

The COGnizant

April - June 2017 Quarterly Newsletter



**SANTEE
LYNCHES**

Regional Council of Governments

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\$1.75 MILLION IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS (CDBG) AWARDED TO THE REGION

In June 2017, the South Carolina Department of Commerce awarded a \$1.0 million CDBG grant to the Town of Mayesville and a \$750,000 CDBG grant to Lee County.

The Mayesville project will support consolidation of Mayesville’s wastewater collection system with the City of Sumter’s treatment system. The result will be increased capacity for wastewater treatment in Mayesville and elimination of their current lagoon treatment system.

The Lee County project will support construction of a new elevated water storage tank by the Kershaw County and Lee County Rural Water Service to serve the St. Charles area of the county.



NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE PROGRAM

Project	Acquired	Demolished	Funds Utilized
City of Sumter	100	31	\$1,122,118.57
City of Camden/ Kershaw County	37	7	\$436,741.64
Totals (through 6/30/17)	137	38	\$1,558,860.21

The Santee-Lynches Regional Development Corporation continues to partner with the City of Sumter and the City of Camden/ Kershaw County to conduct demolitions of blighted houses under the Neighborhood Initiative Program (NIP). As of June 30, 2017, all property acquisitions have been completed, with a total of 137 properties acquired. Santee-Lynches is now focusing on demolition and greening of all 137 acquired properties by December 1, 2017.

STAFF RELOCATION

With the new fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017 came staff department relocations. The Health and Human Services (Area Agency on Aging) department is now all in one location at 39 East Calhoun Street (SC Works building). The Workforce Department along with Business Services is located at COG headquarters on Corporate Way in Sumter.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

As a federally designated Economic Development District, Santee-Lynches must review the strengths and weaknesses of the region, identify opportunities to advance economic vitality and encourage the development of new strategies through public and private partnerships. Santee-Lynches continues to work with a strategy committee comprised of representatives of the education, business, and local government sectors to develop a new 5-year **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**. A draft CEDS is scheduled for release for public comment on August 1st for a 45-day period, after which it will be considered by the Santee-Lynches Board of Directors for adoption prior to the expiration of the current CEDS on September 30, 2017.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

One of the requirements of the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging is for the Area Agency on Aging to submit a 4-year Area Plan. This is a comprehensive, coordinated plan which identifies the needs of the sixty and older population and was written in accordance with all requirements of the Older Americans Act and the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging (LGOA). The plan was written with the mission of the Area Agency on Aging in mind to enable older persons in the region to lead meaningful dignified lives in their communities by providing leadership, direction and support for a comprehensive continuum of aging and long term care services.

The Health and Human Services (HHS) staff has been very involved with the plan and have spent this last quarter evaluating their specific program areas and developing goals, objectives and strategies to meet the needs of the older population in our region. This plan went through several review processes which included a public hearing in April, a client/customer survey on our COG website, as well as being handed out at outreach events and the local nutrition sites, the Regional Aging and Advisory Committee, the HHS Aging Committee, and then the SLRCOG Board of Directors approved the plan.

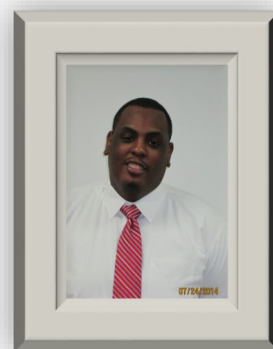
Upon final approval from the LGOA, the plan will be enacted and will be in place from July 2017 - June 2021. The plan is available for review on the COG website at <http://www.santeelynychescog.org/in-progress-hhs/>. Please contact Connie Munn at 803.774.1376 with any questions regarding the plan.



Area Plan 2017-2021

Area Agency on Aging
2525 Corporate Way, Suite 200
Sumter, South Carolina 29154
www.santeelynychescog.org

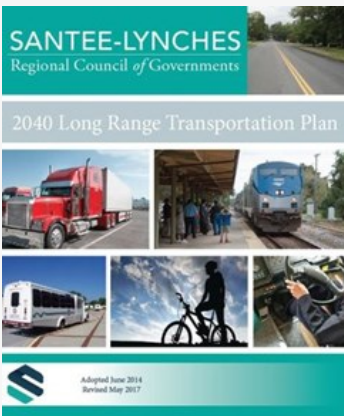
Thank you to Lewan Brunson, Health and Human Services Assessor for the winning entry in naming our COG Newsletter "The COGNizant".



WORKFORCE and SC WORKS

SC Works # of WIOA Participants Served	
Total Served (Active & Follow-Up)	375
SC Works Training and Supportive Services Dollars	
	\$132,065
Training and Supportive Services Dollars Spent	Kershaw/Lee Counties - \$30,588 Clarendon/Sumter Counties - \$101,477
	87
Number of Participants Receiving Training and/or Supportive Services	Kershaw/Lee Counties - 17 Clarendon/Sumter Counties - 70
Work Experience Contracts Dollars	\$30,110
*Dollars paid directly to Students	19
On-the-Job (OJT) Training Dollars	\$79,591
OJT Contracts	46
Earned \$10,000 for Engaging 449 New Businesses (State Goal - 376)	
SC Works # Job Placements (04-01-2017 thru 06-30-2017)	
Case Managers	5
SC Works System	224
Total	229
Palmetto Youth Connections	
Program Year 2016 Enrollments	7
Outcomes:	
Lit/Num Gains	9
GEDs and Diplomas	6
Occupational Credentials	1
Placements	5
Work Experiences/ On-the-Job Training	20
Career Smart	21

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING



Santee-Lynches continues to work with the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) as a planning partner for the non-urbanized portions of the four-county Santee-Lynches Region.

Updates to the Santee-Lynches 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) were completed and adopted by the Santee-Lynches Board of Directors at its quarterly meeting in May 2017. At its core, the LRTP identifies ways the region expects to invest resources to enhance its transportation system. The underlying principles and recommended actions reflect choices made by the public and private sectors regarding transportation investments, land use decisions, and infrastructure improvements.

LOCAL PLANNING SUPPORT

City of Manning adopts 10-year Comprehensive Plan - In June 2017, Manning City Council adopted “Tomorrow Together: the 2017-2027 Manning Comprehensive Plan”. Santee-Lynches planners supported development of the plan from initial community engagement sessions through development of the plan’s goals and objectives with intensive citizen input and feedback. The result is an appealing and holistic plan for the City to use in aligning resources and implementing programs and projects during the coming ten years. Adoption of the plan ensures that Manning remains in compliance with the South Carolina Local Government Comprehensive Planning Enabling Act of 1994.



Santee-Lynches planners continue to support development of new 10-year comprehensive plans for the Towns of Bethune, Pinewood, and Mayesville. Existing conditions workbooks are being developed for each town, which will assist town residents and officials in developing proposed goals and objectives for the coming ten years.

SUMMER INTERNS

Ehime Ohue attends Duke University on a full ROTC scholarship. She is a sophomore studying public policy. Ehime is assisting the HHS department specifically the Veteran Directed Program, and Family Caregiver as well as Assessments.

Josh Miller attends USC Sumter where he is a sophomore working towards his degree in Political Science and Philosophy. Josh is researching data for the comprehensive plans and grant applications within the ECS department.

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