



2024 Annual Accountability Report

Rural Infrastructure Authority

Agency Code: P450

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AGENCY’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Infrastructure Finance Programs – Summary of Efforts and Results

The S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) makes grant and loan financing available for qualified infrastructure projects (drinking water, sanitary sewer and storm water drainage facilities) statewide. Financial assistance is made available to eligible applicants including local governments, special purpose districts and public works commissions. By working in partnership with local communities, these financial investments are designed to address the key objectives of protecting public health, addressing environmental quality standards and preparing communities for economic opportunities. RIA assistance helps close financial gaps for areas in need of reliable infrastructure. In addition, RIA collaborates with stakeholders to identify and coordinate additional resources for infrastructure improvements and to strengthen utility viability in the long term through planning and regional partnerships.

With recurring state appropriations, RIA’s financial assistance typically totals approximately \$25 million in grants and \$75-\$100 million in loans annually. Significantly, over \$1.4 billion in federal American Rescue Plan Act, State and Local Fiscal Recovery (ARPA SLFRF) grant funds were allocated to RIA by the General Assembly to assist with financing of qualified infrastructure projects. Such funds must be fully expended by December 31, 2026. And additional federal funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is being made available to states from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over a five-year period. Every county will benefit from this infusion of federal funds by modernizing aging infrastructure as well as building capacity for future development.

RIA’s essential role in providing affordable grant and loan financing options for water infrastructure has resulted in an investment of \$270 million for FY24. Cumulatively, since these programs began at RIA, 770 grants have been awarded totaling \$1.7 billion and another \$1 billion in affordable loan financing has been provided for 140 projects.

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Grant Programs

This year, \$44 million in competitive grants were awarded for 66 projects and 60% of funds were targeted to rural and disadvantaged communities. Grants were selected by RIA’s Board of Directors based on the following program priorities:

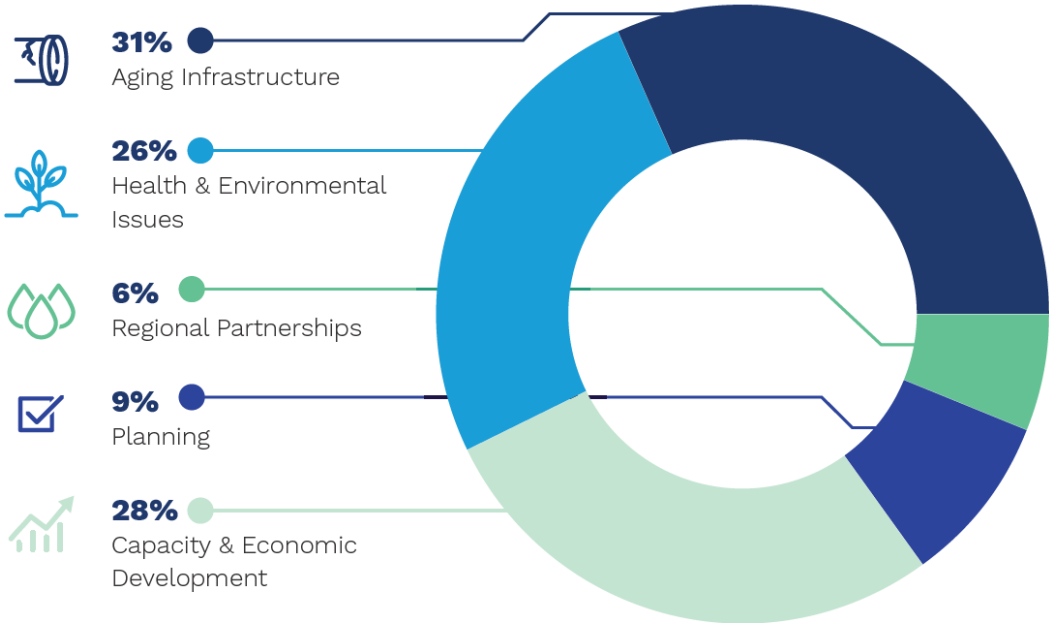


Figure 1. FY 24 grant priorities by dollars awarded.

State Revolving Funds Loan Programs

Low-cost loan financing is provided through two federally capitalized State Revolving Funds (SRF) for Drinking Water and Clean Water (wastewater and stormwater). The SRF has been annually capitalized by the EPA since 1989. The program was transferred to RIA in 2015. The state program is administered jointly with the S.C. Department of Environmental Services (DES). DES prioritizes projects, handles the technical aspects of the program and ensures compliance with EPA requirements. The RIA’s Office of Local Government (OLG) manages the financial component including credit reviews, loan agreements, closings and disbursement of funds as well as loan repayments and administration.

The SRF program offers below market interest rates for major water, wastewater and stormwater improvement projects throughout the state. This low-cost financing means savings for borrowers and customers.

The federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act -is providing additional funding for SRF loans and principal forgiveness over five years.

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With the availability of additional federal funding, it has been a record year for loan closings with 19 projects totaling \$203 million. In addition, all principal forgiveness loans, which do not have to be repaid, totaling \$22.7 million were approved for 24 projects addressing lead service lines and emerging contaminants in drinking water.

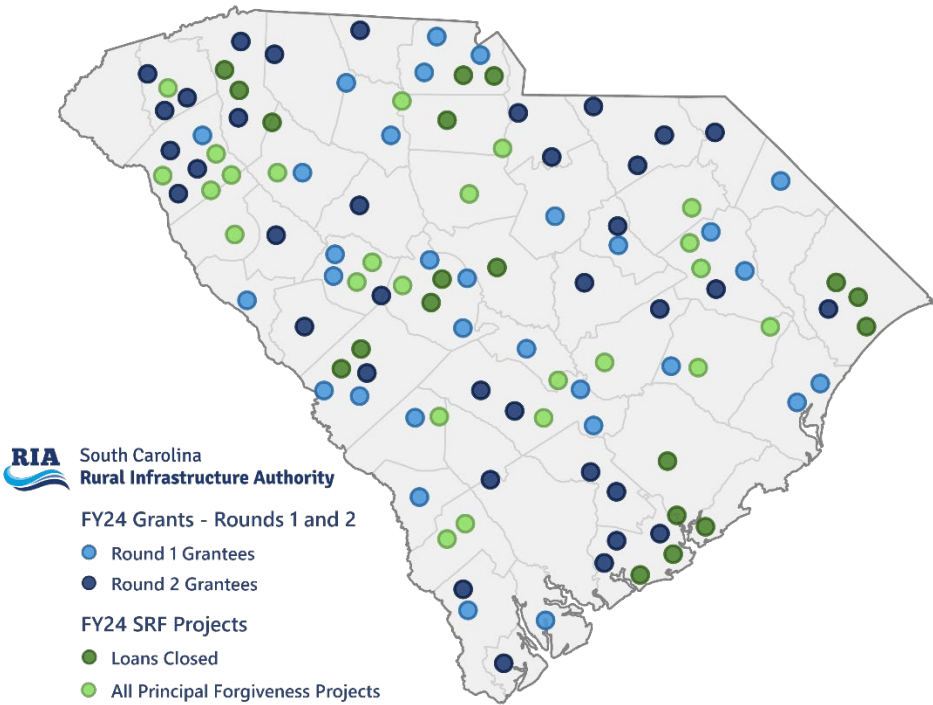


Figure 2. Map of grants and loans in FY 24.

Factors Impacting Performance and Future Plans

The availability of substantial federal funds for infrastructure investment has had a tremendous impact on the state. However, federal funds also have additional compliance requirements and one of the most significant is the need to have all the ARPA SLFRF funds expended by December 31, 2026. Since infrastructure projects by their nature take several years from funding approval to project construction completion, this deadline will be challenging. Additionally, supply chain delays with material, a shortage of contractors and increased costs will also play a factor in completion of these projects. Significant staff resources are being dedicated to this federal program in order to monitor progress and compliance as well as offer technical assistance throughout the implementation period.

Non-recurring state appropriations for grants and additional federal funding for loans impacted the performance of RIA’s existing grant and loan programs. Receipt of additional ARPA funds allowed the

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agency to exceed goals for water quality and aging infrastructure. Additionally, there was greater demand for these projects which also serve to address economic opportunities. Because RIA’s grant programs are competitive, the number of projects that are awarded in each program category can also vary based on the number of applications received in each program category. If demand for funding is greater in one category than another and the projects are qualified, then funding is provided to meet the demand.

In FY 24, the state grant amount available for individual projects was increased to \$1 million, from a previous amount of \$500,000. In addition, the amount available for an individual planning grant increased from \$100,000 to \$250,000. The result of these changes is that fewer projects were approved even though more funding was made available per project. Once again, for FY 25, RIA will increase the state grant amount available for individual projects to \$1.5 million. These increases to individual grant amounts are due to market conditions for construction and materials, with prices higher than in previous years. In addition, RIA received \$30 million in non-recurring funds for competitive grants in FY 25.

Following an FY 22 study of the challenges facing smaller utilities, particularly in rural and disadvantaged areas, RIA has undertaken several initiatives to promote greater viability. The Planning grant program makes \$4.5 million in funding available to such communities. Additionally, RIA initiated the development of a Viability Assistance Network of state agencies and non-profits geared toward providing a more coordinated approach to technical assistance. To date, a technical assistance resources guide has been developed and an updated Viability Tool is in process. This tool is designed to identify technical, financial and operational weaknesses so that the appropriate assistance can be provided.

Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies

One of the biggest risks to the federal ARPA/SCIIP program is the potential loss of funds if expenditure deadlines are not met. The large scale of projects coupled with federal compliance and timely expenditure requirements pose a particular challenge for smaller communities. The impact associated with a loss of funds would greatly challenge the state’s ability to overcome public health and environmental concerns associated with clean drinking water, sanitary sewer and storm drainage protection. Further, there may be missed or delayed economic opportunities which depend on reliable and affordable infrastructure.

For this reason, the General Assembly allocated \$5,000,000 of ARPA SLFRF funds to the Councils of Government to assist with project development and implementation. Further, \$6,000,000 of the federal funds were also allocated to DHEC to enhance their ability to issue the permits required for such projects.

To mitigate challenges that are the result of cost overruns, projects may have to be scaled back or additional project funding identified to complete projects in a timely manner.

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RIA has added staff and developed online program guidelines to help manage the program and monitor progress. Technical assistance will be provided to address time and budget concerns and to help identify solutions so that projects can be completed in a timely manner. RIA has developed a strategy to utilize any unobligated ARPA/SCIIP dollars as they become available to help address funding gaps and complete projects by the federal expenditure deadline.

Although these one-time federal dollars represented a significant investment in South Carolina’s infrastructure, the need for further investment is staggering. This is evidenced by the receipt of over \$2 billion in applications for projects that could be completed in the short term. To keep up with the critical demands to address aging infrastructure, new emerging contaminants and long-term growth and economic development, it will be necessary for the state to continue its commitment to invest in infrastructure needs, to continue to provide for technical assistance to utilities struggling to operate efficiently, and to provide incentives for regional cooperation among utilities to help ensure long-term viability.

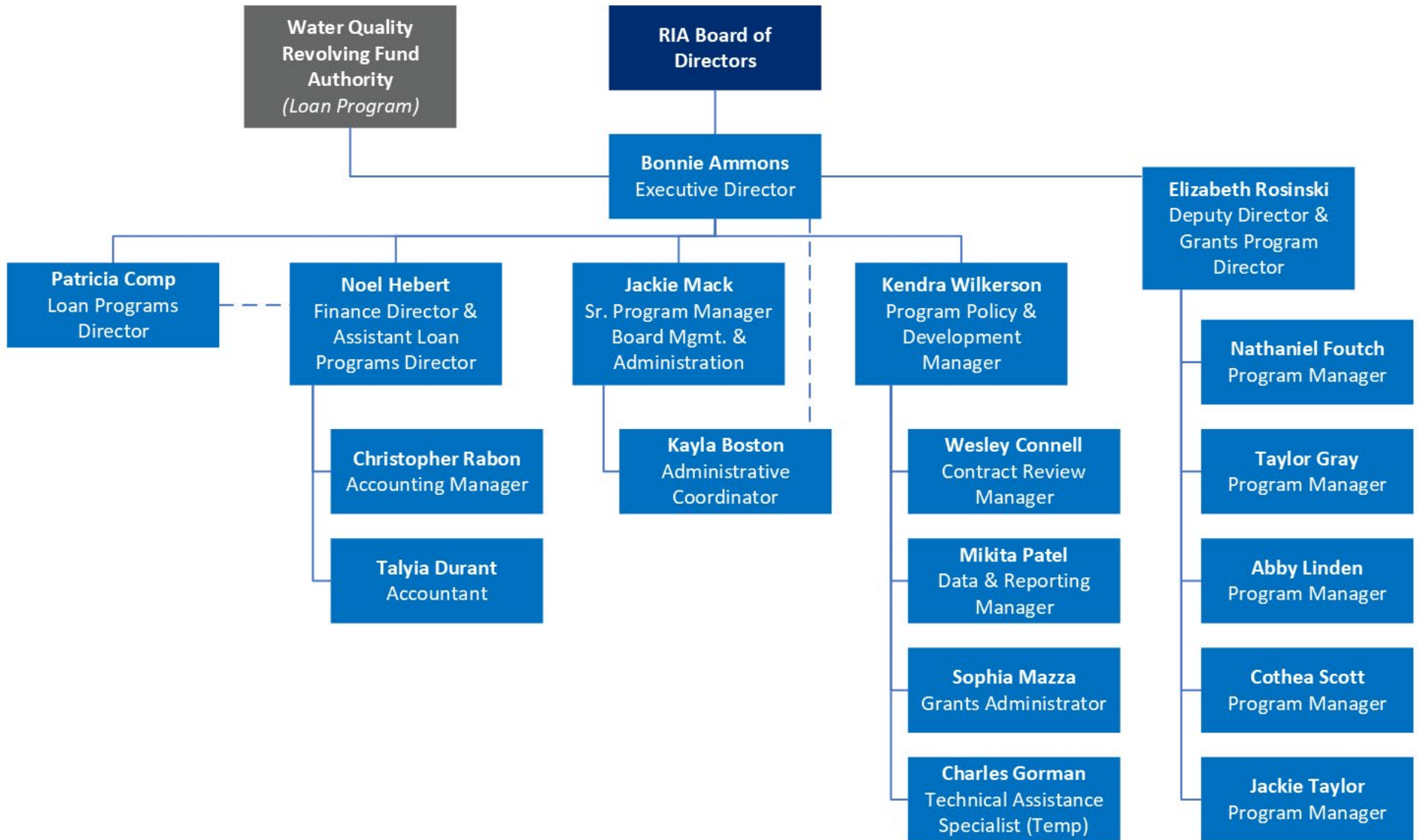
Agency Organization

The RIA is governed by a Board of Directors that includes six members who reside in or represent distressed and/or least developed counties. The Secretary of Commerce serves as Chairman.

The RIA has an Executive Director and 18 full time staff positions (See Organizational Chart). Additional grant staff have been added to administer the new federal funding programs and ensure technical assistance is provided to applicants and grantees. RIA divisions are organized by grant and loan programs. In order to foster administrative collaboration, RIA contracts with the S.C. Department of Commerce to provide office space, legal, financial, human resources and other administrative support services. This agreement allows for more efficient use of staff and resources available to the RIA.

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AGENCY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



2024

Reorganization and Compliance

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

P450 - Rural Infrastructure Authority

Primary Contact

First Name	Last Name	Role/Title	Email Address	Phone
Kendra	Wilkerson	Program Policy & Development Manager	kwilkerson@ria.sc.gov	803-413-6807

Secondary Contact

First Name	Last Name	Role/Title	Email Address	Phone
Bonnie	Ammons	Executive Director	bammons@ria.sc.gov	803-737-0390

Agency Mission	Adopted in:
To provide resources for strategic investments that will strengthen and modernize critical community infrastructure.	2022

Agency Vision	Adopted in:
All South Carolina communities have the infrastructure necessary to protect public health and the environment as well as lay the groundwork for economic success.	2022

Recommendations for reorganization requiring legislative change:

None

Agency intentions for other major reorganization to divisions, departments, or programs to allow the agency to operate more effectively and efficiently in the succeeding fiscal year:

None

Significant events related to the agency that occurred in FY2024

Description of Event	Start	End	Agency Measures Impacted	Other Impacts
The maximum grant amount per construction project was increased for FY24 in response to rising costs. This decreased the total number of grants awarded.	July	June	Award at least the target number of state grants to address water quality and replace aging infrastructure	
The maximum grant amount per construction project was increased for FY24 in response to rising costs. This decreased the total number of grants awarded.	July	June	Award at least the target number of state grants to support economic opportunities	
The maximum grant amount per planning project more than doubled for FY24 to support more comprehensive planning projects. This decreased the total number of grants awarded.	July	June	Award at least the target number of state grants to address long-term planning	

Is the agency in compliance with S.C. Code Ann. § 2-1-220, which requires submission of certain reports to the Legislative Services Agency for publication online and the State Library? (See also S.C. Code Ann. § 60-2-20).	Yes
	Yes

Reason agency is out of compliance: (if applicable)

Is the agency in compliance with various requirements to transfer its records, including electronic ones, to the Department of Archives and History? See the Public Records Act (S.C. Code Ann. § 30-1-10 through 30-1-180) and the South Carolina Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (S.C. Code Ann. § 26-6-10 through 26-10-210).	Yes
	Yes

Does the law allow the agency to promulgate regulations?	No
	No

Law number(s) which gives the agency the authority to promulgate regulations:

Has the agency promulgated any regulations?	No
Is the agency in compliance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-120 (J), which requires an agency to conduct a formal review of its regulations every five years?	Yes
(End of Reorganization and Compliance Section)	

FY2024

Strategic Plan Results

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

P450 - Rural Infrastructure Authority

Goal 1 Improve or Address infrastructure needs to protect public health and the environment

Goal 2 Provide infrastructure necessary to support and expand economic opportunities

Goal 3 Build long term infrastructure capacity and viability

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes	
1.1 Use state grants to address water quality and replace aging infrastructure														State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development	
1.1.1	Award at least the target value of state grants to address water quality and replace aging infrastructure	\$ 15,264,635	\$ 26,000,000	\$ 34,325,856	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual value of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000		
1.1.2	Award at least the target number of state grants to address water quality and replace aging infrastructure		37	26	39	Count	State Fiscal Year	Actual number of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000		
1.2 Provide affordable loan financing to address water quality and replace aging infrastructure														State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development	
1.2.1	Close at least the target value of loans	\$ 121,276,516	\$ 190,000,000	\$ 203,566,593	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Value of loans executed	SRF loans closed	Internal files	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions as well as not-for-profit water and sewer systems (Drinking Water only)	3003.010000.000, 3003.050000X000		
1.2.2	Close at least the target number of loans		17	20	19	Count	State Fiscal Year	Number of loans closed	SRF loans closed	Internal files	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions as well as not-for-profit water and sewer systems (Drinking Water only)	3003.010000.000, 3003.050000X000	Additional federal funding provided through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act allowed the program to provide larger loans to support more impactful projects. With larger loan amounts, the number of individual loans was slightly lower than expected.	
2.1 Use state grants to increase infrastructure capacity and support job creation														State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development	
2.1.1	Award at least the target value of state grants to support economic opportunities	\$ 2,109,309	\$ 7,700,000	\$ 5,996,185	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual value of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000	Demand for Economic Infrastructure funds was lower than expected. Grants are competitive and performance is dependent on the number and type of applications received. Funds were shifted to the Basic Infrastructure grant program.	
2.1.2	Award at least the target number of state grants to support economic opportunities		1	7	8	Count	State Fiscal Year	Actual number of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000		
3.1 Use state grants for utility planning and other assistance to address long term needs														State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development	
3.1.1	Award at least the target value of state grants to address long-term planning	\$ 100,000	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 3,896,800	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual value of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000	Planning grant requests were, on average, smaller than expected. In FY25, applicants will be provided with additional guidance to assist with project development and budgeting.	

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
3.1.2	Award at least the target number of state grants to address long-term planning		15	19	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual number of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000	
3.2 Use principal forgiveness loan funds to assist utilities with long term needs													State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development	
3.2.1	Close at least the target value of principal forgiveness loans	\$ 8,121,464	\$ 20,000,000	\$ 22,761,775	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Value of principal forgiveness loans closed	SRF loans closed	Internal files	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	3003.010000.000, 3003.050000X000	
3.2.2	Close at least the target number of principal forgiveness loans		18	20	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of principal forgiveness loans closed	SRF loans closed	Internal files	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	3003.010000.000, 3003.050000X000	
3.3 Provide training and technical assistance to build capacity to address infrastructure needs													State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development	
3.3.1	Assist applicants and potential applicants with at least the target number of potential projects or project issues	1,502	450	840	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of training participants and individual technical assistance	RIA data	Internal files	Direct benefit to customers by increasing knowledge of agency programs and coordination of additional funds for water and sewer improvements and direct benefit to agency for leveraging available state dollars.	Direct customers and agency staff	0100.000000.000, 3003.010000.000	

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Strategic Plan Development

Goal 1 Improve or address infrastructure needs to protect public health and the environment and support economic development

Goal 2 Build long term infrastructure capacity and viability

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

P450 - Rural Infrastructure Authority

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
1.1 Use state grants to support community efforts to construct, replace or upgrade critical infrastructure													
State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development													
1.1.1	Award at least the target value of state grants to support capital improvements to water, wastewater or stormwater infrastructure	\$ 40,322,041	\$ 47,000,000	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual value of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000	
1.1.2	Award at least the target number of state grants to support capital improvements to water, wastewater or stormwater infrastructure	47	35	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual number of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000	
1.2 Provide affordable loan financing to address water quality and replace aging infrastructure													
State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development													
1.2.1	Close at least the target value of loans	\$ 203,566,593	\$ 200,000,000	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Value of loans executed	SRF loans closed	Internal files	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions as well as not-for-profit water and sewer systems (Drinking Water only)	3003.010000.000, 3003.050000X000	
1.2.2	Close at least the target number of loans	19	20	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of loans closed	SRF loans closed	Internal files	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions as well as not-for-profit water and sewer systems (Drinking Water only)	3003.010000.000, 3003.050000X000	
2.1 Use state grants for utility planning and other assistance to address long term needs													
State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development													
2.1.1	Award at least the target value of state grants to address long-term planning	\$ 3,896,800	\$ 4,500,000	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual value of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000	
2.1.2	Award at least the target number of state grants to address long-term planning	19	18	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual number of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000	
2.2 Use principal forgiveness loan funds to assist utilities with long term needs													
State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development													

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
2.2.1	Close at least the target value of principal forgiveness loans	\$ 22,761,775	\$ 24,800,000	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Value of principal forgiveness loans closed	SRF loans closed	Internal files	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	3003.010000.000, 3003.050000X000	
2.2.2	Close at least the target number of principal forgiveness loans	24	24	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of principal forgiveness loans closed	SRF loans closed	Internal files	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	3003.010000.000, 3003.050000X000	
2.3 Provide training and technical assistance to build capacity to address infrastructure needs State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development													
2.3.1	Assist applicants and potential applicants with at least the target number of potential projects or project issues	840	500	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of training participants and individual technical assistance	RIA data	Internal files	Direct benefit to customers by increasing knowledge of agency programs and coordination of additional funds for water and sewer improvements and direct benefit to agency for leveraging available state dollars.	Direct customers and agency staff	0100.000000.000, 3003.010000.000	

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Budget Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

P450 - Rural Infrastructure Authority

State Funded Program No.	State Funded Program Title	Description of State Funded Program	(Actual) General	(Actual) Other	(Actual) Federal	(Actual) Total	(Projected) General2	(Projected) Other	(Projected) FederaH	(Projected) Total
0100.00000.000	Administration	To administer the Rural Infrastructure Authority and its grant programs	\$ -	\$ 567,493.00	\$ -	\$ 567,493.00	\$ -	\$ 1,059,250.00	\$ 117,750.00	\$ 1,177,000.00
2600.101000X000	SC Rural Infrastructure Fund	To provide financial assistance for infrastructure and other activities to the state's rural areas that enhance economic growth and development. It can be used for job creation and/or product development.	\$ 192,456.00	\$ 3,108,789.00	\$ -	\$ 3,301,245.00	\$ 8,870,056.00	\$ 20,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ 28,870,056.00
2600.101500X000	Statewide Water and Sewer Fund	Established by proviso, the Statewide Water and Sewer Fund assists qualified infrastructure projects not eligible for the Rural Infrastructure Fund.	\$ 4,068,127.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,068,127.00	\$ 8,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,000,000.00
3003.010000.000	Office of Local Government	To administer the loan programs offered by the Rural Infrastructure Authority.	\$ -	\$ 270,560.00	\$ -	\$ 270,560.00	\$ -	\$ 696,000.00	\$ -	\$ 696,000.00
3003.050000X000	Loans	To provide loan programs for qualified water and waste water infrastructure projects.	\$ 6,165,600.00	\$ 121,176,907.00	\$ -	\$ 127,342,507.00	\$ 14,332,610.00	\$ 188,000,000.00	\$ 700,000.00	\$ 203,032,610.00
9500.050000.000	State Employer Contributions	The state funded program used to record employer contributions for the agency.	\$ -	\$ 231,430.00	\$ -	\$ 231,430.00	\$ -	\$ 513,675.00	\$ 47,025.00	\$ 560,700.00
9801.270000X000	Local Government Grant Fund	Non-recurring appropriations that can be utilized for local government grants or administrative activities of the agency.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
9814.210000X000	RURL INFRASTRCTRE FD	non-recurring appropriations for the SC Rural Infrastructure Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2600.102500X000	South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP)	The South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) is a major one-time initiative to improve water, wastewater and stormwater systems throughout the state using federal funds allocated by the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,823,557.00	\$ 50,823,557.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 571,000,000.00	\$ 571,000,000.00
2600.102000X000	Planning & Technical Assistance - Small	To provide planning grants and technical assistance supporting sustainable long-term solutions for local utilities.	\$ 1,572,199.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,572,199.00	\$ 5,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000,000.00

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Legal Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

P450 - Rural Infrastructure Authority

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2024
1-11-20	State	Statute	Division Transfers - Transfers the Local Government Division, Water Resources Coordinating Council membership, and Division of Regional Government from the Budget and Control Board to RIA.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
1-11-25	State	Statute	Local Government Division - Establishes the Local Government Division and outlines grant responsibilities.	Requires a service	Grant administration	No Change
1-11-26	State	Statute	Local Government Division - Outlines rules for use of grant funds and provides penalties for violations.	Requires a service		No Change
11-37-200	State	Statute	Water Resources Coordinating Council - Names the RIA Director as a member of the Water Resources Coordinating Council.	Board, commission, or committee on which someone from our agency must/may serve		No Change
11-40-250	State	Statute	SC Infrastructure Facilities Authority - Requires RIA to staff and assist the SC Infrastructure Facilities Authority.	Requires a service	Loan administration	No Change
11-40-40	State	Statute	SC Infrastructure Facilities Authority- provides necessary authority to fund, use and administer the SC Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
11-42-10	State	Statute	SC Comprehensive Infrastructure Development Act - Names this chapter the "South Carolina Comprehensive Infrastructure Development Act."	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-42-20	State	Statute	Regional Development Division - Lays out the legislative purpose for establishing the Division of Regional Development.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-42-30	State	Statute	Regional Development Division - Defines terms related to the Division of Regional Development.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-42-40	State	Statute	Regional Development Division - Establishes the Division of Regional Development within RIA.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-42-50	State	Statute	Regional Development Division - Lists powers and duties of the Division of Regional Development.	Requires a service	Creation of a state infrastructure development plan, coordination of regional infrastructure development plans, and coordination of state programs and resources that impact or affect infrastructure development	No Change
11-42-60	State	Statute	Regional Development Division - Lists administrative powers of the Division of Regional Development.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2024
11-50-10	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Names this chapter the "South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Act."	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-100	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Outlines authorizations related to financing agreements.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-110	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Exempts RIA from taxes.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-120	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Outlines procedures related to loan defaults.	Requires a service	Notification of the State Treasurer regarding loan defaults	No Change
11-50-130	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Limits liability of RIA and its board members and employees.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-140	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Allows RIA to act without additional notices, proceedings, or publications.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-150	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Requires all RIA funds to be deposited with the State Treasurer.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-160	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Requires RIA to submit multiple annual reports and have an annual audit by an independent CPA.	Requires a service	Agency reports	No Change
11-50-170	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Requires liberal construction of the chapter and approval of loans by the public entities that control applicable ad valorem taxes for general operating purposes.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-180	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Establishes severability of any provision held unconstitutional or invalid.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-20	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Outlines legislative findings related to the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Act.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-30	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority- Provides for the selection of qualified infrastructure projects for loans or other financial assistance through the Rural Infrastructure Fund and provides necessary authority to fund, operate and administer the functions of the agency.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
11-50-40	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Defines terms related to the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Act.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-50	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Outlines terms, qualifications, and appointing authorities of the members of the RIA board of directors.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2024
11-50-55	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Allows the RIA board to hire a director.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-60	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Outlines RIA's powers.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
11-50-65	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Requires the SC Department of Commerce to provide administrative support to RIA.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-70	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Outlines sources of revenue that may be used by the Rural Infrastructure Fund.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-80	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Establishes procedures for earnings on balances in the Rural Infrastructure Fund.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-90	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Requires RIA to select and administer eligible loan and other financial assistance for projects.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
33 USC 1383	Federal	Statute	Title VI of the Clean Water Act - Provides necessary authority and program requirements for the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Program.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
42 USC 300j-12	Federal	Statute	Safe Drinking Water Act - Provides necessary authority and program requirements for the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Program.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
48-5-30	State	Statute	Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority- Provides necessary authority to fund, invest, use, and administer the clean water fund, the drinking water fund, and other authorized activities permitted by the Safe Drinking Water Act.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
Proviso 54.1	State	FY24-25 Proviso	Rural Infrastructure Fund Carry Forward -Allows the carry forward of funds in the Rural Infrastructure Fund from the prior fiscal year to the current fiscal year.	Funding agency deliverable(s)		No Change
Proviso 54.2	State	FY24-25 Proviso	Carry Forward Local Government Assistance - Allows the carry forward of funds appropriated for the purpose of matching federal funds from the prior fiscal year to the current fiscal year.	Funding agency deliverable(s)		No Change
Proviso 54.3	State	FY24-25 Proviso	Carry Forward Calculation - Allows for certain funds to be excluded from the calculation of the carry forward authority.	Funding agency deliverable(s)		No Change
Proviso 54.4	State	FY24-25 Proviso	State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund - Allows any state funds remaining after fully matching federal grants for the State Revolving Funds under the Clean Water Act or Safe Drinking Water Act to be deposited into the South Carolina Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund established pursuant to Section 11-40-50.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2024
Proviso 54.5	State	FY24-25 Proviso	Statewide Water and Sewer Fund - Funds allocated for the Statewide Water and Sewer Fund to assist qualified Infrastructure projects not otherwise eligible for the Rural Infrastructure Fund. Projects will be selected for assistance based on the same procedures and guidelines established for the Rural Infrastructure Fund. Funds allocated may carry forward from the prior fiscal year to any current fiscal year.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
Proviso 54.6	State	FY24-25 Proviso	Carry Forward - Planning and Technical Assistance Funds - Allows the carry forward of funds appropriated for Planning and Technical Assistance from the prior fiscal year to the current fiscal year	Funding agency deliverable(s)		Added
Act 244 of 2022	State	Statute	Authorizes the expenditure of federal funds disbursed to the state in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021	Requires a service		No Change
Proviso 118.20	State	FY24-25 Proviso	Appropriates funds to the agency for specific projects	Distribute finding to another entity	Specific projects to be funded changed. Proviso number also changed from 118.19.	Amended
Proviso 118.20	State	FY24-25 Proviso	Appropriates funds to the agency for the State Revolving Fund match for federal funding	Funding agency deliverable(s)	Amount of funds for the State Revolving Fund match changed. Proviso number also changed from 118.19.	Amended
Act 6 of 2023	State	Statute	Authorizes the expenditure of additional federal funds disbursed to the state in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021	Funding agency deliverable(s)		No Change
Public Law 117-58	Federal	Statute	Increases funding for the State Revolving Fund loan program (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)	Funding agency deliverable(s)		No Change
Proviso 109.3	State	FY24-25 Proviso	DOR: Rural Infrastructure Fund Transfer - Authorizes the transfer of funds to RIA's Rural Infrastructure Fund	Funding agency deliverable(s)	Proviso is not new but was inadvertently omitted on the 2023 AAR.	No Change
Proviso 118.22(B)(4)	State	FY24-25 Proviso	Appropriates \$15M in non-recurring revenue to each of the agency's two grant funds (Rural Infrastructure Fund and Statewide Water and Sewer Fund)	Funding agency deliverable(s)		Added

2024

Services Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:
P450 - Rural Infrastructure Authority

Description of Service	Description of Direct Customer	Customer Name	Others Impacted by Service	Division or major organizational unit providing the service.	Description of division or major organizational unit providing the service.	Primary negative impact if service not provided.	Changes made to services during FY2024	Summary of changes to services
RIA offers grant funding for water quality improvement projects as well as timely and responsive technical assistance to customers.	The agency offers grants to public water and sewer providers.	Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	Customers of public water and sewer utilities	Grant Program	Grant program managers provide technical assistance for project development as well as assist customers with implementation of grant projects.	If infrastructure is not improved, it becomes increasingly difficult for the water or sewer system to protect public health and the environment or attract economic development.	No Change	
RIA offers below-market financing through its loan programs for water quality improvement projects.	The agency offers loans to public water and sewer providers	Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	Customers of public water and sewer utilities	Loan Program	The loan program staff responsibilities include credit reviews, loan agreements, disbursements and repayments.	If infrastructure is not improved, it becomes increasingly difficult for the water or sewer system to protect public health and the environment.	No Change	

2024

Partnerships Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:
P450 - Rural Infrastructure Authority

Type of Partner Entity	Name of Partner Entity	Description of Partnership	Change to the partnership during the past fiscal year
State Government	Department of Commerce	RIA has an administrative support agreement with Commerce and collaborates with the agency on providing infrastructure support for community development, industrial site development as well as economic development.	No Change
State Government	Department of Environmental Services	1 - RIA jointly administers the State Revolving Funds with DES, who manages the technical aspects of the program while RIA oversees the financial functions of SRF; 2 - RIA shares information on regulatory issues and coordinates with DES's Office of Rural Water on provision of technical assistance; 3 - RIA coordinates with multiple DES departments to ensure timely permitting of grant projects using federal ARPA funds.	Amend
Federal Government	Infrastructure Funders (federal and state agencies)	RIA participates in informal collaboration with federal and state agencies to leverage resources, streamline processes where feasible and provide technical assistance for customers.	No Change
Local Government	SC Councils of Governments	With appropriations from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, the COGs are providing grant administration services to RIA grantees identified by RIA.	No Change
State Government	Department of Transportation	RIA coordinates with SCDOT to ensure timely permitting of grant projects using federal ARPA funds.	Add
Federal Government	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	RIA coordinates with the Corps to ensure timely permitting of grant projects using federal ARPA funds.	Add
Professional Association	Water and sewer technical assistance providers	RIA participates in informal collaboration with organizations that provide technical assistance to water and sewer utilities. The purpose is to leverage resources, streamline processes where feasible and provide technical assistance for customers.	Add

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Reports Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:
P450 - Rural Infrastructure Authority

Report Name	Law Number (if applicable)	Summary of information requested in the report	Date of most recent submission DURING the past fiscal year	Reporting Frequency	Type of entity/entities	Method to access the report	Direct access hyperlink or agency contact (if not provided to LSA for posting online)	Changes to this report during the past fiscal year	Explanation why a report wasn't submitted
Agency Accountability Report	§1-1-810	The report "must contain the agency's or department's mission, objectives to accomplish the mission, and performance measures that show the degree to which objectives are being met." Agencies must "identify key program area descriptions and expenditures and link these to key financial and performance results measures."	September 2023	Annually	Governor or Lt. Governor AND Legislative entity or entities	Available on agency's website	https://ria.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/FY23_Accountability_Report_RIA.pdf	Amend	
Agreed Upon Procedures	§11-50-160	Review of accounting records and internal controls		Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Available on another website		Amend	The Office of the State Auditor did not select RIA for an Agreed Upon Procedures review in FY24.
Annual Report	§11-50-160	The report highlights the activities and accomplishments of the agency during the last fiscal year. Annual Report for FY22 will be posted online October 1, 2022.	October 2023	Annually	Legislative entity or entities	Available on agency's website	https://ria.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/SCRIA_Annual-Report_FY23.pdf	Amend	
Fines and Fees Report	Proviso 117.70	A report of all aggregate amounts of fines and fees that were charged and collected by that state agency in the prior fiscal year.	August 2023	Annually	Legislative entity or entities	Electronic copy available upon request	The FY23 report was posted during FY24, but has since been replaced with the FY24 report. Contact info@ria.sc.gov or (803) 737-0390 to obtain a copy of the FY23 report.	Amend	
Single Audit	§11-50-160	Schedule of expenditures of federal awards.	March 2024	Annually	Entity within federal government	Available on another website	https://osa.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Single-Audit-Report-FY2023.pdf	Amend	

AGENCY NAME:	Rural Infrastructure Authority		
AGENCY CODE:	P450	SECTION:	054

2024
Accountability Report

SUBMISSION FORM

I have reviewed and approved the data submitted by the agency in the following templates:

- Data Template
 - Reorganization and Compliance
 - FY2024 Strategic Plan Results
 - FY2025 Strategic Plan Development
 - Legal
 - Services
 - Partnerships
 - Report or Review
 - Budget
- Discussion Template
- Organizational Template

I have reviewed and approved the financial report summarizing the agency’s budget and actual expenditures, as entered by the agency into the South Carolina Enterprise Information System.

The information submitted is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

AGENCY DIRECTOR <i>(SIGN AND DATE):</i>	SIGNATURE ON FILE	Signature Received: 09/09/2024
<i>(TYPE/PRINT NAME):</i>	Bonnie Ammons	

BOARD/CMSN CHAIR <i>(SIGN AND DATE):</i>	SIGNATURE ON FILE	Signature Received: 09/09/2024
<i>(TYPE/PRINT NAME):</i>	Harry M. Lightsey III	