
THE SOUTH CAROLINA INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PROGRAM

The South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) is a major, one-time initiative to improve water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure throughout the state using federal funds allocated by State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. SCIIP offers a unique opportunity to make long-term capital improvements that will strengthen critical services to residents and businesses across the state, create more resilient communities and build the capacity to support future opportunities for growth and economic development. Learn more about SCIIP at <https://ria.sc.gov/sciip>.

Examples of Projects Awarded SCIIP Funding by RIA in 2023

Projects were funded in all 46 counties across South Carolina. Below are examples of projects that have been approved for SCIIP awards.

The Town of Cheraw received a Community Impact SCIIP grant to overhaul its water and sewer treatment plants, both of which contain structures and components that were installed over 40 years ago. Additionally, improvements will be made to its sewer collection system, and an emergency water connection with Chesterfield County Rural Water Company will be constructed, ensuring resiliency for both systems.

The Donalds-Due West Water and Sewer Authority (DDWWSA) — which services rural, northern Abbeville and Greenwood Counties — received a Community Impact SCIIP grant to improve three separate sections of its water system. DDWWSA will install nearly 30,000 linear feet (LF) of water main along SC Highway 252 to allow for a new connection to the Belton-Honea Path Water Authority, providing for system redundancy and adding capacity at a publicly owned industrial site. Furthermore, water lines will be extended to unserved residents near the city limits of Abbeville; and the Town of Due West's water system, much of which dates to the 1950s, will be comprehensively upgraded.

The City of Union received a Regional Solutions SCIIP grant to connect its sewer system with the Town of Jonesville, which will allow Jonesville to discontinue its wastewater treatment plant that has reached the end of its useful life expectancy and has hindered the community's ability to grow. The sewer main will also be upgraded along the US Highway 176 corridor to the Trakas Industrial Park, improving capacity and allowing for further economic development in Union County.

Horry County received a Community Impact SCIIP grant to address stormwater issues in five different residential areas of the county, improving community resilience to extreme weather conditions. The project will benefit over 4,200 households across the county, including dozens of homes that have been directly impacted during recent flash flooding events.

Jasper County received a Community Impact SCIIP grant to address stormwater issues in the Church Road community, just north of the city limits of Hardeeville. The project will not only alleviate frequent flooding that has impacted the health and safety of this lower-income community but also ensure that the intersection of US Highways 17 and 278 — a key evacuation route in the event of hurricanes — remains passable during and after severe flooding events.

The City of Columbia received a Community Impact SCIIP grant to construct an 8-million-gallon equalization storage tank and a 25 million gallon per day storage pump station for the Crane Creek sewer basin. The project will strengthen system capacity impacted by the 2015 flood. Further, it will greatly expand capacity in this growing area of northern Richland County, allowing for additional residential and industrial growth, and it will significantly reduce the number of sanitary sewer overflows occurring in this area.

The City of Aiken received a Community Impact SCIIP grant to modernize its lone surface water treatment plant that was originally built in 1953 and last upgraded over 30 years ago. Once constructed, the new Shaw's Creek Water Treatment Plant will yield 8 million gallons of water daily, increasing the city's overall system resiliency and allowing for further economic growth in the area.

Aiken County received a Community Impact SCIIP grant for further improvements at its Horse Creek Wastewater Treatment Plan that serves about 33,000 customers in the county, including the Cities of Aiken and North Augusta. The project will provide redundancy in the solids handling process as well as create additional capacity to equalize and store excessive inflows to the plant.

MetroConnects received a Community Impact SCIIP grant for sewer improvements in the Mills Mill Village. In 2022, MetroConnects finished consolidating six other sewer collection subdistricts into its system, resulting in it doubling in size. As MetroConnects addresses various issues in these newly acquired systems, SCIIP funds will be used to upgrade sewer collection in the Mills Mill Village, which has a system dating to the late 1800s that experiences significant issues with inflow and infiltration during wet weather.

The City of Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities (DPU) received a Regional Solutions SCIIP grant to construct a connection with the Bull Swamp Rural Water Company (BSRWC), addressing operational viability concerns with the latter system. The project seeks not only to construct an interconnection between the two systems but also to upgrade deficient sections of the existing BSRWC system, greatly enhancing water system sustainability and reliability in this rural part of Orangeburg County.

The Ninety Six Commission of Public Works received a Viability Planning SCIIP grant to assess its water and wastewater systems. This project will help ensure system-wide viability by mapping the existing water and sewer system; conducting CCTV inspections and smoke testing across its sewer system to pinpoint deficiencies; preparing a Capital Improvement Plan, Asset Management Plan, and utility rate study; installing pressure and flow monitors; and creating water and sewer system models.

About the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA)

Creating water solutions. Improving communities statewide.

The South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) is a state agency that was established in 2012 to assist communities with financing for qualified infrastructure projects for water and wastewater systems as well as stormwater drainage facilities. Although RIA initially offered grants for projects in rural and distressed counties, the programs were expanded to make grant and loan assistance available statewide. Chaired by the South Carolina Secretary of Commerce, the RIA's board of directors includes six members representing distressed and/or least developed counties. Learn more about the RIA at www.ria.sc.gov.

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