

2026 Annual Accountability Report

Rural Infrastructure Authority

Agency Code: P450

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AGENCY NAME:	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority		
AGENCY CODE:	P450	SECTION:	054

AGENCY'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Infrastructure Finance Programs – Summary of Efforts and Results

The S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) makes grant and loan financing available for qualified infrastructure projects (drinking water, sanitary sewer and storm water drainage facilities) statewide. Financial assistance is made available to eligible applicants including local governments, special purpose districts and public works commissions. By working in partnership with local communities, these financial investments are designed to address the key objectives of protecting public health, addressing environmental quality standards and preparing communities for economic opportunities. RIA assistance helps close financial gaps for areas in need of reliable infrastructure. In addition, RIA collaborates with stakeholders to identify and coordinate additional resources for infrastructure improvements and to strengthen utility viability in the long term through planning and regional partnerships.

With recurring state appropriations, RIA's financial assistance typically totals approximately $26 million in grants and approximately $100 million in loans annually. Significantly, over $1.4 billion in federal American Rescue Plan Act, State and Local Fiscal Recovery (ARPA SLFRF) grant funds were allocated to RIA by the General Assembly to assist with financing of qualified infrastructure projects. Such funds must be fully expended by December 31, 2026. And additional federal funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is being made available to states from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over a five-year period. Every county will benefit from this infusion of federal funds by modernizing aging infrastructure as well as building capacity for future development.

RIA's essential role in providing affordable grant and loan financing options for water infrastructure has resulted in an investment of $324.5 million in FY26. Cumulatively, since these programs began at RIA, 875 grants have been awarded totaling $1.8 billion and another $1.36 billion in affordable loan financing has been provided for 172 projects.

FY26 Grant Programs

This year, $53 million in competitive grants were awarded for 43 projects and 54% of funds were awarded to small and rural communities. Grants were selected by RIA's Board of Directors based on the following program priorities:

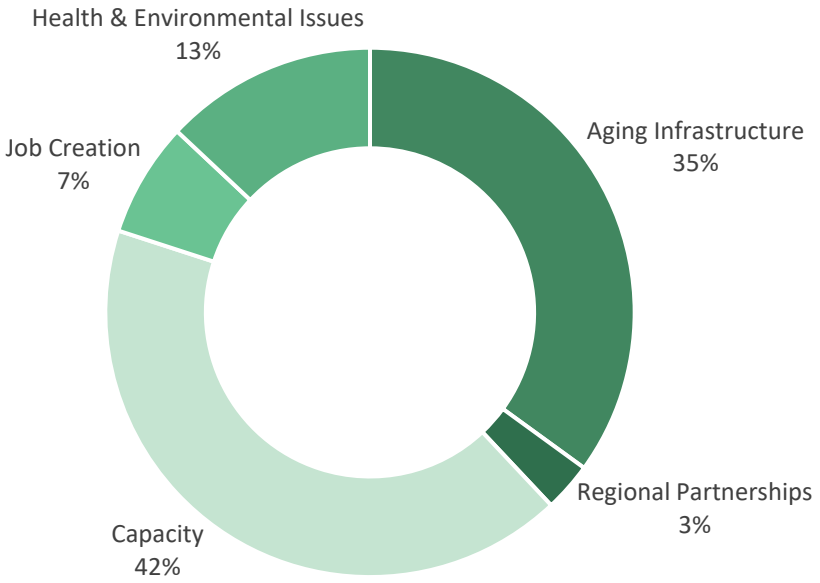


Figure 1. FY26 grant priorities by dollars awarded.

FY25 State Revolving Funds Loan Programs

Low-cost loan financing is provided through two federally capitalized State Revolving Funds (SRF) for Drinking Water and Clean Water (wastewater and stormwater). The SRF has been annually capitalized by the EPA since 1989. The program was transferred to RIA in 2015. The state program is administered jointly with the S.C. Department of Environmental Services (DES). DES prioritizes projects, handles the technical aspects of the program and ensures compliance with EPA requirements. The RIA's Office of Local Government (OLG) manages the financial component including credit reviews, loan agreements, closings and disbursement of funds as well as loan repayments and administration.

The SRF program offers below market interest rates for major water, wastewater and stormwater improvement projects throughout the state. This low-cost financing means savings for borrowers and customers.

The federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is providing additional funding for SRF loans and principal forgiveness over five years. This year, the program closed 20 loans totaling $174 million. In

addition, $97.5 million in all principal forgiveness loans, which do not have to be repaid, were approved for 74 projects.

Viability Improvement Program

This year, RIA introduced the **Viability Improvement Program (VIP)** to provide coordinated technical assistance and funding to small utilities that are committed to building a stronger future. This pilot program is open to public water and sewer utilities that have experienced viability challenges. It involves three steps of progressive assistance. In the first step, a team of water and finance professionals will assess the utility's managerial, financial and technical needs. Then, more in-depth planning studies are conducted to develop a more detailed plan of action. Finally, the highest-impact capital improvements are implemented using grant funding.

RIA staff spread the word about this new opportunity through presentations, articles, and outreach through technical assistance partners. The first two participants, McCormick County and the Town of Olanta, began the program in FY26. A third participant, the Town of Awendaw, was enrolled in August of 2026. Finding workable and manageable long-term solutions requires a cooperative approach by all stakeholders. Before application, the utility's board or council must pass a resolution supporting participation and cooperation in implementation. To remain in the program, participants will have to show continuing progress on implementing the recommendations made during steps 1 and 2.

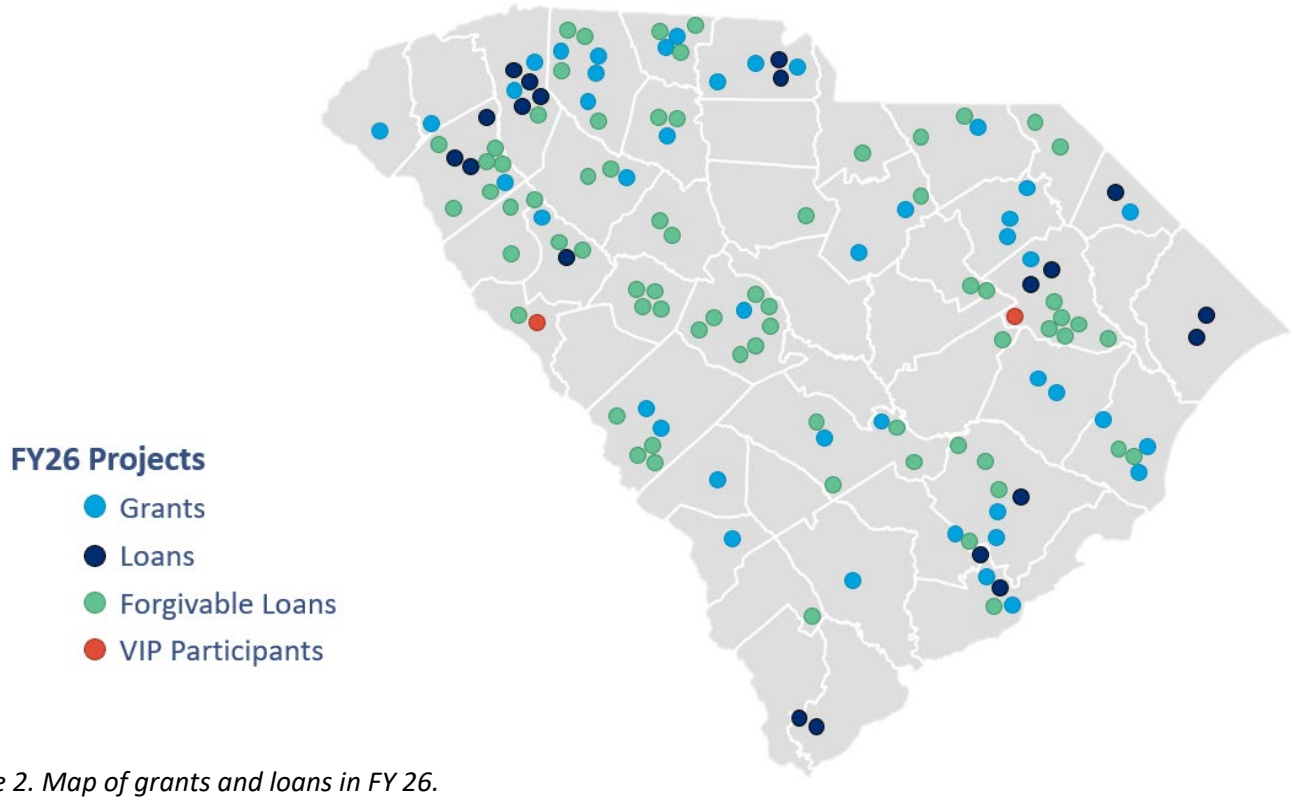


Figure 2. Map of grants and loans in FY 26.

Factors Impacting Performance and Future Plans

One-Time Federal Funding for Grants

The availability of substantial federal funds for infrastructure investment – over $1.4 billion awarded by RIA in FY23 – has had a tremendous impact on the state. In fact, a recent study by the University of South Carolina, Darla Moore School of Business in conjunction with American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC-SC) Infrastructure Works Institute (IWI), found that the infrastructure funding awarded by RIA is creating an estimated $2.7 billion in economic output from FY22 to FY27.

However, federal funds also have additional compliance requirements and one of the most significant is the need to have all the ARPA SLFRF funds expended by December 31, 2026. Since infrastructure projects by their nature take several years from funding approval to project construction completion, this deadline will be challenging. Additionally, supply chain delays for material and equipment as well as increased costs may play a factor in completion of these projects. Many projects are complete and the remainder are well underway.

Due to the expenditure deadline for federal funds, RIA had a significant increase in grant disbursements during FY26, which is continuing into the first half of FY27. Staff review documentation of eligible expenditures before approving grant disbursements. Significant staff resources are being dedicated to this federal program to ensure funds will be spent in compliance with program requirements, and projects completed in a timely manner. Staff are also offering technical assistance throughout the implementation period.

State Appropriations

RIA receives approximately $26 million in recurring state appropriations for its grant programs. Non-recurring state appropriations for grants positively impacted the performance of RIA's existing grant programs. RIA annually obligates its appropriated funds for grants but because the grants are for construction projects, funds are disbursed over several years. While non-recurring funding has helped RIA to address ongoing infrastructure needs statewide, the funding level changes year-to-year make it more difficult to provide reliable resources for efficient project management and challenges potential applicants who make plans to seek long-term capital improvement financing.

Streamlining Procedures

RIA has made significant efforts to streamline project management processes while maintaining appropriate accountability. Several project management tools have been developed to enhance oversight, document compliance and offer timely technical assistance to those who need it most. For example, the loan program is utilizing a new database to track loan projects more accurately and comprehensively. Additionally, the agency has begun to reach more communities through training and informational videos that are available online, readily available and convenient for customers. These improvements will have long-term efficiency benefits for all RIA programs.

The SC Department of Commerce provides administrative services, including information technology support, to RIA. In FY27, RIA will begin working with Commerce to overhaul the database that is used to manage grant records and payments. This effort will take significant staff time but will lead to more efficient and effective program management. The current software has been in use since 2017 and requires the use of outside data tools such as Excel and Sharepoint lists to ensure that data is complete, accurate and accessible.

Viability Efforts

Following an FY22 study of the challenges facing smaller utilities, particularly in rural areas, RIA has undertaken several initiatives to promote greater long-term viability. Program funding resources have been provided for planning grants to assist such communities in identifying needs and making plans for improvement. In FY26, this grant program was specifically targeted to support vulnerable utilities seeking a stronger future through regional partnerships. However, requests for planning assistance were fewer than expected. Regional partnerships between utilities often take years to develop. RIA continues to allocate a limited amount of funding for this program so that it will be available when needed.

This year, RIA continued staffing the Viability Assistance Network, a group of state agencies and non-profits collaborating to provide a more coordinated approach to technical assistance. In consultation with this group, RIA has engaged a team of experts to develop a comprehensive training manual for utility board and council members who provide oversight and direction to utility management. The content is designed to complement these policymakers' diverse backgrounds and skills, facilitating informed decision-making. The training manual and accompanying instructor resources will be available for use by all utilities and training providers.

Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies

One of the biggest risks to the program funded with federal ARPA dollars is the potential loss of funds if expenditure deadlines are not met. The large scale of projects coupled with federal compliance and timely expenditure requirements pose a particular challenge for smaller communities. The impact associated with a loss of funds would greatly challenge the state's ability to overcome public health and environmental concerns associated with clean drinking water, sanitary sewer and storm drainage protection. Further, there may be missed or delayed economic opportunities which depend on reliable and affordable infrastructure.

RIA has provided a number of on-line resources and guidelines. Additionally, technical assistance is provided regularly to address time and budget concerns and to help identify solutions so that projects can be completed in a timely manner. To mitigate challenges that are the result of cost overruns, staff actively work one-on-one with grantees to scale back projects or identify additional funding to complete projects in a timely manner. RIA has developed a strategy to utilize any unobligated ARPA dollars as they become available to address funding gaps and complete projects by the federal expenditure deadline.

Although these one-time federal dollars represent a significant investment in South Carolina's infrastructure, the need for further investment is staggering. This is evidenced by the receipt of over $2 billion in applications for projects that could be completed in the short term. To keep up with the critical demands to address aging infrastructure, new emerging contaminants, long-term growth and economic development, it will be critical for the state to continue its commitment to invest in infrastructure needs on a recurring basis, to continue to provide technical assistance to utilities struggling to operate efficiently, and to provide incentives for regional cooperation among utilities to help ensure long-term viability. A recent study conducted by the Darla Moore School of Business for the ACEC-SC Infrastructure Works Institute found that every $100 in direct infrastructure spending is associated with approximately $170 in total economic output, underscoring the importance of infrastructure investment to the economic future of the state as a whole.

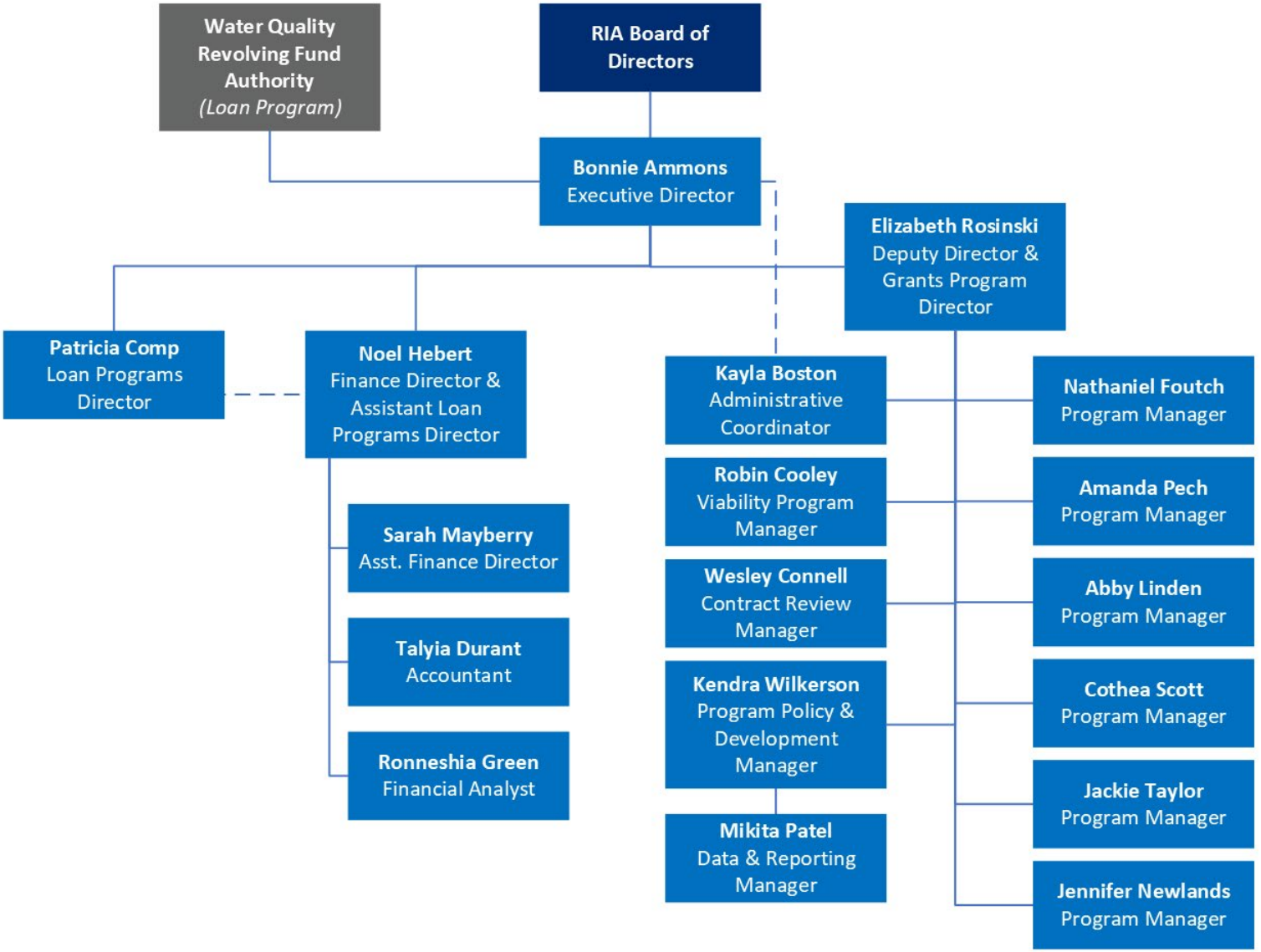
Agency Organization

The RIA is governed by a Board of Directors that includes six members who reside in or represent distressed areas and Tier III and IV counties. The Secretary of Commerce serves as Chairman.

The RIA has an Executive Director and had authority for 21 other full time staff in FY26 (see Organizational Chart). Grant staff have been added to administer the federal funding programs and ensure technical assistance is provided to applicants and grantees. RIA divisions are organized by grant and loan programs. In order to foster administrative collaboration, RIA contracts with the S.C. Department of Commerce to provide office space, legal, procurement, human resources and other administrative support services. This agreement allows for more efficient use of staff and resources available to the RIA.

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AGENCY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



2026

Reorganization and Compliance

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

P450 - RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

Primary Contact

First Name	Last Name	Role/Title	Email Address	Phone
Kendra	Wilkerson	Program Policy & Development Manager	kwilkerson@ria.sc.gov	803-413-6807

Secondary Contact

First Name	Last Name	Role/Title	Email Address	Phone
Bonnie	Ammons	Executive Director	bammons@ria.sc.gov	803-737-0390

Agency Mission	Adopted in:	2022

To provide resources for strategic investments that will strengthen and modernize critical community infrastructure.

Agency Vision	Adopted in:	2022

All South Carolina communities have the infrastructure necessary to protect public health and the environment as well as lay the groundwork for economic success.

Recommendations for reorganization requiring legislative change:

None

Agency intentions for other major reorganization to divisions, departments, or programs to allow the agency to operate more effectively and efficiently in the succeeding fiscal year:

None

Significant events related to the agency that occurred in FY2026

Description of Event	Start	End	Agency Measures Impacted	Other Impacts

No significant events affected performance measures.				

Is the agency in compliance with S.C. Code Ann. § 2-1-220, which requires submission of certain reports to the Legislative Services Agency for publication online and the State Library? (See also S.C. Code Ann. § 60-2-20).	Yes
Reason agency is out of compliance: (if applicable)	
Is the agency in compliance with various requirements to transfer its records, including electronic ones, to the Department of Archives and History? See the Public Records Act (S.C. Code Ann. § 30-1-10 through 30-1-180) and the South Carolina Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (S.C. Code Ann. § 26-6-10 through 26-10-210).	Yes
Does the law allow the agency to promulgate regulations?	No
Law number(s) which gives the agency the authority to promulgate regulations:	
Has the agency promulgated any regulations?	No
Is the agency in compliance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-120 (J), which requires an agency to conduct a formal review of its regulations every five years?	Yes

FY2026

Strategic Plan Results

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

P450 - RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

Goal 1 Improve or address infrastructure needs to protect public health and the environment and support economic development

Goal 2 Build long term infrastructure capacity and viability

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
1.1	**Use state grants to support community efforts to construct, replace or upgrade critical infrastructure**										**State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development**			
1.1.1	Award at least the target value of state grants to support capital improvements to water, wastewater or stormwater infrastructure	$57,393,298	$44,000,000	$52,896,839	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual value of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000	
1.1.2	Award at least the target number of state grants to support capital improvements to water, wastewater or stormwater infrastructure	46	29	43	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual number of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000	
1.2	**Provide affordable loan financing to address water quality and replace aging infrastructure**										**State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development**			
1.2.1	Close at least the target value of loans	$108,953,622	$125,000,000	$174,096,820	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Value of loans executed	SRF loans closed	Internal files	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions as well as not-for-profit water and sewer systems	3003.010000.000, 3003.050000X000	
1.2.2	Close at least the target number of loans	12	12	20	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of loans closed	SRF loans closed	Internal files	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions as well as not-for-profit water and sewer systems	3003.010000.000, 3003.050000X000	

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
2.1	**Use state funding for utility planning and an assessment of regional solutions to address long term needs and viability**									**State Objective:**	**Public Infrastructure and Economic Development**			
2.1.1	Award at least the target value of state grants to address long-term planning	$3,640,562	$1,000,000	$0	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual value of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000	The planning grant program was narrowed this year to focus on plans that support implementation of regional solutions, which are a high priority to improve long-term viability. No eligible projects were submitted for funding.
2.2	**Provide technical assistance and other resources to address the long term needs of smaller utilities and strengthen viability.**									**State Objective:**	**Public Infrastructure and Economic Development**			
2.2.1	Enroll at least the target number of participants into the Viability Improvement Program	New	3	2	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual number of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000	This is a new pilot program. Outreach to potential applicants took longer than expected. A third participant was selected in August 2026.
2.3	**Use principal forgiveness loan funds to assist utilities with long term needs**									**State Objective:**	**Public Infrastructure and Economic Development**			
2.3.1	Close at least the target value of principal forgiveness loans	$ 25,000,130	$ 19,000,000	$ 97,567,895	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Value of principal forgiveness loans closed	SRF loans closed	Internal files	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	3003.010000.000, 3003.050000X000	
2.3.2	Close at least the target number of principal forgiveness loans	25	23	74	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of principal forgiveness loans closed	SRF loans closed	Internal files	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	3003.010000.000, 3003.050000X000	
2.4	**Provide training and technical assistance to build capacity to address infrastructure needs**									**State Objective:**	**Public Infrastructure and Economic Development**			
2.4.1	Assist applicants and potential applicants with at least the target number of potential projects or project issues	556	1,000	2,178	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of training participants, individual technical assistance, and training video views	RIA data	Internal files	Direct benefit to customers by increasing knowledge of agency programs and coordination of additional funds for water and sewer improvements and direct benefit to agency for leveraging available state dollars.	Direct customers and agency staff	0100.000000.000, 3003.010000.000	

FY2027

Strategic Plan Development

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

P450 - RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

Goal 1 Improve or address infrastructure needs to protect public health and the environment and support economic development

Goal 2 Build long term infrastructure capacity and viability

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
1.1	**Use state grants to support community efforts to construct, replace or upgrade critical infrastructure**								**State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development**				
1.1.1	Award at least the target value of state grants to support capital improvements to water, wastewater or stormwater infrastructure	$52,896,839	$42,000,000	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual value of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000	
1.1.2	Award at least the target number of state grants to support capital improvements to water, wastewater or stormwater infrastructure	43	28	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual number of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000	
1.2	**Provide affordable loan financing to address water quality and replace aging infrastructure**								**State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development**				
1.2.1	Close at least the target value of loans	$174,096,820	$200,000,000	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Value of loans executed	SRF loans closed	Internal files	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions as well as not-for-profit water and sewer systems	3003.010000.000, 3003.050000X000	

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
1.2.2	Close at least the target number of loans	20	20	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of loans closed	SRF loans closed	Internal files	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions as well as not-for-profit water and sewer systems	3003.010000.000, 3003.050000X000	
2.1	**Use state funding for utility planning and an assessment of regional solutions to address long term needs and viability**								**State Objective:**	**Public Infrastructure and Economic Development**			
2.1.1	Award at least the target value of state grants to address long-term planning	$0	$500,000	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual value of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000	
2.2	**Provide technical assistance and other resources to address the long term needs of smaller utilities and strengthen viability.**								**State Objective:**	**Public Infrastructure and Economic Development**			
2.2.1	Enroll at least the target number of participants into the Viability Improvement Program	2	2	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual number of selected participants	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000	

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
2.3	**Use principal forgiveness loan funds to assist utilities with long term needs**								**State Objective:**	**Public Infrastructure and Economic Development**			
2.3.1	Close at least the target value of principal forgiveness loans	$97,567,895	$40,000,000	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Value of principal forgiveness loans closed	SRF loans closed	Internal files	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	3003.010000.000, 3003.050000X000	
2.3.2	Close at least the target number of principal forgiveness loans	69	27	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of principal forgiveness loans closed	SRF loans closed	Internal files	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	3003.010000.000, 3003.050000X000	
2.4	**Provide training and technical assistance to build capacity to address infrastructure needs**								**State Objective:**	**Public Infrastructure and Economic Development**			
2.4.1	Assist applicants and potential applicants with at least the target number of potential projects or project issues	2,178	1,500	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of training participants, individual technical assistance, and training video views	RIA data	Internal files	Direct benefit to customers by increasing knowledge of agency programs and coordination of additional funds for water and sewer improvements and direct benefit to agency for leveraging available state dollars.	Direct customers and agency staff	0100.000000.000, 3003.010000.000	

Budget Data

2026

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

P450 - RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

State Funded Program No.	State Funded Program Title	Description of State Funded Program	(Actual) General	(Actual) Other	(Actual) Federal	(Actual) Total	(Projected) General	(Projected) Other	(Projected) Federal	(Projected) Total
0100.000000.000	Administration	To administer the Rural Infrastructure Authority and its grant programs	$ -	$ 750,705	$ -	$ 750,705	$ -	$ 1,141,764	$ 310,285	$ 1,452,049
2600.101000X000	SC Rural Infrastructure Fund	To provide financial assistance for infrastructure and other activities to the state's rural areas that enhance economic growth and development. It can be used for job creation and/or product development.	$ 6,624,439	$ -	$ -	$ 6,624,439	$ 9,870,056	$ -	$ -	$ 9,870,056
9825.370000X000	SC Rural Infrastructure Fund	Non-recurring appropriations for the SC Rural Infrastructure Fund	$ 13,765,177	$ -	$ -	$ 13,765,177	$ 10,000,000	$ -	$ -	$ 10,000,000
2600.101500X000	Statewide Water and Sewer Fund	Established by proviso, the Statewide Water and Sewer Fund assists qualified infrastructure projects not eligible for the Rural Infrastructure Fund.	$ 2,493,813	$ -	$ -	$ 2,493,813	$ 9,000,000	$ -	$ -	$ 9,000,000
9822.380000X000	Statewide Water and Sewer Fund	Non-recurring appropriations for the Statewide Water and Sewer Fund	$ 8,727,203	$ -	$ -	$ 8,727,203	$ 10,000,000	$ -	$ -	$ 10,000,000
2600.102000X000	Planning & Technical Assistance - Small & Rural Utilities	To provide planning grants and technical assistance supporting sustainable long-term solutions for local utilities.	$ 5,082,072	$ -	$ -	$ 5,082,072	$ 5,000,000	$ -	$ -	$ 5,000,000

State Funded Program No.	State Funded Program Title	Description of State Funded Program	(Actual) General	(Actual) Other	(Actual) Federal	(Actual) Total	(Projected) General	(Projected) Other	(Projected) Federal	(Projected) Total
3003.010000.000	Office of Local Government	To administer the loan programs offered by the Rural Infrastructure Authority.	$ -	$ 194,412	$ -	$ 194,412	$ -	$ 696,000	$ -	$ 696,000
3003.050000X000	Loans	To provide loan programs for qualified water and waste water infrastructure projects.	$ 14,332,610	$ 165,595,342	$ -	$ 179,927,952	$ 14,332,610	$ 107,000,000	$ 280,000	$ 121,612,610
9500.050000.000	State Employer Contributions	The state funded program used to record employer contributions for the agency.	$ -	$ 308,136	$ -	$ 308,136	$ -	$ 549,156	$ 129,813	$ 678,969
2600.102500X000	South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP)	The South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) is a major one-time initiative to improve water, wastewater and stormwater systems throughout the state using federal funds allocated by the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).	$ -	$ -	$ 815,226,449	$ 815,226,449	$ -	$ -	$ 297,985,504	$ 297,985,504

2026

Legal Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

P450 - RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
1/11/2020	State	Statute	Division Transfers - Transfers the Local Government Division, Water Resources Coordinating Council membership, and Division of Regional Government from the Budget and Control Board to RIA.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
1/11/2025	State	Statute	Local Government Division - Establishes the Local Government Division and outlines grant responsibilities.	Requires a service	Grant administration	No Change
1/11/2026	State	Statute	Local Government Division - Outlines rules for use of grant funds and provides penalties for violations.	Requires a service		No Change
11-37-200	State	Statute	Water Resources Coordinating Council - Names the RIA Director as a member of the Water Resources Coordinating Council.	Board, commission, or committee on which someone from our agency must/may serve		No Change
11-40-250	State	Statute	SC Infrastructure Facilities Authority - Requires RIA to staff and assist the SC Infrastructure Facilities Authority.	Requires a service	Loan administration	No Change
11-40-40	State	Statute	SC Infrastructure Facilities Authority- provides necessary authority to fund, use and administer the SC Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
11-42-10	State	Statute	SC Comprehensive Infrastructure Development Act - Names this chapter the "South Carolina Comprehensive Infrastructure Development Act."	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-42-20	State	Statute	Regional Development Division - Lays out the legislative purpose for establishing the Division of Regional Development.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-42-30	State	Statute	Regional Development Division - Defines terms related to the Division of Regional Development.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-42-40	State	Statute	Regional Development Division - Establishes the Division of Regional Development within RIA.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-42-50	State	Statute	Regional Development Division - Lists powers and duties of the Division of Regional Development.	Requires a service	Creation of a state infrastructure development plan, coordination of regional infrastructure development plans, and coordination of state programs and resources that impact or affect infrastructure development	No Change
11-42-60	State	Statute	Regional Development Division - Lists administrative powers of the Division of Regional Development.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
11-50-10	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Names this chapter the "South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Act."	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-100	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Outlines authorizations related to financing agreements.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-110	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Exempts RIA from taxes.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-120	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Outlines procedures related to loan defaults.	Requires a service	Notification of the State Treasurer regarding loan defaults	No Change
11-50-130	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Limits liability of RIA and its board members and employees.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-140	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Allows RIA to act without additional notices, proceedings, or publications.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-150	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Requires all RIA funds to be deposited with the State Treasurer.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-160	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Requires RIA to submit multiple annual reports and have an annual audit by an independent CPA.	Requires a service	Agency reports	No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
11-50-170	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Requires liberal construction of the chapter and approval of loans by the public entities that control applicable ad valorem taxes for general operating purposes.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-180	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Establishes severability of any provision held unconstitutional or invalid.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-20	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Outlines legislative findings related to the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Act.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-30	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority- Provides for the selection of qualified infrastructure projects for loans or other financial assistance through the Rural Infrastructure Fund and provides necessary authority to fund, operate and administer the functions of the agency.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
11-50-40	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Defines terms related to the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Act.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-50	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Outlines terms, qualifications, and appointing authorities of the members of the RIA board of directors.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
11-50-55	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Allows the RIA board to hire a director.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-60	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Outlines RIA's powers.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
11-50-65	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Requires the SC Department of Commerce to provide administrative support to RIA.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-70	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Outlines sources of revenue that may be used by the Rural Infrastructure Fund.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-80	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Establishes procedures for earnings on balances in the Rural Infrastructure Fund.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-90	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Requires RIA to select and administer eligible loan and other financial assistance for projects.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
33 USC 1383	Federal	Statute	Title VI of the Clean Water Act - Provides necessary authority and program requirements for the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Program.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
42 USC 300j-12	Federal	Statute	Safe Drinking Water Act - Provides necessary authority and program requirements for the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Program.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
48-5-30	State	Statute	Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority- Provides necessary authority to fund, invest, use, and administer the clean water fund, the drinking water fund, and other authorized activities permitted by the Safe Drinking Water Act.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
Proviso 54.1	State	FY26-27 Proviso	Rural Infrastructure Fund Carry Forward -Allows the carry forward of funds in the Rural Infrastructure Fund from the prior fiscal year to the current fiscal year.	Funding agency deliverable(s)		No Change
Proviso 54.2	State	FY26-27 Proviso	Carry Forward Local Government Assistance - Allows the carry forward of funds appropriated for the purpose of matching federal funds from the prior fiscal year to the current fiscal year.	Funding agency deliverable(s)		No Change
Proviso 54.3	State	FY26-27 Proviso	Carry Forward Calculation - Allows for certain funds to be excluded from the calculation of the carry forward authority.	Funding agency deliverable(s)		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
Proviso 54.4	State	FY26-27 Proviso	State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund - Allows any state funds remaining after fully matching federal grants for the State Revolving Funds under the Clean Water Act or Safe Drinking Water Act to be deposited into the South Carolina Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund established pursuant to Section 11-40-50.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
Proviso 54.5	State	FY26-27 Proviso	Statewide Water and Sewer Fund - Funds allocated for the Statewide Water and Sewer Fund to assist qualified Infrastructure projects not otherwise eligible for the Rural Infrastructure Fund. Projects will be selected for assistance based on the same procedures and guidelines established for the Rural Infrastructure Fund. Funds allocated may carry forward from the prior fiscal year to any current fiscal year.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
Proviso 54.6	State	FY26-27 Proviso	Carry Forward - Planning and Technical Assistance Funds - Allows the carry forward of funds appropriated for Planning and Technical Assistance from the prior fiscal year to the current fiscal year	Funding agency deliverable(s)		No Change
Proviso 54.7	State	FY26-27 Proviso	Aiken Wastewater Treatment Plant Regional Assessment & Master Plan - Requires RIA to terminate a planning grant to Aiken County if the project is not completed by a certain date.	Requires a manner of delivery		Added

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
Act 244 of 2022	State	Statute	Authorizes the expenditure of federal funds disbursed to the state in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021	Requires a service		No Change
Proviso 118.20	State	FY24-25 Proviso	Appropriates funds to the agency for specific projects	Distribute finding to another entity	Proviso was not reenacted in FY26.	No Change
Proviso 118.20	State	FY24-25 Proviso	Appropriates funds to the agency for the State Revolving Fund match for federal funding	Funding agency deliverable(s)	Proviso was not reenacted in FY26.	No Change
Act 6 of 2023	State	Statute	Authorizes the expenditure of additional federal funds disbursed to the state in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021	Funding agency deliverable(s)		No Change
Public Law 117-58	Federal	Statute	Increases funding for the State Revolving Fund loan program (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)	Funding agency deliverable(s)		No Change
Proviso 109.3	State	FY26-27 Proviso	DOR: Rural Infrastructure Fund Transfer - Authorizes the transfer of funds to RIA's Rural Infrastructure Fund	Funding agency deliverable(s)		No Change
Proviso 118.22(B)(48)	State	FY26-27 Proviso	Appropriates non-recurring revenue to each of the agency's two grant funds ($10M to the Rural Infrastructure Fund and $10M to the Statewide Water and Sewer Fund)	Funding agency deliverable(s)	The amount of funds appropriated decreased.	Amended

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
Proviso 118.25	State	FY26-27 Proviso	ARPA Funds - prioritizes the reallocation of unused ARPA funds among several state agencies, including RIA. Also establishes that ARPA-funded RIA grants may exceed $10 million.	Funding agency deliverable(s)		Added
11-35-5350	State	Statute	Requires iron or steel used in public works projects paid for with state funds, including RIA grant funds, to be produced in the United States.	Requires a manner of delivery		Added
House Bill 3305 of 2026 (to be replaced with Act # when ratified)	State	Statute	Appropriates funds to the agency for specific projects	Distribute finding to another entity		Added
Proviso 117.21	State	FY26-27 Proviso	Outlines reporting requirements for state agencies that receive funds earmarked for non-profit organizations	Requires a manner of delivery		No Change

2026

Services Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

P450 - RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

Description of Service	Description of Direct Customer	Customer Name	Others Impacted by Service	Division or major organizational unit providing the service.	Description of division or major organizational unit providing the service.	Primary negative impact if service not provided.	Changes made to services during FY2026	Summary of changes to services
RIA offers grant funding for water quality improvement projects as well as timely and responsive technical assistance to customers.	The agency offers grants to public water and sewer providers.	Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	Customers of public water and sewer utilities	Grant Program	Grant program managers provide technical assistance for project development as well as assist customers with implementation of grant projects.	If infrastructure is not improved, it becomes increasingly difficult for the water or sewer system to protect public health and the environment or attract economic development.	No Change	
RIA offers below-market financing through its loan programs for water quality improvement projects.	The agency offers loans to public water and sewer providers	Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	Customers of public water and sewer utilities	Loan Program	The loan program staff responsibilities include credit reviews, loan agreements, disbursements and repayments.	If infrastructure is not improved, it becomes increasingly difficult for the water or sewer system to protect public health and the environment.	No Change	

2026

Partnerships Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

P450 - RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

Type of Partner Entity	Name of Partner Entity	Description of Partnership	Change to the partnership during the past fiscal year
State Government	Department of Commerce	RIA has an administrative support agreement with Commerce and collaborates with the agency on providing infrastructure support for community development, industrial site development as well as economic development.	No Change
State Government	Department of Environmental Services	1 - RIA jointly administers the State Revolving Funds with DES, who manages the technical aspects of the program while RIA oversees the financial functions of SRF; 2 - RIA shares information on regulatory issues and coordinates with DES's Office of Rural Water on provision of technical assistance; 3 - RIA coordinates with multiple DES departments to ensure timely permitting of grant projects using federal ARPA funds.	No Change
Federal Government	Infrastructure Funders (federal and state agencies)	RIA participates in informal collaboration with federal and state agencies to leverage resources, streamline processes where feasible and provide technical assistance for customers.	No Change
Local Government	SC Councils of Governments	With appropriations from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, the COGs are providing grant administration services to RIA grantees identified by RIA.	No Change
State Government	Department of Transportation	RIA coordinates as needed with SCDOT to ensure timely permitting of grant projects using federal ARPA funds and state funds.	No Change
Federal Government	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	RIA coordinates as needed with the Corps to ensure timely permitting of grant projects using federal ARPA funds and state funds.	No Change

Type of Partner Entity	Name of Partner Entity	Description of Partnership	Change to the partnership during the past fiscal year
Professional Association	Water and sewer technical assistance providers	RIA participates in informal collaboration with organizations that provide technical assistance to water and sewer utilities. The purpose is to leverage resources, streamline processes where feasible and provide technical assistance for customers.	No Change

2026

Reports Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

P450 - RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

Report Name	Law Number (if applicable)	Summary of information requested in the report	Date of most recent submission DURING the past fiscal year	Reporting Frequency	Type of entity/entities	Method to access the report	Direct access hyperlink or agency contact (if not provided to LSA for posting online)	Changes to this report during the past fiscal year	Explanation why a report wasn't submitted
Agency Accountability Report	§1-1-810	The report "must contain the agency's or department's mission, objectives to accomplish the mission, and performance measures that show the degree to which objectives are being met." Agencies must "identify key program area descriptions and expenditures and link these to key financial and performance results measures."	September 2025	Annually	Governor or Lt. Governor AND Legislative entity or entities	Available on agency's website	https://ria.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/AAR_FY25.pdf	Amend	
Agreed Upon Procedures	§11-50-160	Review of accounting records and internal controls		Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Available on another website		No Change	The Office of the State Auditor did not select RIA for an Agreed Upon Procedures review in FY26.
Annual Report	§11-50-160	The report highlights the activities and accomplishments of the agency during the last fiscal year. Annual Report for FY25 will be posted online October 1, 2025.	October 2025	Annually	Legislative entity or entities	Available on agency's website	https://ria.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/SCRIA-Annual-Report-FY25_Final.pdf	Amend	
Fines and Fees Report	Proviso 117.70	A report of all aggregate amounts of fines and fees that were charged and collected by that state agency in the prior fiscal year.	August 2025	Annually	Legislative entity or entities	Electronic copy available upon request	This report was replaced with an updated version in August 2026. For the version published in August 2025, please email info@ria.sc.gov.	Amend	

Report Name	Law Number (if applicable)	Summary of information requested in the report	Date of most recent submission DURING the past fiscal year	Reporting Frequency	Type of entity/entities	Method to access the report	Direct access hyperlink or agency contact (if not provided to LSA for posting online)	Changes to this report during the past fiscal year	Explanation why a report wasn't submitted
Single Audit	§11-50-160	Schedule of expenditures of federal awards.	March 2026	Annually	Entity within federal government	Available on another website	https://osa.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/STATE-OF-SOUTH-CAROLINA-FY25-SINGLE-AUDIT-REPORT.pdf	Amend	
Earmarked Appropriations	Proviso 117.21 of the FY25-26 Appropriation Act and Executive Order 2022-19	Information collected from recipients of RIA funds directly appropriated to another organization.	June 2026	Quarterly	Governor or Lt. Governor	Available on agency's website	https://ria.sc.gov/about/our-team/administration/	Amend	

AGENCY NAME:	Rural Infrastructure Authority		
AGENCY CODE:	P450	SECTION:	054

2026
Accountability Report

SUBMISSION FORM

I have reviewed and approved the data submitted by the agency in the following templates:

- Data Template
  - Reorganization and Compliance
  - FY2026 Strategic Plan Results
  - FY2027 Strategic Plan Development
  - Legal
  - Services
  - Partnerships
  - Report or Review
  - Budget
- Discussion Template
- Organizational Template

I have reviewed and approved the financial report summarizing the agency's budget and actual expenditures, as entered by the agency into the South Carolina Enterprise Information System.

The information submitted is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

AGENCY DIRECTOR *(SIGN AND DATE)*:	**SIGNATURE ON FILE**	**Signature Received:** 09/11/2026
(TYPE/PRINT NAME):	Bonnie Ammons	

BOARD/CMSN CHAIR *(SIGN AND DATE)*:	**SIGNATURE ON FILE**	**Signature Received:** 09/11/2026
(TYPE/PRINT NAME):	Harry M. Lightsey III	