



**SANTEE
LYNCHEs**

Regional Council *of* Governments

REIMAGINE, REDESIGN, RELAUNCH

FY 2020-2021

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



A LETTER FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN & DIRECTOR

DEAR REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER,

The Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments (Santee-Lynches COG) exists to collaborate purposely to enhance the quality of life and provide opportunities to advance our four-county region of Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, and Sumter. We have an unwavering desire and commitment to deliver premier services to our member governments (cities of Bishopville, Camden, Manning, and Sumter and the counties of Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, and Sumter). We are steadfastly committed to finding ways to add value across the entire Santee-Lynches COG region.

The linchpin to continually adding value is **your** professional staff. They are the lifeblood of the agency. **Your** staff is a diverse group of resolute, solution-oriented professionals. They understand and are invested in the vision of the

agency. This means they are fully invested in the region! This means you get their best daily. They go the extra mile to supply the information, resources, and tools you need to make the best decisions. Their efforts led to bringing in \$6.8 million in CDBG awards in one year, a first in our 50-year history. Their efforts also led to the installation of cutting-edge Far UVC technology on 331 school buses which protects 33,729 children. And finally, their efforts have led to winning nine out of nine award submissions to the National Development of Organizations (NADO) over the past four years.

Your COG is constantly searching for opportunities to push us forward as a region and as individual entities. We have made significant advances in expanding services to our seniors, workforce and helping our communities to

develop. We are pleased to provide this annual report for the Santee-Lynches COG, covering our activities and accomplishments from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. I believe you will find it very informative, and if there is anything, we can do for you and your community, please let us know.

Respectfully,

Vivian McGhaney
Chairman of the Board

Christopher H. McKinney
CEO/Executive Director



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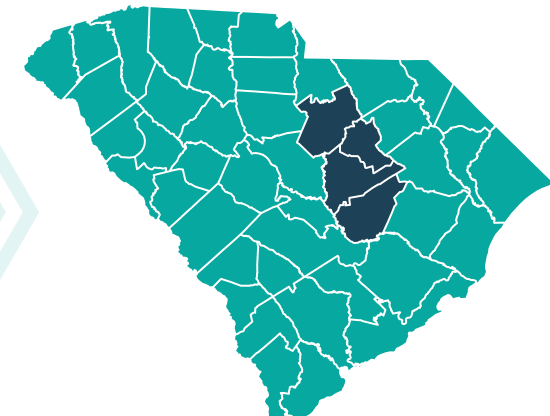


WE ARE SANTEE-LYNCHES COG

Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments (COG) is one of ten regional, sub-state districts in South Carolina. Santee-Lynches COG was established in 1971 and serves the cities of Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, and Sumter counties.

We serve the region by working with local governments to bring public and private sector leaders together to solve emerging and persistent problems. In addition to providing planning-related services, Santee-Lynches COG is also instrumental in administering federal and state grants aimed at facilitating community and economic development, improving the quality of our workforce, and improving the quality of life for our senior citizens. The Santee-Lynches COG is also a designated Economic Development District under the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

Our purpose is to work with local governments, public agencies, private companies, and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) to enhance efficiency and effectiveness. COGs are a means of bringing the public and private sector leaders of a region together to determine needs, set priorities, develop alternative solutions to common problems, and capitalize on mutually beneficial opportunities.



MEET THE BOARD

CLARENDON COUNTY

Councilman Benton Blakely
Sen. Kevin L. Johnson
Shirley Keels (*Mbr at Large*)
Mayor Julia Nelson (*1st Vice-Chair*)
Chairman Dwight Stewart

KERSHAW COUNTY

Chairman Julian Burns
Mayor Alfred Mae Drakeford
Rep. Lauri Funderburk
Councilman Jeffrey Graham
Brad Hanley (*Mbr at Large*)
John Wesley Lee (*Mbr at Large*)
Kenneth McCaskill (*Mbr at Large*)
Vice-Chairman Sammie Tucker, Jr.
(*2st Vice-Chair*)

LEE COUNTY

Mayor Grady Brown
Councilwoman Jacqueline Josey
Rep. Will Wheeler
Chairman Travis Windham (*IPC*)

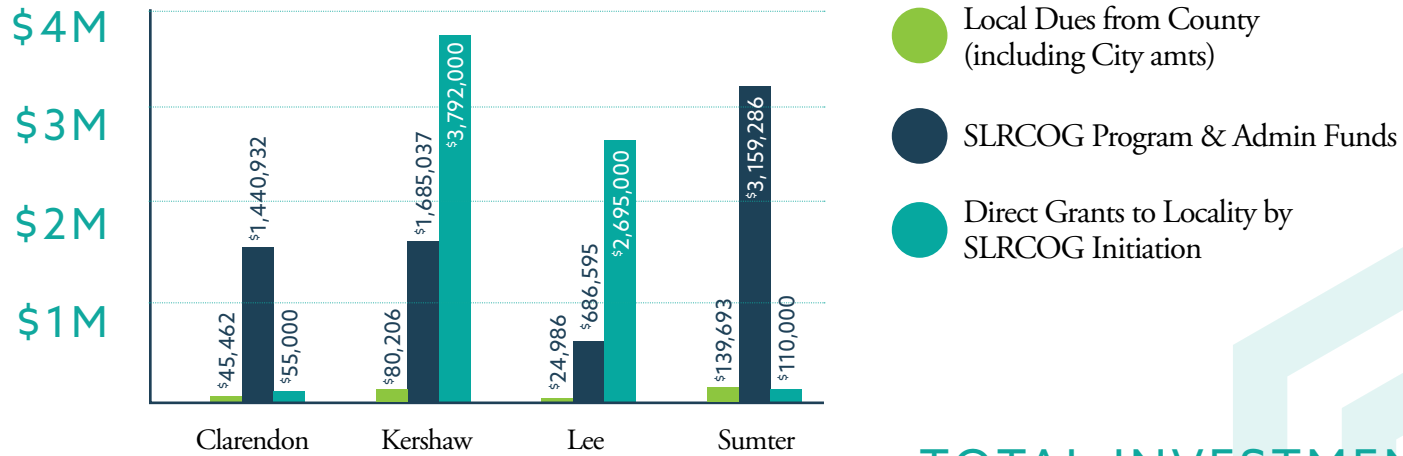
SUMTER COUNTY

Councilman Eugene Baten
Councilman Steven Corley
Jeffrey (Jay) W. Davis, Jr. (*Mbr at Large*)
Chairman James McCain (*Secretary/Treasurer*)
Mayor Joe McElveen
Councilwoman Vivian McGhaney
(*Chairman*)
Roland Robinson (*Mbr at Large*)
Rep. David Weeks
Chuck Wilson (*Mbr at Large*)
Earl Wilson (*Mbr at Large*)
Councilwoman Ione J. Dwyer
Councilman David Merchant

IPC = Immediate Past Chair



RETURN ON INVESTMENT



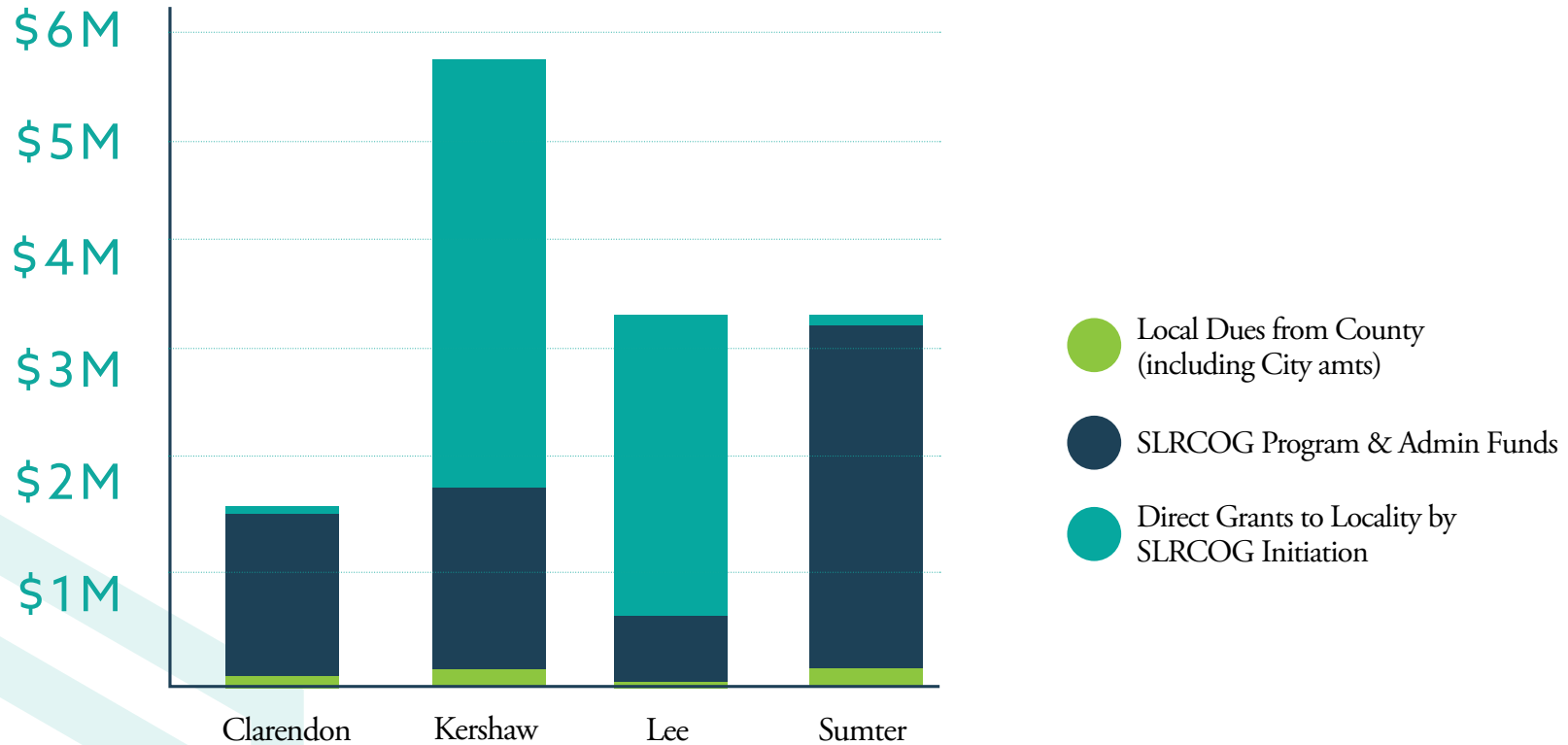
	Clarendon Co.	Kershaw Co.	Lee Co.	Sumter Co.
<i>Dollar amount invested:</i>	\$45,462	\$80,206	\$24,986	\$139,693
<i>Return on Investment:</i>	32:1	67:1	134:1	22:1

TOTAL INVESTMENT:

\$290,347

WITH AN AVERAGE ROI ON \$1 OF **\$46**



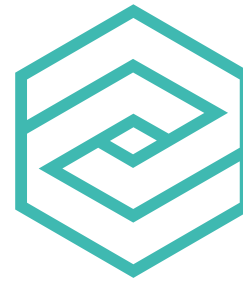


SUMMARY OF
REVENUE &
EXPENDITURES
FY 2020 - 2021



REVENUE	
Federal and state revenue.....	\$6,042,472
State General Assembly appropriations.....	\$41,242
Local government appropriations	\$290,347
Contracts and miscellaneous	\$669,171
Interest earnings.....	\$3,367
Total revenue.....	\$7,046,599

EXPENDITURES	
Personnel.....	\$1,990,814
Development, training, and travel	\$49,491
Operations, maintenance, and other admin	\$913,022
Equipment and furniture purchases.....	\$40,858
PPE inventory for resell	\$104,079
Direct participant support and pass-thru funding...	\$3,873,587
Total expenses.....	\$6,971,851



HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

The HHS Department strives to make a continual positive difference in our community by focusing on the health (physical, mental, financial, relational) of our citizens. We currently serve adults aged 60 and above, but we are actively searching for opportunities to expand our reach.

“We have been blessed to be able to support and increase services to seniors in our area over the last two years despite the pandemic and the challenges it’s presented. We are truly grateful to be part of a great region and for the support and constant communication from Santee-Lynches COG. The regional providers are in sync, and we work together with the AAA as one unit. As we move forward to take care of challenges and gain support for our seniors, we say thank you and we are forever grateful to be a part of this team.”

Ruby Gibbs

Lee County COA Executive Director



AREA AGENCY ON AGING

The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) contracts with providers for In-Home and Community Based Services throughout the region to provide group dining and home-delivered meals, transportation, home care, and health promotion programs. Each eligible client must complete a current assessment of their individual needs with the AAA before services begin.

“Thank you for all your agency does. The meals are very helpful to my 90-year-old mother.”

Mr. Corley, Sumter County

Total number of clients and units served for group dining, transportation, and home-delivered meal programs by county:



CLARENDON:

*Clients: 290
Units: 51,989*



LEE:

*Clients: 208
Units: 35,851*



KERSHAW:

*Clients: 498
Units: 83,712*



SUMTER:

*Clients: 594
Units: 119,460*

Total number of clients and costs associated with receiving home care by county:



CLARENDON:

*Units: 2,848.75
Costs: \$52,701.88*



LEE:

*Units: 2,435.25
Costs: \$45,052.13*



KERSHAW:

*Units: 4,880.59
Costs: \$90,289.25*



SUMTER:

*Units: 10,916.05
Costs: \$201,946.93*

Total funding spent:

\$389,990.19

Regional Total Hours:

21,080.55



Unfortunately, we have many more people that need our assistance. Until we can secure adequate funding to serve all the individuals requesting services, we're maintaining a waiting list. The numbers below indicate how many clients are currently waiting to receive services as of June 30, 2021.

Home Delivered Meals: 381

Homemaking Services: 297

Group Dining Services: 18

Transportation Services: 15

FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT

The demands of caregiving may be physical, emotional, and financial. The Family Caregiver Support Program helps through respite, education, and supplemental services. Caregivers caring for loved ones 60 or older, or caring for an individual with Alzheimer's or a Dementia-related diagnosis are eligible to apply. Services are also available for seniors raising children who are 18 years of age or younger.

Total funding spent on Caregiver Support:

\$319,345.56

Total funding spent on Supplemental Services:

\$3,304.17

Respite Hours: **30,914**

Caregivers: **226**

Support Groups: **4**

Caregiver Training: **1**



SENIORS RAISING CHILDREN (SRC)

Our adjustment to the SRC program continues to be a huge success by offering tutor services for our children during the pandemic. We have served 35 seniors and 53 children with a total of \$50,301 spent towards tutoring services. This is nearly \$949 per child to help prevent them from getting left behind, far less than the social and financial costs we would have felt had we not made that investment in their future.

“Another amazing program that came to Clarendon County. I am very thankful for the help for my three grandchildren.”

Jacqueline A.

ASSESSMENTS:

We employ Aging Program Specialists through our Area Agency on Aging who visit the homes of our elderly to conduct an assessment to determine the level of need. A database of the information creates a prioritized list based on the assessment and required services.

Assessments completed July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021:

 **Clarendon: 301 Lee: 154**
Kershaw: 374 Sumter: 731

Regional Re-assessments: **1,116**

Regional New assessments: **444**



LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Legal Assistance Services works with attorneys and state agencies to provide referrals for legal services to individuals 60 years of age or older. Working with SC Legal Services, our Legal Services team helps ease the financial burden for legal help among our aging population.



CLARENDON:

Clients: **14**
Hours: **64.25**



KERSHAW:

Clients: **30**
Hours: **200.25**



LEE:
Clients: **13**
Hours: **39**



SUMTER:

Clients: **38**
Units: **216.5**

LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN

The Ombudsman helps ensure the safety and protection of individuals living in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities (LTCF). The Ombudsman is certified through the SC Department on Aging (DOA) to identify, investigate, and resolve concerns on behalf of LTCF Residents. Additionally, the Ombudsman trains staff, residents, and family members on how to recognize signs of abuse, neglect, and exploitation, as well as Resident's rights.

County	Cases	Complaints	Consults	Training Conducted	Friendly Visits
Clarendon	1	1	8	0	6
Lee	0	0	9	0	4
Kershaw	3	9	19	0	16
Sumter	19	26	67	0	22
Total	23	36	103	0	48

**Friendly visits include telephone calls and deliveries to facilities due to non-visits during the pandemic.*

“Your office was very helpful with assisting me to receive paperwork the facility refused to give me because I was trying to relocate to another facility.” Ms. Richards

INSURANCE COUNSELING

Insurance counseling for individuals who are enrolled in Medicare, Medicare supplemental insurance, and other insurance options, is available to persons who receive Medicare. Through our State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) and the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP), we educate Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries on ways to avoid, detect, and prevent health care fraud.

Total contacts made through Insurance Counseling (SHIP/SMP):

SHIP: 2,495 SMP: 2,243

Total SHIP contacts by county:



*Clarendon: 463
Kershaw: 661
Lee: 235
Sumter: 1,136*

“I never knew help was available in this area. My wife and I enrolled in a plan from a TV advertisement. Mrs. Richburg helped us correct this problem and got everything back like it was and she explained why the plan wasn’t working for us. Other seniors need to know there is help when they don’t know what to do.”

W. Barfield



PILOT PROGRAMS

VETERAN TRANSPORTATION PROJECT

Our AAA provides reimbursements to veterans ages 60 or older for transportation to Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VA) appointments and non-essential trips.

Total number of Veterans served November 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021 by county:

Total Veterans Served: 90 Total Funding: \$9,000



*Clarendon: 8
Kershaw: 1
Lee: 9
Sumter: 72*



SC THRIVE LONG-TERM CARE PROJECT

In partnership with SC Thrive and the other nine South Carolina AAAs, our AAA helped families complete complicated applications for in-home or facility provided Long-Term Care Medicaid services. These services will help meet the health and personal needs of individuals who are aged, blind or disabled and are provided by a nursing home or certified at-home care provider.

AAA	Contacts	Submitted Applications	Outreach Events
Appalachian	215	57	34
Catawba	64	55	29
Central Midlands	59	3	21
Lowcountry	9	10	13
Lower Savannah	1	0	0
Pee Dee	38	18	30
Santee-Lynches	212	105	27
Trident	198	97	42
Upper Savannah	0	0	29
Waccamaw	37	10	4
Total	833	355	229

Total number of LTC applications submitted July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021, by county for the Santee-Lynches Region.



Clarendon: 18
Kershaw: 11
Lee: 3
Sumter: 80

Total:
105

INFORMATION REFERRAL & ASSISTANCE (IR&A)

The IR&A Specialist helps citizens identify, understand, and effectively access regional services, providing a comprehensive understanding of the service delivery system. Our staff participates in outreach events in the region and are available to provide presentations on topics such as long-term care, benefits, or available resources for older adults and individuals with disabilities.

Top Presenting Needs:

- Aging Services
- Home Delivered Meals
- Respite Services

Top Unmet Needs:

- Home Repairs or Modifications
- Housing
- Home Delivered Meals
- Homemaking

Total outreach events in the Santee-Lynches service area:

3



Clarendon: 0
Kershaw: 0
Lee: 0
Sumter: 3

Total contacts: **876**



Clarendon: 128
Kershaw: 202
Lee: 59
Sumter: 487



With funding received from the CARES Act, Santee-Lynches COG staff and board members packed 1,500 Care Packages with masks, hand sanitizer, toilet paper, and sanitizing wipes for delivery to senior citizens in its four-county region.

The packages were made possible due to the fact the COG secured a PPE distributor at the beginning of the pandemic when supplies were not readily available. The idea was generated within the agency to find a creative way to keep local seniors safe during the pandemic.

“We loved receiving the care packages you forwarded to us...the items were both practical and useful.”

Delaine Community Center Seniors

For additional information on HHS Programs:

santeelynchescog.org/aging



*2020 NADO Photo Contest
People's Choice Winner*



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



The Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments serves as the administrative entity (AE) and grant recipient to implement the goals of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA) in Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee and Sumter counties. AE staff administer Workforce Development Board (WDB)

established policies and guidelines to deliver workforce investment activities to businesses and individuals who need those services, including small and large businesses, job seekers, dislocated workers, veterans, incumbent workers, new entrants to the workforce, youth, and persons with disabilities.

The mission of the Santee-Lynches WDB is to “improve the quality of the workforce and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the region” through a local SC works/One-Stop workforce development delivery system.

EMPLOYER SERVICES

On-the-Job Training (OJT), a federal program funded by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA):

- Enables employers to hire and train skilled workers and get reimbursed for their efforts.
- Reimburses an employer up to 50 percent (75 percent for smaller businesses) of an employee’s starting wages while they are training.
- Requires no change in your company’s personnel policies.
- Ensures smooth new-hire transitions into the workplace.
- Offsets the training cost for businesses.
- Increases return on investment.



“Our OJT contracts with Santee-Lynches have alleviated some of the financial burdens of training new employees, while still ensuring they receive the best training possible. Santee-Lynches has been an asset to our hiring efforts during the past year and will continue on as long as possible.”

Sara Margaret Rivers, SHRM-CP
Human Resources Rep I,
Caterpillar Precision Pins – Sumter, SC

Incumbent Worker Training

- The Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) Program provides funding to help cover the costs of training needed to retain a competitive workforce. Such training is meant to assist with expansion, new technology, retooling, new services/product lines, and/or new organizational structuring, or to be used as part of a layoff aversion strategy. IWT is funded by the Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Free job postings

Employee Screening

- Conduct preliminary screening, matching, & background checks.

Interview Locations

- Off-site, private, & convenient location to interview pre-matched applicants

WIN Testing

- Profiles & assess Basic Technical skills

Business Solutions Centers

- Provides a "second office" in which to conduct business
- Equipped with phone, fax, email, Internet access, copier, and more

Employer Events

- Job Fairs
- "Employer on the Floor" Hiring Events
- Business On-Site Hiring Events

Rapid Response Events

- The SC Rapid Reemployment Team responds to downsizing and closures that impact SC workers, enabling those affected to return to work as quickly as possible. At the request of the company, SC Works staff can offer some of the following services onsite: resume building, interviewing skills, and online job searches, to name a few.

Business Engagement

- Job Postings
- Applicant Screening and Referral
- Work Experience
- On-the-Job training (OJT) opportunities
- Incumbent Worker Training (IWT)
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC)

Job Fairs

Veteran Placement Representatives

“We have been extremely happy working with Santee-Lynches on the OJT Program. It has been an excellent opportunity and they make the entire process easy for our small company. We have benefited from this program for the last two years and highly recommend it.”

**Teresa Bloomer, Quality / Project Manager
Advanta Southeast**

EMPLOYEE SERVICES

- **Resource Lab** – easy access to phones, fax machines, Internet-connected computers, printers, and copiers. You can access job banks, apply for Financial Aid assistance for education and training programs, or use our job readiness e-resources
- **Resume Development**
- **Skills Assessments (WIN)** – provide you with a clear picture of your strengths and weaknesses
- **Employability Workshops** – hosts workshops on a wide range of topics: from conducting a job search to filling out an application and interviewing, from resume writing to job readiness
- **Job Development Assistance** – assistance with job searches
- **Financial Aid Assistance** – up-to-date information & helps you complete the applications needed to apply for financial aid
- **SC Economic Data** – data and trends from the SC Department of Employment and Workforce's Labor Market Information Division
- **Occupational Resources** – assistance to make good career choices
- **Individualized and Training Services** – includes individual career management, career counseling, paid education and occupational skills training, OJT, and more



YOUTH PROGRAMS

We provide employment assistance to youths ages 16-24 that meet any of the following criteria:

- Low-income, at-risk youth
- Under-prepared youth
- School dropout
- Homeless, runaway, or foster child
- Pregnant or parenting youth
- Offender
- Disabled and/or learning-disabled youth
- Basic skills deficient
- English language learner
- Any youth who is an individual who requires additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment



WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITIES ACT SERVICES

Supportive Services: WIOA allows for supportive services to be provided to customers who participate in training and employment activities. These services include transportation, childcare, dependent care, housing, and needs-related payments. Supportive Services are utilized as a resource to help eliminate barriers to training and employment.

Incumbent Worker Training (IWT): IWT helps employers stay on the cutting edge and increase productivity and quality by providing employees with needed training in order for the business to remain competitive. IWT provides funding to help cover the costs of training needed to retain a competitive workforce.

Types of Training Available: A variety of occupational skills training is made available to customers who require skills upgrading or new skills. These training programs include but are not limited to Associates Degrees in General Technology and Nursing, Commercial Driver's License, Clinical Medical Assistant, Patient Care Technician, Nursing Assistant, Emergency Medical Technician, EKG & Phlebotomy Technician, Certified Welder, and other approved areas of training. On-the-Job Training and Work Experience opportunities also enable participants to gain hands-on experience in various fields.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.

WIOA provides employment and training services for adults, dislocated workers, and youth. WIOA increases the quality and accessibility of services that job seekers and employers receive at their local SC Works Centers. WIOA also helps job seekers acquire industry-recognized credentials for in-demand jobs.



Types of Certificates: WIOA participants have the opportunity to achieve a range of attainable certificates, including basic skills training, in which they can obtain a high school diploma or GED, or strengthen their basic math, English, or reading skills. They also have the resources available to them to attain occupational/vocational training for skills that are needed in high-demand jobs in the region including but not limited to advanced manufacturing, logistics/transportation, and healthcare sectors.

Measurable Skills Gain: The purpose of the Measurable Skills Gain (MSG) indicator is to track and measure important progressions and achievements made by WIOA clients through pathways and towards various goals of their individual programs. MSGs can be obtained from completing an occupational skills training program or from attaining a level of basic skills achievement (i.e. increased math and reading levels, earning a high school diploma or GED).

Services Provided to Job Seekers: Through the SC Works centers, all partners collaborate to leverage the state's workforce system by providing services such as career guidance, free job search through our SC Works Online Services (SCWOS) system, resume creation and assistance, job referrals, testing and training to job seekers. Other job seeker services include free workshops, access to job fairs, information on training and education programs, and Labor Market Information to help look at employment trends and local workforce information.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Total number of applicants that received a job: **1,052**
for the Region

Total number of Employer Events **12**

Total Number of Job Seekers **229**



KERSHAW:
30 hiring events



SUMTER:
9 hiring events

16 Management Meetings and **16 Group Information Sessions** with **49 attendees** were held in Santee- Lynches during Program Year 2020. We do not count participants/ attendees for management meetings and it accounts for the disparity in Participants/ Attendees. Many employers were hesitant to conduct in-person events, reducing the number of group information sessions.

Total number of Rapid Response Events: **32**
Total number of Participants: **49**

Kershaw County Events: **18**
Number of Participants: **40**

Sumter County Events: **14**
Number of Participants: **9**

Total number of business engagements:

64



Clarendon: **12**
Kershaw: **16**
Lee: **4**
Sumter: **32**



WORKFORCE INNOVATION & OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA) PROGRAM YEAR 2020

Total amount directly
invested in workforce
participants: **\$666,034**

Total dollars
invested in training **\$501,466**

Clarendon County: **\$137,041**

Kershaw County: **\$171,373**

Lee County: **\$890**

Sumter County: **\$192,162**

Total dollars invested
in Supportive Services **\$164,568**

Clarendon County: **\$92,322**

Kershaw County: **\$31,424**

Lee County: **\$861**

Sumter County: **\$39,957**

Total Youth
Job Placements: **52**

Clarendon: **12**

Kershaw: **16**

Lee: **4**

Sumter: **32**

% Youth Successful
(completed training & employed in field)

Clarendon: **61.53%**

Kershaw: **20%**

Lee: **42.87%**

Sumter: **21.43%**

Incumbent Workers Training grants were not awarded to South Carolina's local areas in Program Year 2019. Incumbent Worker Training Funding awarded April 2021 has been obligated, but no expenditures have been reported.

PY 2020 WIOA PARTICIPANT RESULTS

Total WIOA Adults and Dislocated Workers served: **295** 240 (adult)
(Kershaw: 63, Sumter: 217, Clarendon: 15) 30 (DW)

Total WIOA Youth Served: **148**
(Kershaw: 11, Clarendon: 96, Lee: 10, Sumter: 3)

Total Youth Measurable Skills Gains: **369**
(Kershaw: 61, Clarendon: 203, Lee: 26, Sumter: 79)

Total Youth GED/High School Diplomas earned: **8**
(Kershaw: 1, Clarendon: 4, Lee: 1, Sumter: 2)

Total Youth Occupational Skills Credentials earned: **109**
(Kershaw: 32, Clarendon: 59, Lee: 1, Sumter: 16)

Customers served through SC Works Centers: **17,849**
(Kershaw: 3,969, Clarendon: 1,782, Lee: 374, Sumter: 11,724)

Number of Services Provided to Job Seekers: **1,032,338**
(Kershaw: 240,120, Clarendon: 138,677, Lee: 1,889, Sumter: 651,652)

Number of Employers served through SC Works Centers: **553**
(Kershaw: 171, Clarendon: 26, Lee: 4, Sumter: 352)

Number of Services Provided to Employers: **4,044**
(Kershaw: 612, Clarendon: 71, Lee: 4, Sumter: 3,357)



“I would like to thank my Career Coach, Mrs. Durant, and the WIOA program for giving me the opportunity to achieve my goal of attending Palmetto Trucking School and becoming a truck driver. I started a new job on Aug. 9 at Jordan Transportation.”

Jason Bradford
WIOA Adult Participant



“It’s up to the individual person, but if you want it, the SC Works program can get you there. You must have the drive and desire, the resources are here, and I’m proof.”

Karl Heyward
WIOA Dislocated Worker Participant



“I want to thank Santee-Lynches for helping me follow my goal of becoming a Pharmacy Technician. I now do what I dreamt of doing.”

Winter Barrett
WIOA Youth Participant

For additional information on Workforce Service/Programs:

santeelynchescog.org/workforce-development-department





GOVERNMENT SERVICES

The Government Services Department provides planning and project implementation services for local governments in the four-county region, as well as for other partners from the nonprofit and for-profit sectors.

We provide the following services initiated both through regional collaborative processes and individual requests:

- Transportation
- Environment
- Community Development
- Planning & Zoning Officials Training
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Santee-Lynches Tenant Empowerment Program (S.T.E.P)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Pursued project-specific improvements including:

- Three-phase Camden Truck Route project
- Black River Road Corridor Phase I project
- Proposed Bishopville Truck Route project

Engaged with Santee-Wateree Regional Transportation Authority (SWRTA) to implement the Transit Needs Assessment and Framework, which has been released and presented to local councils.

Completed construction on Camden Truck Route's three segments in September 2020.

Partnered with SCDOT and local governments to develop a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Bishopville Truck Route.

- A new set of potential alternatives were delivered to the public during the year, and the preferred alternative has been identified. We continue to work with the City of Bishopville, Lee County, and SCDOT to find the most cost-effective and impactful implementation for this project.

Due to uncertainty in COG/MPO boundaries from the 2020 Census, the Black River Road Improvements, Phase I project increased in cost to \$9.6 million. SLCOG Planning and Projects committee suspended efforts on this project until data from the 2020 Census can be reviewed.



Total spent on Transportation:

\$2,853,000

Total spent on Seniors and Disability Transportation (5310):

\$320,000

5310 formula grants assist private non-profits groups in meeting the transportation needs of older adults and people with disabilities. 5310 funding is primarily used for capital projects (e.g. buses or management mobility).



Clarendon: \$55,000

Kershaw: \$60,000

Lee: \$95,000

Sumter: \$110,000

Total spent on Road Improvements:

\$2,533,000

Santee-Lynches expenditures on Road improvements do not include SCDOT scheduled maintenance or projects that fall outside the Guideshare program. Eligible activities include planning, preliminary engineering/design, rights of way acquisition, and construction. Projects include, but are not limited to: intersections, road widenings, new roads, operational, and safety enhancements.

Kershaw: \$182,000

Lee: \$2,350,000

ENVIRONMENTAL YEAR IN REVIEW

The Santee-Lynches COG region covers over 2,400 square miles. Our diverse landscapes include a rich natural landscape of wetlands, forests, farmland, rivers, and lakes, as well as a complex cultural landscape, and small cities and towns. To track and analyze these natural assets, Santee-Lynches maintains a Regional Green Infrastructure Inventory.

The inventory is available as a StoryMap at SanteeLynchesCOG.org/environment.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Facilitated collaboration on water quality planning.
- 23 water quality management plan conformance reviews were conducted ranging from residential subdivisions to land application of biosolids.
- Santee-Lynches 208 Water Quality Management Plan, the regional water quality management planning document for wastewater providers in the four counties, was updated and will be considered by the EPAC and the full COG board.
 - Annual reporting to SCDHEC of the COG's 208 Water Quality Management planning activities closed on October 30, 2021, to accord with the federal fiscal year.
- Completed greenway corridor mapping for the Town of Bishopville and held preliminary discussions with Clemson Extension Service about future opportunities for the project.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING YEAR IN REVIEW

Santee-Lynches provided professional services in support of community infrastructure projects for the region funded via the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

Completed Projects total: \$2,621,700

(Clarendon: \$693,700, Lee: \$928,000, Kershaw: \$0, Sumter: \$1,000,000)

- The **Bishopville Sewer Trunk Line (Phase II)** for the City of Bishopville: **\$928,000 project**
- The **Mayesville-Sumter Sewer Transmission Line** for the Town of Mayesville, in partnership with the City of Sumter: **\$1,000,000 project**
- The **Turbeville Sewer Trunk Line Rehabilitation** for the Town of Turbeville: **\$693,700 project**

Projects Underway: \$5,503,863

(Clarendon: \$748,880, Lee: \$426,500, Kershaw: \$3,550,000, Sumter: \$778,483)

- The **Shannontown Blight Elimination Project** for Sumter County, in the Greater Turkey Creek Neighborhood: **\$283,983 project**
- The **Dickson/Durant Blight Elimination Project** for the City of Manning: **\$308,880 project**
- The **Bishopville Harlem/Blue Pond Neighborhood Demolition**: **\$426,500**
- **Mayesville Town Wide Demolition**: **\$494,500**
- Clarendon County – **Provalus for Economic Development**: **\$440,000**
- **GE Appliances – Project Sweeper** for Kershaw County: **\$3,550,000**

New Projects Applications: \$1,753,417

(Clarendon: \$344,908, Lee: \$344,908, Kershaw: \$344,908, Sumter: \$718,691)

- The **Town of Pinewood Community Enrichment**: **\$171,600**
- **CDBG-CV Services FAR-UV** for local School Buses: **\$858,438**
- **CDBG-CV Facilities Freezers and Generators** for COA: **\$521,196**
- **CDBG-CV Facilities Pinewood Community Playground**: **\$202,183**



HOUSING YEAR IN REVIEW

We continue to support the region's HOME Consortium with annual activities designed to increase the supply of decent, safe, affordable housing. This is accomplished through homeowner occupied rehabilitation, tenant-based rental assistance, and support to housing development not-for-profit groups.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Total HOME Funds Allocated: **\$768,444**

Homeowner-Occupied Rehabilitation

- *Total amount invested in rehabs:* **\$0.00**
- *Forecasted* **\$384,222.**

Clarendon (18.2%)	\$69,928.40 Forecasted
Kershaw (19.9%)	\$76,460.18 Forecasted
Lee (11.4%)	\$43,801.31 Forecasted
Sumter (Co-30.7%; City 19.8%)	\$194,032.11 Forecasted

Number of rehabs: **0**

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS)

Agreements were executed with eligible Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) to purchase and/or rehabilitate rental properties in addition to the region's affordable rental housing stock. Two units were purchased and construction is currently in progress for the executed agreements. A Subrecipient Agreement was signed with Kershaw County Habitat for Humanity to construct one new unit for sale to a qualified buyer.

Total HOME Funds Allocated: **\$115,266.60**

(Santee-Lynches was awarded \$116,395.05 from FY 2018 for Lee County. The funds were used in FY 2020-21 (February 6, 2020) for two affordable single-family houses.)

SANTEE-LYNCHES TENANT EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM (STEP)

Program supports households in need of temporary rental assistance. The program requires that participants work to develop skills necessary to obtain and maintain full-time employment during the year in which they receive rental assistance. A total of 3 households (6 individuals) were assisted during the year.

Total STEP Funds Allocated: **\$99,897.72 + Admin \$76,844.40**

(Clarendon: \$3,000, Lee: \$0, Kershaw: \$0, Sumter \$6,612.63)

“I want to thank all employees involved with making the S.T.E.P. program such a big success. It has given me the courage to go back to school and become a CCMA. You always encouraged me and made sure I had everything I needed.”

Tawn Oliver-Atkins, TBRA Program participant

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT YEAR IN REVIEW

Total EDA Funding: **\$610,000**

GRANT AMOUNT: **\$210,000**

- Our region was awarded a three-year EDA partnership planning grant to help facilitate ongoing economic development planning efforts for the four-county region.
- We are working to develop project proposals that will successfully leverage federal economic development grant funds to improve the infrastructure, workforce, and other critical factors that industries look for when making their site selections.

GRANT AMOUNT: **\$400,000**

- This year represented year 4 of the 5-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) which contains goals, strategies, and priority projects designed to improve the region's economy.
- Santee-Lynches worked with telecom providers in the region to obtain data and create partnerships to assist in a holistic study of broadband to find which areas were underserved or unserved by FCC standards. Santee-Lynches engaged with providers to identify these shortfalls and generate solutions, including technical assistance agreements to aid in the development and submission of grant funding for these providers.

“The Santee Lynches COG is a great partner for Lee County Government, and the citizens we serve. From working to secure funding to providing data analysis which is vital for planning, we appreciate the collaboration which is essential to our community continuing to grow.”

*Alan Watkins, Lee County
Administrator*



RESILIENCY PLANNING

- Funded through the CARES Act grant, a study of industry clusters in our region was completed to facilitate the post-pandemic recovery of the region's economy and to enhance its resilience. The study revealed strategic gaps and opportunities for a variety of industrial and business sectors. The second phase of the project will inform business and economic development organizations of the potential opportunities found in the study.
- Mapping of households' and businesses' access to broadband internet service was completed and revealed some gaps in service exist. Under a grant, the COG is partnering with local telecommunication providers to bring service to these areas.
- The Planning Department completed preliminary work on updating local Comprehensive Plans with the newly-required "Resilience Element" per the 2020 amendment to the state Planning Enabling Act.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- An addendum to the recent Lee County Comprehensive Plan – Bishopville 2030 – identifies potential economic development opportunities generated by the future Bishopville Truck Route project. It was adopted by the Lee County Council in May.
- Zoning ordinance drafting assistance was provided to Lee County.
- Conducted consultations with the Town of Bethune regarding their recently updated zoning ordinance.
- The Town of Paxville in Clarendon County adopted its first-ever comprehensive plan. The town's first zoning ordinance is in preparation and will be completed in August.
- Two Planning Officials' Orientation sessions were made available to 11 officials in the region, and three Planning Officials' Continuing Education sessions were made available to 29 officials in the region.
- An update to the Clarendon County Unified Development Code is currently underway.
- Based on the 10-year update cycle for comprehensive plans required by the SC Planning Enabling Act, 14 of the 15 plans in the region were up to date.

“The availability of the COG’s assistance and technical expertise to our rural county Planning Department is the key to our being able to research, write and adopt plans, policies, and procedures to ensure safe, harmonious growth throughout the towns and communities that make up Clarendon County.”

Maria Rose, Clarendon County
Planning Director

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Santee-Lynches implements a wide variety of initiatives designed to further the organization's mission, which is to "improve the quality of life for the citizens of the four-county region." We work for, with, and through local governments to plan for the future, improve services, eliminate barriers to participation, and develop strong communities. A growing area of focus for this work is on strategic planning.

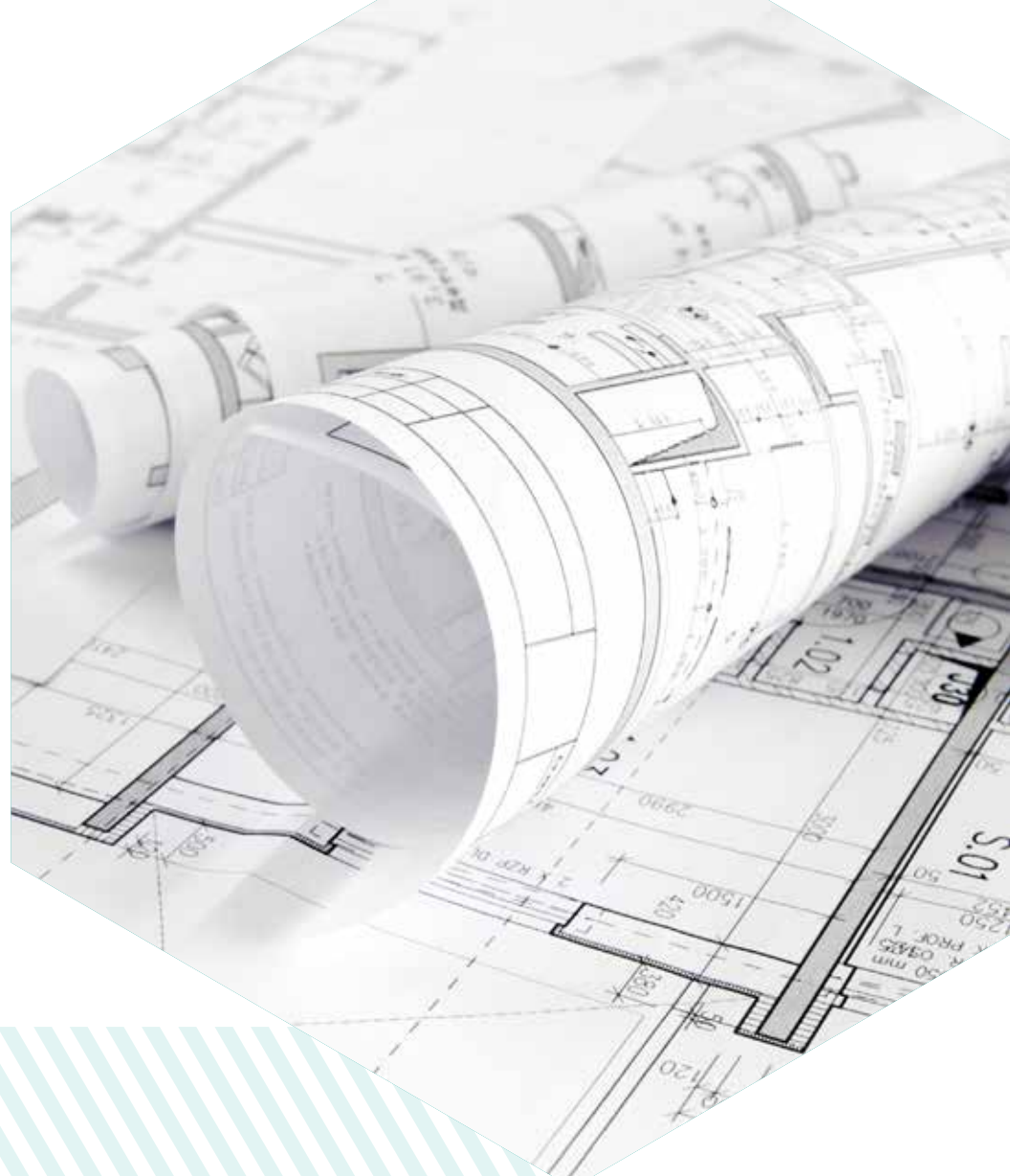
Projects completed in this area during the 2020-2021 year include:

- Paxville Comprehensive Plan
- Bethune Zoning ordinance
- SWRTA Technical Assistance agreement
- Kershaw County Public Transit Emergency Route

Additional projects in progress during the 2020-2021 year which will be completed in the next fiscal year include:

- Paxville Zoning Ordinance
- Clarendon County Unified Development Plan Revisions

93% *Local Compliance with SC
Comprehensive Planning Enabling
Act (up from 80% in 2019-2020)*







**SANTEE
LYNCHES**

Regional Council of Governments

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A BETTER
TOMORROW**



SANTEE LYNCHES

Regional Council of Governments

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