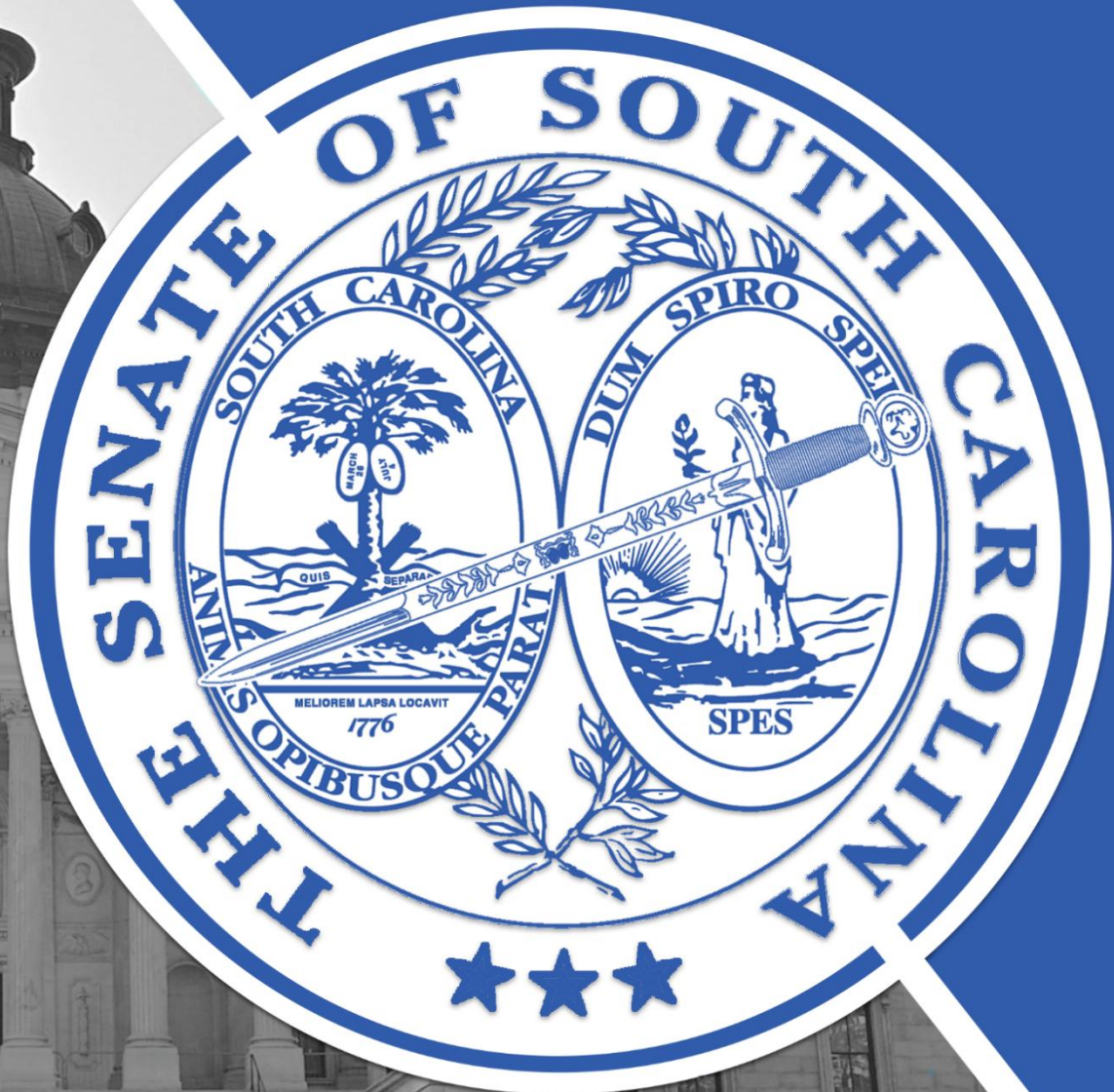


SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE  
LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT  
COMMITTEE



**SOUTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF RESILIENCE**  
COMMITTEE REPORT  
2026

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# SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

## COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP & CONTACT INFORMATION

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Brad Hutto  
George E. "Chip" Campsen, III  
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Kent M. Williams  
A. Shane Massey  
Margie Bright Matthews  
Harvey S. Peeler, Jr.

**Legislative Oversight Committee  
Post Office Box 142  
Columbia, SC 29202**

**Tel: (803) 212-6442**

**[SenateOversight@scsenate.gov](mailto:SenateOversight@scsenate.gov)**

# AGENCY OVERVIEW

## Organization

The South Carolina Office of Resilience (SCOR) was established by Act 163 of 2020, also known as the SC Disaster Relief and Resilience Act, to develop, implement, and maintain the Strategic Statewide Resilience and Risk Reduction Plan (Resilience Plan) and coordinate statewide resilience and disaster recovery efforts, including coordination with federal, state, and local governmental agencies, stakeholders, and nongovernmental entities. The Resilience Plan, completed in 2023, as well as the 2024 Annual Update, may be viewed on SCOR's website [here](https://scor.sc.gov/resilience) (<https://scor.sc.gov/resilience>). The Office is led by a Chief Resilience Officer appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Chief Resilience Officer serves at the pleasure of the Governor.

*Note: The South Carolina Disaster Recovery Office as established by Executive Order 2016-13 and included within the South Carolina Department of Administration by Executive Order 2018-59 was transferred to, and incorporated into, the South Carolina Office of Resilience in Act 163 of 2020.*

Pursuant to §48-62-50, the act also created in the State Treasury the Disaster Relief and Resilience Reserve Fund which is separate and distinct from the general fund and all other reserve funds. Money appropriated to the fund may only be used to develop, implement, and maintain the Statewide Resilience Plan, and for disaster relief assistance, hazard mitigation, and infrastructure improvements. Interest accrued by the fund must remain in the fund, and unexpended funds must be retained and carried forward to be used for the same purposes.

Following a federally declared disaster, the Disaster Relief and Resilience Reserve Fund can provide immediate aid for resilient rebuilding in affected communities with unmet needs, including nonfederal match assistance for federal programs, infrastructure repairs not covered by federal aid, loans and grants to local governments, support for nonprofit and governmental infrastructure restoration, and compensation for agricultural losses.

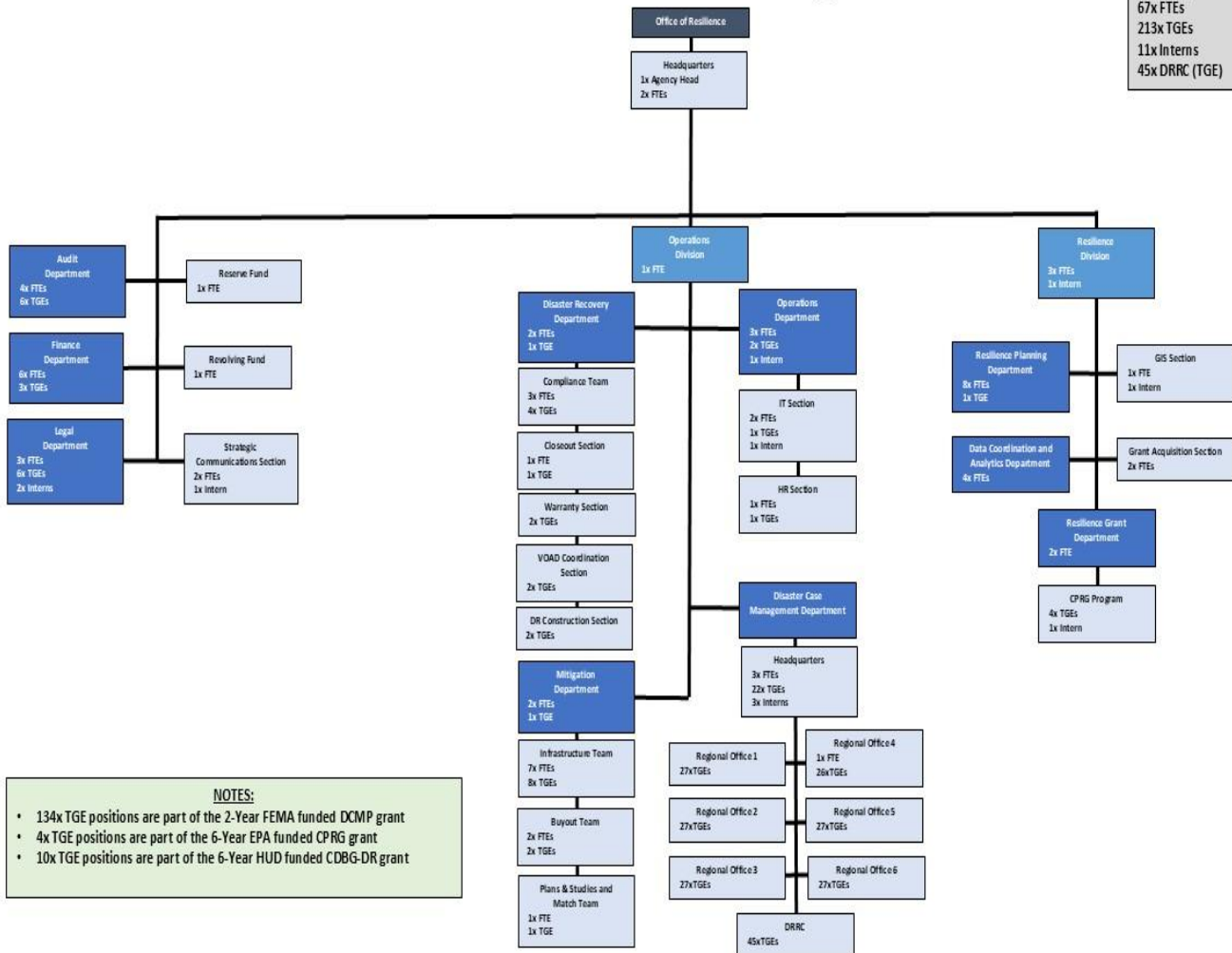
Additionally, pursuant to §48-62-310, the act created the South Carolina Resilience Revolving Fund (RRF). The fund is governed by the South Carolina Disaster Recovery Office within the South Carolina Office of Resilience, known as “the authority.” The Director and staff of the South Carolina Disaster Recovery Office comprise the authority, under the supervision and review of the Chief Resilience Officer and the Governor. The RRF offers low-interest loans and grants to eligible recipients buying out repetitive flood loss properties and land tracts for flood plain restoration and/or preservation. Loan eligibility is restricted to a) the state, its local governments or agencies, commissions, or instrumentality of the same, and b) land trusts accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. Property purchased through this fund must be converted to green space in perpetuity, allowing it to be free from the consequences of commercial and residential development. The authority is authorized to do the following:

- Provide financial incentives
- Manage loan agreements
- Collect Loan payments

- Secure additional funding
- Accept donations
- Receive mitigation contributions
- Execute necessary contracts and agreements
- Establish financial policies
- Manage fund allocation

# South Carolina Office of Resilience Org Chart

**337x TOTAL Positions**  
 1x Agency Head  
 67x FTEs  
 213x TGEs  
 11x Interns  
 45x DRRC (TGE)



**NOTES:**

- 134x TGE positions are part of the 2-Year FEMA funded DCMP grant
- 4x TGE positions are part of the 6-Year EPA funded CPRG grant
- 10x TGE positions are part of the 6-Year HUD funded CDBG-DR grant

Figure 1 – SCOR Organizational Chart, Source: Office of Resilience

**The Office of Resilience is organized into three primary programmatic areas serving South Carolina’s communities and citizens: Resilience Planning and Coordination, Hazard Mitigation, and Disaster Recovery.**

In coordination with federal, state, and local governmental agencies, stakeholders, and nongovernmental entities, SCOR utilizes a mixture of federal and state funds to implement these programs. The table below illustrates the primary responsibilities of each division:

RESILIENCE PLANNING & COORDINATION	HAZARD MITIGATION	DISASTER RECOVERY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development, maintenance, and implementation of the Strategic Statewide Resilience &amp; Risk Reduction Plan</li> <li>• Watershed planning and coordination</li> <li>• Data collection and Coordination</li> <li>• Land conservation efforts for flood mitigation purposes</li> <li>• Grants administration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buyouts: voluntary acquisitions of repetitively flooded land and property to return it to green space in perpetuity</li> <li>• Infrastructure: gray and green stormwater infrastructure and other mitigation infrastructure projects</li> <li>• Plans &amp; studies: funding for local governments and state agencies to develop and/or update hazard mitigation plans, stormwater plans, and more</li> <li>• Matching grants: provide the local cost share for other federal flood mitigation programs</li> <li>• USS Yorktown remediation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-term recovery: rebuild and replace homes damaged by hurricanes and flooding in FEMA-declared counties; funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program</li> <li>• Disaster case management: assisting disaster survivors in meeting disaster-caused unmet needs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of the Disaster Relief and Resilience Reserve Fund and the SC Resilience Revolving Fund</li> </ul>		

*Figure 2 – SCOR Program Areas, Source: Office of Resilience*

## Budget

Office of Resilience FY 2025-2026 Budget			
Program	General Funds	Other Funds	Restricted Funds
ADMINISTRATION	5,111,378.74		
RESILIENCE			236,125.00
DISASTER RECOVERY		145,865,000.00	
STATE EMPLOYER CONTR	1,712,503.00	4,135,000.00	112,159.00
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>6,823,881.74</b>	<b>150,000,000.00</b>	<b>348,284.00</b>
<b>Special Recurring Items:</b>			
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			
<b>Non-recurring items:</b>			
DATA COORDINATION OFFICE (FY24 carry forward)	247,897.59		
RESILIENCE			3,667,150.00
DISASTER RECOVERY RESERVE FUND (FY25 allocation)			26,000,000.00
CAPITAL RESERVE FUND (FY25 allocation)			4,000,000.00
DRO MATCHING FUNDS (SC Housing)		585,000.00	
EMPLOYER CONTR			232,953.00
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>247,897.59</b>	<b>585,000.00</b>	<b>33,900,103.00</b>
	<b>7,071,779.33</b>	<b>150,585,000.00</b>	<b>34,248,387.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>191,905,166.33</b>

Figure 3 – SCOR FY25-26 Budget, Source: Office of Resilience

## Positions

The Office of Resilience has a total of 293 positions with 183 filled and 110 vacant as of May 4, 2026. However, because many of SCOR's programs depend on grant funding, a large portion of the office's workforce is comprised of Temporary Grant Employees (TGEs), so these numbers must be viewed in that context. Additionally, it should be noted that a larger pool of TGE positions is held for post-disaster use as needed with federal recovery grants received by SCOR, the number of which requiring fulfillment will vary by the scope of each disaster. The agency has 68 FTE positions, 4 of which are vacant as of May 4, 2026, representing a 5.8% vacancy rate. As of May 1, 2025, the state government average vacancy rate among non-higher education institutions was 18.99%. In addition to a lower-than-average vacancy rate, SCOR's turnover rate, as reported by the SC Department of Administration, is also quite low: 5% for Fiscal Year 2025 and 2% for Fiscal Year 2026.

<b>South Carolina Office of Resilience Positions</b>			
<b>Division</b>	<b>Filled</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Admin/Headquarters</b>			
Agency Head	1	0	1
FTE	2	0	2
TGE	1	0	1
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Operations Division</b>			
FTE	26	2	28
TGE	95	90	185
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>213</b>
<b>Resilience Division</b>			
FTE	19	1	20
TGE	1	6	7
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Audit</b>			
FTE	4	0	4
TGE	1	4	5
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Finance</b>			
FTE	6	0	6
TGE	0	4	4
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Legal</b>			
FTE	2	1	3
TGE	3	1	4
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Reserve &amp; Revolving Funds</b>			
FTE	2	0	2
TGE	0	0	0
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

<b>Strategic Communications</b>			
FTE	2	0	<b>2</b>
TGE	0	1	<b>1</b>
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	2	1	<b>3</b>
<b>Temporary</b>			
Temporary (Includes Interns and Reserve Corps)	18	0	<b>18</b>
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	18	0	<b>18</b>
<b>AGENCY TOTAL</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>293</b>

Figure 4 - SCOR Positions, Source: Office of Resilience

## FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

### Agency Leadership & Operations

**Finding 1 (Resilience Revolving Fund Loan Program):** The Office’s enabling legislation created the Resilience Revolving Fund (RRF) and gave SCOR responsibility for implementing it in alignment with the Statewide Resilience and Risk Reduction Plan. This fund offers low-interest loans and grants to eligible recipients – primarily local governments and land trusts – to purchase repetitive flood loss properties and tracts of land for flood plain restoration and/or preservation. The State Fiscal Accountability Authority (SFAA) must approve all RRF projects.

In 2022, the office developed an eligible recipient outreach strategy, including the creation of an informational flyer to promote the Revolving Fund. SCOR presented information about the Revolving Fund at various meetings and mailed promotional materials to county and municipal governments, state agencies, councils of government, and statewide land trust organizations. These activities reached more than 500 eligible applicants.

To date, however, only one project has utilized this fund. A \$5 million loan has been issued to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to purchase 887 acres in Jasper County, part of a larger acquisition of the 2,737-acre Chelsea Plantation totaling \$32 million. The 887-acre parcel the loan is financing is largely in a floodplain and is consistent with priority areas identified in the Strategic Statewide Resilience and Risk Reduction Plan for flood mitigation. The protection of this property not only enhances the natural flood mitigation properties of wetlands to surrounding communities but also avoids future impacts to people and property had the site been developed. TNC plans to own this tract for approximately two years and then transfer ownership to the SC Forestry Commission to establish a new state forest. While buyouts are a priority, the relatively quick 2-year repayment turnaround time made this an attractive loan project in coordination with other state agencies. This is an example of SCOR’s coordination with the state’s resource agencies to diversify funding to prioritize conservation projects

with resilience benefits. With an original capitalization of \$6M, approximately \$1M remains in the fund. However, TNC will repay this loan, which will restore available funding.

The RRF is clearly a valuable mitigation tool for the state that has been underutilized to date. Possible reasons for this include a variety of non-loan options available for buyout and conservation related activities, including federal and non-profit grants, which compete with the fund. An advantageous loan from the RRF with a forgivable portion is still a loan, not a grant.

**Recommendation 1 (*Resilience Revolving Fund Loan Program*): SCOR should work with stakeholders and peer agencies to devise a more comprehensive strategy to increase its promotion of this program to ensure that eligible applicants, including local governments in flood-prone areas - especially those lacking resources to purchase land that is repeatedly flooded - are aware of and may apply for loans and grants to assist them in completing buyouts and land conservation for the purpose of flood mitigation.**

## Resilience Planning and Coordination

### **Finding 2 (*Recurring Funding*):**

Since its inception, SCOR has primarily depended on federal grants and several large, one-time funding allocations from the General Assembly to carry out its mission. The Disaster Relief and Resilience Reserve Fund created in 48-62-50 supports both immediate disaster relief and long-term resilience initiatives. Initially capitalized with \$44 million and bolstered by an additional \$200 million appropriation in fiscal year 23-24, SCOR is committed to maintaining least \$30 million in reserve for immediate relief, limiting the funds available for long-term resilience projects. As the frequency and severity of storms increases (based on data trends from the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) and the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)), the need for a larger reserve grows, while sustainable, recurring funding is essential to support resilience projects that enhance the state's ability to withstand and recover from natural disasters. Given the rising demand for SCOR's services, the depletion of one-time funds,

and the increasing risks from natural hazards alongside South Carolina's growing population, SCOR could benefit from a consistent and reliable funding stream to fulfill its statutorily directed mission effectively.

**Recommendation 2 (*Recurring Funding*): The General Assembly should consider allocating recurring funds to the agency, ensuring it has the necessary capital to plan for and implement long-term resilience programs, hazard mitigation projects, and disaster recovery efforts. One possible source of funding would be to designate a portion of the insurance premium tax [currently split between the Forestry Commission (1%), State Fire Marshal (1%), EMS (0.25%), and the General Fund (97.75%)] that is collected from property and casualty insurers doing business in South Carolina to fund SCOR's mitigation projects.**

**Finding 3 (Leveraging Non-State Funds for Land Acquisition and Conservation):** In June 2023, SCOR released the state’s first Strategic Statewide Resilience and Risk Reduction Plan (Resilience Plan). Developed in coordination with over 100 partner organizations, the plan identified statewide risks and vulnerabilities. It included recommendations to serve as a framework to guide the state’s investment in flood mitigation projects and the adoption of programs and policies to protect the people and property of South Carolina from the damage and destruction of extreme weather events. The Resilience Plan identified areas across South Carolina for conservation that would reduce flood impacts to citizens and communities. Utilizing the Disaster Relief and Resilience Reserve Fund, SCOR has worked with conservation partners to conserve properties that provide natural flood protection while also achieving other benefits for the state. Key partners in the Office’s land conservation projects include the following: SC Conservation Bank, SC

Department of Natural Resources, SC Forestry Commission, SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, Coastal Carolina University, Francis Marion University, land trusts and non-profits, and private foundations.

Appendix 1 shows SCOR’s current land conservation expenditures - all of which have been approved by the Joint Bond Review Committee - as well as details of a future project, funded by a federal grant, that has received initial JBRC approval. Both public and private sources of funding are included.

**Recommendation 3 (Leveraging Non-State Funds for Land Acquisition and Conservation):** **SCOR should ensure that all possible non-state sources of funding for these projects are explored in an effort to maximize the impact of state dollars on land acquisition for resilience purposes as prescribed in Proviso 117.164 if the FY25-26 Appropriations Act.**

## Hazard Mitigation

**Finding 4 (Mitigation Voluntary Buyouts):** SCOR’s Mitigation Voluntary Buyout Program is a voluntary initiative that helps relocate citizens from repeatedly flooded properties while converting the acquired land to permanent green space to capture and absorb floodwaters. Local governments apply on behalf of their communities and assume responsibility for acquired properties.

The Mitigation program utilizes US Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant –

SCOR Mitigation Department Buyout Programs by County		
County	Approved Buyout Parcels	Program Notes
Chesterfield (Town of Cheraw)	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located on a Superfund site.</li> <li>All parcels have been acquired in the Huckleberry Park Neighborhood</li> <li>Start of Demolition September 2024.</li> </ul>
Darlington	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parcels are in the city limits of Darlington and in Hartsville.</li> <li>Identified through a Darlington County Watershed Study.</li> </ul>
Dillon	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The parcels lie along the Little Pee Dee River.</li> </ul>
Horry	61	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The parcels are in the Socastee Area.</li> <li>All properties have closed (January 2025)</li> <li>Phase I demolition completed.</li> </ul>
Marion (Town of Nichols)	23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parcels within a 1.5-mile radius of Town Hall, referred to as the "Mullins Street area."</li> </ul>
Marlboro (City of Bennettsville)	51	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The parcels lie throughout the Shady Rest and Richardson Park neighborhoods.</li> <li>Offers to Purchase began in July 2024.</li> </ul>

Figure 5 – Mitigation Buyout Programs by County, Source: Office of Resilience

Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funds for these buyouts. SCOR must comply with eligible

grantee requirements outlined in [HUD's Federal Notice 84 FR 45838](#), with the goal of supporting **long-term risk reduction** rather than traditional disaster recovery. Of note, SCOR is limited to working in the 17 most impacted and distressed (MID) counties and must meet one of HUD's three national objectives: benefit low-to-moderate-income (LMI) households, meet an urgent need, or aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight. SCOR's work meets two of those objectives: benefiting (LMI) households and addressing an urgent need. Thus, mitigation efforts performed in non-LMI service areas fall under the urgent need objective. While serving citizens under these two criteria, SCOR will spend a minimum of 50% of CDBG-MIT funds across all program areas to benefit the low-to-moderate income (LMI) population. For the buyout program, LMI status is determined by evaluating income as a percentage of the Area Median Income (AMI) in the county in which the individual property owner resides.

SCOR accepts buyout project applications from units of local government through a competitive process. Determinative factors include the percentage of LMI households in the service area, as well as an assessment of the project area's location in a flood hazard zone. Because the buyout program is voluntary, LMI percentages can vary widely between municipalities based on property owner participation. External factors, including a lack of affordable housing to which flood-affected homeowners may relocate within some jurisdictions, can contribute to a lack of LMI citizen participation. For example, a flood-damaged home in Bennettsville may appraise for less than \$20,000, leaving the homeowner with no viable option for relocation. In an effort to address this, SCOR has developed HUD-approved incentives for these property owners, including a \$25,000 LMI buyout

incentive and an additional \$5,000 in moving expenses for eligible LMI homeowners. Additionally, SCOR has capped buyouts at \$355,000 - inclusive of these incentives - to ensure LMI citizens are being served. See Appendix 2 for LMI percentage per project area.

**Recommendation 4 (Mitigation Voluntary Buyouts):** Because buyout project applications are accepted from units of local government, SCOR currently conducts town hall forums in affected areas to ensure residents are aware of the program and how to apply. Once a local government's application has been approved, SCOR works with them to notify individual households in the project area to solicit participation. In addition to these forums, the agency should work with local governments to discover ways to include more LMI households in the Buyout Program to reduce existing variation in recipient household income levels and help ensure funds are reaching citizens demonstrating the greatest financial need.

Because of existing limitations due to federal requirements, the General Assembly should consider including recurring funding in SCOR's budget to expand the voluntary buyout program statewide, increasing opportunities for engagement from and benefit to LMI communities. Additionally, buyout projects funded by a recurring allocation would prevent future development in these areas, reducing the risk to life and property, as well as post-event emergency response and recovery costs in areas that experience repeated flooding. These benefits would impact both LMI and non-LMI households alike.

Additionally, SCOR should coordinate with local governments to ensure future building permits are not issued that

would exacerbate flooding mitigation funded by this program.

## Disaster Recovery

**Finding 5 (Disaster Relief Eligibility):** §48-62-60 (A) declares that following a federally declared disaster, the Disaster Relief and Reserve Fund may make available immediate disaster relief assistance to aid resilience rebuilding in affected communities with significant unmet needs. Further, §48-62-60 (A)(2) states that infrastructure repairs for homeowners and communities that are not eligible for Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) and other federal funding assistance are included in this aid. The eligibility clause causes confusion because it suggests that

individuals must be ineligible for federal aid to receive SCOR support, despite many citizens qualifying for - but not receiving - adequate federal assistance due to funding limits. SCOR's leadership indicates that federal disaster aid is consistently insufficient, leaving significant unmet needs, especially with the increasing frequency of disasters. Simplifying the language by removing the federal eligibility qualification would allow SCOR to use state-level assessments to identify unmet needs and provide faster, more effective relief to impacted homeowners and communities where other forms of assistance fall short.

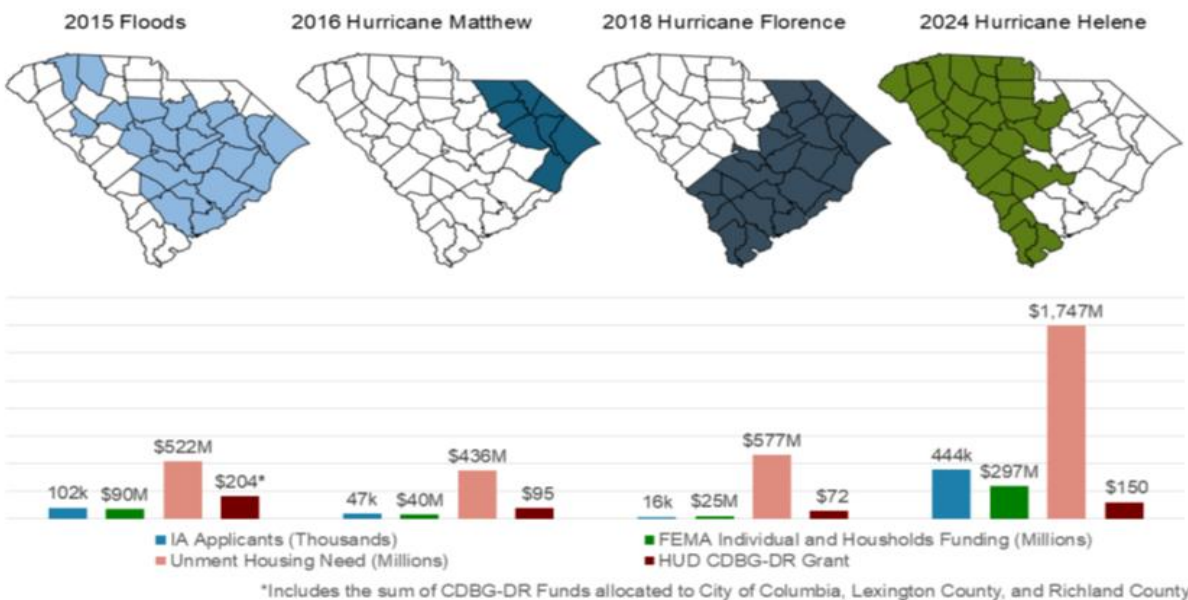


Figure 6 – Disaster-Impacted Counties with Funding and Unmet Needs, Source: Office of Resilience

Recommendation 5 (*Disaster Relief Eligibility*): The General Assembly should amend §48-62-60 (A)(2) to read: “repairs or replacement of impacted homes or community infrastructure repairs in disaster impacted areas.”

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# APPENDIX

## Appendix 1 - Office of Resilience Land Conservation Expenditures to Date

Type	Project	Location	Acres	State Funding	Potential Reimbursement to SCOR	Non-State Funds
Land Acquisition	Waties Island Merrill and Olivia Boyce Tracts	Horry Co.	477	<b>SCOR</b> \$14,950,000 (\$450,000 for acquisition costs) <b>SCCB</b> \$500,000	\$6,000,000* *(\$4M in grants reimbursement received, \$2M in process)	*\$4,000,000 – Coastal Zone Management Grant (Merrill) *\$1,000,000 – USFWS (NAWCA Grant) *\$1,000,000 – USFWS (Coastal Wetlands Grant) \$1,000,000 – Private Fundraising
Support/Study	Coastal Carolina University (CCU) BCA and Report (Waties)	CCU	N/A	<b>SCOR</b> \$56,820		N/A
Land Acquisition	Black River - Andrews Tract	Georgetown Co.	1,806	<b>SCOR</b> \$700,000		\$4,400,000 – NOAA-CELCP Grant \$612,827 – Knobloch Family Foundation
Land Acquisition	Tyger Oaks	Spartanburg Co.	945	<b>SCOR</b> \$20,000,000 <b>SCCB</b> \$3,000,000		\$2,000,000 – Spartanburg County
Land Acquisition	Catawba-Nisbet	Lancaster Co.	596	<b>SCOR</b> \$1,900,000 <b>SCCB</b> \$1,900,000		\$400,000 – Lancaster County \$200,000 – Duke Energy \$400,000 – Arras Foundation \$700,000 – Knobloch Family Foundation
Land Acquisition	North Island	Berkeley Co.	114	<b>SCOR</b> \$1,000,000 <b>SCCB</b> \$1,000,000		\$2,000,000 – Berkeley County
Land Acquisition	Saluda Bluffs	Pickens Co.	1,092	<b>SCOR</b> \$2,000,000 <b>SCDNR</b> \$7,057,320		\$500,000 – Easley Combined Utilities  \$9,000,000 SCCB Reimbursable Grant
Land Acquisition	Waites Island – Becky Boyce Tracts	Horry Co.	115	<b>SCOR</b> \$8,000,000	\$2,000,000*	*\$1,000,000 – USFWS (Coastal Wetlands Grant) *\$1,000,000 – USFWS (NAWCA Grant)
Land Acquisition	Snows Island Tracts	Florence Co.	4,969	<b>SCOR</b> \$14,400,000	\$10,000,000*	*\$8,500,000 – Forest Legacy Grant *\$1,500,000 – USFWS (NAWCA Grant)
Land Acquisition	Riverforks, adjacent to and N. of Snows Island	Florence Co.	2,584	<b>SCOR</b> \$5,000,000 <b>SCCB</b> \$229,080		\$2,835,000 – USFWS (NAWCA Grant) \$1,350,000 – Florence County \$922,960 – Knobloch Family Foundation
Land Acquisition	Waties Island - Jackie Boyce	Horry Co.	209	<b>SCOR</b> \$8,000,000		N/A

Conservation Easement	Pee Dee Basin RMS Initiative (62,220 acres) Forest Legacy Grant Match	Georgetown Co. Williamsburg Co. Marion Co.	62,220	<b>SCOR</b> \$17,777,000 ((\$277,000 for acquisition costs) <b>SCCB</b> \$3,300,000	\$582,461.89* was returned to SCOR as state did not have to utilize all that was approved.	\$50,000,000 – Forest Legacy Grant \$1,192,000 – USFWS (NAWCA Grant) \$208,000 – Acres for America Grant
Land Acquisition	Duck Ponds (to Francis Marion University)	Darlington Co. Florence Co.	8,460	<b>SCOR</b> \$16,000,000	\$20,500,000*	*20,500,000 – EPA CPRG Grant
Land Acquisition	Chelsea (Resilience Revolving Loan to TNC)	Jasper Co.	2,737	<b>SCOR</b> \$5,000,000 (revolving loan)		
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			<b>86,149</b>	<b>\$110,770,220</b>	<b>\$34,582,461.89</b>	<b>\$102,720,787</b>  *Funds to reimburse SCOR

SCOR: South Carolina Office of Resilience

SCCB: South Carolina Conservation Bank

*Source: South Carolina Office of Resilience and South Carolina Conservation Bank*

**Also of note:** in July 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that it intended to award SCOR, as part of a regional partnership, a Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant. The Atlantic Conservation Coalition (consisting of SC, NC, VA, and MD) was awarded \$421 million, \$50 million of which will come directly to SCOR to acquire natural working lands throughout the state that reduce flooding risk. In coordination with resource agencies and other funding, the grant’s first project has received initial approval from JBRC for the protection of the Duck Ponds property, 8500 acres along the Great Pee Dee River, which will be acquired by Open Space Institute and transferred to Francis Marion University pending state approvals from JBRC and SFAA for use in their forestry and environmental sciences programs. Partners for this project include The Open Space Institute (OSI), Florence County, Francis Marion University (FMU), the South Carolina Conservation Bank, Darla Moore Foundation, and a coalition of additional government and local partners.

## Appendix 2 – Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) Buyout Percentage by Project Area (as of October 2025)

Project specific metrics are listed below.

### CITY OF BENNETTSVILLE

Marlboro Median Family Income 2022				\$47,800	
	1	2	3	4	5
80% LMI	\$ 32,950.00	\$ 37,650.00	\$ 42,350.00	\$ 47,050.00	\$ 50,850.00

Marlboro Median Family Income 2023				\$51,600	
	1	2	3	4	5
80% LMI	\$ 34,850.00	\$ 39,800.00	\$ 44,800.00	\$ 49,750.00	\$ 53,750.00

Marlboro Median Family Income 2024				\$50,100	
	1	2	3	4	5
80% LMI	\$ 34,900.00	\$ 39,900.00	\$ 44,900.00	\$ 49,850.00	\$ 53,850.00

#### City of Bennettsville Buyout

- Average household size = 2.3
- Household income for owner-occupants ranges from \$0 to \$63,011
- 51 parcels approved
- 51 parcel slots filled

### TOWN OF CHERAW

Chesterfield Median Family Income 2022				\$55,300	
80% LMI	1	2	3	4	
	\$ 32,950.00	\$ 37,650.00	\$ 42,350.00	\$ 47,050.00	

#### Town of Cheraw Buyout

- Average household size = 1.6
- Household income for owner-occupants ranges from \$0 to \$97,788
- Nine parcels approved (plus two lots)
- Nine parcel slots filled

**DARLINGTON COUNTY**

Darlington Co Median Family Income 2023				\$61,300	
	1	2	3	4	5
80% LMI	35,300	40,350	45,400	50,400	54,450

Darlington Co Median Family Income 2024				\$63,600	
	1	2	3	4	5
80% LMI	\$35,650	\$40,750	\$45,850	\$50,900	\$55,000

**Darlington County Buyout**

- Average household size = 2.5
- Household income for owner-occupants ranges from \$0 to \$135,645
- 40 parcels approved
- 17 parcel slots filled

**DILLON COUNTY**

Dillon Co Median Family Income 2025				\$52,500	
	1	2	3	4	5
80% LMI	38,100	43,550	49,000	54,400	58,800

**Dillon County Buyout**

- Average household size = 1.75
- Household income for owner-occupants ranges from \$40,020 to \$233,412
- Six parcels approved
- Five parcel slots filled

**HORRY COUNTY**

Horry Median Family Income 2021				\$61,300	
	1	2	3	4	5
80% LMI	\$ 34,200	\$ 39,100	\$ 44,000	\$ 48,850	\$ 52,800

Horry Median Family Income 2022				\$72,600	
	1	2	3	4	5
80% LMI	\$ 38,300	\$ 43,750	\$ 49,200	\$ 54,650	\$ 59,050

Horry Median Family Income 2023				\$73,700	
	1	2	3	4	5
80% LMI	\$ 40,500	\$ 46,300	\$ 52,100	\$ 57,850	\$ 62,500

Horry Median Family Income 2024				\$79,700	
	1	2	3	4	5
80% LMI	\$ 44,550	\$ 50,900	\$ 57,250	\$ 63,600	\$ 68,700

**Horry County Buyout**

- Average household size = 2.5
- Household income for owner-occupants ranges from \$0 to \$221,457
- 58 parcels (reduced from 61) approved
- 58 parcel slots filled

TOWN OF NICHOLS

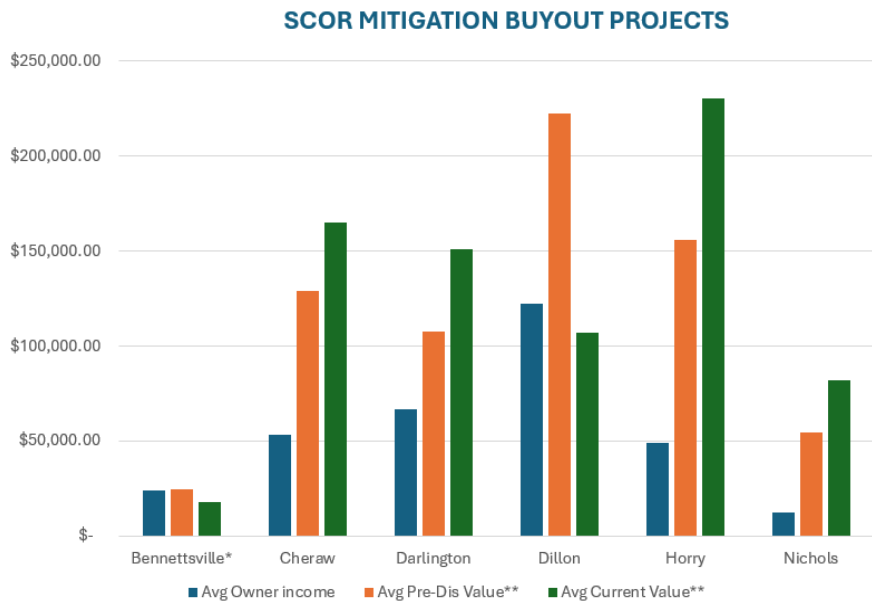
Marion Co Median Family Income 2024 \$49,100					
	1	2	3	4	5
80% LMI	34,900	39,900	44,900	49,850	53,850

Town of Nichols Buyout

- Average household size = 1.50
- Household income for owner-occupants ranges from \$0 to \$30,836
- 23 parcels approved
- 11 parcel slots filled

Source: South Carolina Office of Resilience email dated October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Comparing all buyout project areas, the average owner-occupied household income ranges from \$24,000 to \$122,000. The average pre-disaster home values range from \$24,000 to \$222,250, while the average current home values range between \$18,000 to \$230,000. See graph below for project comparison.



## Appendix 3 - ARPA Stormwater Infrastructure Program (ASIP) Projects and Award Amounts (as of May 1, 2025)

<b>ARPA Stormwater Infrastructure Awarded Projects &amp; Current Award Amounts</b>		
<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>
City of Charleston	Barberry Woods Restoration Project (subrecipient)	\$4,930,000
City of Florence	Pennsylvania Street Stormwater Mitigation Project (subrecipient)	\$5,812,675.90
City of West Columbia	Mill Village Stormwater Project (subrecipient)	\$4,505,176.55
City of Beaufort	Charles/Craven St and Port Republic/Carteret St Drainage Improvement Projects	\$11,962,093
City of Columbia	Marion Street Bioretention	\$1,905,619
City of Conway	McKeithan Watershed Stormwater Improvements	\$2,638,435
Greenville County	Little Creek Stream Improvement & Reclamation (subrecipient)	\$763,995.84
Greenville County	North Chastain Stream Restoration & Reclamation (subrecipient)	\$402,150.93
City of Hanahan	Downtown Stormwater Improvement Project	\$2,438,208
Laurens County	N. Laurens County Culverts & Wattsville Community Stormwater Improvements	\$5,973,476.25
City of Mauldin	Oak Park Drive	\$2,883,851
Town of Nichols	Nature-Based Stormwater Park	\$3,628,698
City of North Myrtle Beach	18th Avenue North Outfall Landward Drainage	\$7,610,069
City of Rock Hill	Lige Green Street Flooding, Phase 1 and Phase 2	\$15,239,000.50
Town of Surfside	Upper Myrtle and Magnolia Basin Drainage Project Phase 2	\$1,175,000

<b>ARPA Stormwater Infrastructure Awarded Projects &amp; Current Award Amounts</b>		
Town of Winnsboro	Fortune Springs Park Stormwater Project	\$2,715,569
		Total:
		\$73,287,854.43

*Source: Office of Resilience*



# SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

## CITIZEN REPORTING INFORMATION

If you have information concerning waste, fraud, abuse, mismanagement, misconduct, violations of state or federal law, and wrongdoing in the Executive Branch of state government, please contact the Office of Inspector General. You can file a complaint at: [oig.sc.gov](http://oig.sc.gov)

If you have information pertaining to this or any other agency under review by the Senate Legislative Oversight Committee, please contact us in one of the following ways:

**Legislative Oversight Committee  
Post Office Box 142  
Columbia, SC 29202**

**Tel: (803) 212-6442**

**SenateOversight@scsenate.gov**

