Technical Assistance Resources
For Public Drinking Water and Sewer Utilities in South Carolina

ORGANIZATION	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION & PURPOSE	SERVICES AVAILABLE	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	CONTACT INFORMATION
Office of Rural Water (ORW) in SCDES Bureau of Water *State agency*	ORW provides technical, financial, and managerial consultative assistance for water, wastewater, and stormwater issues.	- Regulatory compliance assistance - Operations and management assistance - Assistance identifying funding resources for projects via state & federal agencies - Strategic planning - Support service coordination - Contact ORW for more services	Services available to all communities and utility systems, public or private, in the State of South Carolina at no cost.	Brad Martin, Program Manager 803-898-4240 OfficeofRuralWater@des.sc.gov
Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc. (SERCAP) *Non-profit organization*	SERCAP is a regional partner of the Rural Community Assistance Project. SERCAP provides technical assistance to drinking water and wastewater systems in rural communities and is funded by federal and state grants.	- Regulatory compliance assistance - Board training for infrastructure management - Operator training - Lead & Copper Rule assistance - Rate studies - Water loss studies - Grant application assistance for infrastructure project funding - Income surveys for grant applications - Bridge loans for community projects - Other services: https://sercap.org/about/locations/south-carolina	Technical assistance and training free to communities with a population less than 10,000 and that meet the requirements in SERCAP's federal and state grant awards.	David White, SC State Lead 803-728-5601 dwhite@sercap.org
South Carolina Rural Water Association (SCRWA) *Non-profit trade association*	SCRWA is an affiliate of the National Rural Water Association. SCRWA provides technical assistance, training, member services and legislative monitoring and is funded by state and federal grants and membership and service fees.	- Training for operations, maintenance, and optimization - Regulatory compliance assistance - Asset management training & assistance - Water loss auditing - Rate studies - Utility operations assessments and troubleshooting - GIS mapping - Workforce Apprenticeship programs - Board & governance training - Assistance with funding opportunities - Emergency preparation & response - SCWARN mutual aid assistance see www.SCWARN.org - For training courses and more services see www.scrwa.org	Many grant-based services limited to utilities with populations under 10,000 or those that serve rural communities. No membership or fees are required for technical assistance. Fee based training and certification classes, and fees for select services.	803-667-9699 www.scrwa.org Technical assistance can be requested via phone or email. Training requested at: https://www.scrwa.org/training-requests.html
South Carolina Councils of Governments (COGs) *Network of 10 regional organizations*	COGs are established by state law to assist and advocate for counties, local governments, public utilities, and other public service providers by providing a wide range of services. COGs are funded through an annual state appropriation, federal grants, contracts with state agencies, dues from local governments, and contracts for individual projects.	- Project Planning and Grant Preparation Assistance - Grant Management - Board/Commission Training and Goal Setting - Leadership and Management Training - Strategic planning and other specialized planning studies - Management and general administration technical assistance - Contact COG regional offices for other services or training.	Services are provided to counties, local governments, public utilities, and special purpose districts. Some services are free and others have negotiated fees.	Contact COG office for your region. See website for contact information - https://sccogs.org/our-regions

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Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) *Non-profit association*	The Municipal Association is a non-profit association for SC's 271 Municipalities and Commissions of Public Works or Boards of Public Works. MASC offers the services, programs, and tools that provide municipal officials and staff the knowledge and resources to operate effectively and efficiently.	- Training/networking for utility billing clerks, meter readers and managers through the SC Billing Assoc. and stormwater systems through SC Assoc. of Stormwater Managers. - Training of elected officials on general governance and operations - Field Service Managers provide TA for general governance and operations - MASC Publications include the Elected Officials Handbook, FOIA Compliance, etc. - See www.masc.sc for more programs, publications, services, and training	Programs and services for municipal elected officials and staff of SC's 271 Municipalities and Commissions of Public Works and Boards of Public Works unless otherwise specified. Nominal membership and registration fees.	803-799-9574 mail@masc.sc Visit the website for more details about services, programs, training, and associated contacts www.masc.sc
American Water Works Association, SC Chapter (SCAWWA) *Non-profit technical and education organization*	SCAWWA is a member of the national AWWA. SCAWWA advocates for and provides technical and educational support for the drinking water industry and professionals. It is supported by member fees, registration fees and corporate sponsorships	- SCAWWA provides a wide of training, educational and technical exchange opportunities – see www.scwaters.org - Training courses to meet industry certification and/or continuing education requirements - Educational and technical exchange meetings such as the SC Environmental Conference - Trade publications with technical articles and other resources	Participation in SCAWWA-sponsored events is available to members and non-members depending on the event. Registration fees may be required.	Call 803-358-0658 or visit www.scwaters.org to learn about membership benefits and upcoming training courses and educational events.
Water Environment Association of SC (WEASC) *Non-profit technical and education organization*	WEASC is affiliated with the national Water Environment Federation. WEASC advocates for and provides technical and educational support for the wastewater industry and professionals. It is supported by member fees, registration fees and corporate sponsorships.	- WEASC provides a wide of training, educational and technical exchange opportunities – see www.scwaters.org - Training courses to meet industry certification and/or continuing education requirements - Educational and technical exchange meetings such as the SC Environmental Conference - Trade publications with technical articles and other resources	Participation in WEASC-sponsored events is available to members and non-members depending on the event. Registration fees may be required.	Call 803-358-0658 or visit www.scwaters.org to learn about membership benefits and upcoming training courses and educational events
State Revolving Fund (SRF) in SCDES Bureau of Water *State agency*	The SRF program provides low-interest rate loans and principal forgiveness funding for water, wastewater, and stormwater planning and projects. SRF funding is also used to fund technical assistance for water and sewer providers	- Planning & design engineering - Construction - Construction engineering and inspection - System assessments and planning - SRF funding is used to fund statewide, third-party technical assistance for both water and sewer providers.	Municipalities, counties, and special purpose districts. In the Drinking Water SRF only, private, non-profits are eligible.	Amanda Edwards 803- 898-4164 SRF-Info@des.sc.gov Submit Project Questionnaires (PQ) at des.sc.gov/SRF
South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) *State agency*	RIA provides grants for infrastructure improvements as well as planning grants and other resources to address system viability.	- Assistance in identifying financial resources for capital improvements - Planning grants to assist with system analysis and identification of solutions to viability issues - Resources to identify and address system viability issues - Utility Viability Tool and other resources: www.ria.sc.gov/utility-viability/	SC local governments and public drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities are eligible to receive grants. Grant applications: www.ria.sc.gov/grants	Bonnie Ammons, Exec. Director Bammons@ria.sc.gov Kendra Wilkerson kwilkerson@ria.sc.gov Chuck Gorman Cgorman@ria.sc.gov

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