works system that provides access points for employment and training services.

WorkLink funds programs for adults, dislocated workers, and youth ages 17 to 24, along with supporting employers and businesses through the On-the-Job Training and Incumbent-Worker Training programs. In 2018, WorkLink partnered with SCDEW and other partner agencies in their three-county service region to offer a variety of hiring events, workshops and job fairs, as well as the Business & Industry Showcase, to connect companies with job seekers and ensure those jobseekers have the skills needed to find employment.

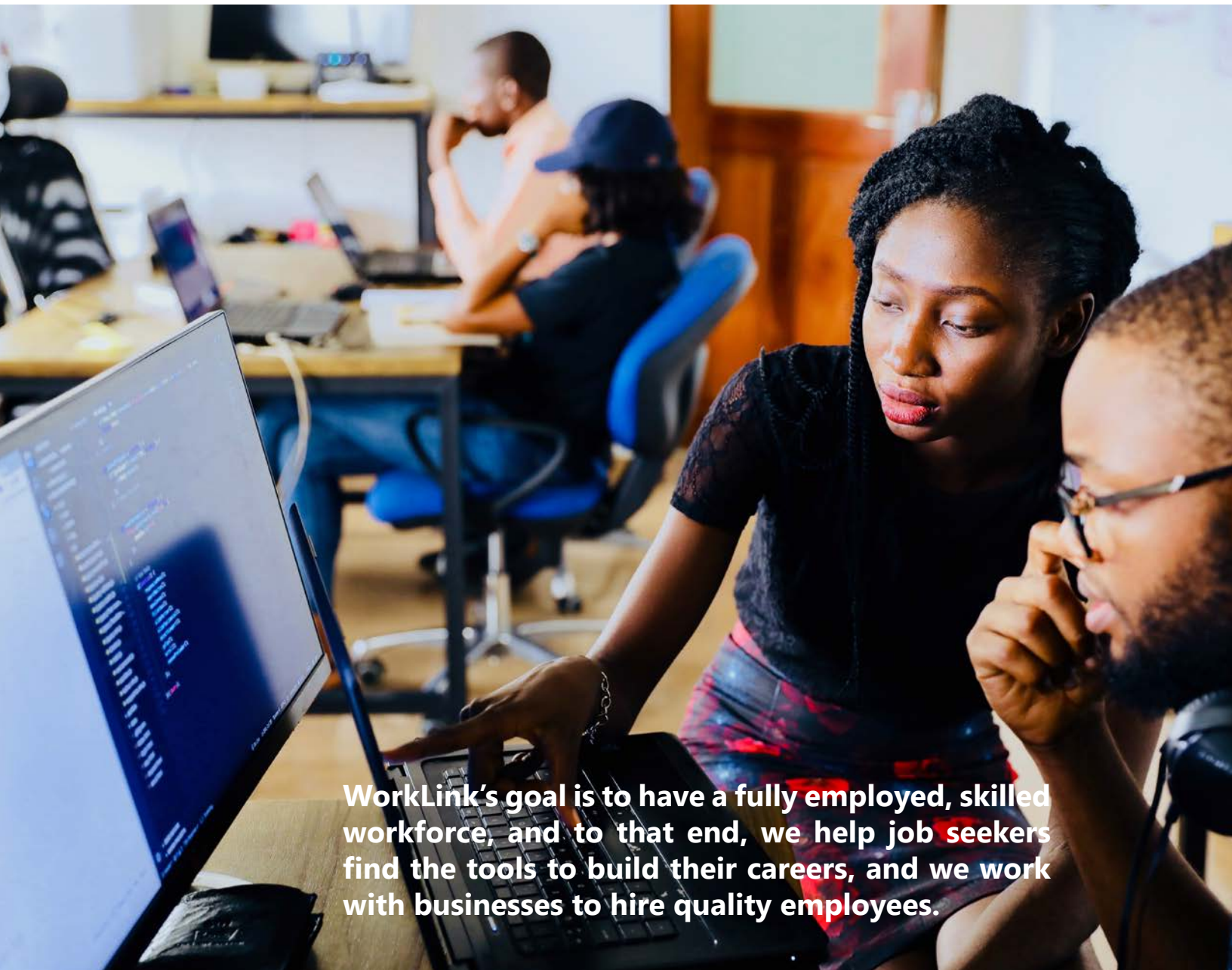
- **7,518** unique customers accessed job search services
- **19,745** customer visits to SC Works Centers in Anderson, Clemson, Easley, and Seneca
- **1,427** job seekers were served through **345** hiring events
- **1,125** job seekers found employment
- **742** dislocated workers assisted through **10** rapid response events
- **635** soft skills workshops and other group activities were held
- **4,500** eighth-graders attended the Anderson/Oconee/Pickens Business & Industry Showcase through assistance with transportation funding provided by WorkLink.
- **\$358,395** invested in Incumbent Worker Training to support skill upgrades for existing industry and their employees.
- **\$100,000** Transportation Grant in partnership with Electric City Transit to extend bus service to the Belton and Honea Path communities in Anderson County.

Paving The Way To Success

Meet Craig E. –

Craig E. entered the WIOA program in July 2017. It is through the partnership WIOA has with The Haven of Rest that has allowed Craig to achieve all of his goals. Craig was able to complete WorkKeys and scored a Gold in reading, Silver in locating information, and Gold in applied math. Craig was interested in the pre-highway construction field and was awarded scholarship assistance from Tri-County Technical College and WIOA to complete the pre-highway training. Craig completed his training in just one month.

Craig started working at Total Fitness in November, but still had aspirations to work in the pre-highway field. In February of 2018, Craig was given the opportunity to work full time with The Rogers Group as a quality control/roadway/lab technician. Through the partnership of WIOA, TCTC and The Haven of Rest, Craig has been able to complete his goal and obtain employment in the pre-highway construction field. This is an in-demand field in Anderson and surrounding counties, and Craig is now self-sufficient.



WorkLink's goal is to have a fully employed, skilled workforce, and to that end, we help job seekers find the tools to build their careers, and we work with businesses to hire quality employees.

Economic Development

The Economic Development Program works to create a regional environment that is conducive to economic and community growth. The program's primary role is support of regional economic development efforts through its delivery of the national-award-winning InfoMentum suite of GIS-based economic information services. Staff also assist local communities in the areas of research and localized economic development plans that help improve the local business environment and quality of life for business owners and residents alike.

InfoMentum

Whether promoting a site, a building, or an entire community, economic developers and strategic planners require timely, accurate, and geography-specific information in a quick and easily accessible format. InfoMentum enables investors to generate radius or drive time reports, area demographic and market profiles, and agency-branded maps. An agency-branded property search tool is also available to embed into each county's economic development website. The GIS-based mapping and data tools of ACOG's InfoMentum Online program give investing organizations a competitive advantage for supporting capital investment, job creation, and overall community enhancement.

Through the Infomentum Online application, users were able to generate 2,370 reports utilizing ESRI Business Analyst data, execute 735 data interactions with the online Business Analyst application, and create 174 data layers for more than 40 maps using ArcGis Online.

Fact Finder

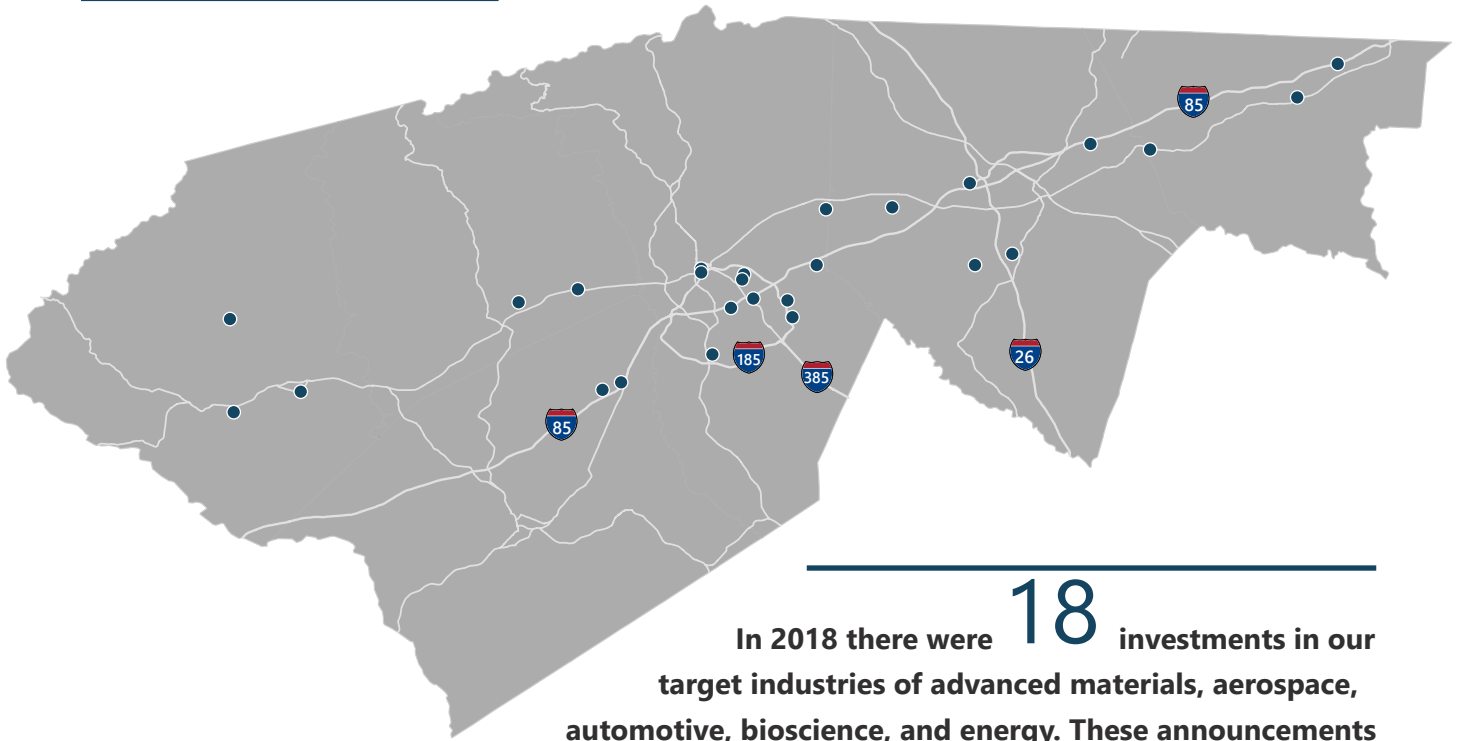
As part of the InfoMentum Suite, the Economic Development Program maintains and updates the Fact Finder application. Fact Finder is a comprehensive collection of statistical datasets containing demographic and economic information for the South Carolina Upstate Region. The range of topics includes population, labor market, housing, education, income, business & industry, infrastructure, banking & finance, and quality of life. The datasets are available for download in an excel format from our website: www.scacog.org/Fact-Finder.

This year, the Economic Development Program updated and maintained a total of 100 datasets for the Fact Finder application and began the transition to a new, interactive website for the datasets utilizing Tableau software.

Fact Sheets

Our Fact Sheets are published each year for the region's six counties and 42 municipalities, as well as one for the ACOG Region as a whole. These documents utilize a series of tables, charts, and illustrations to show the socioeconomic characteristics of the subject geography. The Economic Development Program also maintains Fact Sheets for an expanded geographic area to assist the Upstate SC Alliance in promoting the 10-county Upstate Region. In total, 80 Fact Sheets were updated in 2018 utilizing data from ESRI Business Analyst and government sources, such as the Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the South Carolina Department of Revenue. These sheets are available in PDF format and may be accessed at www.scacog.org/Fact-Sheets

2018 Capital Investments in the Region



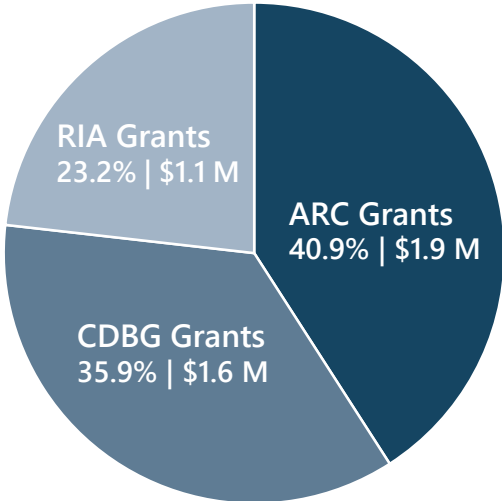
In 2018 there were **18** investments in our target industries of advanced materials, aerospace, automotive, bioscience, and energy. These announcements totaled **\$286 M** and will generate more than **940** Jobs.



Grants

The primary function of the Grants Services Program is to assist local governments in identifying, securing, and administering funds for a wide range of community and economic development activities. These include water and sewer facilities, road improvements, community and senior centers, downtown and neighborhood revitalization projects, and streetscaping.

Services include determining community needs, project identification and development, application development, and project management. The following are some of the funding sources available:



Appalachian Regional Commission

ARC’s mission is to innovate, partner and invest to build capacity and strengthen economic growth in Appalachia through:

- Economic Opportunities
- Ready Workforce
- Critical Infrastructure
- Natural and Cultural Assets
- Leadership and Community Capacity

Economic Development Administration

EDA invests in infrastructure, capacity building and business development that attract private capital investments and high quality jobs through:

- Recovery and Resilience
- Critical Infrastructure
- Workforce Development and Manufacturing
- Exports and Foreign Domestic Investment

Community Development Block Grant

The South Carolina Community Development Block Grant Program is designed to provide assistance in improving economic opportunities and meeting community revitalization needs, particularly for persons of low and moderate income through:

- Community Infrastructure
- Community Enrichment
- Neighborhood Revitalization

SC Rural Infrastructure Authority

- RIA programs and assistance are designed to meet one or more of the following objectives:
- Increase community sustainability by helping to maintain reliable and affordable infrastructure
- Improve the quality of life by addressing public health, environmental and regulatory concerns
- Create opportunities for economic impact by building the infrastructure capacity to support economic development



Ready Workforce

This year, ACOG facilitated **\$1.2 Million** in grants to increase the education, knowledge, and skills of residents in the region to work and succeed.



Critical Infrastructure

This year, ACOG facilitated **\$5.2 Million** in grants to improve and develop critical water and wastewater infrastructure in the region.



Natural & Cultural Assets

This year, ACOG facilitated **\$3.2 Million** in grants to leverage the economic potential of the region’s natural and cultural heritage.

Grant Funds to Clean Up Brownfield in Honea Path



Photo: Post and Courier

A \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant and a \$49,500 EPA Grant assists in the cleanup effort at the Chiquola Mill, which will benefit the 3,775 persons living in Honea Path.

The Chiquola Mill, now just the smoke tower and the blighted, remnants of the demolished buildings, continue to affect and evoke strong emotions in the community. The residents of the Chiquola Mill neighborhood are concerned for the safety of themselves and their children, due to potential hazardous substances on the site, dangerous structural issues, the blight associated with the buildings and debris, and nuisance activity the mill site attracts.

Honea Path’s neighborhoods have struggled to thrive due to the presence of the Chiquola Mill. Brownfields create barriers to revitalization of downtown and neighborhoods, making it difficult to create an environment attractive to new industry and a talented workforce. Addressing the brownfield is a challenge that plagues this community, both physically and emotionally and is crucial to moving forward in creating a healthy and vibrant town.

The cleanup project at Chiquola Mill will protect the health and safety of Honea Path residents and will further assist with community and economic development activities.

2018 In Review

26 Grant projects facilitated

21,500 SqFt of building renovations

3 Miles of water line infrastructure added in the region

35,000 Residents are benefiting from this year’s grant projects

5.3 Miles of new trails and sidewalks built in the region

163 Jobs created

2,341 Students and workers trained and educated

8 Miles of sewer line infrastructure added in the region

130,950 Annual visitors are expected from the improvements



Economic Opportunity

This year, ACOG facilitated **\$980,000** in grants to provide infrastructure improvements to maximize the economic opportunities for local areas in the region.



Community Enrichment

This year, ACOG facilitated **\$1.3 million** in grants to build a better future for the communities in our region through master plans, neighborhood revitalization, and brownfield clean ups.



Total

This year, ACOG facilitated **\$12 million** in grants to improve the economy of the region and the quality of life of our region’s residents.

Government Services

The Government Services Program offers expertise in human resources, communications, finance, and government administration to serve the needs of our partner municipalities, counties, and special purpose districts in the six-county region of the Upstate. An Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant supports the Government Services Program activities. This allows our member communities to benefit from our cost effective services and technical assistance without incurring the on-going costs required for additional in-house personnel.

The program's goal is to provide a source of experienced personnel to meet the evolving needs of communities in a broad range of service areas. Staff offers a suite of training services for employees and management teams, from supervisor and manager training classes, to board/council retreats and strategic planning sessions. Assistance with financial management services for long-range planning, interim administration services, and mentoring for senior staff is also available.

In 2018 the Government Services Program:

- Provided technical assistance to local governments and special purpose districts in the six-county region in the areas of personnel, compensation classification research, finance and taxation, and other local government issues.
- Facilitated planning retreats and goal setting sessions for **3 communities**
- Provided interim **city administrator** services for Town of Inman during their administrator search.
- Delivered **10 training sessions** on sexual harassment
- Hosted **3 HomeTown Connection meetings** at ACOG on behalf of South Carolina Municipal Association to Upstate elected officials
- Offered a **seven-week basic management/supervisory training** program for lower-level and first-time supervisors to local governments and special purpose districts
- Assisted communities with staffing searches, including directly facilitating the recruitment, background check, and interview processes. **3 administrator searches** were included.



Planning Services

The Planning Services Program works with communities to enhance local and regional efforts to promote community development and improve quality of life. The role of the program is broad, ranging from transportation and regional sewer coordination to local planning efforts and planning administrative services. The program focuses on assisting communities by developing goals and identifying actions to help achieve their vision.

In 2018, the Planning Services Program assisted municipalities in the region with updates to their comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances, developed new land development regulations, and provided Zoning Administration. In addition, the Planning Services Program provides program administration services to the Anderson HOME Consortium including development of the Annual Action Plan, CAPER, and oversight of the rehabilitation of six homes for low and moderate income families in Anderson County.

Through the coordination of the 208 Regional Water Quality Management Plan, the program oversaw 179 Section 208 Conformance Reviews for sewer projects in the region, as well as provided technical assistance and facilitation of discussions on issues in the Tyger, Enoree, Saluda, and Savannah River Basins.

Transportation

The Planning Services Program also manages the Appalachian Long Range Transportation Plan and the Rural Transportation Improvement Program, coordinating the implementation of the projects identified in these documents with SCDOT. This year, approximately \$5.9 million of funding was provided to projects in Anderson, Cherokee, Oconee, Pickens, and Spartanburg Counties for right-of-way, engineering, and construction of access roads and intersection improvements.

The program also assisted human service transit providers with grants for funding the purchase of vehicles for transit needs. A total of six agencies submitted 10 applications requesting funding. Of the ten applications, six received funding totaling \$315,000.

\$5.9 M

Funding to local road improvements

\$315,000

Funding awarded to the region for the purchase of transit vehicles

6

Homes were rehabilitated through the Anderson HOME Consortium

2

Comprehensive Plan updates

179

Section 208 Water Quality Conformance Reviews for sewer projects in the region

174

Persons attended continuing planning education and training courses

3

Zoning Ordinances updates for local municipalities

Senior Advocacy

The Appalachian Council of Governments (ACOG) serves as the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for the six-county Appalachian Region. The AAA provides information and assistance to older adults, persons with disabilities and caregivers. We also operate the Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, the Regional Family Caregiver Program, and the State Health Insurance Program.

Services

Family Caregiver Support Program

The Family Caregiver Support Program provides information, referral, and assistance for services needed, options counseling, support groups, and limited short-term financial help for respite care and supplemental supplies. The Family Caregiver Support Program helps those who are responsible for persons age 60 or older who cannot perform essential tasks without aid, those with Alzheimer's, or those raising a child (0-18). In 2018, the program provided \$618,981 in supplies, in-home respite, educational tutoring, clothes, shoes, and school supplies to nearly 600 families.

Information & Referral

In 2018, our Information & Referral Assistance specialists assisted 8,248 seniors and caregivers in our region by answering their questions and connecting them with needed services.

Nutrition Program

The Nutrition Program oversees the provision of nutritious meals to persons age 60 or older, and their spouses. Dining facilities work to reduce isolation in the senior community through socialization and activities. This year, the Nutrition Program coordinated the delivery of more than 3,700 meals to the homes of seniors, as well as meals at group dining facilities for over 2,200 seniors in our region.

State Health Insurance Program

The State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) provides up-to-date information on Medicare, supplements, and health insurance to older adults, caregivers, and disabled adults. Our Certified Insurance Counselors provided on-site awareness, education, and enrollment assistance to more than 5,000 Medicare

beneficiaries in 2018. SHIP also led 50 outreach events providing more than 4,000 attendees with the information they need to make informed decisions. Additionally, 1,900 Farmers' Market vouchers were distributed to seniors in the region totaling \$47,500 for fresh, local produce.

Ombudsman Program

The Long Term Care Ombudsman Program provides complaint resolution for residents of long-term care facilities. This year, the program consulted with over 2,000 people, providing information to seniors, family members, caregivers, and facilities in the region. The Ombudsman Staff investigated nearly 700 cases concerning abuse, neglect, exploitation, or other quality of care issues on behalf of residents living in long term care facilities. The most common complaint in nursing homes was physical abuse and in community residential care facilities it was medication management.

In 2018, our Ombudsmen staff led 125 trainings and 19 community education events on topics such as the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, recognizing and reporting abuse, neglect, and exploitation, resident's rights, dealing with difficult behavior, communication, and dementia dialogue. These trainings and community education events are crucial to building awareness in the region.

More than 60% of the residents living in long term care facilities in South Carolina have no visitors. The lack of social contact and a support system often results in depression and an overall decline in health. The Ombudsman Staff and Volunteer Ombudsmen went on 793 and 880 "friendly" visits, respectively to our region's facilities. Our staff and volunteers greatly reduce the sense of isolation many long-term care residents experience.

Senior Angel Tree Project

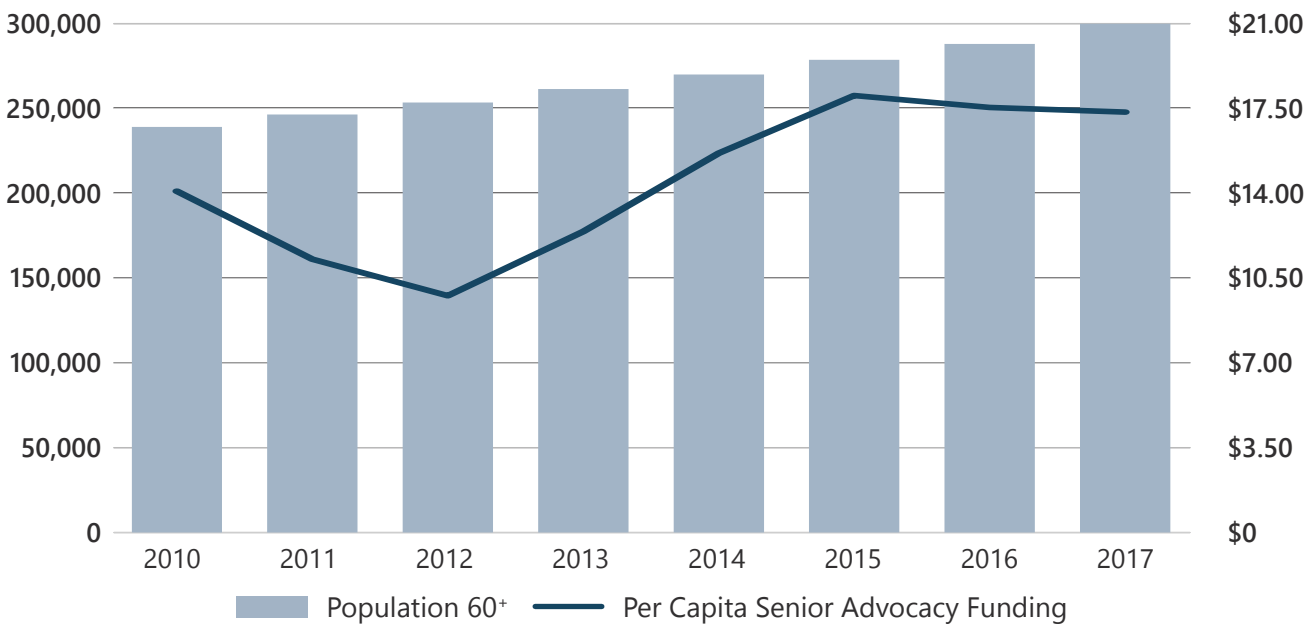
This year's Angel Tree Project benefited a facility in Taylors, SC with 44 residents. This facility accepts Medicaid residents and many do not have family or friends to visit them.

Each year the Appalachian Council of Government's Long Term Care Ombudsman Program heads up this project. Each resident writes a "wish list" with various items and those who donate can "adopt" a senior and purchase the items. The Ombudsman Program collects donations to provide each resident with items from their wish list as well as toiletry items, socks, hats, gloves, snack foods and activity books.

This year, to supplement the donations from the ACOG staff, the ACOG Board of Directors and the RAAC Board, the Ombudsman Program reached out to the community. More than a dozen members of the website Next Door in the Taylors area reached out to help with the project. They provided monetary donations as well as adopting several angels themselves and purchasing the wish list items. It was great to see the local community joining in to give back to the seniors in need.



Per Capita Senior Advocacy Funding v.s. Senior Population

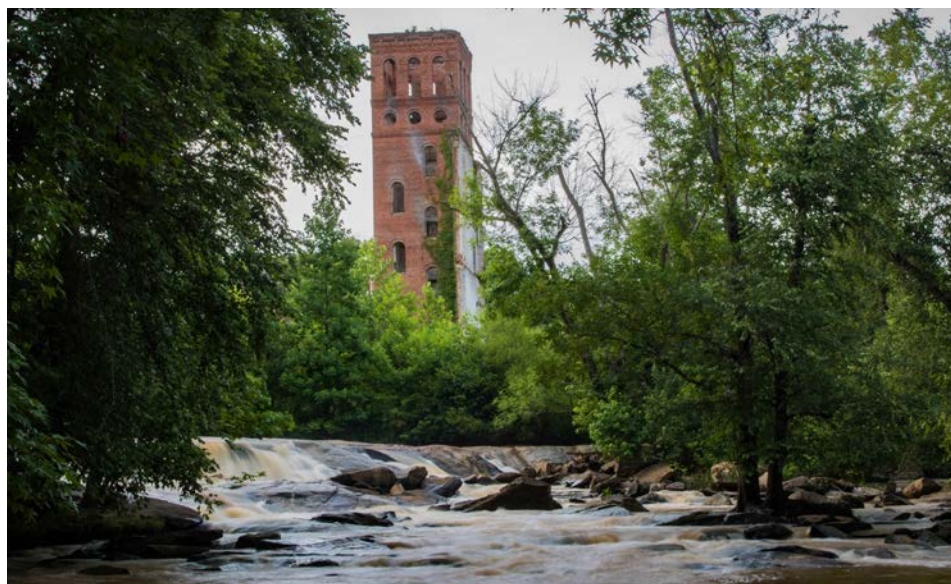


In 2018, the Area Agency on Aging received **\$5.2 M** in federal and state funding. With a population of nearly **300,000 seniors age 60+** in our region, this funding equates to **\$17.35 per senior** for needed services.





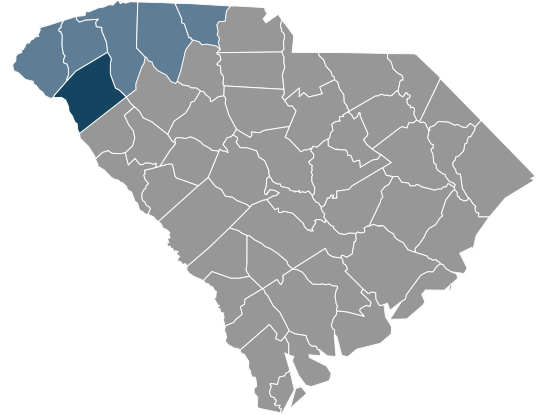
The Appalachian Region



Anderson County

Anderson County lies along I-85 in the northwestern portion of South Carolina, equidistant to Atlanta, GA and Charlotte, NC. The area, with one of the lowest costs of living in the United States, is a thriving industrial, commercial, and tourist center. With more than 15 universities and colleges within 50 miles of Anderson, there are many great higher education options for students. With all of these, Anderson

County has the integrated resources available to help train and develop a highly skilled workforce with the prestigious education and training programs of institutions including Anderson University, Clemson University, and Tri-County Technical College. Anderson County is also home to 55,950 acre Lake Hartwell, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lake with nearly 1,000 miles of shoreline for residential and recreational use. Its communities have a small town feel that make people want to stay. From a temperate southern climate and Lake Hartwell, to leading universities and a variety of arts programs, Anderson County offers an unmatched combination of quality of life features that makes for an ideal location for all of its citizens.



Anderson County Airport Adds A New Terminal

In September of 2018, Anderson Regional Airport celebrated the re-opening of Runway 5-23 and the groundbreaking of a new airport terminal. The new airport terminal project is expected to cost \$1.4 million and was partially funded by a \$500,000 Appalachian Regional Commission Grant. Our Grants Program assisted Anderson County with facilitation of the grant funds and is providing grant management.

The improved runway, coupled with the new airport terminal, are investments in the local economy and are expected to improve economic activity in the county. The larger runway is built to accommodate a variety of commercial planes used for corporate and personal travel, as well as for air cargo, making the airport more accessible. The new airport terminal is being constructed next to the existing terminal. The facility will be ADA compliant and will offer pilots, corporate visitors, and the community laptop work areas, a 40-person conference room, and a catering and food prep area.

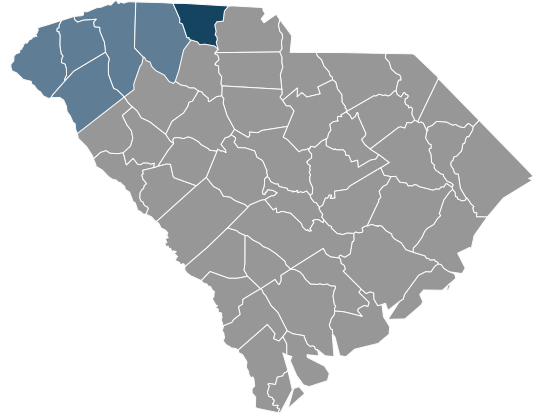


2018 Return on Investment | Anderson County

Community Economic Development Grants	\$1,345,250
Services to Seniors	\$801,647
Transit Services	\$105,000
Transportation Improvement Program	\$350,000
Workforce Development	\$727,350
Total Funding into Anderson County	\$3,329,247
Annual County Contribution to ACOG	\$93,885
Return on County Investment	\$35.46

Cherokee County

The county was named for the Cherokees who once made it their home. It was formed in 1897, and the county seat is Gaffney. Iron mining was such an important activity in this region before the Civil War, it is sometimes called the Old Iron District. Today, Cherokee County enjoys a thriving and profitable local economy and an abundance of natural and manufactured resources. Cherokee County sits in a prime location just off I-85 between Charlotte, NC and Greenville/Spartanburg, SC. Charlotte's Douglas International Airport and the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport are both within 45 miles, and the mainline of Norfolk Southern Railroad runs through Cherokee County. The Port of Charleston is easily accessible via major highways. Cherokee County offers an unbeatable combination of such factors as an abundant and educated work force with customized training by South Carolina Technical Schools, a diversified industrial base, a high standard of living and quality of life, pro-business local governments, and easy access to transportation routes.



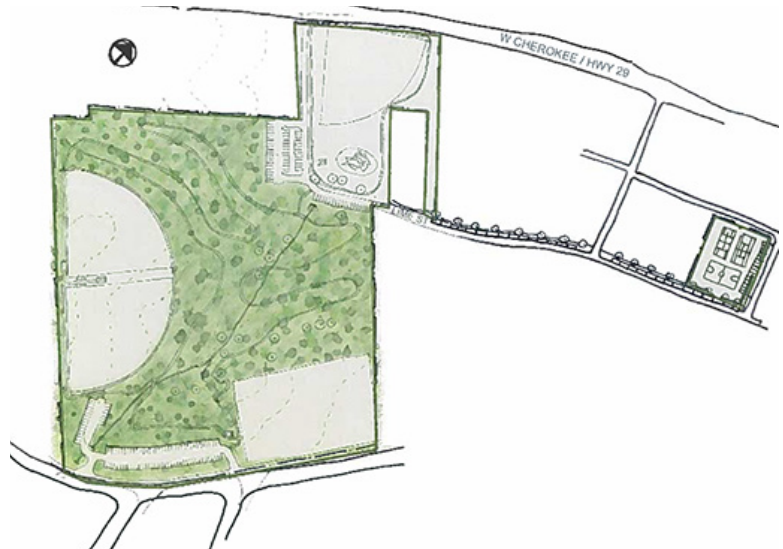
Blacksburg Gets A New Trailhead and Park

The ACOG Grants Program assisted the Town of Blacksburg with preparation of an Appalachian Regional Commission grant application and is providing grant management for a \$500,000 grant for the new Lime Street Park and Trailhead along US-29. The new park and trailhead will improve access to natural and cultural resources for the residents of Blacksburg and surrounding areas, and increase the number of visitors the area sees each year.

The 25-acre Lime Street Park will have designated areas for both active and passive recreation, including trails and a trailhead connecting downtown Blacksburg to the Overmountain Victory Trail. Other amenities will include parking, shelter and picnic areas, rest areas, upgrades to Porter Field, and a new baseball and softball field. The trailhead will consist of a "Figure 8" half-mile walking trail and a one mile nature trail. The trailhead will connect to the Overmountain Victory Trail which provides access to the Cowpens Battleground and to Kings Mountain National Park.

The new park and trailhead will not only improve access to natural and cultural resources for the residents of Blacksburg and surrounding areas, but will increase the number of visitors the area sees each year. The Overmountain Victory Trail follows US-29, a route that runs through downtown Blacksburg and is a major business corridor. In addition, The Cowpens Battleground and Kings Mountain National Park attract thousands of visitors a year due to the historic significance of the sites during the Revolutionary War.

The Town of Blacksburg, City of Gaffney, and Cherokee County will see economic benefits from the project. In addition, increased tourism in the area will benefit local businesses from increased traffic around the park and trial network.

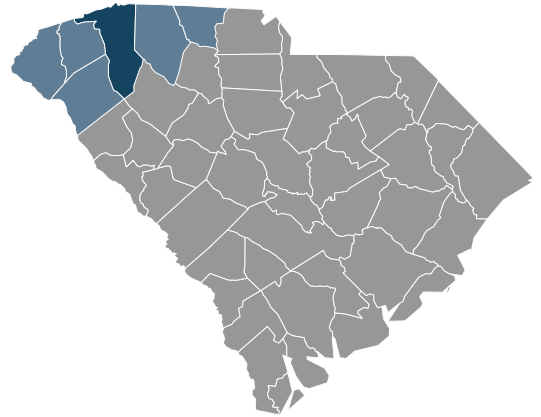


2018 Return on Investment | Cherokee County

Community Economic Development Grants	\$500,000
Services to Seniors	\$495,092
Transit Services	\$55,000
Transportation Improvement Program	\$600,000
Total Funding into Cherokee County	\$1,650,092
Annual County Contribution to ACOG	\$29,055
Return on County Investment	\$56.79

Greenville County

Encouraged by abundant streams and rivers, textile manufacturers began operating in the Upstate in the 1820s. Over the past thirty years, Greenville County has transformed from the textile capital of the world into a headquarters, technology, and advanced manufacturing center. In addition, the engineering industry has a robust presence in the area. As South Carolina's most populous county, Greenville is situated in the northwestern corner of the state and is part of one of the nation's fastest growing areas, "The I-85 Corridor." Greenville is located on I-85 between Atlanta, GA and Charlotte, NC. The Atlantic Ocean and Port of Charleston are 200 miles to the southeast down I-26, and the Blue Ridge Mountains are just 15 minutes away. The Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport has been cited by Condé Nast Traveler as one of the top ten airports in the country. Greenville County has a unique blend of southern traditions and international influences, gentle rolling hills, and beautiful majestic mountains—just the right combinations for a great place to live, work, and visit.



ACOG Assists With Workforce Data Collaborative

One of the biggest economic development challenges we face in the region is the task of offering existing and prospective industries a skilled and available workforce. With unemployment rates at or near historic lows, companies are finding it more and more difficult to recruit qualified candidates. In response to this challenge, the Workforce Data Collaborative (WDC) was formed to collect and analyze data to examine barriers to workforce participation and identify opportunities to enhance participation. In addition to the Appalachian Council of Governments, founding members of the WDC include the Greenville Chamber, Greenville Area Development Corporation, and SC Works.

The WDC will utilize primary data from employees and employers in Greenville County, together with secondary data from state and federal sources, to analyze four primary workforce participation barriers: transportation, housing, child care, and criminal records. The resulting analyses will be shared with business leaders and policymakers to inform administrative, regulatory, or policy changes to enhance workforce participation.

As its first task, the WDC agreed to examine transportation data given the activity in this space and the need for data to inform administrative and policy deliberations. The WDC will analyze employee origin and destination data and survey employees regarding their current mode of transportation to work and their likelihood of utilizing public transportation. Upon completion of the study, policy-makers will have current and local data that can be used to drive discussions around public transportation and transportation infrastructure needs in the county and the region.

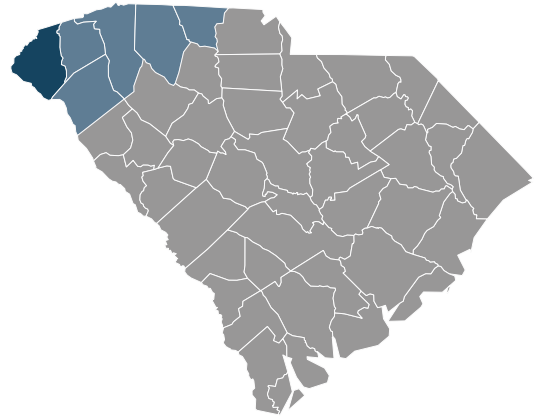


2018 Return on Investment | Greenville County

Community Economic Development Grants	\$350,000
PIP Grants	\$675,000
Services to Seniors	\$1,673,549
Total Funding into Greenville County	\$2,698,549
Annual County Contribution to ACOG	\$161,274
Return on County Investment	\$16.73

Oconee County

The county was formed in 1868, and the county seat is Walhalla. This area was originally home to the Cherokees. After the American Revolution, settlers from other parts of the state began moving in, including Germans from Charleston who founded Walhalla in 1850. Oconee County is in the foothills of the beautiful Appalachian Mountains and encompasses rivers, lakes, and forests. As one of South Carolina's most scenic and economically stimulating counties, Oconee County is situated in the northwestern corner of the state and is part of one of the nation's fastest growing areas, the I-85 Corridor. With a diversified economic base, Oconee offers a wide variety of occupational and recreational opportunities. The towns of Oconee County are also located on the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor, which extends from the Upstate to Charleston.



TIP Program Approves Access Road For OITP

The Oconee Industry & Technology Park (OITP) is a certified industrial park off Highway-11 in the center of the county. The park is home to manufacturers such as Baxter Enterprises and Hi-Tech Mold/Engineering, with room for growth including a 50,000 square-foot pad site available and eight buildings proposed.

In addition to these manufacturers, Tri-County Technical College, Oconee County, and the Oconee County School District have worked together to build a hub for workforce development at the park. The complex will include the Tri-County Technical College Oconee Campus, The Hamilton Career Center, and a workforce training center providing a unique opportunity for manufacturers, students, and future employees to have direct access to each other.

In the Fall of 2018, Tri-County Technical College’s Oconee Campus opened, providing students with education and training programs focused in manufacturing. The Oconee Campus is phase one of a larger project to bring together a three-tiered system for educating, training, and employing a skilled workforce in Oconee County. In the next phase, the Hamilton Career Center will relocate next door to the Oconee Campus as the SDOC CATE Center to provide high school students an opportunity to learn valuable skills in the manufacturing industry.

The success of this project resulted from a willingness of all parties involved to work together towards a common goal: building a stronger workforce. In addition, safe access to the campus was needed. The ACOG approved the construction of three access roads through the Transportation Improvement Program and provided \$1.234 million in funding. These roads will provide direct access to the campus parking lot, ease the circulation of traffic for heavy industrial vehicles into and out of the park, and provide necessary infrastructure to create additional shovel ready sites in the park.



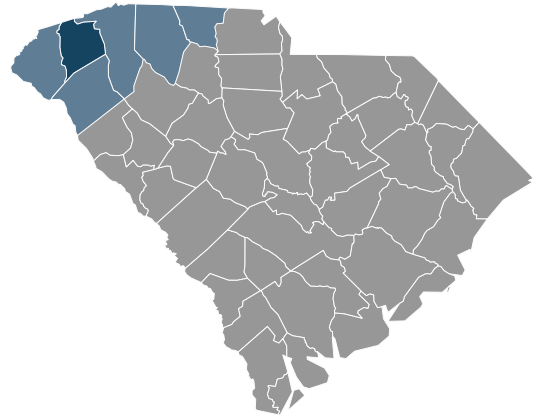
Photo Courtesy: Tri-County Technical College

2018 Return on Investment | Oconee County

Community Economic Development Grants	\$1,053,960
Services to Seniors	\$456,474
Transit Services	\$55,000
Transportation Improvement Program	\$2,734,000
Workforce Development	\$532,381
Total Funding into Oconee County	\$4,831,815
Annual County Contribution to ACOG	\$38,993
Return on County Investment	\$123.91

Pickens County

The county and its county seat were named for Revolutionary War hero Andrew Pickens (1739-1817). This area, in the northwestern corner of the state was Cherokee territory until 1777. The earliest European settlers in this region were traders. John C. Calhoun (1782-1850), United States vice president, senator, and cabinet member, made his home at Fort Hill Plantation in Pickens County. His son-in-law, Thomas Green Clemson (1807-1888), bequeathed the plantation to the state for use as an agricultural college, which led to the founding of Clemson University. Pickens County is also part of one of the nation's fastest growing regions, the I-85 Corridor. Nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge mountains, Pickens County has the best of both worlds. It has a small town atmosphere, while located only 30 minutes from Greenville and two hours from Atlanta, GA and Charlotte, NC. Pickens encompasses beautiful Lakes Jocassee and Keowee, and is home to prestigious Clemson University. It is an area rich in history, beauty, and vision for the future.



Central Community Center Opens In Pickens County

In October of 2018, Pickens County Meals on Wheels (PCMOW), The Town of Central and the Clemson Institute for Engaged Aging held the official ribbon cutting ceremony for the grand opening of the Central Community Center. This important event was made possible through the collaborative efforts of PCMOW, the Town of Central, City of Clemson and the Clemson University Institute for Engaged Aging (IEA).

In the fall of 2017, PCMOW, Central, Clemson, and the IEA began discussing the needs in the Central community and surrounding areas. These conversations revealed that each organization had been providing varying levels of services to seniors, yet no one organization had the resources to repair the building and/or start-up a full-range of services alone. Joining forces, the decision was made to move forward with a collaborative effort to repair the building, eliminate duplication of services and expand services to fill gaps in the area.

Pickens County Council’s unanimous decision to sell the building to the Town of Central paved the way for the Permanent Improvement (PIP) grant from the SC Lt. Governor’s Office on Aging. The Town of Central provided the 30% local match of \$14,550 needed to apply for the grant. In June, PCMOW was awarded a \$48,500 grant that provided funding to bring the facility in compliance with all applicable federal, state and local building codes and operational regulations including the Americans with Disabilities Act, fire and safety codes, and DHEC. The newly renovated space opened for use on Monday, September 24, 2018.

The overarching goal is to utilize the space as a focal point for senior services in the Central, Clemson and surrounding area. The site operates as an extension of the PCMOW’s current Young at Heart program offered at the McKissick Center in Liberty. These facilities not only serve meals to seniors, but provide exercise classes and a variety of games and activities to minimize the isolation many seniors experience.

The space also facilitates a new and greatly needed service in the area. On Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00pm – 3:45pm, the IEA’s “Brain Health Club” offers cognitively and socially stimulating activities to those with early to mid-stage Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias (ADRD). During this time, caregivers can leave their loved one in a safe environment and enjoy a respite from their caregiving role. The day program also facilitates inter-generational interaction between participants and Clemson University student volunteers.

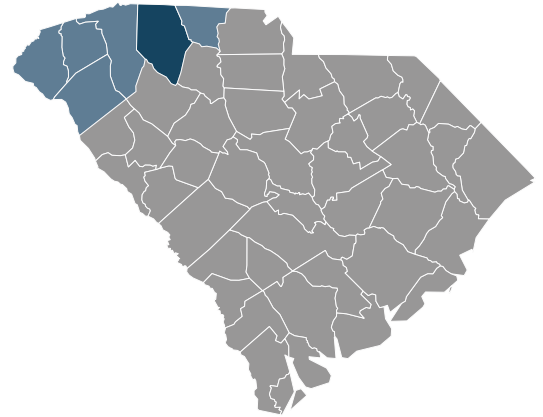
The facility is designed to benefit the community as a whole. In addition, Central and Clemson now use the space for an after-school program, party rentals and community meetings.

2018 Return on Investment | Pickens County

Community Economic Development Grants	\$500,000
Services to Seniors	\$557,090
Small Business and Entrepreneurial Loan Program	\$200,000
PIP Grant	\$67,898
Private Capital Resulting from Loans	\$2,911,000
Transit Services	\$50,000
Transportation Improvement Program	\$1,100,000
Workforce Development	\$642,543
Total Funding into Pickens County	\$6,028,531
Annual County Contribution to ACOG	\$61,631
Return on County Investment	\$97.82

Spartanburg County

Formed in 1785, Spartanburg County and its county seat were named for the Spartan Regiment, a local militia unit that fought in the Revolutionary War. The county has grown from a frontier trading post and later a major textile center to a more diversified manufacturing center. Spartanburg County also is an international business center with the highest per capita foreign investment and more than 110 international firms, including BMW Manufacturing Corporation. Spartanburg County offers businesses an excellent transportation system, including highways, rail and truck lines, Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport, and proximity to the Port of Charleston. Spartanburg's location at the crossroads of two major interstate highways, I-85 and I-26, put it at the top of the list for business and personal relocation.



ACOG Assists Lyman With City Planning Projects

The Town of Lyman approved an update to their Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Ordinance and Land Development Regulations in 2017 and asked ACOG staff to assist them through the process. The town has seen significant residential growth over the last few years and is seeking to be more proactive in addressing the challenges of a high-growth community.

ACOG staff kicked off the planning process in early 2018 and has held a number of public meetings and focus groups designed to solicit input on Lyman’s priorities. Lyman has unique opportunities for redevelopment and investment; namely the old Pacific Mills property adjacent to town hall and the Central Business District along Groce Road. Conversely, one of Lyman’s challenges is enticing commuters off of a busy US Highway 29 to enjoy some of the amenities the town has to offer. Thus far, the planning process has identified four focus areas that the Comprehensive Plan will address: Quality of Life, Sense of Place and Identity, Transportation for All, and Communication. Town council appointed a Stakeholder Committee to work alongside ACOG staff to finalize the goals, objectives and strategies of the plan. ACOG staff anticipates that the plan will be wrapped up soon. At the conclusion of the Comprehensive Planning process, ACOG staff will work with the town to amend the Zoning Ordinance based on the plan’s recommendations.

Another major hurdle of high-growth communities is traffic. An influx of residential development along Holly Springs Road has generated a significant amount of roadway congestion in the area, especially during peak hours. During the Comprehensive Planning process, ACOG staff worked with town council and the town planning commission to draft a set of Land Development Regulations that define standards for residential and commercial subdivisions. The Land Development Regulations place requirements on new subdivisions for access points, traffic improvements and street interconnectivity. The town council adopted the Land Development Regulations on second reading on September 10, 2018.



2018 Return on Investment | Spartanburg County

Community Economic Development Grants	\$793,214
PIP Grants	\$706,228
Services to Seniors	\$624,559
Transit Services	\$50,000
Transportation Improvement Program	\$1,100,000
Total Funding into Spartanburg County	\$3,274,001
Annual County Contribution to ACOG	\$135,830
Return on County Investment	\$24.10




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