



South Carolina Planning Education Advisory Committee (SCPEAC)

October 17, 2025

NOTICE OF DECISION

Title of Program: Resilience & Sustainability Symposium

Organization: Charleston County Government

The following action has been taken by the SCPEAC on this application:

APPLICATION RECEIVED Date: October 15, 2025

APPLICATION REVIEWED Date: October 17, 2025

ACCEPTED WITHOUT OBJECTION Date: N/A

- a) X ACCREDITED for: 240 minutes (4.0 hours) CE credit hours: 4.0
- b) _____ DENIED ACCREDITATION
- c) _____ RETURNED for more information

If accredited:

- a) Authorized Course No.: 2025-10
- b) Date of accreditation: October 17, 2025

Certification Signature, MASC Administrative Representative: _____

Handwritten signature of L. P. Floyd in black ink.

Certification Signature, SCPEAC Representative: _____

Handwritten signature of Stephanie Monroe Tilson in black ink.

**For further information, contact Urica Floyd at 803-354-4754
or the committee at SCPEAC@masc.sc.**

Municipal Association of SC • 1411 Gervais Street • Columbia, SC • 29201

Phone: 803.354.4754

Email: SCPEAC@masc.sc

Website: <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/SCPEAC/>



Application for Accreditation of a Continuing Education Program or as a Sponsor Organization

NOTE: This certification form, together with the required information referenced therein, shall be submitted to the South Carolina Planning Education Advisory Committee (SCPEAC). Applications are due no later than at least 30 days prior to the first scheduled presentation of a program or class. Once submitted, as the applicant, if you have not been contacted within 5 business days of a submittal, you should reach out with an email or phone call to scpeac@masc.sc or to 803.354.4754 for application status. Approvals are generally granted within 24 to 48 hours. If no objections are raised by a member of the SCPEAC within 10 business days of receipt, the program shall be considered accepted. If an objection is raised, a teleconference meeting shall be scheduled with appropriate public notice, as soon as reasonably possible, to review the application. The Committee will consider extenuating circumstances where the 30-day deadline cannot be met. The primary applicant or staff member organizing the training must meet the minimal educational requirements of at least an undergrad degree, plus 5 years experience in the planning field.

Reason for Application

Choose one:

☒ Request as a Local Official for Continuing Education Program Approval ☐ Request as an Organization for Accreditation of a Continuing Education Training ☐ Request as an Organization to be an Approved Sponsor of Continuing Education Programs

Applicant Information

*The primary applicant or staff member submitting the training for approval must meet the minimal educational requirements of at least **an undergrad degree, plus 5 years experience in the planning field**. The submitting applicant certifies the proposed Continuing Education Program meets the educational requirements in Section 6-29-1340 of the South Carolina Code of Laws and that the proposed presenter is qualified to give the presentation.*

Name

Molly
First

Caggiano
Last

Municipality/County/Organization

Charleston County

Position

Resilience Officer

Phone

(843) 958-4084

Email

mcaggiano@charlestoncounty.org

If you are a COG Director, indicate which jurisdiction the certification is being requested for:

Applicant Resume/Vita

101525 Resume_MollyCaggiano.pdf

Information About Organization Providing the Training

Organization Name

Charleston County Government

Organization Address

4045 Bridge View Drive

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

North Charleston

City

South Carolina

State

29405

Zip Code

Organization Phone

(843) 958-4084

Organization Website

https://www.charlestoncounty.org/

Name of Training Contact

Molly Caggiano

Title of Training Contact

Resilience Officer

Training Contact's Phone

(843) 958-4084

Training Contact's Email

mcaggiano@charlestoncounty.org

Training Program Information

Title of Planned Training or Program

Resilience & Sustainability Symposium

Date of Training

11/19/2025

Length of Training Session (i.e. 60 minutes, 90 minutes, 3-hours, etc.)

4-hours

Training Location

Trident Technical College, 7000 Rivers Ave., North Charleston, SC 29406

Brief description of the Training or Program and its relevant content:

The Symposium will align Charleston County for a more resilient and sustainable future. Attendees will meet local changemakers and discover opportunities to collaborate through dialogue sessions and networking. The sessions will discuss alignment of climate action planning across jurisdictions and levels of government (city/county/region/state), as well as the countywide Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment which includes strategies to advance resilient policies and operation improvements across the county. A moderated panel of elected officials will take place over lunch. Elected's will discuss a shared vision and goals for increasing resilience across the county, and the collaboration necessary to do this work. Afternoon sessions will include lightning round presentations of topics including: food access, connectivity/active transportation, energy efficiency, heat risk reduction, drainage infrastructure improvements, and economic resilience planning. Finally, local government and nonprofit organizations will split into two groups and discuss opportunities for future convening and collaboration on shared resilience and sustainability goals. There will be a ~20 posters on display throughout the day and 15 vendors tabling.

Method of presentation (in-person; virtual; or other):

in-person

When will materials be distributed (before or at the time of the program):

Yes, at the time of the program and after.

Description of materials to be distributed:

- Agenda
- Recordings of all sessions.
- Access to online library of all resilience and sustainability initiatives in Charleston County.

Method of Advertisement (Describe how you plan to notify local officials of the program):

Email, phone calls, presentation to County Council at a scheduled public meeting.

Additional Comments

Required Attachments

Brochure, if available:

Symposium_Save-the-Date.pdf

Course Presenter(s) and credentials (include brief resumes and qualifications, combine into one .pdf document):

DRAFT Agenda_clean.pdf

Copies of all handouts and course materials (combine into one .pdf document). If the course materials is a video/webinar recording include an informational sheet with video summary, links to the host site of the video, etc.:

DRAFT Agenda_clean.pdf

Evaluation Form and method of evaluation (each program must be evaluated, combine into one .pdf document):

DRAFT Agenda_clean.pdf

Certification. By submitting this application, the applicant agrees to:

1. Allow in-person observation, without charge, of the Program by the SCPEAC Committee members. Any food, travel, or lodging costs will be the responsibility of the Committee member.
2. The applicant acknowledges that its approval for this Program may be withdrawn for violations of the regulations or failure to comply with the agreements and representations contained herein and as may be required by the SCPEAC.

Molly Caggiano, AICP

729 W Oak Forest Dr., Charleston, SC 29407 | (414) 333-1296 | caggiano.molly@gmail.com

SUMMARY

My goal is to restore the human relationship with the natural environment by advancing principles of sustainable land use and building trust within communities. As a planning professional and skilled relationship builder with 10 years of experience, I am passionate about making connections across disciplines through dialogue. I have a proven ability to collaborate with all levels of staff and community partners to drive alignment of program objectives and manage complex projects while balancing the needs and interests of diverse stakeholders. My commitment to fostering community health guides my work in climate resilience by developing policies and practices to better address considerations for vulnerable populations, and those impacted most by climate change.

EXPERIENCE

Resilience Officer

December 2024 – Present

Charleston County, South Carolina

- Oversee planning and implementation of Charleston County's resilience and sustainability goals and initiatives.
- Develop and implement programs to address county's hazard vulnerability and risk.
- Facilitate collaboration of interdepartmental teams and working groups on resilience initiatives and programs to develop and implement resilience policies and strategies.

Strategic Program Coordinator

November 2019 – November 2024

Department of Disaster Management, Clackamas County, Oregon

- Develop, maintain, and implement plans to minimize impacts of climate change to communities. Design and facilitate planning processes that identify vulnerabilities to elevate high-risk groups. Approaching planning in a way that prioritizes historically underserved communities.
- Organize and coordinate work performed by consultants, including drafting scopes of work, timelines, and moving projects through procurement processes. Monitor and track project budgets and grant management.
- Research best practices and follow legislation that shapes community planning for natural and manmade disasters. Propose policies and procedures that align with legislation and elevate community values.

Project Manager

January 2018 – November 2019

Institute for Policy Research and Engagement (IPRE), University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon

- Directed, motivated and supervised teams of student consultants on projects related to community resilience, hazard mitigation, and capacity building.
- Regularly facilitated meetings/workshops with project stakeholders: steering committee members, emergency managers, community development professionals, public officials, university professors, and project clients.

Regional Planning Fellow

June 2018 – September 2018

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), Chicago, Illinois

- Researched and authored a policy update analyzing the relationship between economically disconnected communities and their susceptibility to urban flooding, utilizing datasets compiled by CMAP staff.
- Assisted with local technical assistance projects for the McKinley Park Neighborhood Plan; facilitated workshops with community members; conducted research, survey analysis, and writing for the Existing Conditions Report.
- Administered the 2018 Municipal Survey to all 284 communities in the Chicagoland region. Coordinated with city administrators, community development directors, and village clerks to collect complete survey responses.

Community Planner

August 2015 – September 2017

Cities of Central Point and Rogue River, Oregon

- Processed land use applications and building permits. Assisted private residents and developers in navigating regulations in the land use code, advocating for sustainable and equitable development outcomes. Organized and facilitated Planning Commission meetings and workshops, and regularly presented to City Council.
- Assumed duties as Floodplain Manager for both cities after completing Natural Flood Insurance Program course.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT and GRANT ADMINISTRATION

Children in Disasters Plan (\$150,000 – State Homeland Security Program (SHSP))

- **Role:** Project Manager **Goal:** Develop a child-centered emergency management plan that identifies the needs of children in emergencies and corresponds with existing child-centered services and resources.
- **Outcome:** Collected inventory of existing plans, policies, procedures that support children before, during, and after disasters. Facilitated stakeholder meetings to collect information about communication channels, stakeholder relationships, and other interdependencies.

Emergency Fuel Management Plan (\$306,000 – Urban Area Security Initiative/SHSP)

- **Role:** Project Manager **Goal:** Regional project to develop 4 county-specific emergency fuel plans in the Portland Metro Area. Project included fuel inventory assessment, supply chain analysis, emergency fuel plan development and a Table-Top Exercise to test operability of plans in a regional disaster.
- **Outcome:** Carried this project forward through onset of pandemic, overseeing consultants in data collection, plan development. Guided development of a regional exercise to test the operability of four (4) county-specific emergency fuel plans and identified opportunities for regional coordination in the event of fuel shortage or supply loss. Successfully monitored and tracked budget.

Risk MAP Program Evaluation (\$250,000 – FEMA Cooperating Technical Partners Program)

- **Role:** Project Manager **Goal:** Evaluate the effectiveness of the Risk MAP program to implement risk reduction activities. Evaluated ten (10) Oregon Counties that have had various levels of involvement with the Risk MAP program.
- **Outcome:** The team developed an evaluation report based on a statewide survey, interviews, focus groups, and content analysis of natural hazard mitigation plans over time. Recommendations for program improvement were offered to FEMA representatives and workshopped with practitioners and academics at our team organized and facilitated research symposium. “The Effects of Enhanced Information Utilization in Collaborative Hazard Mitigation Planning” was published in the *Journal of the American Planning Association*. (April 2022)

Strategies to Build Economic Resilience and Preparedness (\$176,000 – OR Econ. Dev. Districts)

- **Role:** Student Planning Consultant **Goal:** Develop tools to support communities in withstanding economic shocks caused by climate change. Generate near term opportunities that reduce long term economic impacts.
- **Outcome:** Produced an Economic Resilience Assessment of five economic development districts across Oregon. Developed a Training Needs Toolkit for local communities to assess their economic resilience, and provided an in-person training for practitioners to use the toolkit in December 2018. Presented findings and recommendations to improve economic resilience at the Oregon American Planners Association (OAPA) conference, October 2018.

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

University of Oregon – Eugene, Oregon

Master of Community and Regional Planning, Graduated June 2019

Concentration: Sustainable Land Use and the Built Environment

DePaul University – Chicago, Illinois

Bachelor of Arts: Public Policy Studies; Graduated June 2011

Concentration: Environmental Policy | Study Abroad: Amsterdam, Brussels, and Paris 2010

American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) Certified, June 2023

THEME: *Align Charleston County for a more resilient and sustainable future.*

8:00-9:00am Networking / Registration

9:00-9:15am Opening Remarks (**Chair Kylon Middleton**)

Opening Remarks (**Alex Butler, Resilience Planning Director, SCOR**)

9:15-9:30am **Resilience & Sustainability (Molly Caggiano & Aly Petruch)**

Overview of R&S Division, projects, where we plan to go next. Define “Resilience” and “Sustainability” for the day’s conversations.

- Goal: Find alignment in our climate resilience/sustainability initiatives.
- Goal: There are many agencies coordinating sustainability and resilience efforts across jurisdictions. How do we work together better, support each other, share best practices, and avoid duplication of effort?
- Goal: Establish a countywide working group to lead conversations, house and maintain data for use by all jurisdictions, resolve barriers to planning/implementation as a collaborative group.

9:45-11:00am – Breakout Session #1 (State of County Resilience & Sustainability Initiatives)

1. Partnership Planning (Sustainability Planning)

- a. Presenters: City (Mika), County (Aly), Regional (Nina, BCDCOG), State (Kirsten, SCOR, and SSG)

2. Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (Resilience Planning)

1. Presenters: Charleston County (Molly Caggiano), Fernleaf Consulting (Stephen Julka), City of Charleston (Kaylan Kozela)
2. Flood mitigation project matrix & Brownfields Strategic Plan – how are they being used as tools for future projects?
3. Data-informed decision-making.

11:00-12:30pm **LUNCH**

Panel starts at 11:30 – Moderated Panel

- Moderator: Shawn Smetana
- Panelist: Charleston County, Chair Kylon Middleton (CONFIRMED)
- Panelist: City of Charleston, Mayor William Cogswell (CONFIRMED)
- Panelist: City of North Charleston, Mayor Reggie Burgess (CONFIRMED)
- Panelist: Town of Sullivan’s Island, Mayor Patrick O’Neil (CONFIRMED)
- Panelist: Town of Mt. Pleasant, Mayor Haynie (TBD)

12:45-1:40pm – Breakout Session #2 - Lightning Presentations

3. 12:45-1:40pm – (Sustainability) - (3) 12-min presentations

- a. **Energy Efficiency** – Bryan Cordell (Sustainability Institute)
 - i. Discussing his work in both residential home energy efficiency as well as his commercial branch that focuses on commercial energy efficient buildings locally.
- b. **Connectivity** – Katie Zimmerman (Charleston Moves)
 - i. Discussing Charleston Moves and how they work collaboratively with local municipalities with transportation topics and projects.
- c. **Food Access** – Sara McDonald (SC Aquarium)
 - i. “Good Catch” – Sustainable Seafood program at SC Aquarium

4. 12:45 – 1:40pm - (Resilience) (3) 12-min presentations

- a. **Charleston Heat Team – Heat Risk Reduction** (Casey Conrad and Scott Curtis)
 - i. Communications, GIS mapping, tree canopy maps
- b. **Folly Beach – Drainage Infrastructure Improvement Project along Center Street.** (Jenna Stephens and Kim Morganello)
 - i. Could also incorporate the Folly River Model Living Shoreline
- c. **Regional Economic Recovery & Resilience Plan** (Ryan Wilcox, BCDCOG)

1:45 – 3:00 Breakout Session #3 – Coordination & Collaboration

5. Nonprofit Coordination

- i. **Conservation Coalition** – (Emily Poole, Chair) **20 min**
 - 1. Enable small nonprofits and CBOs not yet nonprofits and convene them to understand aligned priorities and advocate at the statehouse.
- ii. **SC VOAD** – (Mike Patterson, President of SCVOAD, and Rev. Ray Sipe, Lutheran Disaster Response Carolinas) **20 min**
 - 1. Disaster Resilience & Recovery
- iii. **Together SC** – (Benjamin Bullock, Vice President and COO) **20 min**
 - 1. Impact of nonprofit sector on advocacy work

6. Local Government Coordination

- a. Shi Institute, Furman University (facilitate)
- b. Resilient Cities Catalyst (RCC) – development of countywide working group

After 3:00pm – Closing Remarks

- This is what we heard (Molly & Aly)
- This is how we move forward (Chair Middleton)



Charleston County Resilience & Sustainability Symposium

November 19, 2025 | 8:00am - 5:00pm
at Trident Technical College

7000 Rivers Avenue
North Charleston, SC 29406

The symposium will align Charleston County for a more Resilient and Sustainable future. Attendees will meet local changemakers and discover opportunities to collaborate through dialogue sessions and networking. Lunch will be provided with a moderated panel of local elected officials. A detailed agenda will be distributed closer to the event date.

**REGISTER BY
OCTOBER 1 HERE**

