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

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Nov. 23, 2026

Rural Infrastructure Authority awards construction grants to upgrade critical infrastructure

$25 million in grant funding awarded across South Carolina

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) has approved a total of over $25 million in grant assistance for 22 projects that address critical infrastructure needs related to public health, water quality, storm resilience and economic development. These projects will improve water, wastewater and stormwater facilities that benefit more than 50,000 households and businesses in 19 counties across the state.

“These grants are targeted investments in South Carolina’s future,” said RIA Executive Director Bonnie Ammons. “They support vital services that are a foundation for healthy, thriving communities.”

All 22 grants provide for capital improvements that will upgrade aging or undersized water mains, rehabilitate or replace aging sewer lines, improve sewer pump stations and treatment plants, and enhance or expand stormwater drains and culverts. Some are designed to enhance infrastructure capacity or facilitate job creation for new and existing businesses.

RIA collaborates with local communities and other partners to maximize the impact of state grant dollars. The RIA grant awards will be combined with more than $14 million in local and other funds to carry out the proposed water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure projects.

These 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 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 2027, awarded Nov.16, 2026, is below. The application deadline for the second grant round is March 22, 2027. To learn more about RIA or how to apply for grant assistance, visit www.ria.sc.gov.

Grantee	**County**	**Award Amount**
Bennettsville, City of	Marlboro	$1,500,000
Berkeley County	Berkeley	$479,368
Bishopville, City of	Lee	$1,500,000
Blackville, Town of	Barnwell	$1,500,000
Charleston Water System	Charleston	$1,451,201
Darlington County	Darlington	$256,630
Denmark, City of	Bamberg	$356,400
Fripp Island Public Service District	Beaufort	$742,088
Georgetown County/Browns Ferry Water Company	Georgetown	$1,500,000
Greer Commission of Public Works	Greenville	$1,500,000
Horry County	Horry	$1,500,000
Lancaster County	Lancaster	$1,201,996
Lancaster County Water and Sewer District	Lancaster	$1,500,000
Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission	Laurens	$1,360,000
Lexington, Town of	Lexington	$1,500,000
Lynchburg, Town of	Lee	$966,120
Ninety Six Commission of Public Works	Greenwood	$1,500,000
Orangeburg, City of	Orangeburg	$1,119,426
Southside Rural Community Water District	Pickens	$556,324
Sumter, City of	Sumter	$2,000,000
Ulmer, Town of	Allendale	$189,750
Williston, Town of	Barnwell	$1,500,000

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 wastewater 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:
Alex Clark
Deputy Director of Communications
South Carolina Department of Commerce
(803) 734-4467
aclark@sccommerce.com
SCcommerce.com