



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

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Dec. 16, 2024

RIA awards construction and planning grants to upgrade critical infrastructure

More than \$34 million in grant funding awarded across South Carolina

COLUMBIA, S.C. – For its first round of fiscal year 2025 grants, the S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) has approved grant assistance for 34 projects, totaling more than \$34 million dollars to address critical infrastructure needs related to public health and the environment while also developing increased capacity for economic opportunities. These projects will benefit more than 91,000 customers in 24 counties across the state.

“As one of the fastest-growing states in the country, strategic investments in South Carolina’s water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure will continue to be critical to ensure the state’s future environmental health and safety, facilitate long-term sustainability of local utilities, and catalyze economic development and growth around the state,” said Executive Director Bonnie Ammons. “With the assistance of RIA state grants, local governments and utilities can better prepare for the future and provide reliable service to both existing and new customers.”

The majority of grants will fund capital improvements, including projects that will upgrade aging or undersized water mains, rehabilitate or replace aging sewer lines, improve sewer pump stations and treatment plants, and make communities more resilient to flooding and stormwater. Six of the grants will fund projects that will enhance the infrastructure capacity

to serve current or planned industrial sites and facilitate job creation for new and existing businesses around the state.

Additionally, grants were awarded to 10 communities for planning activities that will help safeguard their long-term viability. These planning grants focus on various local needs, especially rural and small systems, including the mapping and assessment of existing infrastructure, development of capital improvement plans, and evaluations of the effects of stormwater.

RIA continues to work with partners to maximize the impact of state grant dollars. This round, the RIA state grant awards will be combined with more than \$50 million in local and other funds to carry out the proposed water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure projects.

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 first round of competitive grants for fiscal year 2025, awarded on Dec. 9, 2024, is below. To learn more about RIA or how to apply for grant assistance, visit www.ria.sc.gov.

Grantee	County	Grant Amount
Anderson County	Anderson	\$1,500,000
Bamberg County	Bamberg	\$856,000
Barnwell, City of	Barnwell	\$242,000
Beaufort-Jasper Water and Sewer Authority	Beaufort	\$1,500,000
Bishopville, City of	Lee	\$1,500,000
Blackville, Town of	Barnwell	\$250,000
Chester, City of	Chester	\$250,000
Columbia, City of	Richland	\$1,500,000
Conway, City of	Horry	\$1,500,000
Dorchester County	Dorchester	\$1,500,000

Greenwood Metropolitan District	Greenwood	\$1,500,000
Hardeeville, City of	Jasper	\$1,000,000
Heath Springs, Town of	Lancaster	\$187,500
Hilton Head Public Service District	Beaufort	\$1,500,000
Kershaw Co. and Lee Co. Regional Water Authority/Town of Lynchburg	Lee	\$250,000
Lane, Town of	Williamsburg	\$250,000
Laurens County Water & Sewer Commission	Laurens	\$1,500,000
Marlboro County	Marlboro	\$1,500,000
Metropolitan Sewer Subdistrict	Greenville	\$825,000
Mitford Rural Water District	Chester	\$235,000
Mullins, City of	Marion	\$1,500,000
Myrtle Beach, City of	Horry	\$1,500,000
Newberry County	Newberry	\$678,750
Newberry, City of	Newberry	\$1,500,000
Ninety Six Commission of Public Works	Greenwood	\$1,279,465
North Charleston Sewer District	Charleston	\$1,500,000
Pickens Regional Joint Water System	Pickens	\$1,500,000
Richland County	Richland	\$1,500,000
Ridgeway, Town of	Fairfield	\$1,500,000
Scotia, Town of	Hampton	\$125,000
Southside Rural Community Water District	Pickens	\$1,253,472
Springfield, Town of	Orangeburg	\$250,000
Union, City of	Union	\$687,885

Winnsboro, Town of	Fairfield	\$182,500
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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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