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Resources to build stronger water/sewer utilities:

Updates from the
SC Rural Infrastructure Authority

Jackie Mack – Senior Program Manager
October 27, 2022

RIA South Carolina
Rural Infrastructure Authority

Mission

Help close the financial gap for infrastructure improvements and lay the groundwork for economic opportunities.



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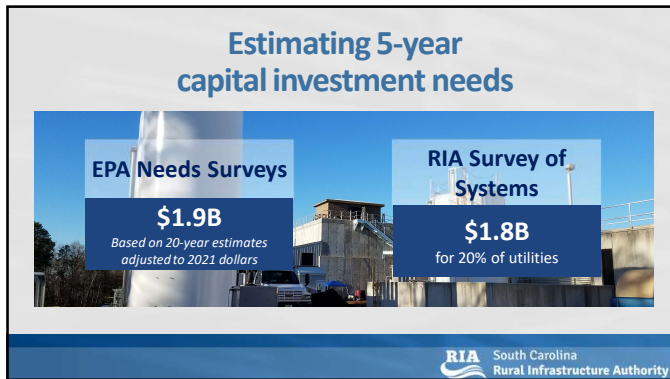
We're Here to Help.



Working in partnership with communities to make targeted infrastructure investments that improve the quality of life for residents, enhance community sustainability and boost economic opportunities.

Creating water solutions.
Improving communities statewide.

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RIA Assistance...

- Identify resources to meet your needs
- Deliver access to affordable financing solutions
- Bridge funding gaps
- Leverage local funds
- Provide timely and responsive assistance

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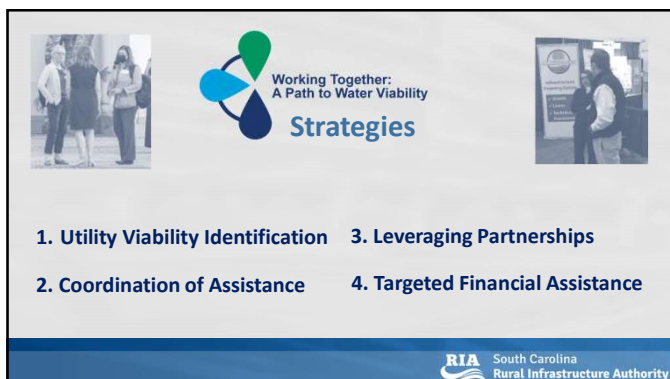
viability

**technical, financial, and managerial
capacity to effectively deliver services
that comply with regulatory requirements
and protect public health and the
environment at an affordable rate**

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Self Assessment: How will it work?



Users

- Primary: utilities, technical assistance providers
- Secondary: SCDHEC, infrastructure funders



Color-coded indicators



Overall viability score



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[illegible]

Self Assessment: What will you need?



Audited financial statements



Compliance data for the last five years



Age of assets



Size of service population



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Access the self
assessment tool at
ria.sc.gov/utility-viability

Start using it today!


[illegible]

Pilot Program: Regional Water and Sewer

| Regional Infrastructure | Regional Water and Sewer Planning |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic Infrastructure Priority to incentivize regional solutions Project Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help resolve the long-term viability of one of more systems Provide a cost reasonable solution to a common problem within two or more systems | <p>Studies that lead to long-term viability and explore regional solutions \$100,000 per study</p> <p>Study examples: Feasibility of consolidation Cost/benefit of regional partnerships Rate Studies/Financial Management Asset Inventory and Condition Capital Improvement Plan</p> |
| 5 Basic Projects Awarded: \$3,147,640 | 5 Planning Projects Awarded: \$352,360 |

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NEW Federal Funding Resources




American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) - updated

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law or BIL)

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ARPA State Funds



SCIP South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program

| | |
|--|--|
| ARPA Allocation to RIA \$900M | \$783M Competitive Grants Community Impact / Regional Solutions / Viability Planning |
| | \$100M Special Economic Development Grants Designated by the Secretary of Commerce |
| | \$17M Admin/Other Costs RIA Admin / DHEC Permitting / COGs |

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SCIIP Update



| | | |
|--|--|--|
| 309 All Applications | \$2B All Grant Requests | <p>Record number of applications and amount request.</p> <p>Will be the most competitive round in agency history</p> |
| \$783M Competitive Funds Available | \$100M Awarded for Special Economic Projects | |



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Timeline



| Application Deadline (closed) | Awards Timeframe |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| September 12, 2022 | 1 st quarter 2023 |

Federal deadline for **obligation** of funds: **December 2024**
 Federal deadline for **expenditure** of funds: **December 2026**



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Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (or BIL)

- Funds available through the State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) Program administered jointly by RIA and DHEC
- \$120 million annually for four years**
- Water, Wastewater and stormwater projects
- Emerging contaminants
- Lead in water service lines
- Disadvantaged communities targeted for principal forgiveness



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Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

Significant increases for SRF loans and principal forgiveness funds for five years
EPA Implementation Memo (3/8/22) - www.epa.gov/infrastructure

Funding is provided for:

1. All SRF eligible CWSRF and DWSRF projects
2. Emerging contaminants projects for CWSRF and DWSRF
3. Drinking water lead service line replacement – DWSRF only



SRF Loans: Financial Advantages



- Low interest rates
- Fixed rate financing
- Terms up to 30 years
- Low closing costs
- 100% financing of eligible costs



Clean Water – Project Examples



- New, Upgrade or Expansion of a WWTP
- New or Rehabilitated Pump Stations
- Sewer Line Rehabilitation or Replacement
- Relocation of Wastewater Lines due to Road Widening Projects
- Stormwater sewer lines and basins
- System Evaluations and Planning



Drinking Water – Project Examples



- New, Upgrade or Expansion of a Surface Water Treatment Plant
- Water Storage Facilities
- New or Rehabilitation of Water Lines
- Interconnecting Systems
- New Wells
- Relocation of Water Lines due to Road Widening Projects
- System Evaluations and Planning
- Lead Service Line Replacement and Investigations

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PF Eligibility Considerations

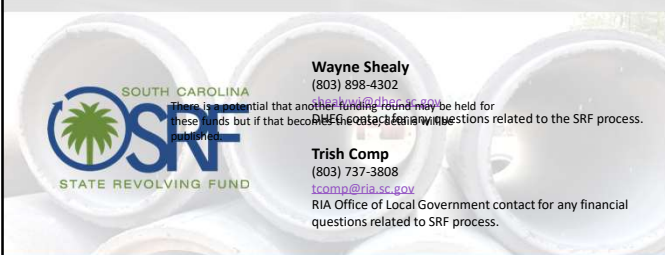
- PF for eligible sponsors that meet all three criteria below:
 - Small System (pop. <10,000)
 - Median Household Income (MHI) less than the State MHI
 - Sponsor does not qualify for an SRF loan
- Also, viable system taking ownership of nonviable or abandoned system

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Federal requirements apply to any project funded in whole or in part by SRF PF.

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SRF Loan Contacts



Wayne Shealy
(803) 898-4302

there is a potential that another funding round may be held for these funds but if that becomes the case for a while there will be no contact for a while.

Trish Comp
(803) 737-3808

tcomp@ria.sc.gov

RIA Office of Local Government contact for any financial questions related to SRF process.

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Project Examples

Basic

- Water
- Sewer
- Drainage

Economic


- Jobs
- Capacity
- Product Development




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Case in Point: Water

Town of Allendale
Ground Water Production Well
Grant Award: \$473,825
Total: \$512,825



Edgefield County WSA
Water Improvements
Grant Award: \$115,480
Total: \$133,111



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Case in Point: Sewer

City of Sumter
Wastewater Connection
Grant Award: \$500,000
Total: \$1,900,000




City of Abbeville
WWTF Renovation
Grant Award: \$712,000
Total: \$4,000,000




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Case in Point: Drainage




Town of Aynor
Drainage Improvements
Grant Award:
\$650,000
Total:
\$888,950

City of Beaufort
Drainage Improvements – Phase I
Grant Award:
\$500,000
Total:
\$4,454,000







Case in Point: Jobs




Calhoun County
Water & Wastewater Improvements
Grant Award:
\$500,000
Total:
\$1,964,000

Dorchester County
Water and Sewer Extension
Grant Award:
\$260,000
Total:
\$349,000







Case in Point: Capacity



Greer CPW
Pump Station Replacement
Grant Award:
\$500,000
Total:
\$4,890,000

Town of Cheraw
Sewer System Improvements
Grant Award:
\$500,000
Total:
\$5,977,700





Case in Point: Product Development



Colleton County
Industrial Park Infrastructure
Grant Award:
\$500,000
Total:
\$1,462,100


Horry County
Industrial Park Infrastructure
Grant Award:
\$300,000
Total:
\$2,953,400






How to Develop a Successful Project


- Do your homework!
- Prepare detailed cost estimates
- Determine what permits and easements/properties may be required
- Consider possible alternates
- Identify funding alternatives (grants, loans, bonds & fees)





Dig Once Policy

- Utilities are encouraged to seek coordination opportunities with other local projects
- Office of Regulatory Staff has related maps and broadband funding:
www.scdigitaldrive.org
broadband@ors.sc.gov
 (803) 737-0800



Grant Management

- Start up – technical assistance
 - Reports and Recordkeeping
- Financial management
- Procurement and Contracting
- Monitoring and Close out

Differences between state and federal requirements

Website –

- We are here to help with grant financing but also with implementation- Could make these several slides
- Access to lots of tools and resources/always has the latest information
 - Grant and Loan Program Information
 - Grant forms and PMP
 - SCIP information – forms and procedures – different than state grant program because its federal funds and has federal compliance requirements
 - Viability
 - Tool and other Resources to help utilities

RIA Review

May 31, 2022

What's Happening Now:

- **NEW** ARPA Grant Funding Available
- Webinar Date & Application Deadline
- RIA Staffing Changes
- State Grant Program Update
- Consult Website for Latest Info



Recognize this place?
Check the bottom for the answer.

Introducing the SC Infrastructure Investment Program an ARPA Funded Grant Program

The South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIP) is a major one-time initiative to improve water, wastewater and stormwater systems throughout the state using \$500M in federal funds allocated by the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). SCIP offers a unique opportunity to make long-term capital improvements that will strengthen critical services to residents and businesses across the state, create more resilient communities and build the capacity to

Stay Connected

To sign up for the RIA's
e-newsletter, email
info@ria.sc.gov
(Subject: RIA Review)

We are here to help

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Three Key Takeaways...

1. Even though our name says *Rural*, we make funding available **STATEWIDE** in all 46 counties.
2. Future funding is still available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Submit PQs to SRF for consideration.
3. Technical assistance about our financing options is only a phone call (**803.737.0390**) or email (info@ria.sc.gov) away!



ria.sc.gov or scdhec.gov/srf

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