



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

For Immediate Release

November 8, 2021

## **RIA awards construction grants to upgrade infrastructure; announces inaugural planning grant recipients**

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

**COLUMBIA, S.C.—** The S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) has announced grant assistance approval for 27 projects, totaling more than \$13 million, for municipal and other public water and sewer utilities statewide. Notably, two grant recipients have projects that are part of an inaugural RIA planning grant program.

RIA grants help address some of the state's most pressing infrastructure needs related to public health and the environment, while building capacity for economic opportunities.

"Strategic investments in water, sewer and storm drainage infrastructure help bridge the gap between a system's most critical needs and projects that build capacity for the future," said Executive Director Bonnie Ammons. "These grants support both systems that require immediate attention, as well as long-term projects that prepare utilities for changes in population, economic opportunities and regulatory requirements."

Additionally, for the first time since the agency's creation, RIA announced the availability of grants to support utilities planning long-term viability through regional solutions. Applicants could request grant funds to assess the condition of one or more systems and evaluate regionally viable alternatives. Two planning studies, each involving multiple neighboring entities, were funded in this round.

A cornerstone effort of the RIA grant program is its partnership with other state and federal funding agencies. Grant awards will be combined with over \$27 million in local and other funds to address important health and environmental concerns and support economic development.

Combined, RIA grant recipient projects will benefit more than 39,000 customers in 20 South Carolina counties.

Project examples include: extending water lines to replace a non-compliant community system; directing wastewater flow away from an environmentally sensitive area; increasing capacity of stormwater piping to reduce frequent flooding; upgrading aging

infrastructure; extending or improving infrastructure to serve businesses; and providing economic opportunities to the local communities through job creation.

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. Criteria for applicant consideration include project need, feasibility and impact. Recipients share in the cost of infrastructure projects by paying for non-construction or other activities and, oftentimes, providing additional funds for construction.

A list of grant recipients for the first round of competitive grants for fiscal year 2022 is below. To learn more about RIA or how to apply for grant assistance, visit

[www.ria.sc.gov](http://www.ria.sc.gov).

Abbeville, City of	Water Line Improvements	\$500,000
Anderson, City of	Sewer System Improvements	\$500,000
Awendaw, Town of	Water System Improvements	\$157,500
Charleston Water System	Sewer System Improvements	\$500,000
Chester County	Economic Water & Sewer Infrastructure	\$241,500
Conway, City of	Sewer System Improvements	\$1,094,183
Darlington County Water & Sewer Authority	Water System Improvements	\$500,000
Darlington, City of	Sewer System Improvements	\$500,000
Edisto Beach, Town of	Sewer System Improvements	\$500,000
Florence, City of	Water Line Improvements	\$487,982
Greenville Water	Water Line Extension	\$147,640
Hollywood, Town of	Sewer System Improvements	\$500,000
Horry County / Bucksport Water System, Inc.	Water Line Improvements	\$484,440
Kershaw County & Lee County Regional Water Authority	Water System Improvements	\$430,500
Lancaster County Water and Sewer District	Economic Sewer Infrastructure	\$2,000,000
Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission	Economic Sewer Infrastructure	\$500,000
Lexington County	Economic Sewer Infrastructure	\$436,875
Manning, City of	Water System Improvements	\$500,000
McBee, Town of	Water System Improvements	\$500,000
Metropolitan Sewer Subdistrict	Sewer System Improvements	\$500,000
Moncks Corner, Town of	Drainage System Upgrades	\$379,503
Orangeburg, City of	Sewer System Improvements	\$500,000
Pickens, City of	Water Line Improvements	\$500,000

Ridgeland, Town of	Planning	\$30,000
Simpsonville, City of	Sewer System Improvements	\$500,000
Starr-Iva Water & Sewer	Water Line Extension	\$300,000
Union, City of	Planning	\$100,000

***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 waste water 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.*

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