



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

For Immediate Release
May 28, 2024

RIA awards construction and planning grants to upgrade critical infrastructure

More than \$25 million in grant funding awarded across South Carolina

COLUMBIA, S.C.— The S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) has approved grant assistance for 36 projects, totaling more than \$25 million in its second round of funding for fiscal year 2024. These projects will benefit communities in 22 counties, promoting quality of life, economic opportunity and sustainability across South Carolina. The agency’s tagline, “we’re here to help,” is exemplified through continued efforts to meaningfully invest in infrastructure and planning projects for water and wastewater systems as well as storm water drainage facilities. The total funds awarded by RIA this fiscal year is over \$44 million.

“To ensure all communities and businesses have the opportunity to thrive, we must address the state’s critical infrastructure needs and plan for long-term viability,” said Executive Director Bonnie Ammons. “More than 10 years of RIA grants demonstrate the profound impact that strategic investment and proactive planning have on our communities as we build a stronger future for all South Carolinians.”

The May 2024 grant awards will be combined with over \$46 million in local and other funds to carry out necessary capital improvements and planning activities that are expected to benefit more than 200,000 customers, with more than 60% of projects reaching rural and distressed communities.

Several of the projects funded by these partnerships will create stronger utilities through regional solutions. Ten projects will address pressing health and environmental concerns, including some that will also contribute to greater resiliency and storm protection. Others will improve or replace aging infrastructure that is beyond its useful life, increase services and capacity for existing and future customers, and support economic development activities for job creation and retention.

In addition, grant awards will fund 10 planning studies and system assessments that will explore the technical, operational, and financial conditions of water, sewer and stormwater systems, evaluate alternative options, and provide recommendations to achieve greater long-term viability and possible regional solutions.

RIA state grants are generally 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 infrastructure projects by paying for non-construction or other activities and, oftentimes, providing additional funds for construction.

A list of grant recipients for the second round of competitive grants for fiscal year 2024, awarded on May 20, 2024, is below. To learn more about RIA or how to apply for grant assistance, visit www.ria.sc.gov.

Grantee	County	Award Amount
Batesburg-Leesville, Town of	Lexington	\$1,000,000
Beaufort County	Beaufort	\$187,500
Bennettsville, City of	Marlboro	\$150,000
Bishopville, City of	Lee	\$1,000,000
Broad Creek Public Service District	Beaufort	\$250,000
Broadway Water and Sewerage District	Anderson	\$525,275
Central, Town of	Pickens	\$1,000,000
Charleston Water System	Charleston	\$250,000
Chesterfield County / Chesterfield County Rural Water Company	Chesterfield	\$720,185
Chesterfield, Town of	Chesterfield	\$907,021
Easley Combined Utilities	Pickens	\$600,000
Edgefield County Water & Sewer Authority	Edgefield	\$1,000,000
Gaffney, City of	Cherokee	\$250,000
Greenville, City of	Greenville	\$1,000,000
Greenwood, City of	Greenwood	\$250,000
Hammond Water District	Anderson	\$850,558
Homeland Park Water and Sewer District	Anderson	\$936,704
Horry County / Bucksport Water System	Horry	\$1,000,000
Kershaw, Town of	Lancaster	\$1,000,000
Lake City, City of	Florence	\$1,000,000
Lancaster, City of	Lancaster	\$1,000,000
Lodge, Town of	Colleton	\$1,000,000
Metropolitan Sewer Subdistrict	Greenville	\$1,000,000
New Ellenton Commission of Public Works	Aiken	\$568,070
Newberry County Water and Sewer Authority	Newberry	\$771,375
North Charleston, City of	Charleston	\$654,939
North Charleston, City of	Charleston	\$102,750

Orangeburg County	Orangeburg	\$250,000
Orangeburg, City of	Orangeburg	\$1,000,000
Pageland, Town of	Chesterfield	\$250,000
Pickens County / Dacusville-Cedar Rock Water Company	Pickens	\$1,000,000
Ravenel, Town of	Charleston	\$1,000,000
Seabrook Island Utility Commission	Charleston	\$1,000,000
Startex-Jackson-Wellford-Duncan Water District	Spartanburg	\$1,000,000
Sumter, City of	Sumter	\$250,000
Turbeville, Town of / Barrineau Public Utilities Company	Clarendon	\$1,000,000

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.

Media Contact:

Kelly Coakley, CPM
 Director of Marketing and Communications
 South Carolina Department of Commerce
 (803) 737-1998
kcoakley@sccommerce.com