



For Immediate Release

May 25, 2021

## **RIA supports infrastructure improvements across South Carolina**

*More than \$13 million in grant funding awarded*

**COLUMBIA, S.C.—** The S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) has approved grant assistance for 27 projects, totaling more than \$13 million. RIA is proud to support water, sewer and storm drainage projects that ensure reliability for utility customers, protect the public health of those served by the infrastructure and expand it to assist new and existing industries. This brings the total funds awarded this fiscal year to \$26.1 million.

These RIA grants will be combined with more than \$25 million in local and other funds to address pressing health and environmental concerns, replace infrastructure that is beyond its useful life and support thriving economies. The partnerships among federal, state and local governments provide a critical supplement to local efforts to fund utility service through sustainable business models.

“Now more than ever, the RIA is committed to helping communities achieve long-term sustainability in water and sewer infrastructure,” said Executive Director Bonnie Ammons. “This is not a new concept. Our grant program often helps to address the most critical needs of a system. But, we are also striving to develop targeted, forward-looking strategies to work together with utilities to build a stronger future.”

Some of the recipients selected in this round will use the grant funds to correct issues with sewer overflows and improve drinking water quality. Other projects will replace infrastructure that has reached the end of its useful life and lay the groundwork for future capacity needs.

The remaining projects will extend or improve infrastructure to serve businesses and industry in the state that are creating jobs and other economic opportunities locally. Together, these fiscal year 2021 projects will benefit more than 81,000 customers in 32 counties, with more than 70% of the projects targeting rural areas.

RIA grants are awarded twice a year through a competitive process that considers the need for improved public health, environmental protection, community sustainability and economic development. Applications are selected by the RIA board based on criteria, including severity of the problem, expected impact and project feasibility. Recipients share in the cost of projects by paying for non-construction activities and, oftentimes, providing additional funds for construction.

A list of grant recipients for the second round of competitive grants for fiscal year 2021 is below. To learn more about RIA or how to apply for grant assistance, visit [www.ria.sc.gov](http://www.ria.sc.gov).

|  |                                       |             |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Aiken County/Breezy Hill Water & Sewer Co.     | Water Line Improvements               | \$500,000   |
| Bennettsville, City of                         | Water System Improvements             | \$498,740   |
| Calhoun County                                 | Water Line Improvements               | \$500,000   |
| Carlisle, Town of                              | Sewer System Improvements             | \$2,000,000 |
| Chapin, Town of                                | Sewer System Improvements             | \$500,000   |
| Clarendon County                               | Sewer System Improvements             | \$500,000   |
| Eastover, Town of                              | Water System Improvements             | \$135,000   |
| Edgefield County Water & Sewer Authority       | Economic Water Infrastructure         | \$167,250   |
| Edgefield County Water & Sewer Authority       | Water System Improvements             | \$500,000   |
| Georgetown County                              | Economic Water Infrastructure         | \$100,000   |
| Georgetown, City of                            | Sewer System Improvements             | \$403,178   |
| Greenwood Metropolitan District                | Sewer System Improvements             | \$500,000   |
| Jackson, Town of                               | Water Line Improvements               | \$188,351   |
| Kershaw County                                 | Economic Sewer Infrastructure         | \$800,000   |
| Lowcountry Regional Water System               | Economic Sewer Infrastructure         | \$400,000   |
| Lowcountry Regional Water System               | Economic Water Infrastructure         | \$500,000   |
| Lowcountry Regional Water System               | Sewer System Improvements             | \$420,000   |
| Marlboro County / Wallace Water Co.            | Water System Improvements             | \$500,000   |
| Mauldin, City of                               | Sewer System Improvements             | \$500,000   |
| Newberry County Water & Sewer Authority        | Sewer System Improvements             | \$279,750   |
| Newberry, City of                              | Water System Improvements             | \$468,188   |
| North Charleston Sewer District                | Sewer System Improvements             | \$500,000   |
| Pageland, Town of                              | Economic Water & Sewer Infrastructure | \$181,962   |
| Southside Rural Community Water District       | Water Line Improvements               | \$259,048   |
| Startex-Jackson-Wellford-Duncan Water District | Economic Water Infrastructure         | \$450,000   |
| Turbeville, Town of                            | Water System Improvements             | \$500,000   |
| Union, City of                                 | Economic Sewer Infrastructure         | \$857,750   |

**About S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority**

*The S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) was created to help communities with financing for qualified infrastructure projects. Infrastructure primarily refers to water and wastewater systems as well as stormwater drainage. Chaired by the Secretary of Commerce, the RIA is governed by a board of directors, including six members who reside in or represent distressed and/or least developed counties.*

**Media Contact:**

Alex Clark, CMP  
 Director of Marketing & Communications  
 South Carolina Department of Commerce  
 (803) 737-1998  
[aclark@sccommerce.com](mailto:aclark@sccommerce.com)  
[www.SCcommerce.com](http://www.SCcommerce.com)

-###-