



South Carolina
Rural Infrastructure Authority

FY 2024-25 BUDGET HEARING

Agency Attendees

Bonnie Ammons – Executive Director, RIA

Noel Hebert – Finance Director/Assistant Loan Programs Director, RIA

Harry M. Lightsey III – Board Chairman of RIA and Secretary of Commerce

Patrick Jarvis – Chief Financial Officer, Commerce

Mark Hendrick – Director of Governmental Affairs, Commerce





Rural Infrastructure Authority


Agency Information

Objectives	Programs of Assistance	Eligible Infrastructure
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protect health & environment• Create economic opportunities• Strengthen community viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grants• Loans• Technical assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water• Sewer• Stormwater

Rural and Statewide

Agency Highlights

American Rescue Plan Act Funding

309 Applications Received	\$2.0 B SCIIP Funds Requested	 SCIIP South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program
219 Grants Awarded	\$1.4 B SCIIP Funds Awarded	

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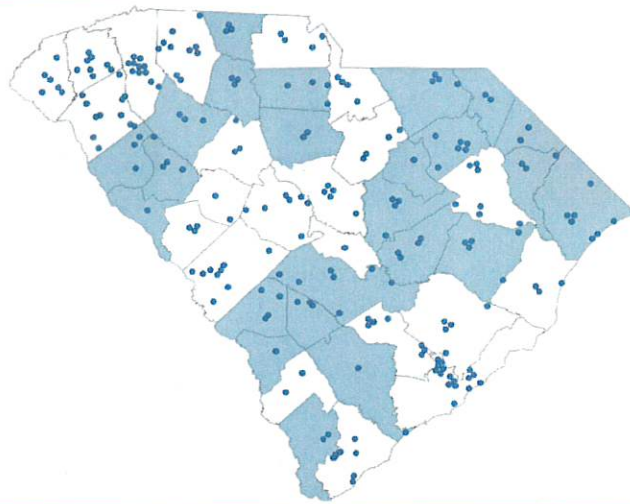


Awards by Location

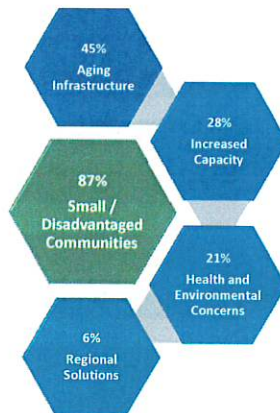


67% Funds Awarded in Small & Disadvantaged Areas

Tier III or Tier IV County



Agency Highlights FY 23-24 State Grants



Agency Highlights

State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program



\$121 M Infrastructure Loans



1.4% Interest rate



\$861 M Loans since 2015



No loan defaults



Budget Request

Recurring Funds:

1. SC Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund	\$11,400,000
2. Rural Infrastructure Fund	\$ 7,870,056
3. Statewide Water and Sewer Fund	<u>\$ 8,000,000</u>
TOTAL RECURRING BUDGET REQUEST	\$27,270,056

Budget Request

PRIORITY 1: Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund - \$11,400,000

- Increased federal funding for infrastructure requires a 20% state match:
 - ✓ Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) increased funding by \$50 million dollars.
 - ✓ Annual EPA allotment for the State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) Program increased due to expanded level of need as documented by EPA survey.
 - ✓ Matching funds must be on hand before federal funds may be utilized.
- EPA infrastructure programs help address a range of needs including:
 - ✓ Water quality
 - ✓ Emerging contaminants (PFAS) and Lead service line replacement
 - ✓ Assistance for small/disadvantaged communities
- Matching funds will allow continued access to additional federal funding for local utilities to finance critical infrastructure projects.



Budget Request

PRIORITY 2 and 3: Increase Recurring Funds for Grant Programs

BUDGET REQUEST		JUSTIFICATION
• Rural Infrastructure Fund	\$7,870,056	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need exceeds funds available - more than \$2 Billion in applications last year.• Costs have increased significantly.• In response, RIA increased grant maximums from \$500,000 to \$1 million which means fewer grants awarded/ communities served without additional funding.• Budget request doubles the current allocation for each fund.
• Statewide Water and Sewer Fund	\$8,000,000	



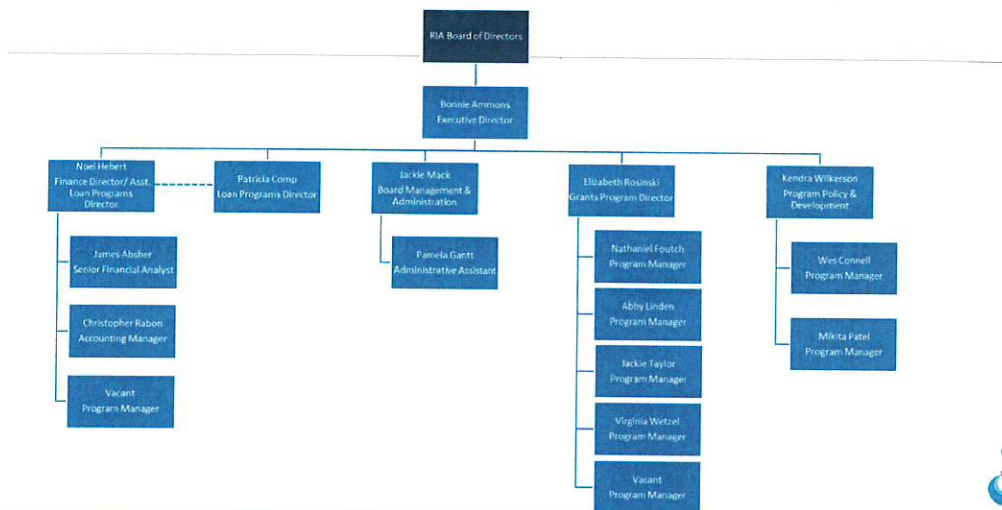
Budget Request

PRIORITY 4: \$219,700 for 2 FTE positions

- Request authority for \$164,775 from Federal funds and \$54,925 from Other funds.
- Additional administrative support will allow the agency to manage federal and state grant programs in an efficient and effective manner.
- This support includes more robust technical assistance to rural and other areas in identifying needs, resources and implementing critical water and wastewater projects.



RIA Organizational Chart



Proviso Changes: New Proviso

- Request to add a new proviso: Planning and Technical Assistance Fund - Small and Rural Utilities
 - ✓ Allow flexibility to carry forward appropriated funds from the Planning and Technical Assistance Fund for Small and Rural Utilities to the current fiscal year to be used for the same purpose.